

Parent Voice Autumn 2018

Thank you to all parents who have participated in our parent voice events this autumn. These have been:

- Welcome to Year 7 event
- Welcome to Year 10 event
- Welcome to Year 11 event
- Parents Information Evening- how to support your child with their revision and learning in advance of the winter exams
- Being part of a parent voice panel, responding to questions posed by our independent, external team of reviewers into making parent/school communication even better
- Smaller parental forum in the library which looked at the Sims app, rewards and recognition and the possibility of setting up a Sale High school PTA
- Lastly, our parent survey which closed at the end of the half term.

Parents' responses in our survey were overwhelmingly positive about school. These included:

- An overwhelming majority of parents said the school provides a welcoming and encouraging environment; that their child felt safe at school, had settled well and was happy. An overwhelming majority also said their child knew who to go to if there was a problem.
- An overwhelming majority said their child enjoyed lessons, that they were making good progress. Parents said that their children were happy with the level of challenge and the stretch was sufficient.
- Show my homework was accessed by 92% of respondents who answered our survey. 77% thought homework tasks had an appropriate level of challenge.

Our Independent external review also directly questioned small groups of parents. The responses here showed:

- Strong transition from Year 6 to 7 with good parental satisfaction in this area
- Excellent support for children with English as an Additional Language.
- Children are happy and supported at school – some parents effusive in their praise of how their children feel – “so loved”
- Effective response from school when contacted with any queries or issues.
- School contacts home promptly regarding concerns and to address pastoral concerns affecting progress & development e.g. organisation, homework.
- Parents like the head teacher's surgery and the SLT surgery at parents' evenings. They also welcome other new initiatives e.g. information for parents regarding revision, rewards, change to reports etc.
- Parents had raised issues previously that they did not always know how to support their child with their learning. The school has responded by putting in place the 'Welcome to Year 10' and Welcome to Year 11' evenings, plus the 'How to Support your Child with their Learning' evening, open to all years. The school also intends to run a further event for parents of students in all years in the spring. Year 9 will also have an information evening to support them in their transition to KS4. Presentations at those evenings included talking parents through where support materials were on the website in terms

of course content for every year and links to how to revise and study in the subject area. Feedback on these events was really positive.

- Work with the Aspire Centre was also seen as a real strength. This centre caters for a range of students, particularly vulnerable students. Parents were really positive about the effective interventions from Aspire and the very positive relationships with the members of staff in there.

Areas still to develop and our response

<p>Parents want more information in order to support their children, particularly with regard to gaps in their learning.</p> <p>Some parents reported a lack of information from the school. There was a perceived lack of communication with regard to positive messages</p> <p>Not all parents know about/are using the new SIMS app.</p> <p>Parents asked “Where is the stuff?” – e.g. relevant resources, materials, specifications for exams and courses.</p> <p>Parents would like to see the work and feedback in books in a timely way</p> <p>Parents commented that they felt that the school’s vision of parental engagement is imparting information and can be seen as ‘outward’ as opposed to a dialogue and willingness to receive feedback. Communication is wanted with the school and beyond e.g. opportunities to meet with other parents – impact = more of a community feel. There is an appetite for a parents’ association to work on behalf of the school.</p>	<p>Parents Information and ‘How to Support your child in their learning’ Evenings have been introduced. We will discuss additional ways to support.</p> <p>We will continue to send postcards home and make calls. We have introduced a new rewards and recognition structure this year. Some parents were still not aware of what we do and our Leadership Ladder: we will make sure more information is sent home about this.</p> <p>We will have a SIMs /Show My Homework help desk at all parent events. Pop in also, office staff can help</p> <p>At the three parents events this term parents were shown how to access these resources via the website. This will be covered again in the Spring event. Any questions just contact the school.</p> <p>We will organise half termly ‘books go home’ fortnights when parents are asked to look at their children’s books.</p> <p>We have held parental consultation /forum events. Attendance at these is low- between 2-3% of the parent group. We would say that we really value communication and dialogue so please attend if you can. A parent raised that the survey should also have a comment section so parents can use that as an opportunity to make suggestions: we will add. At the last forum parents said they would welcome ‘get together’ events and we are planning the first of these at present...hope you can come along!!!</p>
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Thank you to everyone for their responses! We really value our communication and know that by working together we will be able to get the best for our children!