

The Head teachers' response to the 2015 Kirkland Rowell Survey.

Parental Survey: 110 completed returns

First, let me thank all those who took the time to respond to this survey. It is very apparent from your responses that the vast majority of you support and appreciate what we are all trying to do here - provide a well- rounded and meaningful education for your boys and girls in a positive and engaging way. 95.8% of parents have said they would recommend this school to other parents. This is an outstanding figure and it is extremely heartening. Your extremely positive responses in respect of the overall happiness of children in the school and how caring the teachers are, is also noted. Thank you.

Overall parents share our perception of the school. That it is a very good school striving to do better and your constructive comments will help us do that.

We start with our vision and values and work on our mission to inspire in students a passion for learning; to work in partnership to provide an exciting, engaging and enjoyable experience and to support high standards of achievement in a happy and secure environment. The survey reflects strong backing and I thank you all for that. Both the parental and student survey results have been posted on our website. Parents and students were equally supportive and positive in their responses. Their concerns, where recorded have been noted and I will follow those up within school.

It is also important that we recognise where specific comments and concerns are raised and respond to them. I would add that a small number of comments were **very** specific and those cases are best addressed on an individual basis. Often anonymity does not best serve moving forward and I would encourage open communication in cases of very specific need.

I offer the following help and guidance in response to comments made under question 19, '...any other comments about the school'

Ten parents considered the homework to be inconsistent and not always set according to the homework timetable.

Sometimes it is difficult to stick rigidly to a homework timetable but that should not be the norm. It is of concern if there is a perception that homework is inconsistent or set at varying times. In the context of the questionnaire most parents most parents in all years thought that the amount of homework given was 'about right' but we will address the issue of consistency and setting homework according to the timetable at a whole staff level.

Twelve parents felt that that parents evenings were held too late in the year

As a result of this survey we intend to move Year 7 Parents Evening to earlier in the year.

Annual Parents Evenings are organised on a calendar that runs from September to July. Year group parents evenings are based upon a sequence of assessment, report writing and consultation evenings. There are six of these operating over the year and therefore have to be arranged over a cycle within the year. This does leave certain year groups with a later parents evening than others. We do seek to publish and share interim progress reports but I would also want parents who have concerns regarding their child's progress to contact the school via the Head of Student Progress and share them at any point in the year.

Five parents felt that reports should be more detailed with explanatory notes

As a result of this survey we will be reviewing the reports and improving the guidance that supports them to aid understanding.

Student Survey: 673 completed returns

Student responses were extremely supportive of their school. The overwhelming responses were of the 'outstanding or 'good' variety. There were six main themes that came out of the comments:

Homework

34 students mentioned too much homework. Where parents feel there is not enough students feel there is too much! We endeavour to provide a balance according to a timetable and will be looking again at this issue

Toilets

Although we have spent a great deal of money on re-equipping both the boys and girls toilets, 40 students remain unhappy at their cleanliness. The toilets are currently cleaned at the start of the day, before and after break and before and after lunch and end of the day. We employ a janitor who supplements the cleaning and caretaking staff for this purpose. I would ask for further views in how we can improve on that.

Refectory

Perceived high prices are not new complaints but on examination and comparison refectory prices have not been seen to be artificially high. The range of food on offer, particularly for special requirements is under discussion with the catering team as a result of this survey.

Computers

In an ideal world we would like to keep renewing to provide a 'state of the art' network. We try very hard to provide the best within the budgetary constraints. There is a 1:2 ratio of computers to pupils in the school; these are renewed/replaced on a rolling programme and a significant number of classrooms have computers, projectors and white boards to support learning. We have just installed extra wireless network points around the school to enhance coverage. Technology moves at such a pace and students want the best on offer at any one time and we do try to move with the times. When examined, we stand favourably against other local school in relation to both quantity and quality. In an era of increasing constraint on the public purse IT renewal can be an early casualty. This does not mean we will become complacent in this area and will continue to invest heavily to maintain and develop. This year we have furnished a science suite. At the end of May, Technology computers will be updated and a maths upgrade is planned for October 2015.

Private Study facilities

Although the school prides itself on a well- equipped library and a range of spaces for individualised study post 16, I am aware that more space could be utilised at lunch time for private study purposes. We have expanded in a number of areas to provide subject based post 16 facilities and we will continue to investigate how we can meet expectations in this area.

Lunchtime and After-school Opportunities

I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR WHAT IT IS THAT STUDENTS WANT AND THIS COULD BE A ROLE FOR STUDENT COUNCIL. If there is sufficient interest then I would be interested in taking steps to support an even greater range of extra-curricular activities.

Thank you all once again for contributing to this important survey.

Steve Hall, Head teacher