



WOLVERHAMPTON

GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Tuesday, 02 November 2010

Dear Parents,

Re: Kirkland Rowell Parental Perception Questionnaire

You will recall that during the summer term an independent survey of parents' views at WGS was conducted by Kirkland Rowell Education Consultants.

The results of the survey were released to us, along with parental comments, in July and we are very encouraged by the results.

Results

- 236 questionnaires were returned, a response rate of 37%
- The parents gave an excellent overall performance score of 84%
- 16% believed that the school had improved during the last year
- 24% of parents of new pupils said that the school was better than they had expected it to be
- The parents' top priority for improvement was school communication
- With regard to academic subjects, we shall be reporting separately to colleagues about the Survey's findings
- We have also looked in detail at the additional comments that parents submitted – the vast majority of them very positive and helpful.

School communication – Parental responses commented on the need to improve information on the website. Several requested that the email system be utilised further. Six parents requested more regular feedback on their child's progress.

- In terms of communication from me, parents can expect to receive newsletters at the start and end of each term and, occasionally, at half term or, as with this letter, when I need to provide information. My letters are always posted on the website.
- The website was completely overhauled and updated last year and we've received many positive comments about it. However, we will continue to increase the amount of information it contains and do our best to ensure that it's up-to-date. From this term a week-to-week calendar of activities is being published and our most recent sports results are also posted.
- In response to the survey, we will be introducing a text messaging service for the whole school, year group reminders etc by half term.
- We will then collect as many email addresses as possible. Unfortunately, to date, we have only managed to gather about 20% of parental email addresses so please do complete and return the slips overleaf so that we can begin to email newsletters and other school communication home before Christmas.
- Looking further ahead, we will continue to develop the website and the school on-line learning platform with a view to setting up a parental portal. This password protected portal will, hopefully in time, allow parents to access their son/daughter's reports, attendance, progress and assessment records, from home.

In future, most communication from school will become electronic, although I'm conscious that some families may still wish to receive hard copies of letters and reports.

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In terms of reporting – our new Head of Assessment, Mr Benfield, and his team will review our reporting to parents.

Parents can rest assured that the school is responding to both the major and the minor points in the parental survey. We're pleased with the 84% but we're not complacent – we are committed to ongoing development and improvement. The target for the next independent survey due in 2012 is 100% parental satisfaction – indeed the most important question we will add to future surveys will be “as a parent, would you recommend Wolverhampton Grammar School to others?” and until we get a 100% positive response to that question we can't be satisfied.

Remember also, that it's not just at our informal review evenings hosted by the Friends, or the Annual Parents' Forum in June or the Biannual Independent Survey that we seek to listen to parental views – you know that we will listen to all comments, observations, thoughts and ideas parents might have about how we can go on improving WGS.

EMAIL

We would like to use this letter to have one big final push to get email addresses for all families at the school and ask your permission to send information – newsletters, reminders etc electronically. We can only move forward if we have parental details.

So, apologies if we already have your email, but form teachers will be asking all students to return the form with an indication of email address and whether or not we have permission to use it. We would be very grateful if you could complete and return the tear-off slip to your son/daughter's form teacher **before 15th October**.

Many thanks,

Yours sincerely,



Vincent Darby
Head

EMAIL DETAILS – OCTOBER 2010

Student's Name Form

Parental email address

I give WGS permission to contact our family via email*

I do not wish the school to contact our family via email*

Signature of parent

*please tick as appropriate