



**Bury Grammar School Boys** Tenterden Street Bury BL9 0HN

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**Bury Grammar School Girls** Bridge Road Bury BL9 0HH

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Dear Parents,

Thank you to everyone who recently completed the Parent Survey 2017. This is one of the ways in which the Governors and Leadership Teams seek the views of parents and we place great importance on your responses. We very much appreciate you taking the time to complete the survey and overall, we received 315 responses.

### **A happy, high performing school**

- The survey results show an overall very high level of parental satisfaction with the school: most results are in the high 80s or 90s which are a very positive endorsement of Bury Grammar School and confirm that parents' current perception is of a happy, high performing school. However we are not a school that sits back and we will use the results to continually improve our offering and do our very best for the pupils who are entrusted to us.
- The survey showed that an overwhelming majority of parents would recommend Bury Grammar School to others. Parents feel that the school is well led and maintained and we are grateful to the Estates Team and caretakers for keeping the Schools looking so good.

### **Active promotion of good behaviour**

- Parents also feel that their children are safe at school, that they are well supervised at school and on school trips and that the school promotes good behaviour. Clearly these are priorities for any high performing school and promoting pupil welfare will always be a key focus for us as we feel strongly that when pupils feel happy, safe and secure, good learning follows.
- We were also pleased that parents agree that through the promotion of fundamental values, pupils' personal development is well supported. Parents agreed that the school handles bullying effectively and clearly we recognise that this is an area which can have an enormous impact on pupils' lives. Therefore we would take this opportunity to reiterate that the school takes bullying very seriously and, while poor behaviour is fortunately very rare at BGS, all incidents of unpleasantness are investigated thoroughly.

## **High quality teaching**

- An exceptionally high percentage of parents agree that the school effectively meets the educational needs of their child and teaching enables them to make good progress and develop the necessary skills for the future. This is truly heartening and parents should also feel reassured that ensuring teaching and learning are first rate is an ongoing strategic objective for the school. We have put in place a full programme of quality assurance involving work scrutiny, lesson observation and pupil interviews to ensure the quality of learning is consistently meeting the highest standards and quality is continually sought.
- It is clear that parents are very happy with the range of subjects and extracurricular provision in all sections of the school. As you will have heard in our recent curriculum and options evenings we are passionate about this area of school and getting it right for the pupils' future careers.
- We hope that after attending the recent information evenings and seeing the huge amount of support which is in place between now and the time of having to make final option choices, that parents really will feel that their sons / daughters are being fully supported and are receiving high quality advice.

## **Listening to parents**

- Parents are clearly satisfied with the timely way in which complaints are handled and this is an area where we are very keen, both to communicate with you promptly and effectively and to meet deadlines as set out in our Complaints Policy. Parents should always contact their child's Form Tutor/Class Teacher in the first instance of any worry and should expect a timely response.
- There was a slightly mixed response between different areas of the school concerning the ready availability of policies and routines and this is an area which we hope the new website and new format of the weekly newsletter will address. However, should parents ever wish to be provided with a specific policy the list of those available are on the website.
- There was also a slightly mixed response between different sections of the school relating the communication of pupil progress and we hope that the new style of reports and grading system which we have introduced this year will provide greater clarity.

## Moving forward

The survey used the questions written by the Independent Schools Inspectorate and is designed to enable us to gauge quickly where problems may exist. From a leadership perspective, it is important for us to identify any issues of concern and to try to understand if there are any trends of which we are unaware or which we are failing to address.

We very much value the opportunity for us to be able to evaluate the work that we are doing in school and it is our intention to survey parents every year to ensure that we are getting things right as often as possible.

The survey results will be discussed in more detail by the Governors, the Senior Leadership Team and staff and actions introduced to build further on the areas of strong performance and to address the areas identified for attention. These initiatives and action plans will be a key focus for the School and the survey data will help inform the School Development Plan.

We hope you really do feel we want the school to be the very best it can be.

Thank you once again for your interest and support.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs J Anderson  
Headmistress



Mr D Cassidy  
Headmaster