

June 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians

### **Prep School Parent Questionnaire 2018**

Many thanks indeed for taking the time to complete the recent biennial parent questionnaire. It is much appreciated as an important part of our strategy planning.

Your insights and views on how we run the school are invaluable, so we can continue to provide the best possible education for our boys and continue to fine-tune and improve our offering. With your feedback we can do this with greater confidence.

I would like to share with you the headline results of the questionnaire so you are aware of how we plan to use your feedback to help us shape the future of the school.

I am pleased to report that the general outcome was overwhelmingly positive. You felt that there are a number of very impressive things about the Prep School, particularly the ethos and culture. You felt it is a kind and caring environment, which is characterised by a strong community spirit which goes beyond the school gates. It is felt the Prep School enables boys to build their confidence in an encouraging environment. In terms of teaching, the Prep School is seen as having high academic standards and excellent teachers. Outside the classroom the breadth of enrichment opportunities available for all levels of ability is praised, especially sport.

Whilst we take pride in what you feel we do well, perhaps the most helpful section is where we ask you to suggest improvements. We asked what you would change or improve if you had the opportunity. Many of you answered this question simply with 'nothing', that you did not want to change anything, which is, of course, extremely pleasing to hear.

Thank you though for recommending the following areas for our consideration. You felt that whilst communication generally is a huge strength, you would like more frequent feedback about your son's academic progress. Also, although extra-curricular activities are seen as a huge strength, some comments suggested that you would like there to be even greater encouragement for boys to be involved with extra-curricular activities in order to make the most of the extensive opportunities available to them.

One improvement a number of you would like to see is better storage for games bags and equipment and we are in the process of making arrangements to address this.

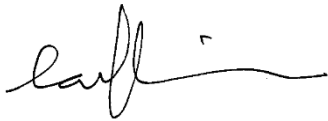
The ICT provision is felt by some to be in need of expanding. We agree, and have appointed a Director of Digital Learning, Dr Albin Wallace, who started his role in April. Dr Wallace has been managing large IT and building projects for start-up Academy Trusts and was Group Director of IT and e-learning for the United Learning Trust. He has, amongst other qualifications, a doctorate in Education from Sheffield University, is a Chartered Fellow of the British Computer Society, is a CEOP ambassador and gives talks all around the world on the effects of social media (and other such). His new book, "The Distortion Machine", has just been published. His first task is to undertake a thorough review of where we are, and work across the school to develop a digital strategy.

Finally, whilst sport and the sports department are seen generally as a huge positive and a strength at the school, especially the depth and breadth of the opportunities, the number of fixtures and opportunities to play for a school team, the level of the success, and the facilities, a minority of comments prompted us to look at our selection process and the communication of team selections. For a small handful of you, it was felt that we could look at how to give boys more sporting opportunities.

We will continue to feedback on our progress in these specific areas via the weekly bulletin.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks for your involvement with this extremely helpful exercise. Your feedback is always encouraged, extending beyond this questionnaire. Please do get in touch if you have any further thoughts or feedback you would like to share with us.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Silk', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ian Silk  
Headmaster