



Bramcote College

A member of The White Hills Park Trust

23rd March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

As the term draws to end, I'd like to share the findings of the recent Parent Survey with you. You may be aware that this is very similar to Parent View that Ofsted use when gathering parents' and carers' views of school, but ours goes a little further, in that we lean in and ask what we are doing well and what we can do better. The full survey analysis and our response to it is on our website, however, I would like to discuss some key areas in this letter.

Our last Ofsted Inspection was in May 2017, and we have been expecting an inspection since. In fact, it is overdue. We exist to serve young people and the families in our community, and we pride ourselves in the improvements in the quality of education and outcomes since the last inspection. We do not exist to serve Ofsted but understand the role they can play in accountability and raising standards. In 2017, we were judged to be 'good' and the next inspection will be under a different framework. Our Governors (Local Governing Body) work closely with the Trust and Leaders at Bramcote College to support and hold leaders to account.

We are always pleased to hear what we are doing well. At the core of our values is the support of both the academic success of young people, and their emotional and mental wellbeing. We believe that our staff are our most valued resource in doing so and they work tirelessly to give children at Bramcote College their very best.

You will be aware of the reasons for teachers' strikes over the last few months; recruitment and funding are serious issues that impact provision for young people, however, at Bramcote College we feel we are in a strong position in almost all areas. Our last wave of teacher recruitment is a result of pupil numbers increasing and we have been encouraged so far that we have managed to recruit high quality staff across a range of roles. School funding also impacts a lot of areas beyond the recruitment of teachers and support staff; resourcing of IT, small group catch up, financial support for enrichment and providing the very best of pastoral care, to name just a few, have placed demands on our funding. In addition to this, we are increasingly aware that finances are challenging for a growing number of our families, so we are delighted to be a part of the National Breakfast Programme to enable all pupils to have a free bagel in the morning and we are also proud to have been able to run two uniform swap shops this year, with a third one planned for the summer term.

Over 80% of parents who completed the survey would recommend us to other parents and we know this to be the case because we are now oversubscribed in all year groups and operate a waiting list for admissions. Of course, we are not complacent and strive to provide the very best school experience we can you our pupils and to respond to concerns of parents.

The vast majority of parents that completed the survey feel that we listen to and resolve concerns that have been raised. I appreciate that at times, parents may not be totally satisfied with the outcome of concerns raised. I can only reassure you of the experience and expertise of our staff team including Student Support and Heads of Year in dealing with bullying and other issues. Our behaviour policy and uniform expectations are clear and sanctions are applied in a fair and consistent manner with the desire to help correct behaviour going forward and to support pupils and families with uniform 'demands' when needed.

At times parents will attend school without an appointment asking to speak to the Senior Leadership Team or Heads of Year in order to address a concern they may have. Although there may not be a member of staff available immediately, as all members of the Senior Leadership Team and our Heads of Year teach and sometimes we are not available to speak immediately to parents, we will always endeavour to speak to parents as soon as is practically possible. I would like to take this opportunity to remind some parents and carers to speak to all staff in a courteous manner, even when emotions are running high; sadly, staff at Bramcote College have been at times subject to abusive and aggressive behaviour, so I would like to reiterate that Reception staff and Student Support staff are here to support pupils and families and deserve to be treated with respect.

We know that good schools have good relationships with parents and carers. I appreciate that we can't please all of the people all of the time, but we recognise that open dialogue and a genuine desire to work with parents is important. You can contact school by email, MCAS and of course arrange appointments to discuss any concerns you may have. Parent Forum meetings which are held online are also a great opportunity to find out more about your child's education and also raise any concerns you may have.

Today sees the last performance of the Wizard of Oz, which is sold out! If you have not seen a school production yet, I'd encourage you to come along to our production next year. Over 10% of the pupil population took part this year, with hard working and talented staff and pupils producing a phenomenal show. This is a truly inclusive enrichment opportunity with pupils of all abilities and in all year groups coming together, building relationships and confidence and reminding us all the school is not just about academic success but belonging and making memories.

Thank you for your support,

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

Heidi Gale

Headteacher