



Re-founded 1555

Ripon Grammar School

Helping shape the future since 1555



25 September, 2015

Dear Students and Parents

Re: Kirkland-Rowell Student Questionnaire 2015

Thank you to those students who took the time to complete the questionnaire; 244 completed questionnaires were returned, representing a response rate of 28.4%. Ideally I would have liked more responses but the outcome provides a useful report on which to base further strategic decisions.

The overall performance score of 87.4% was 'excellent' and is the second highest since these surveys were undertaken. Amongst the students who had attended the school for over a year, 52% thought the school's performance had improved. With regard to academic subjects, the highest proportion of students who said they were making good progress are those studying Religious Studies, French and Classics. As far as non-academic areas were concerned, students gave the highest satisfaction score for school facilities, community spirit and developing confidence. The students awarded the lowest satisfaction scores for subject choice, school communication and careers advice. Subjects such as RS, DT, geography and history have improved significantly from the last survey, whilst a lower score was for personal planners; I hope that the new planners will alleviate this and that you are happy with them. School facilities and health education received significantly higher satisfaction scores over more than two surveys, as did out-of-school activities/clubs and school meals.

Most pleasing was that 94% of students would recommend this school to other students, with second form students giving the highest positive response in this criterion.

Students perceived that their progress was outstanding in RS, French, Classics and Art and least good in PSHCE, ICT and Spanish which were the lowest positive responses.

Student satisfaction scores in the following non-academic criteria have been judged 'outstanding': school facilities, community spirit, developing confidence, teaching quality, computer access, school discipline, happiness of child, control of bullying and availability of resources. Other criteria also judged as 'outstanding' are school uniform, school meals, regular marking of work, out-of-school activities/clubs and listening to parents' views.

As expected, the three most important priorities for students are happiness of child, teaching quality and developing confidence. Exam results were deemed to be of much lower importance compared with other schools which may reflect the fact that they are very good already and is not an area for potential improvement.

Headmaster: Martin Pearman, MA(Oxon), CChem, FRSC

Address: Clothierholme Road, Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 2DG Telephone: (01765) 602647 Facsimile: (01765) 606388

Email: admin@riponggrammar.co.uk Website: www.riponggrammar.co.uk





Re-founded 1555

Ripon Grammar School

Helping shape the future since 1555



Many of the individual student comments focused on the changing rooms being too hot. The high level heating ring near the ceiling has been isolated and turned off in both changing rooms, which I hope will alleviate the excessive heat. In addition, the girls' changing room has hot water pipes which heat the pool; these have been insulated. I will continue to monitor the situation and appreciate the feedback from students. There are differing views on the organisation of assembly and the one-way system but, with time, I believe these changes are for the better.

Subject choice has been raised with certain subjects being suggested as possible additions to the curriculum but at times of financial austerity, curricula at schools are being contracted rather than expanded; the range of subjects provide a broad and balanced curriculum at GCSE.

A full copy of the survey results will be placed on Sharepoint and the school website for staff, students and parents to access and I am happy to respond to any questions should you have any.

I have also asked Mrs Keelan-Edwards to explore the issues raised with the School Council to understand better some of the issues raised and perhaps to explain why changes suggested by students may not be possible.

I would like to finish with a couple of comments from students about RGS which reflect the ethos of the school:

"The progress the school is making in many different aspects of school life is truly tremendous, including the extension to Johnson House and plans for various facilities around the school. As a boarder, I am highly impressed with the level of communication we are receiving from the staff about the new boarding extension".

"This is by far the best school I have ever been to and it has helped me improve all my abilities. The staff are great and the school is always finding new ways to improve".

Thank you once again for taking the time to complete the questionnaire.

Yours sincerely

M L Pearman
Headmaster

Headmaster: Martin Pearman, MA(Oxon), CChem, FRSC

Address: Clothholme Road, Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 2DG Telephone: (01765) 602647 Facsimile: (01765) 606388

Email: admin@ripongrammar.co.uk Website: www.ripongrammar.co.uk

