Feedback from Parental Questionnaire

A huge thank you to everyone who completed the Parental Questionnaire that was handed out last term. It gives us a really valuable insight into what you think we do well, and the areas that you feel we could continue to develop. 558 parents completed the questionnaire, and the data was analysed by Kirkland Rowell, a company that carries out surveys in lots of other schools which allows us to compare our results nationally too. Please find the key results below.

Overall, you said we were good or outstanding in all the major areas; 92% of Year 7 parents said the school had lived up to their expectations, with 20% of these saying it was better than they expected. 87% of all parents would recommend Swanshurst to another parent. The vast majority of you who have children not in their first year said we are an improving school, and rated us as outstanding.

The areas that you feel are most important to you are school discipline, teaching quality, school security and the happiness of your daughter. The areas where you feel we do best include teaching quality, school discipline, exam results and attendance.

How are we responding to your feedback?

One of the areas you said you wanted us to develop was 'explaining to parents how to help their child'. To try and develop this, we have appointed a teacher to the post of ‘Developing Parental Engagement’, to take over from a members of the leadership team who is going on maternity. We hope in the next few months to have more opportunity for you to come into school and see how you can help your daughter with her learning, plus have more projects available where you can learn alongside your daughter. We have also made a Guide for the new Year 7 parents outlining some areas where they can support their daughter in home learning, in their emotional development and signposted some useful websites that can also give them tips of how to help their daughter revise for exams, plan her time etc.

You should have also received a leaflet outlining the new Home Learning Policy, which has one of the funny square things you can scan into your phone to take you to the school’s Home Learning website where you can find details about all the homework set for the year in Key Stage 3. Another area that is constantly being updated and provides brilliant ideas on how to get more engaged in learning is the School’s ‘eLearning and Library’ link, at the top of the school home page. This has reading lists for girls of all abilities and tips on how you can encourage good reading habits.

Performing Arts Night

We believe it is vitally important that all our girls have the opportunity to take up a musical instrument if they so wish. We are always extremely pleased by the large number of girls who do decide to do this, and last week saw the girls and their peripatetic teachers sharing what they have been learning all year.

Over 100 girls took part playing their instruments, singing in the choir and even playing the cups!

Thank you for all your support in encouraging the girls and for coming to see them in this memorable performance.

International Evening

We are always very proud of the fact we are a really diverse multi-cultural school and last month’s first ever International Evening really gave us a chance to celebrate each others’ heritage. Every form chose a different country and students, staff and parents worked together to share a ‘flavour’ of culture, games, costume and food from that country.

Performing Arts provided extra entertainment, Art and DT provided flags and the evening celebration allowed every one to see what we had achieved together.

Our attendance hotline is: 0121 464 2413
**Billesley News**

To involve the local community in promoting safety messages to younger children, the Billesley Safer Neighbourhood team, in conjunction with the local police and fire service, organised a competition. The winners had their message copied onto the wall of the fire station. You can see the winning entry in 6 foot high letters on there at the moment!

**Traffic Watch**

10 Year 9 students have been collaborating with the police and doing speed checks on the Yardley Wood Road. Anyone found exceeding the speed limit is called over, and the girls talk to them with the police about the safety of observing the speed limit. The girls were shocked how many people blatantly disregard the speed limit and have all promised to be safer drivers when they pass their test!

**Attendance**

A huge thank you for yet again making the school’s attendance above 96%. We know it can sometimes be difficult being tied to school holidays, or motivating a snuffy girl to come to school, but good attendance has such a huge influence on achievement we really do want to continue to make everyone aware of how important it is to come to school every day.

For the first time in a decade, we have two girls in Year 11 who have finished their exams and have 100% attendance for all 5 years here! A huge congratulations to Maisie and Poppy.

We will continue to reward girls who have outstanding attendance and support those who for various reasons cannot attend every day. If you need to talk to someone about attendance, you can call your daughter’s form tutor or Deputy Head of Year.

**Healthy Lifestyles—Going for Gold!**

We are always trying to provide new and exciting opportunities for our girls, and there can be nothing quite so challenging as taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award. 75 girls have just finished their bronze Expedition, walking 25 miles over two days in the beautiful—if slightly wet—English Countryside.

We also currently have 7 students who have taken the ultimate challenge and are trekking through the Atlas Mountains in Morocco as this goes to print! If you would like your daughter to get involved in the scheme, there will be new opportunities announced in assemblies in September.

**Uniform**

September may seem a long time away, but if you are shopping for school shoes over the holidays please can you remember that shoes and boots must be sensible smart, and leather or leather look. The trend at the moment seems to be for canvas shoes and pumps which are not acceptable.

Can we also remind you that nail varnish is not allowed, which also includes coloured and painted acrylic nails.