

October 2009

Dear Parents

Re: Parental & Staff Questionnaire feedback

The school has now had the opportunity to 'digest' the comments made in the parent and staff surveys from last term. We would like to share some of the points raised and for the sake of brevity we have collated the main issues and listed them, randomly, below for your information.

The school development plan, written by the SMT, takes into account the views of staff, governors, parents and pupils. All stakeholders are consulted with their ideas and opinions taken into consideration. This then informs our plans and strategies for the future. The thrust of the school development plan is to fulfil Westbourne's aims.

Westbourne's Mission Statement

Westbourne is a caring school in which we aim to inspire and enable all children to attain their full potential.

We will achieve this by;

- providing education of quality
- aspiring to excellence in all that we do
- ensuring a balanced and varied curriculum
- guiding and preparing children for life

Our core values

We maintain a happy, safe and secure atmosphere for learning in a disciplined, structured environment.

We are friendly, approachable and welcoming; we care about children.

We are dedicated to our task and will act with enthusiasm to stimulate and inspire.

What we are perceived to do well

- strong academic structure especially in our provision for those who need extra support. More recently a recognition that we also stretch more able pupils

- traditional values and a strong ethos
- positive atmosphere, encouraging and safe, children are happy
- recognition that the School is non denominational
- underlying spirit of respect
- kindness, good manners exemplified by pupils
- fulfilling the needs and potential of the individual
- a spirit of competition and all-round involvement in School life
- strong pastoral care
- excellent teaching
- small classes
- co-educational
- non selective
- balance of academic success and personal development
- genuine sense of community
- achieving good results for all pupils
- opportunities for those from other schools to flourish
- good ICT provision
- wide range of extra curricula activities
- sports opportunities and an inclusive approach whilst being highly competitive
- outstanding Ofsted report for early years

Wesbourne's ethos (The Westbourne Way)

The School values a supportive family ethos and operates in a relaxed and kindly way within a defined code of conduct. Individuals are cherished and rewards far outweigh sanctions. Academically, sights are set high with the object being for each child to attain their full potential. We see ourselves – and believe we are perceived by others – as caring, academically strong but not overly competitive and broad in our outlook. A healthy balance is achieved and maintained between matters academic, artistic, pastoral, spiritual and sporting. We are reasonably traditional in our approach: in curriculum, in structure, in uniform and in a degree of formality. We want to give children a sense of responsibility and allow them time to mature at their own pace and to recognize that there is a sense of fun to be had during their time at school. We also expect pupils to have contributed positively to the wider life of the School and leave with fond memories and a sense of pride in Westbourne.

Areas for future development

- improve all areas of communication
- continuity and progression of pupil's skills
- develop arts week
- whole school planning- increase the number of trips
- develop and increase ICT links
- differentiate work in all lessons
- increase personalised learning
- include more detail on the website
- further develop subject assessment schemes

- further develop tracking pupils progress
- continue to promote a caring environment
- further develop relationships with parents
- increase the number of whiteboards
- enhance life skills and confidence
- share good practice by observing others teach
- increase the number of textbooks
- continue to evaluate & improve methods of assessment
- Increase the use of VLE in SS
- Increase sport fixtures & house events
- Develop & foster team work
- At KS2 build on last years results to increase the % of level 5s
- At KS4 build on last years results (94% pass rate) to increase the % of A/A* grades
- Stretch & meet the needs of our more able pupils (MAPs)

We are aware **communication is key element** of a successful school. Therefore we are developing: a new website; a 'texting' system in case of emergencies; a system where more contact between teachers and parents via email is encouraged (especially when children have done something really well); post cards may be sent to inform parents of good work; a system utilising homework diaries is encouraged so that communication between teachers and parents is enhanced and pupils take responsibility for them.

To further **improve standards of behaviour and enhance pupil responsibility** we have: developed a house system from Y3 right through to Y11 and created opportunities for prefects and librarians in our Senior School; impressed upon students the importance of wearing school uniform correctly and to look smart at all times; developed the rewards and sanctions structure so that it is embedded throughout whole school.

The present **economic situation** has caused several independent schools in the UK to struggle, however Westbourne continues to flourish. We had an unprecedented number of visitors at Open Day and next year's forecast is that our Reception class will be full and entry into Year 7 will have three classes. The most effective method of **recruitment** is via our own parents and word of mouth. Your positive comments help us to be successful. Our pupils are our ambassadors, their enthusiasm, happiness, respectful and well mannered behaviour is our standard.

Many parents want us to have a **sixth form**, the Governors are exploring this option but it will take time to work through this complicated issue so no commitment can be given at this time.

Our **125th anniversary** will be celebrated via a whole school gathering at the Cathedral on 21st May 2010.

Yours sincerely



Mr John B Hicks
Headmaster
Westbourne School
0114 2660374

