



September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

On Wednesday 26 September I met with selected parents to discuss their experience of Holmer Green Senior School from their sons' perspective. The small focus group, led to open and informative discussion around the good aspects that the school provides for boys. Areas of improvement were also identified and possible solutions were discussed.

I have summarised these discussions below:

Parents are very happy with the solid interventions that HGSS offers all students. There is good communication with Heads of Years regarding their sons' progress. The transition process is good and learning needs are identified early. Parents particularly like teachers who support students organisation skills and persistently keep students on track. The reading record in Year 7 and Year 8 was highly thought of, particularly the fact that parents need to sign it – however, it was acknowledged that some boys choose easier books to read and these boys need to be supported in selecting more challenging books.

There was a suggestion that some boys would benefit from support from an earlier age and that the removal of any low level disruption would promote boys' learning.

Parents felt that generally boys are more difficult to engage than girls and they need to feel valued. It was thought, that if this happened it would allow them to contribute even more positively to the community. More praise and reward particularly for middle achieving boys was suggested.

It is recognised that Parents' Evenings have been overcrowded and plans are in place this year to split Parents' Evenings over two nights to address this with half of the parents attending on one evening and half on the other evening. In this way parents should be able to get more appointments with the teachers they wish to see. It was further acknowledged that if staff and parents did not stick to the 5min slot, then it became frustrating. There was a discussion about the school communicating this more clearly to parents and that any longer discussions needed to be had at another time.

A more inclusive range of sporting fixtures/activities was also proposed as a way of motivating and engaging boys.

The above is just a sample of the discussion and I will be using this information to form an improvement plan. I would like to thank all those who kindly participated and I will keep you up to date with progress on other topics later in the year.

Yours faithfully

Mr E Hillyard
Headteacher