

## YEAR 10 PARENT SURVEY 2011

Please find below the results of the recent survey. We have condensed your responses, giving you a flavour of the main themes and responses. Thank you for taking the time to complete this and your feedback will be taken on board in terms of moving the school forward.

*Miss Warfield and Miss Breckell*

### 1. Please indicate your satisfaction with Kesgrave High School (Please circle)

Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
<b>53/124</b>	<b>63/124</b>	<b>4/124</b>	<b>1/124</b>	<b>1/124</b>

**93% are satisfied or very satisfied with the school.**

### 2. Does the school provide a safe learning environment in your view?

Very safe	Safe	Neutral	Unsafe	Very unsafe
<b>59/124</b>	<b>59/124</b>	<b>3/124</b>	<b>1/124</b>	<b>2/124</b>

**95% feel that the school provides a safe learning environment.**

#### Comments:

- I have never at any time felt my child was unsafe, it feels very nurturing.
- School acts decisively and firmly on information regarding bullying once brought to its attention.
- Could do more work on Emotional Intelligence and Conflict Resolution, helping to inform students of their responsibilities.
- Slight concern over minor bullying issues and pettiness

### 3. Have you noticed your son/daughter becoming more self confident in dealing with life changes and challenges?

Yes	<b>99/124</b>	No	<b>8/124</b>	Unsure	<b>16/124</b>
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**79% had noticed a growth in self confidence.**

#### Comments:

- No change
- Matured considerably in the 12 months since been at Kesgrave High School
- Child is more confident and outspoken in discussion
- Varies widely, more to do with child's character rather than the school
- Conscious of clothing more
- Some issues with a lack of confidence & anxiety
- School has taught child to build self-confidence, independent and all-round complete person
- Child can deal with issues with family and the school has helped

4. For each of the following please rate the quality of provision by the school in your view (Please circle)

Excellent  → Poor

	1	2	3	4	5
Sports Facilities	47/124	59/124	13/124	1/124	0/124
Computers / VLE	43/124	65/124	10/124	4/124	0/124
Plus Pay	19/124	40/124	32/124	11/124	8/124
Parent Mail	27/124	50/124	22/124	10/124	6/124
The Restaurant	17/124	54/124	30/124	5/124	1/124

Are there any particular facilities you think could be improved?

Comments:

- No
- There have been concerns with Parent Mail (7) and Plus Pay (7)
- Restaurant (8) Queues, time to eat, drinks are expensive, runs out of main meal choices
- Menus in easy sight in the restaurant is great so child doesn't waste time queuing if she doesn't like the choices
- Text service needs improving as message incomplete, not giving value for money
- Give details of school trips at the same time as asking for money, as we have no details on which to make a decision, only a request for payment. It is a bit late to give details when you have already made a decision to pay.
- Student access to computers and printers
- Had trouble saving homework on the VLE

5. How do you keep informed of news, achievements and developments in the school? (tick all that apply)

Highlights	Website	Talk to child	Form Tutor	School Events
95/124	64/124	124/124	14/124	31/124

6. How could we improve communication even further?

Comments:

- Communication is excellent (6)
- Very happy with Parent Mail as electronic messaging supports our needs/good source of data (9)
- Copies of letters on website
- Maintaining links on website, ensuring they work and updated with correct information
- Paper letters/Newsletters – not rely on parents to print information (4)
- Parent Mail not working (3)
- Direct email address to Form Tutors
- More communication/opportunities to meet with Form Tutor/additional Parents' Evening (8)
- A letter from Form Tutors each term, perhaps as they do in Primary Schools
- This survey is good – to make us feel you listen
- Communicate early regarding trips and events (3)
- Communicate regarding sporting fixtures, e.g. team information, approx. time of arrival back in school, finish time of match, etc
- Encourage children to have discussions with parents
- Electronic homework diary posted on VLE
- Clear learning objectives for each piece of homework
- Assessment homework should have a criteria/mark sheet attached
- Weekly HIGHLIGHT reports – get the kids to do it!

7. Do you attend Parents Evenings?

Yes 109/124 No 14/124

## Why/why not?

### Comments:

In the main comments are very positive about Parents Evening and the majority see them as beneficial. There are some minor concerns over the organisation of the evening and appointment times, noise of venue and subject staff availability. In an effort to address concerns, we have implemented a new layout to reduce noise level using more classrooms.

- It is important to ascertain progress of child/how they are performing in class/developing/happy (30)
- Vital to put names to faces to maintain contact/talk face-to-face (23)
- Chance to speak about concerns/hear teachers' point of view (9)
- Appointment system is not perfect but best that can be achieved given the constraints
- Can't always see the teacher you want to see, i.e. English/Form tutor (2)
- I think it is good the child can also attend so that they are involved (as it is about them)
- Celebrate successes (2)
- The comments section is brief on the school reports – it is useful to talk to the teachers to fill out the comments
- It would be more useful to have a Parents' Evening earlier in the school year, then there is time to correct issues (2)
- I like to be involved and informed (4)
- So staff know we back them
- Limited time and appointment slots available (5)
- Concerned that teachers lack knowledge of students where photo graphs are used?
- Try to see Form Tutor, core subject teachers and those child having difficulty with – all worth the time
- This is the only time I feel comfortable/welcome to come into school for an update on child's progress
- It is better when teachers are in classrooms
- Found them to be unrewarding and un-informative
- Personal circumstances can be a barrier to attending (2)
- Teacher calls if there is a problem
- I make an appointment to see the teacher if I have a concern
- Missed one as never got letter (2)
- Getting the child to book time slots with the teachers is an issue

### 8. At lunchtime, my son/daughter eats:

A school dinner **28/124**    A packed lunch **109/124**    At home **3/124**

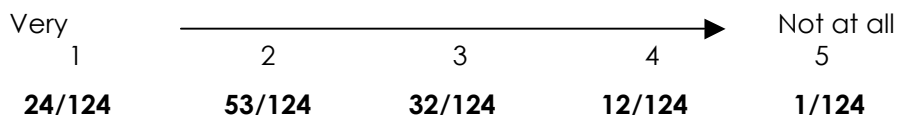
### 9. Has the new restaurant encouraged your child to eat school dinners?

Yes **28/124**    No **87/124**

### Comments:

- Too expensive (4)
- Purchases items at break time

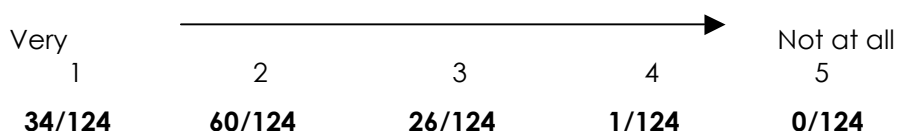
### 10. Do you think your child is encouraged to be physically active at school? (Please circle)



### Comments:

- I would like my child to be encouraged to participate in a team

### 11. My child was well supported by the school during their transition into their GCSE and BTECs (Please circle)



**12. In 2009 we brought in a two-year Key Stage 3 in Maths and Science, meaning that your child could start GCSE early in Year 9. In your opinion has this worked well for your child?**

Yes **65/124** No **18/124** Unsure **37/124**

**Comments:**

- Child did very well at Science GCSE and has gained confidence and given them a clear focus (11)
- My child now takes GCSE and revision more seriously (6)
- Too early to judge (3)
- Too young/too early – child not mature enough, did too little too late (23)
- Too much pressure (8) in order to meet exam target results
- Communication with parents was not good resulting in confusion/disappointment over Science choice (2)
- It would have been more helpful if there was contact with the teachers other than at Parents' Evening
- Child got a good grade but could he/she have obtained a higher grade if we had waited? (6)
- Result knocked child's confidence
- Child struggles and finds it harder to understand – is behind
- Coursework needs improving

**13. What do you think the school does well?**

**Comments:**

**Achievement & Teaching**

- Encourages and rewards hard work/offers praise (15)
- Awards evening really boosted confidence
- Good interaction between staff and pupils (2)
- Achieves good GCSE passes/academically brilliant (2)
- Mixed ability
- Inspires confidence in pupils
- Education/teaching/support/dedicated and committed staff/good motivation (12)
- Confidence building (3)
- Pupils' progress update is helpful/keeps an eye on standard of work (2)
- Understand my child's learning structure
- Child's attitude to learning is good
- Good curriculum
- Encourages students to work to the best of their abilities (2)
- Very helpful lessons
- Children are happy and achieving
- Offers excellent range of subject options at GCSE and Sixth Form (2)
- Recognise good behaviour, effort & achievement by writing to us about our sons successes

**Behaviour & Discipline**

- Discipline (2)
- Expects high standards (2)

**Care & Support**

- Great support for students in Learning Support (2)
- Good support of youngsters (3)
- Good support from Head of Year (7)
- Child's welfare
- Deals with pastoral issues/pastoral care fantastic (5)
- Resolves problems and listens to students when they have concerns (2)
- Gives extra support if needed
- Learning support is fantastic for those with difficulties.

**Communication**

- Good communication with pupils and parents (12), particularly re subject choices
- Parent Mail is a great addition (2)
- +Pay
- Keeping parents informed of child's progress/progressive reporting of child's education (3)

**Culture/Ethos/Atmosphere**

- Encourages rounded people
- Offers a safe learning environment with all the help my child could/might need

- Encourage pupils to respect each other, developing them and supporting them (3)
- Happy environment/atmosphere/children enjoy school/sense of community (9)
- Treats pupils equally
- Treats students as young adults (2)
- Love the ethos of the school
- Bright positive outlook

#### **Curriculum/Timetable**

- PSHE seems very comprehensive
- Timetable organisation is outstanding

#### **Extra Curricular Activities**

- Lots of brilliant extra-curricular opportunities/school trips/concerts and events/DOE (13)
- Provides great Drama and Dance performances

#### **Facilities/Subjects**

- Great level of satisfaction over facilities, provision (6)

#### **Staff**

- Great teachers/teaching at a high level in most cases (3)
- Support from Form Tutor

#### **Other**

- Very able at fund raising
- Everything! (2)
- Reputation
- Have been most impressed with KHS since Mr Burgoyne has been Head

#### **14. What concerns do you have about the school?**

- None (37)

#### **Comments:**

##### **Academy**

- Not sure how Academy status will work out – only time will tell (6)
- Is change always the way forward?

##### **Behaviour / Discipline**

- Bullying/getting a better handle on how some pupils gang up on others (3)
- To be more racial and religious aware
- Fights in/out of school is unsettling
- Reward and acknowledge all achievements (4)
- Dealing with discipline and behaviour issues (5)

##### **Communication**

- Communication with parents (some Tutors are better than others) and accurate reports (2)
- Lack of contact with parents
- No notification of issues with school work until it is too late!
- Letters home to parents are quite often sent very late, not giving enough time to deal with them, including Parent Mail.
- Parents evening more structured

##### **Security / Health & Safety**

- Safety of my child

##### **Teaching / Staffing / Curriculum**

- Homework concerns – too much (2), too little (2), can't rely on child for this information (2)
- Some lessons need to be made more interesting/enjoyable
- How will you rectify the need for a GCSE language if needed by my child for University, when advised to drop French if not enjoying it?
- Bringing down the age of starting GCSEs – too much pressure. Students too young
- Food Tech didn't get a chance in Year 7 or Year 8
- Danger of the school becoming too results-driven (2)

- Teachers absence due to illness and not being effectively covered/too many supply teachers (2)
- Slow progress in engineering
- Support for students individually is good when things go wrong – but think that the quiet ones get left
- Maths in Year 11
- More respect for pupils
- To make effective use of lesson time, perhaps English and Maths in Year 9 should be taught in ability groups

#### Other

- Expenses, especially for Technology and Field Trips
- My Year 10 son being able to get condoms – he now thinks it is OK to have sex.
- The fact that there were not enough places for all of my 3 children at KHS
- Society encouraging too many to do A levels so College alternatives seen as “second best”
- When my Year 7 child has football training at lunchtime, he does not eat his packed lunch. It would be a good idea if the team could eat together at the end

#### 15. What do you feel is your child's biggest achievement so far during their time at Kesgrave High School?

##### Comments:

##### Academic

- Achieving good grades in GCSE Science in Year 9 (16)
- Superb academic start (7)
- Reaching academic potential
- Continuous academic achievement (2)
- Improvement in learning (4)
- Enjoying chosen subjects
- Has a good report every year

##### Achievement

- Settling in quickly with a close unit of friends (5)
- Growing into a well-rounded young person academically and socially (3)
- Encouraged to join in and have a go!
- Being more confident in ability and independent (18)
- 100% attendance (2)
- Never having a negative comment sent home
- Wanting to come to school every day/enjoys coming to school (9)
- Attitude to learning (3)
- More positive approach to school work and life in general
- Working hard in lessons even though there are problems due to medical issues that can make life difficult
- Integration (2)
- Has matured and can say “no” instead of going with the flow (2)
- Excelled in all areas
- Trying hard and “keeping going” despite feeling “not good enough”
- Self-managing work/more mature approach/better socialisation skills (8)
- Not getting into trouble/changed attitude towards school (2)
- Organisational skills
- Retaining her uniqueness and not losing her identity
- Commitment to the task
- Finding school work a little easier now getting help with difficulties

##### Extra Curricular

- Keeping involved with all areas of school and extra-curricular activities (2)
- Taking part in school events (3)

##### Rewards

- Thanks for the postcards and letter home
- Progress certificate/achievement awards/positive referrals/awards ceremonies (17)
- Efforts getting noticed and rewarded by a certificate

##### Sports

- Being Captain of the school team
- Being elected on the House and School Council
- Become better in active sport
- Winning Victor Ludorum and moving up a Maths Group
- Becoming a Sports Ambassador
- Showing enthusiasm and enjoyment for PE (2)

## **16. Do you have any suggestions for improving the school in the future?**

### **Comments:**

- No – very happy with the school (14)
- Consider my children lucky to attend
- I think the school is doing a good job/keep up the excellent work (3)
- KHS is a great school, very supporting of students and clearly works hard to ensure information gets to parents
- Don't make too many changes – it appears to be working well as it is

### **Curriculum / Teaching**

- Remove all perceived favouritism
- Reward good behaviour – don't just accept it (2)
- Workshops for parents who may wish to watch a lesson in progress
- Website to include page for what homework has been issued and due date
- No respect for pupils at times
- A successful school will attract the best teachers. It is important the high standard set continues
- Allow them to grow as individuals
- The gap between GCSE and A Level is great – this could be abridged by developing the curriculum without pushing the pupils into GCSEs early
- Providing names of guides/additional optional book lists at start of courses and access to syllabus so parents can grasp what is required
- More parental feedback on test results, levels achieved – students can be unreliable with information
- Smaller amount of homework – I feel they need more free time to enjoy out of school activities
- Pupils should be taught essay writing skills and how to structure essays, starting in Year 7 so competent by Years 10/11
- For GCSE it would be helpful to have a sheet in their folders for each subject covering syllabus, how it is assessed, information on internal and external assessment and when.

### **Extra Curricular / Opportunities**

- Extra trips, i.e. Thorpe Park, vary from year to year

### **Facilities**

- Improve the grounds, especially the football pitches

### **Open Evenings / Parents' Evenings and Communication**

- Clear and easier reporting system – don't understand the flightpath stuff
- Better notice when school trips happening as not every parent can find funds at short notice
- Tutors need to pay more attention to Homework Diaries and sign them regularly
- Continued communication with parents
- Sort out Parent Mail so we don't receive irrelevant ones (2)
- Keep parents informed. Let them speak to any teacher at Parents' Evening – do not restrict the number (2)
- If Parents' Evening too busy, hold two evenings
- Use the website more to provide information about diary dates, events, etc. Perhaps dedicated Year section to share relevant information

### **Security / Health & Safety**

- Tackling concerns over smoking, drugs, fighting
- Stop 6<sup>th</sup> Form parking in drop off/pick up layby at front of school
- Ability to function when it snows

### **Sport**

- Pride should be taken in team sports so more are encouraged to play

### **Uniform**

- Give parents the option to buy cheaper uniform if they cannot afford the logo items
- School fleece instead of sweatshirt

***We will feed these very helpful suggestions into our improvement planning. A summary of the responses will be published on the school website and will be fed into our improvement planning.***

***We would again like to thank everyone who responded with this helpful, constructive and positive feedback.***