

## **Comments from Parent Questionnaire**

### **Year 12**

*'In the past there has been some inconstancy in the amount of homework set by some subject teachers. Too many unimportant text messages sent, these should be for urgent/emergency communication.'*

### **Year 7 & 10**

*'Communication re tests and exams could be improved greatly.  
School, school grounds and pupil uniform – excellent*

*Outstanding teachers leading upper and lower school – Mrs Sugden and Mr Rose.*

*Teachers on the whole go above and beyond their call of duty – Mrs Stead, Miss Hellowell and Mr Hendry.*

*Suggestions – teacher awards from pupils?!*

### **Year 7**

*'We are very disappointed with the level and quality of the meals provided to the children. I have spoken to a few parents who also share my views. I own the Design House restaurant and know how to make quality nutritious food for very little.*

*I think there should be a better choice of food made with fresher ingredients. Its common knowledge that fatty foods do not help out in the classroom.*

*I would be more than welcome to come in and look at the menus and try and work with the staff in producing healthier meals and meals that children will like.*

### **Year 8**

*'When dinners are missed because of a trip the dinner money should go towards the trip. Chip butties are not good for children for lunch.'*

### **Year 9**

*'Skipton girls have a very interesting vertical system operating with the school – seems quite radical but works very well on a number of levels. I would like healthy options of lunch to be served using fresh produce.'*

### **Year 10**

*'For such a small school I think it excels at sports!'*

## **Year 7**

*I am not really able to comment on the choices of meals or availability of healthy food. My son seems to have a lot of chips and pizza plus cookies at break. Possibly his choice but I wonder if there is a way of steering towards healthier options or having resisted days when these goodies are on offer.*

*Not really able to comment but I have heard of several stories of certain students recurring bad behaviour. I do believe however that the school does try to address the issues with the individuals and parents concerned.*

*My son has tried to join several after school clubs – badminton, gym and athletics but has been disappointed that he wasn't chosen for the team or squad. At this point the after school clubs have turned into an 'exclusive' club for those chosen to practice for competitions or athletics meets etc. It has then not been clear when the normal 'club' has resumed.*

*My son is keen to get involved but lacks confidence and will not push himself forward in situations like this. Part of the reason for choosing Hipperholme over the larger schools was because we felt there would be the opportunity for him to be involved in the school teams.*

*He is interested with his sports outside of school playing squash, tennis and cricket.*

*I would be interested in your opinion on this.*

## **Year 9**

*'Credits for lunches not taken especially when children are away on school trips etc.*

*Tuition on revision techniques*

*To ensure children leave on time so as not to miss the school buses – it happens too often and we pay for this service.'*

## **Year 7**

*'We feel that the amount of money spent on sending letters home by post is excessive. Maybe the school could make better use of 'pupil-post'?*

*Overall we are really pleased with Hipperholme and the way our daughter has settled so well. The activities and support available are excellent'*

## **Year 7**

*'My daughter has settled into HGS very well, due to the help of fantastic students and staff. She has joined a number of extra curricular activities and is very happy at the school.'*

## **Year 10 & 11**

*'I feel very proud to tell friends and family that my daughters attend Hipperholme Grammar School. The one thing I feel lets the school down is the appearance of the pupils in their school uniform. The uniform is very smart and stricter measures should be taken to enforce how the uniform is worn, in particular the length of the school skirt. I cannot enforce this from home if school allows them to wear the skirts rolled up and so ridiculously short. This is the one comment that comes back to me from colleagues when I mention the school.'*

## **Year 9**

*'My main concern is the expectations of the school versus my expectations from my child. Homework is a huge issue for me. My child gets 10-20 minutes only per session, and around 3 sessions per week. I expect more homework and more structured hard homework. Most evenings are drawing a poster or 2 maths questions.'*

## **Year 10**

*'I am concerned about the behaviour of some pupils in classes in which GCSE's are being taken early – surely there is a greater need for discipline in these science lessons. Unfortunately this situation has only now been brought to my attention. I believe some pupils have spoken to Mrs Graham – good for them! Let's hope they don't find themselves in an awkward situation of wishing they had done so sooner.'*

## **Year 8**

- '1. I do not believe that the school meals are healthy enough! Too many other options which the children will naturally choose.*
- 2. Tuck shop. Do not agree that snacks, polos, fizzy drinks are available at the tuck shop. If there is to be a tuck shop, there should be more emphasis on healthier options or a restriction on the value they can spend.*
- 3. Pupils should have a choice as to whether they have school meals or a packed lunch.*
- 4. On outings/sporting events, parents have to provide packed lunches, but still have to pay for the school meal?*

*5. Would like to see some time devoted to cookery/domestic science. Believe pupils are missing out on basic cooking skills.'*

### **Year 7**

*'Poor choice of school dinners and small amounts available. Sandwiches dry, found mould on bread and hairs in food.'*

### **Year 9**

*'Going forward I believe it is unfair to make all year 7-9 pupils have a school lunch. I believe they should have the choice of packed lunches or dinners.'*

*Consideration could be given to enable them to choose on a weekly basis and pay accordingly.*

*Paying for school lunches per term is archaic and not cost effective for us the parents/guardian.*

*Should a child be off school due to illness, school trips, sports day how is the parent/guardian reimbursed?'*

### **Year 9**

*'Very unhealthy school dinners, wedges or chips everyday even though this is not shown on the lunchtime menu on the website.'*

*The increase in fees is extremely disappointing. The school has expressed in the past that it is extremely good value for money when compared to other schools in the area. Mr Oliver stated that the other schools are considerably more per year. This is very no longer the case as Bradford Grammar school is only £350 more per year and Rishworth School is £795 more per year. Both these schools offer more opportunities than The Grammar School Hipperholme such as cooking and swimming. Although last years GCSE results at The Grammar school Hipperholme, this has not been the case in the previous years and if they are not to this standard this year then the increase in fees is definitely unjustified.*

*Unsafe road crossing. It is very worrying and disappointing that not only do some students not use the zebra crossing, I have seen a teacher not using the crossing, which is not only dangerous but sets a very bad example to students.'*

### **Year 10**

*'A scholarship for year 11's next year would be nice!'*

## **Year 7 & 9**

*'I think it would be beneficial for the school and the pupils if you created/built a home economics classroom.'*

*'I know both my daughters feel they have missed out on this enjoyable and rewarding subject. It is an important and essential life skill.'*

## **Year 9**

*'I have put don't know in the bullying question because I don't know of any incidents of bullying therefore I don't know how they would deal with this.'*

*'I am generally very happy and pleased with how the school is run and how my child is progressing.'*

## **Year 8**

*'There seems little or no choice on 3<sup>rd</sup> dinner settings. School bus service could be more reliable sometimes.'*

## **Year 8**

*'If pupils go in first for school dinners, they have a reasonable range/variety in the menu. If they are last in there is no variety for them to choose from and the quality of the food is poor for the price paid.'*

## **Year 10**

*'The lunch situation is disappointing although at the start of lunch s variety of food is available, but by the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> sitting food is extremely limited i.e. only chips left. When we are paying for a lunch everyday the staff are aware of how many to cater for. I have had various complaints from my child regarding lack of food at the end of lunch.'*

*'Near exam time the pupils are still given homework (not revision homework) which means that it is limiting available revision time and increasing pressure.'*

*'I feel it would be better that exams were taken once per year.'*

## **Year 9**

*'Not enough homework.'*

*'My child does not like school meals now that halal meat has been introduced.'*

*'On the whole- a good school with excellent teachers!'*

## **Year 12**

*We were unsure as to how much value an independent school could make on our son– but we can certainly notice a big difference. He is more confident, has a greater sense of identity and is comfortable in any social setting.*

*We think back to Dr Scarth meeting us initially and remember him saying that it was down to our son as to how he progressed but that there were things – aspects about the school that would influence him hopefully for the good.*

*We now have some friends who are considering Hipperholme as a sixth form for their son who is at Brighouse High.'*

## **Year 7**

*'Lunch menus cater to what kids eat rather than 'what's good for them'.*

*Music lessons*

*Tutor needs to learn how to teach!*

*Expected child to read music and play it without any explanation of what notes were or how to play them!?!'*

## **Year 7**

*'I have only answered questions according to limited knowledge of the Grammar School. I have not answered questions for the Junior school, as my answers would be different for both schools. If you want my opinion on the Junior School, I will need another questionnaire!'*

## **Year 8 & 13**

*'Major concerns over healthy food options - too much fat.'*

## **Year 9**

*'Overall I am very pleased with my child's progress at the school. I wish the school was bigger to accommodate more pupils to allow more diversity within classes.'*

## **Year 9**

*'1. Are procedures in place to ensure people are not taking advantage of free bus travel at the expense of those that are paying? I appreciate that bus passes have been issued, but are they carefully check on a daily basis?*

*2. can a parent be notified by text if their child has not completed their homework/handed it in on time?*

*3. Can guidance be issued as to the rules regarding the wearing of make up for school?*

4. Great School! Best decision we ever made for our child!

### **Year 10**

*'I am afraid that I do not feel that I have sufficient knowledge of the school or other school to give a meaningful answer to several questions.*

*However, overall I am satisfied with the educational experience that my child is receiving.*

*One area where I would recommend change is school parent communication. I would prefer to receive routine communication by email. Too many letters have a tendency to stay at the bottom of the school bag!*

### **Year 8**

*'I appreciate the opportunity to feedback to the school but some of the questions are fairly vague and do not address some of our concerns.*

*1. Whilst I believe the school provides excellent opportunities for its pupils in a wide range of activities this often appears to be at the expense of formal education eg. Sports events, practice for shows, preparation for open days etc.*

*2. School trips which appear to have limited educational content, especially if held in term time.*

*3. The requirement to have to take school dinners – pupils should have a choice of packed lunches. Further, choice is limited and often not nutritional depending on sitting. Whilst I recognise the desire to make money out of a captive audience some of this could be off set by charging a cover charge (say £1 day) for pupils opting for packed lunches. We pay for lunches everyday but no lunch is provided when on trips or away from school on a day event.'*

### **Year 9**

*'With regards to statement 3 'teaching is good' we strongly agree with this for the majority of the subjects. We do however have some serious concerns about sciences. For example the pupil's exercise books have only been marked twice since January '10 and September '09 respectively in biology, whilst class work is marked, homework does not appear to be marked at all'.*

### **Year 8**

*'We are very happy with every aspect of the school. Our daughter enjoys school life and is making good progress in a safe environment where she is positively encourage and her achievements are acknowledged. Thank you.'*

## **Year 7**

*'Very poor selection for lunch on late sittings- many dishes have zero availability.'*

## **Year 7**

*'We are very happy with the school and the teaching. We feel however that from what we have been told from our child that school meals are based not always on healthy food. Chips at break time? We cannot trust our child to make healthy choices at 12 years old. The lunchtime staff are wonderful and have absolutely no issues there'*

## **Year 8 & 10**

*'My children enjoy having the opportunity to learn cookery- this is a basic and essential life skill which would be of benefit to all. (Healthy eating/lifestyle etc)'*

## **Year 9**

*'When children complete projects we would be pleased if they could be marked.'*

*Further investment in facilities to improve the options available to children eg. Other technology options.*

*We continue to be pleased that the school develops the 'whole child.'*

## **Year 8**

*'As a parent I am more than happy that my daughter is a pupil at this school.'*

## **Year 8**

*'it would be helpful if the school could reconsider the policy of compulsory school lunches until year 10.'*

*Is it possible to consider cookery/food technology for an after school activity?*

*Insufficient notice is given regarding sporting events that requires pupils to miss core academic lessons.'*

## **Year 9**

*'Overall we are very pleased with the school and feel our son is very happy there. Areas of improvement could include:*

*The move away from the school on some routes has been a retrograde step. The taxi company is very unreliable and of poor quality.*

*Is there an opportunity to add cycle storage facilities? A link from the school website to 'safe routes' could be an option for any children who live within a reasonable cycling distance.*

*Finally any plans to introduce the international baccalaureate? It would help to form greater international opportunities.'*

## **Year 8 & 10**

*'Perhaps fostering greater links with community groups and particularly other schools to give students greater opportunity for learning and development. Greater collaboration may assist academic/curriculum projects. Other schools in Calderdale can benefit from joint ventures and also campus Calderdale for 6<sup>th</sup> form. Can HGS benefit from tapping into these or does it have to 'stand alone'?*

*Food at lunchtime a concern but to be fair I can only go on what my children tell me they eat.*

*I would like to add how impressive the school environment is for developing confident, independent young people who have the potential to develop their personal skills.'*

## **Year 8**

*'School meals are an issue usually there is little choice or insufficient amounts for the children when a popular meal is provided. Most teenagers dislike salad – full stop. Perhaps after year 7 when the pupils have settled into school packed lunch provision (maybe the summer term) should be allowed as in year 10 when the pupils can do this throughout the year.'*

## **Year 8**

*'Would like to see a higher standard of teaching from school inspections.*

*Would like the school governors to present their annual input to parents with opportunity for parents to question on going policies and aspirations.*

*Many children do not expect to stay on for their 6<sup>th</sup> form studies – hope there is a long term plan to enhance what the 6<sup>th</sup> form has to offer.'*

## **Year 8**

*'The school is excellent – with excellent pupil/teacher relationships (and parents). Wonderful ethos.*

*Majority of outstanding teachers, who go over and above their role giving up their free time etc.*

*A couple of comments;*

*Gifted and talented (staff allocated 2008 – what is happening now in 2010 (nearly end of academic school year – and no gifted and talented provision – formal?)*

*Uniform – length of girls skirts – definitely rolled up – too short, school ties! Untidy looking, shirts out etc.*

*Attainment levels - should be raised, as in academic standards.*

*Academic scholarships – more? (not all sport)*

*Class sizes seem to be getting bigger*

*Ability classes – across all, including languages.*

*Newsletter often very sports orientated.*

*Leadership opportunities for all students*

*Would like to see regular debates across all years/students.*

*Oxbridge to talk to all students younger end for aspirations and inspirations for the future.'*