

Student Review Day Parental Feedback

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the Student Review Day on 5th November. It was, as always, a highly attended event and one which brings really positive outcomes for all concerned.

During the Review Day we asked your opinions about key aspects of the college and the work that we do. Over a hundred of you replied and the outcomes are detailed below. The most pleasing result for us is that the vast majority of the results are in the strongly agree and agree categories.

Where you have indicated areas for development, I have tried to detail some of the actions that we are taking and will take to address your concerns.

Thank you once again for your hard work in ensuring that each student's experience at Guthlaxton is so positive.

Kind regards,
Robert Coles
Deputy Principal

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1. My child has settled well into the year.	47%	51%	2%		
2. I am kept well informed of my child's current achievement.	37%	58%	4%		1%
3. My child is making progress.	33%	61%	2.5%	1%	2.5%
4. My child enjoys his/her learning.	31%	61%	3%	1%	4%
5. My child has challenging targets and is challenged to achieve his/her best.	25%	70%	4%		1%
6. My child is safe at Guthlaxton (e.g. free from bullying).	32%	58%	8%		2%
7. Marking and feedback provides clear guidance on how my child can improve his/her work.	26%	65%	5%		4%
8. In class, behaviour allows my child to learn.	31%	55%	11%	3%	
9. Incidents of poor behaviour are dealt with immediately and effectively.	21%	45%	12%	2%	20%
10. I am well informed about my child's attendance and its impact on progress.	37%	60%	2.5%		0.5%
11. Guthlaxton fosters a sense of community in which my child feels that they can belong.	25%	60%	5%	1%	9%
12. The College offers effective care, guidance and support to my child.	27%	66%	4%		3%
13. I feel included in my child's education at Guthlaxton.	29%	64%	6%		1%

Comments from Review Forms:

Good things:

- Helping make the progression from school to the work place/higher education an easy experience.
- Teaching.
- Feedback to parents, activities for the more able pupils.
- Good communication which is very friendly; treats my child well and a good learning environment.
- You are treated as a young adult.
- I feel that Guthlaxton is pushing my son to achieve his best in his chosen subjects.
- Guthlaxton is a good Community College offering many opportunities.
- Making my child feel safe.
- Level of professionalism.
- Friendly attitude of the staff towards pupils and parents.
- Good at informing parents about their child's progress and attendance.
- Being able to get the one to one help.
- I feel I have been kept well informed of my child's progress.
- Pushes students to the limits of achievement; gives encouragement to students to fulfil their potential.
- Sense of welcome.
- Vertical Tutor Groups – high expectations of students/ academic and behaviour.
- I am extremely impressed by the school so far and feel that my children have settled in very well.
- Varied courses.
- Keep up the good work.

Development points:

- Discipline and behaviour.
- Bring back uniforms.
- Overall, I think Guthlaxton is an ok school but my child believes more could be done on the bullying side.
- Remove disruptive pupils from classes to allow those that want to learn to be able to do so.
- Keep parents more informed about what is happening within the school.
- Provide more individual help from teachers.
- Do not reward bad behaviour and lack of attendance with school trips.
- Communicate better with other subject teachers, so timetable, coursework and exams do not clash.

Feedback from us:

Thank you so much for the positive feedback.

Behaviour:

We are working all of the time to address some of the issues surrounding behaviour that can sometimes happen in a large 14-19 college like ours. For example, since September we have introduced a 4th House to make the college seem smaller and less daunting for all students. This means that we have an additional Head of House and Assistant Head of House who can now deal with issues quickly and easily. Statistically there has been a dramatic reduction in the types of behaviour that lead to exclusion and therefore exclusions themselves. In recent Student Voice, the overwhelming majority said to us that they felt safe and happy in the college. We are however, a large and comprehensive college with a full mix of life and backgrounds which presents us with some challenging experiences. As a result we are working hard to ensure that these few incidents do not spoil the life chances of your child. We have a robust behaviour policy and series of systems to keep behavioural issues to a minimum.

We are currently revising our Behaviour and Attendance strategy in light of some of these concerns and in response to our own Self Evaluation.

Bullying:

Bullying was raised by just one parent amongst the questionnaires. Student Voice tells us again that the vast majority of students do not experience bullying at Guthlaxton. However, there are some examples of bullying that happen between all young people in any school. During the week beginning 9th November all students had an anti-bullying assembly. The PSE Morning on 19th November is focused on relationships between individuals as well as a whole host of other personal development issues. Bullying will not be tolerated in the college and we have a very clear policy on dealing with the issues when they arise. However, we believe that every example of bullying behaviour has to be treated differently and as a response to a whole range of trigger factors, therefore our pastoral staff take an individualised and hands on approach with any incident.

Communication:

We recognise that when we give young people communication that needs to be sent home, that you don't always receive it! Therefore, since September we have increased the methods that we use to communicate with you. We now text message you daily if your child is absent from college. We also use the text system to inform you about key events such as Parents' Evening and Student Review Day. During the recent Student Review Day we took nearly 700 email addresses so that we can contact you directly with information. Over the next few weeks we will endeavour to get all of our parent/carer email addresses. Where possible we use the post to get things directly to you but rising costs and shrinking budgets means that we have to be careful about how much direct mail we send.

I hope that these responses begin to address any parental concerns. If there is a particular issue that you don't feel was explored by the survey or you did not get a chance to complete a questionnaire, then please do not hesitate to contact me at the college.

Robert Coles
Deputy Principal