

LANCASTER ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

East Road Lancaster LA1 3EF

Tel: 01524 580600 Ext:205

Email: cpyle@lrgs.org.uk



December 2020

Dear Parents,

550th Anniversary – Parents Survey

It will be the 550th anniversary of the endowment of Lancaster Royal Grammar School in 2022. We are currently planning an appropriate and ambitious project to mark that anniversary.

In November we undertook a survey of parents as part of our Feasibility Study. This was to gain an independent review and recommendations about the school's plans for our 550th anniversary, and of the fundraising ability of school and its partners.

Consultant Chris Goldie of Gifted Philanthropy undertook 30 confidential interviews with a cross section of the school community to discuss the plans and the school's fundraising potential. The company also conducted an on-line survey of alumni and parents to provide an overview from our wider school family.

Thank you to all parents who took part in the study. Your feedback has been extremely helpful in developing our plans. A summary of the findings is below:

Interviewees were universally supportive and complimentary about the school.

Alumni considered themselves to be fortunate to have attended LRGS and were supportive of the concept of giving something back.

Parents praised the standards of academic excellence, its standard of pastoral care and the broad range of extra-curricular opportunities.

Overall interviewees applauded the school's vision:
to widen outreach and access
to achieve the highest aspirations of academic excellence for all
to be a world changing environment for health, wellbeing and sport

There was a strong feeling that the school should be ambitious with its targets in order to make a transformational difference.

There was an exceptional response rate to the questionnaire from both parents and alumni -490 parents and 1204 alumni.

The parents' survey focussed on the quality of education their children receive, parents' views of the need to fundraise, and the importance of the causes included in the school's vision.

Key findings were:

1. 80% agree with the following statement: “Every child deserves an exceptional academic and all-round education. We open doors to children from every street locally and, through boarding, beyond: including those from disadvantaged backgrounds”.
2. 90% agree that the school should do as much as we possibly can to raise the aspirations of all students and, in particular, those with limited support outside school.
3. 91% believe that it is very important the LRGS provides facilities and support for the health and well-being of all students.
4. 80% agree that the school should fundraise for projects that government funding cannot support.

When asked how they would react if the school was to ask for a financial gift for a specific cause or campaign linked to its 550th anniversary, only 7% advised that they would definitely not make a gift.

Parents were supportive of all four possible causes but the most popular cause – 66% - was the provision of academic and pastoral support in school for students whose progress may be hampered by adverse family circumstances.

We are very encouraged by the response of our parents, alumni and other supporters. We are now working on a more detailed plan around the areas highlighted above. The aim will be to mark the 550th anniversary of the school’s endowment in an ambitious way to bring significant benefits to present and future pupils. We will keep parents updated as those plans develop.

Yours faithfully,

Dr C J Pyle
Headmaster