

The Parental **Big Ask**

Recently, we launched the Parental Big Ask — an opportunity for our parent community to share their views on the quality of education and care at The Ripley Academy and to help shape our plans for further improvement. We've picked out some key feedback and are pleased to share with you our 'Big Answer'.

"We think the school should do more in terms of rewards"

We are committed to doing even more to promote praise and rewards for next year. Our recent "Pri-day" event where students queue up to show off their work to a panel and get a prize will continue next year after its recent success. We will do the Rewards Store more regularly, focus on more postcards home and positive phone calls and are launching a new initiative for September around praise badges.

Our Big Answer

"We'd like to know more about the extra-curricular opportunities so we can plan and help promote it"

Absolutely fair point. Mrs Crowder will launch an enrichment booklet at the beginning of the year so you can see which trips are coming up, which clubs are available and have everything at your disposal to help encourage your child to take part.

Our Big Answer

"We are concerned about the number of students queuing in one place for lunch and break"

We have recently re-done the duty rota to ensure better visibility and have introduced breaks in the queue to ensure it stays calm. We are also creating a new till point for September so students can queue from two angles, reducing the amount of students in one place. Watch this space!

Our Big Answer

"Our children tell us that they don't like to visit the toilet during the school day"

We have introduced magna lock doors upstairs in A block to reduce the areas that students can access during break and lunch. This means we can increase the amount of duty staff rotating the school, ensuring toilets can be monitored with a 2 in, 2 out style system. This has already helped to improve access to toilets. Toilets are zoned at break and lunch for same year group use only to ensure everyone feels more comfortable.

Our Big Answer

"Communication from the school could be better and quicker on occasion"

In September, Mr de Rijk will launch with parents and staff a new communication strategy. This will centre on improving the clarity with parents of who to contact and how and will provide more guidance to staff on the appropriate time-length to respond. Mr de Rijk will also be offering Head of School drop-in sessions on Thursday afternoons after school for any parent wishing to raise an unresolved issue.

Our Big Answer



A remarkable idea will
shape a remarkable school



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"We don't always know what our child is learning in Personal Development lessons"

It is crucial that you are reassured of the wider support offered to your child that sits outside of academic study. Support with mental health, careers, healthy relationships, consent, Fundamental British Values to name but a few. Mrs Crowder will write to parents with a bespoke letter in September outlining what's coming up in PD.

Our Big Answer

"We worry that some learning is disrupted in lessons through students' poor behaviour. Is it being dealt with?"

Mrs Crowder has launched this term her Behaviour Newsletter. This is a chance to celebrate what's going well in terms of student conduct but also communicate key themes of issues occurring in school and answer some Frequently Asked Questions around sanctions and conduct. This will continue into next year. We have also invested in a relational practice training programme for staff which we look forward to launching in September.

Our Big Answer

"If my child has been the target of bullying or unkindness, I don't always hear what was done"

This is really important. It is essential that you and your child are reassured that any issue of unacceptable behaviour has been dealt with. We are committed to improving this and will ensure we make every attempt to 'close the loop' by feeding back more next year.

Our Big Answer

"We don't always use the website and the calendar doesn't format on a phone easily"

Thank you for this feedback. Mr Hudson will look at the formatting and try to find a solution to communicating the calendar in a clearer way moving forward. We will make efforts to publicise our website more and use more social media posts to promote what's happening in school.

Our Big Answer

"My child has SEND and I'm not always convinced every teacher uses their SEND passport"

Thank you for this feedback. Mrs Robinson-Kent has launched some training with staff this year on adaptive teaching and has led a session on engaging with SEND passports so we can ensure we achieve consistency with this. This piece of work will extend into the INSET training day in September also.

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