

FEEDBACK TO PARENTS ON SURVEY FINDINGS

MOULSFORD PREP SCHOOL

1 BACKGROUND

This is an independent summary of the main findings of the online parent survey undertaken by RSAcademics in February 2018 on behalf of Moulford Prep School. We would like to thank all parents and guardians who took the time to respond to this survey.

The aim of the survey was to find out what parents particularly value about Moulford, where they would like to see the School develop in the future and to gauge their attitudes to a wide range of aspects of school life.

Over 230 families responded to the online survey, which represents over 80% of the families at Moulford. This is an exceptionally good response rate and is significantly above the RSAcademics benchmark for other independent prep schools that have previously undertaken this survey.

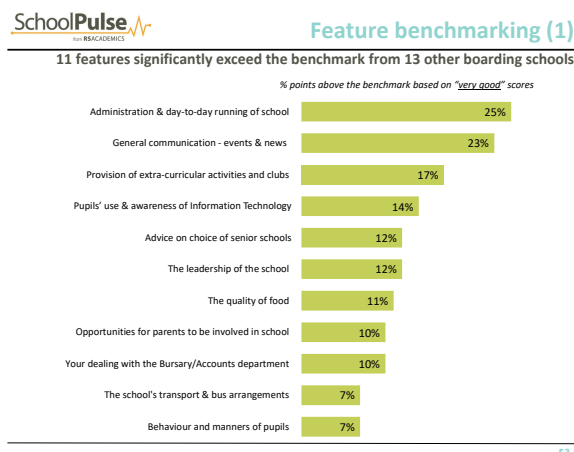
2 MANY POSITIVE FINDINGS

Moulford Prep School is highly valued by parents for providing a rounded education underpinned by a welcoming and encouraging atmosphere and ethos. Boys thrive and are provided with considerable academic, extra-curricular and sporting opportunity, with a very high standard of facilities all within a beautiful setting.

Moulford Prep enjoys high levels of satisfaction and advocacy amongst its parents. The vast majority (94%) would recommend Moulford to friends, and over two thirds (69%) of parents would definitely recommend it. Overall, three quarters of parents feel either 'completely' or 'very satisfied' with the School and over 90% feel that Moulford has either met or exceeded their expectations.

These very good ratings from parents at Moulford place it on or above the respective RSAcademics' benchmarks (the average score of the last 60 independent prep schools surveyed). When rating 45 specific features of the School compared with other prep schools, overall, Moulford is perceived to be performing very well in many diverse areas, scoring particularly well on communication and administrative aspects, together with extra-curricular activities and boarding provision. Notably, most features, these four areas included, also rate considerably more highly than was the case when the survey was last conducted in 2015.

Of all the 45 individual features rated, three quarters of features show significant improvement compared to 2015, and 11 also exceed the relevant RSAcademics' benchmarks for other prep schools:



Against this backdrop there were relatively few areas where parents were less inclined to rate the School so well and, in each case, there is an improvement in parental perception compared to 2015:

- The provision of performing and creative arts, including musical opportunities
- The way in which my son is treated as an individual
- Class sizes
- The School's approach to religious faith
- Security of the school site

3 IMAGE, VALUES AND AIMS

From a list of adjectives, which we supplied, parents were asked to select five that together best describe Moulsoford. The list included several negative words as well as positive words. When asked to choose representative adjectives, parents selected 'sporty' followed by 'welcoming', 'rounded' and 'encouraging' to describe the School. Parents are also more likely to choose 'forward-thinking' to describe the School in 2018 compared to 2015.

Parents feel that the School does well in achieving its aims although some feel that a little more might be done to recognise their son's talents outside the classroom. Overall, parents feel there is a strong sense of community at Moulsoford, that the School is particularly good at nurturing traditional values and that their son has formed many strong friendships.

Communications: Parents feel that the quality of information provided by the School is generally excellent, with 'The Week Ahead' and emails from the School office regarded as the most useful. Parents requested a little more personal contact from teachers, and that sports team / fixture information is accurate and up to date in advance of fixtures.

4 CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

Although the School performed well, from the data as well as parental comments there are nevertheless some areas where parents would like to see focus maintained. Priorities were somewhat diverse, with no single theme emerging that was common across all year groups.

In summary, the main priorities are similar to those identified by parents in 2015; these key areas now generally all perform well, however, and considerably more strongly than was the case in 2015:

- **The ability of teachers to inspire** – 80% of parents currently rate the School's performance as 'good' or 'very good'. Although this is slightly above the RSACademics' benchmark it was nevertheless the highest priority for focus: selected by 27% of parents.
- **Feedback on progress** – parents value written reports but would like more frequent feedback on their child's progress, either via more face to face meetings, or opportunities for informal catch ups. Related to this management and **organisation of Parents' Evenings** was identified as an area for future focus with 22% of parents highlighting this and feeling that improvements could be made via the provision of longer time slots and better time management.
- **Treating your child as an individual** – just under 20% of parents selected this as an area for focus, with some parents perceiving that boys in top sports teams and top academic sets might be afforded opportunities not made available to other boys. Related to this, some parents would like to see the stretch and challenge of boys, especially those outside the top sets, focused upon.
- **Security of the school site** – some parents, especially those of younger boys, would like to see this improved and access to the school grounds made more restricted.
- **Preparation for senior school** - a few parents of older boys would like to see enhanced preparation for senior schools.

5 SUMMARY

Moulsford's parents are very supportive of the School and strongly rate its welcoming, nurturing atmosphere and ethos. Overall, parents would like to see Moulsford continue to deliver a consistently high-quality prep school education that focuses on the individual, and which stretches and challenges all boys, both inside and outside the classroom regardless of ability.

The School has performed well against the key RSAcademics' benchmarks compared to other prep schools, there are no significant causes of dissatisfaction and, perhaps more importantly, the survey shows significant improvement in parental perceptions of the School's performance in most key areas compared to the survey conducted in 2015.

Whilst there are areas for future focus or continued development, parents generally recognise that these are in the context of an already strong offer. All in all, Moulsford School is strongly endorsed by the vast majority of current parents: their sons are thriving and happy, they are satisfied and would recommend the School to others.

Written by Caroline Wood, RSAcademics Ltd, May 2018

Please note that all responses remain totally confidential and anonymous. Although quotations have been used as part of this feedback, they are representative and cannot be attributed by the School or any parents to an individual.