



March 2018

Dear Parents / Carers

What a short spring term this has been! Easter is very early this year which has meant that we have had to squeeze lots of events into a short time frame. It also seems that our fourth half term, which is normally where the weather improves, has produced some of the worst snowfall we have seen for a number of years. I even hear we may have a white Easter. Roll on summer!

In my last newsletter I said that I would provide feedback on some of the emerging issues from our parent/carer questionnaire. We had some very positive feedback about what our parents and carers think we do well: the strongest themes emerging are the quality of teaching at Manor, communication with parents and the quality of pastoral care. Many parents and carers recognised the amount of effort teachers put into their roles, caring and supportive staff were mentioned by many respondents. The results of the questionnaire reveal that communication is seen to be very strong at Manor with regular email updates being received and appreciated by parents and carers. A significant percentage of respondents mentioned the excellent number of quality extra-curricular activities on offer and that they feel the curriculum is broad and appropriate. The inclusive nature of Manor was celebrated through the questionnaire; a significant number of parents and carers say that they are always made to feel welcome by staff when they come here. We were pleased to see that a lot of families seem to like our uniform and they appreciate the effort made by school to ensure it is worn properly.

In the questionnaire we also asked what Manor could do to improve even further and some consistent themes emerged. Some parents and carers feel that communication about pupil progress could be improved; some feel that not enough homework is set; others report that iPads lead to problems at home with social media, and some feel that our behaviour policy does not help students who struggle with their behaviour.

The questionnaire exercise has been very useful, I am grateful to every parent and carer who took the time to respond. We will feed these comments into our planning for the next academic year.

It is a busy time in school. I know our year 11s are working so hard for their GCSEs; they have been a great year group for us and I am sure their hard work will be well rewarded in the summer. Our year 10s have had their mock exams, received their grades and had their parents' evening this half term. Our year 9s will have their mocks shortly after Easter followed by their parents' evening. Year 8s have handed in their option choices forms and will have feedback on the



outcome of these choices towards the end of June.

The year 10 Geography trip to Italy was a great success - many thanks to all the staff involved with the trip for giving up their time. Thank you also to parents and carers for allowing your children to take part.

We had a record number of 141 Key Stage 4 students take part in the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust maths challenges this term. These challenges are aimed at the highest performing students nationally and 41% of them attained a certificate, with a further 11 students being put forward for the International Maths challenge for which we are still awaiting results. We have also entered 130 Key Stage 3 students for the Junior UKMT challenge; we wish them all the best for that. Many thanks to our colleagues in maths for organising these exciting challenges.



The Spring Music concert a few weeks ago was a wonderful success, again thanks to all the staff who organised it and congratulations to all the performers who did so well. We have so much talent in Manor!

World Book Day was celebrated late due to the snow and the costumes were amazing. I know the atmosphere in school was great that day. Well done to all who took part in it and thanks to those staff who organised it.

I hope you all have a pleasant Easter break. School opens again on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April.

Best regards,

Simon Barber