

# Feedback to parents on survey findings

## Claremont Fan Court Senior School

July 2023

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This is an independent report of the main findings from the online parent survey undertaken by RSAcademics on behalf of Claremont Fan Court School over a three-week period in May/June 2023. We would like to thank all parents and guardians who took the time to respond.

The principal aims of the survey were:

- to discover what parents particularly value about Claremont Fan Court and their views on its image, aims and values
- to gauge attitudes about a wide range of aspects of school life
- to understand parents' priorities for improvement/investment

At the Senior School, there were 312 responses to the survey which equates to a participation rate of 51% of families with good representation from all year groups (low in Year 13) and parents of children who had previously attended the Prep School, another independent school or a state school.

### Summary of findings

Claremont Fan Court Senior School is valued by parents because their child enjoys school and has made good friends there. There is a strong sense of community and a 'family feel' and the school instils strong moral values in its students. Parents feel that the school caters for a range of abilities and offers the right balance between academic and other interests so that each individual child is nurtured to develop their talents.

Over four fifths of parents would recommend the school and 85% believe their child to be very or quite happy at school. Claremont Fan Court Senior School is described as welcoming, rounded, encouraging and warm.

As in any study of this kind, there are areas where further focus would be welcomed. The most popular areas selected as requiring improvement were sport provision, food (at lunchtime and tuck), teachers' ability to inspire and feedback on progress.

We received many detailed, constructive comments on a wide range of issues. These have been anonymised and passed on to the headmaster to help inform strategic decision-making and planning.

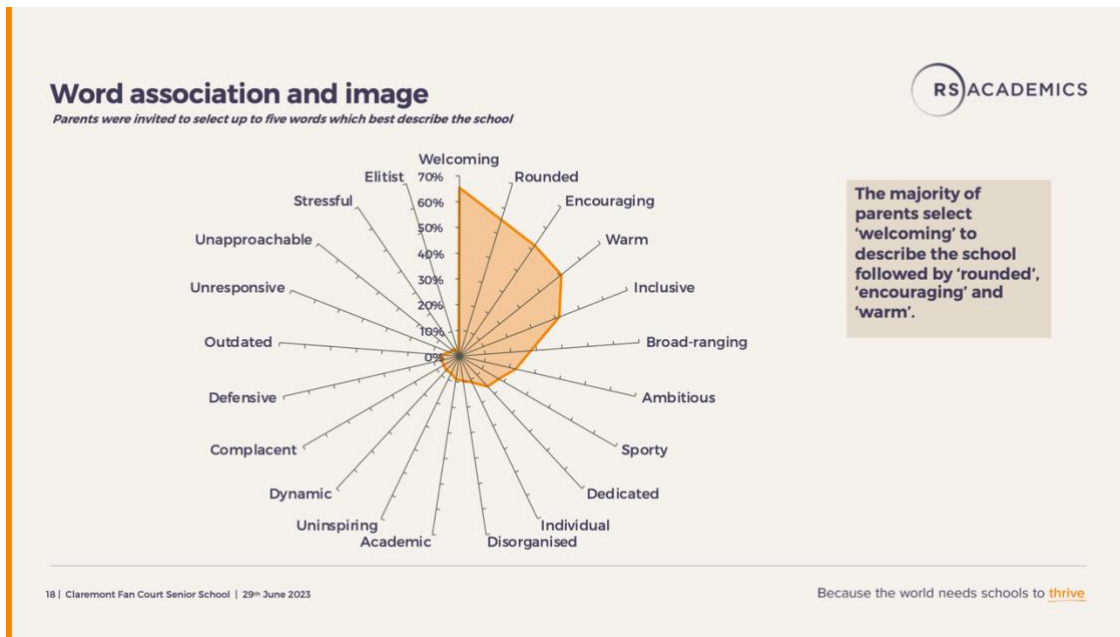
## Parental satisfaction and advocacy

83% of parents would recommend Claremont to others and 65% describe themselves as 'completely satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the school. Over half of parents say that their child is 'very happy' at school and 85% say their child is 'very happy' or 'quite happy'. Claremont Senior School has exceeded the expectations of 23% of parents but there are a fifth of parents overall (31% in Years 8 and 10) for whom it has fallen short.

Parents were asked what attracted them to Claremont initially and the most decisive factors were its atmosphere and ethos, the co-educational environment, their child's own opinion and wishes, the class sizes and opinion of the Head.

## Image, aims and values

From a list of words supplied, the most common words selected to describe the school were **welcoming**, **rounded**, **encouraging** and **warm**.

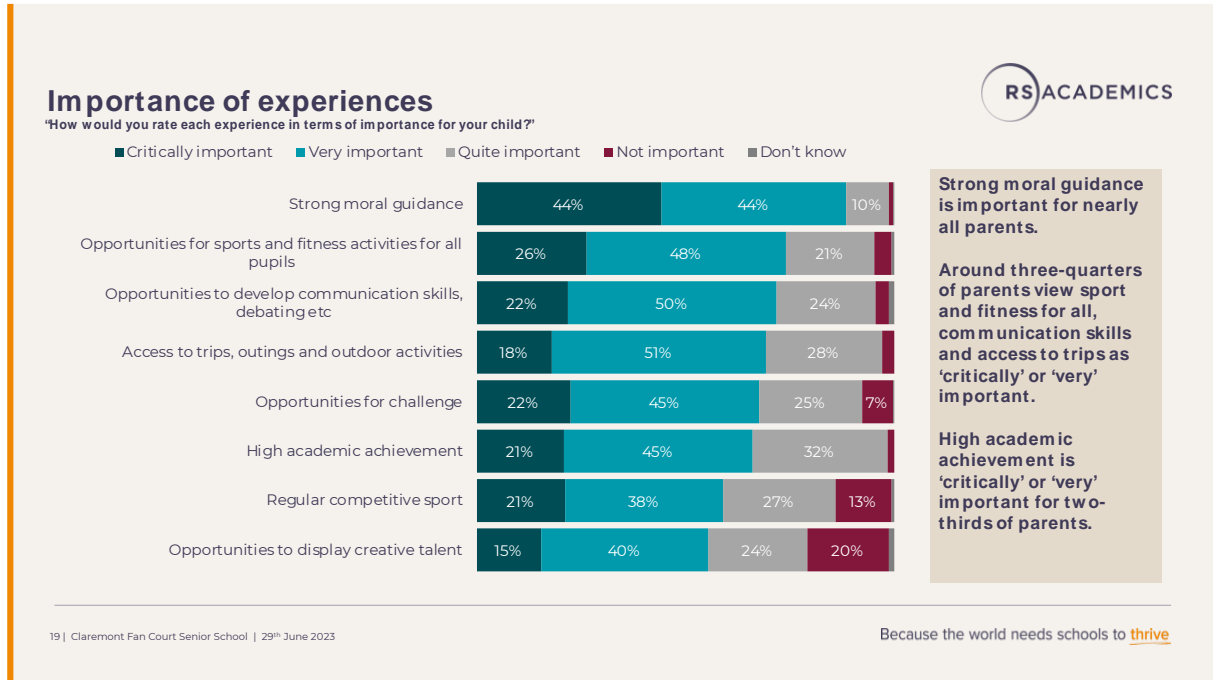


Parents talk about Claremont being a happy, caring environment with a focus on pastoral care and the children's wellbeing. The natural setting and grounds are felt to be very important for the happiness of the children and help to create the 'family feel' of the school.

The school's aims were strongly endorsed by parents with the highest ratings being given to the fact that their child has made good friends and enjoys being at school. Parents also believe that the school creates a strong sense of community and has enhanced their child's self-confidence. However, recognition and nurturing of talents beyond the classroom is an area which 17% of parents feel the school does not do well.

Parents were also asked to rate the importance of a variety of different experiences offered by the school. The table below demonstrates how important it is to parents that their child receives strong moral guidance and a wide breadth

of experiences confirming the rounded approach that typifies a Claremont education.



## Rating the school's provision

Parents were asked to rate a broad range of features covering academic and pastoral aspects, school management, facilities, co-curricular provision, communication and relationships at Claremont Fan Court Senior School.

The highest ratings (for which over 80% of parents selected good/very good) were for the range of academic subjects on offer, pupils' awareness and use of IT, relations between pupils and staff, results in public exams, the leadership of the school, quality of teaching, provision of co-curricular activities and the school's concern for the child's wellbeing.

In addition to the areas selected as priorities for improvement (detailed below), parents in a couple of year groups would like to see improved facilities and equipment and better value for money.

## Areas for future focus

From the broad list of features, we asked parents to identify those most requiring improvement. The top priorities are listed below (the figure in brackets shows the percentage of parents selecting each feature):

- Sport provision (32%) – Over a quarter of parents in all year groups (except Year 13) selected sport as an improvement priority. They would like the school to enhance commitment to sport through more coaching, more matches, better facilities for year-round usage, higher participation and improved communication regarding fixtures.
- Food (30%) – Comments referred to both the quality and quantity of food on offer at lunch-time and for tuck. Year 11 parents were particularly dissatisfied with the food.
- Teaching - Over a fifth of parents selected at least one aspect of teaching as a priority for improvement: teachers' ability to inspire (24%), quality of teaching (21%) and academic stretch and challenge (20%)
- Feedback on progress (21%) – Parents would like more detailed personal feedback specific to their child both via in-person parents' evenings and written reports. They value a tutor who knows the whole child.

Parents were also asked in which areas they felt the school should invest in future. Further investment in teaching staff was chosen by over half of all parents, with sports facilities (46%) and general teaching spaces (39%) the next most popular.

## In conclusion

Claremont Fan Court Senior School provides a happy, caring environment, educating a variety of pupils in a stunning location. Parents value its atmosphere and ethos, focus on each individual child, sense of community and rounded approach to education.

And finally, a couple of quotes from Claremont parents:

*"The school has a strong ethos of inclusivity and works hard to find the children's special talent. While the school could improve in academic aspects, I would not want it to become a hothouse or focus solely on academic prowess."*

*"My children are happy and thriving. They generally feel cared for and supported; this caring ethos is what sets the school apart. Happy children thrive and do well at school."*

*Written by Sue Gutierrez, Senior Consultant, RSAcademics Ltd  
July 2023*

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*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.*