



31 August 2022

Trustee Engagement Day Feedback

Dear Parents/Carers

As we start a new academic year, I would like to take the opportunity to welcome you all back to school and to a new year of learning at Brookvale Groby. I also wanted to share with you some information about the work of Trustees and some areas of focus for the year ahead.

The Covid-19 pandemic had a significant impact on almost all aspects of school life. Despite the many pressing management and operational priorities that the situation created, it has been a pleasure to see the continued drive for improvement across the school. Trustees are thankful to the Headteacher, senior leaders and staff who have been highly responsive in ensuring the safety, continuity, and recovery of education at BGLC.

As Board of Trustees we have a responsibility to ensure that the school is led well and that the vision and priorities for improvement provide the best possible educational experience for your children. We expect the school will be inspected, by Ofsted, within the next academic year, against a new framework in which it is more challenging to achieve 'Outstanding' than ever before. It is our aim to ensure that the excellent work undertaken at Brookvale Groby continues to be recognised.

The school regularly opens itself up to external challenge. You may remember last year I shared the feedback from an external review undertaken by a former Ofsted Inspector, Debbie Clinton, which made clear that the school is in a really good position. In addition, Trustees have a role in monitoring the school and seeing the progress being made toward the strategic priorities. The brief summary below is of some highlights and action points from a Trustee engagement day held at BGLC at the end of the last academic year and I hope that the reflections within it will give you further confidence that the school continues to be a great place for your child to learn and grow.

During the Engagement Day, Trustees were able to observe various morning routines, including tutor time and an assembly. There was a clear focus throughout on celebrating the success of students in each year group as well as reinforcement of the schools drive to work hard and be kind. Given the shift to building a 'rewards first' culture it was fantastic to see this so evident and the massive increase in praise issued to students was noted in conversations with them. Standards in assembly were high and the students were a credit to the school. When discussing tutor time with students, they said strategies which have been introduced this year around developing their character/skills, LORIC (Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative, Communication), feature in tutor time but some could not discuss LORIC in detail. School leaders will continue to implement this new initiative and develop LORIC across the school in the 2022-23 academic year.

Trustees also spent time with a number of the teachers and faculty leaders in the school involving some challenging conversations about Teaching and Learning and Curriculum, before being taken into lessons and speaking to students to see evidence of the work being undertaken by school staff. Students across the school are fortunate to receive a very broad range of subjects/lessons and, when asked, they were complimentary about the breadth of the curriculum offer at Brookvale Groby. The school is working hard to reduce any 'in-faculty variation' i.e., ensuring that students get the same provision in a subject no matter the context and this body of work was evident, although the school leadership team know there is more work to be done here and are focusing on this again in 2022-23. Teaching staff in classrooms had a very good understanding and knowledge of their students and it was a pleasure to hear how well staff know the young people at Brookvale Groby – this certainly was brought up as a strength when speaking to students. It was also impressive to see how many members of staff in the school engage with the latest research on how children learn and how to adapt this to their classroom.

Throughout the day Trustees spoke to both staff and students about their experience at Brookvale Groby. BGLC clearly develops a student body which is both articulate, and passionate, and so these experiences were incredibly useful for the Trustees. In one student panel students made clear that they feel safe at school and that instances of bullying/unkind behaviour do occur occasionally but, when they do arise, they are dealt with swiftly. Students also spoke about the focus on routines and behaviour in the school and said they felt supportive of changes made by the school to ensure equity around uniform standards etc. and that they appreciated the high level of challenge from staff. Both students and staff noted a change on campus with the focus on being kind, politeness and manners over the past year and also reported that they felt the school was continuing to move forward after 2 challenging years during the pandemic. Trustees also asked both staff and student panels about safeguarding across the school, and who they would report concerns to if they had them, and these questions were answered in line with the school/government policy which is always of great importance.

There were, ultimately, some key threads for improvement identified by school leaders and picked up by Trustees which will continue to be driven in the 2022-23 academic year and beyond:

- Continued work on the culture at Brookvale Groby and our desire for a culture of kindness and 'rewards first' methodology
- Increased monitoring and support for SEND/PP students as the school recognise these students have been most negatively impacted by the pandemic
- Further development of LORIC and PIXL across the campus
- Identifying, and addressing, variation within faculties and ensuring readiness for inspection
- Continuing to value student, staff and parent voice to shape the community

As a Board we continue to be impressed with the direction of the school and, personally, as Chair of Trustees it has been a pleasure to see the continued development of the campus during my time in the role. I hope that this academic year will be another positive one and will be the first in recent years to begin with some normality!

Thank you for your continued support of BGLC.



Connor Acton
Chair of Trustees