

MARCH 2021



### LEADING PARENT PARTNERSHIP AWARD

At Goldwyn we feel that parental communication and engagement lies at the heart of the success of both the school and its students. Our School Development Plan identifies Parental Engagement as one of Goldwyn's key priorities.

We want to continue to build on, and improve, our practice around working collaboratively with parents and carers to support them and their children on the journey throughout their school life with Goldwyn.

As part of this focus, we wrote to you some time ago to let you know that we have been working towards achieving **The Leading Parent Partnership Award**. LPPA (Leading Parent Partnership Award) is a nationally recognised award that aims to both strengthen and enhance our work with parents and carers. It provides us as a school with a clear framework for action, as well as identifying our current strengths and areas for development. We hope to achieve the award by the end of this academic year, and will update you on our progress in the summer term!

We want you to feel that your views and opinions really matter, and that we listen to the comments you make. We are pleased to see from previous data gathered that parents always, or mostly, feel well informed about their child's progress, with over 80% feeling that they can easily contact the school with any concerns that they have, and the majority of parents feeling listened to and supported with any issues that they raise. Our STLS (Specialist Teaching Service) provide intensive support to the wider school community in the Ashford area, working with mainstream primary and secondary settings. As part of this offer, they have previously run Parenting Support Groups, focussing on managing and supporting child behaviour, which increased parental confidence from levels as low as below 20% prior to attending, to between 60 and 100% when the 6-week programme was completed.

Following a parent/carer survey in 2019 which highlighted email and text as two of the main preferred methods of contact, we introduced the Home Connect system, which means that we are now able to send out school communications to you direct, without any unnecessary delays in getting important information to you. We also surveyed all our families over the Lockdown periods to ensure that students without a laptop or tablet at home were identified and provided with equipment to allow them to fully access our remote educational offer.

Over recent Lockdowns and partial closures, our staff have worked hard to ensure that contact with families remained on par with that when students are on site, with the same high levels of pastoral support, including regular phone contact, you would normally have access to. We have had some really positive feedback on the measures we put in place, with Pastoral Calls highlighted as the support measure that had the main impact over this time. Parents and carers felt that these really benefited the students, with over 45% enjoying the contact and 42% feeling that the calls had a massive beneficial impact on child wellbeing. Parental comments have included: **'I would say that I have been really pleased with the support given, the regular calls and/or emails have been great for keeping in touch.'** Other parents have said that **'they wanted to take their hat off to all the teachers', many thanked us for our support, others commented on the good job we were doing.**

We would love to hear any suggestions you have for improving parental engagement and support even further, including any specific parent courses you feel it might be helpful for us to run. Please feel free to email [alison.kane@goldwyn.kent.sch.uk](mailto:alison.kane@goldwyn.kent.sch.uk) in the first instance, and we will be happy to look at your ideas and comments, and see what else we may be able to put in place.