

SPORTS DAY SUCCESS 2018

Dear Mr Callaghan-Wetton

I could not let my experience of the recent King Edwin Sports Day pass without passing on my sincere thanks and congratulations on a truly epic event. As a teacher myself it is difficult to justify arranging leave of absence but not only did I benefit from some memories of my sons that will last a lifetime but also took so many ideas and motivations that are transferable to the staff at my school. From the Olympic style entrance of the students to the staff and parent races there was a perfect balance of supportive, encouraging participation and determined competition. Your sensible approach to photography ensured a clear safeguarding message without denying parents the chance to record key moments that allow other parents and family members who were not able to attend an opportunity to act as secondary spectators. The knock on effect of this is that absent family and friends can add extra encouragement and praise which I have seen improve the confidence and well being of my sons but also the “feel good factor” for those extended spectators! I cannot thank the staff and volunteers enough for their roles in an extremely well organised event, that ran like clockwork as a result of the many jobs that most people will probably not have noticed. Although all the staff and volunteers deserve recognition there are a few specific highlights from my perspective:

- Mr Coles – another amazing performance as MC – What will you do without him?
- Mrs Merrygold – Outstanding display of care and encouragement for 1 student who she escorted to the start line – the student was clearly worried and distressed but she went above and beyond to ensure he was reassured and within a few minutes he was leading the race with Mrs Merrygold yelling encouragement
- The FOKE volunteers who must have made a great deal of money for the school. The enormous queues proved how popular the food and drinks were yet due to the number and exuberance of the volunteers the queuing experience was unbelievably brief. I had wondered how on earth they would be able to serve the entire queue within the interval as more and more joined the back of the queue. They achieved it with time to spare!
- The students who ran up and down the many courses returning skipping ropes and batons etc which meant that the schedule was able to run as quickly as it did
- Mr Ogle and the rest of the staff who no sooner than one race had ended were busy setting up the next which I am sure was most importantly supported by staff ensuring that students knew when it was their turn

As with any “what went well” I think it is only right that I add some “even better if” – there was a possible false start for Mr Bandy’s record time in the staff skipping race so there is a definite argument for the introduction of VAR at next year’s event!

The fact that, even children who were coming last in events like the long distance running still finished with determination and without upset amidst an abundance of praise and encouragement from staff, epitomises the overall event. At a time when it is a fine balance between retaining a competitive element and ensuring that there is inclusive participation for all I do not think you could do a better job!

Once again

Sincere thanks and well done on a brilliant event