
PUPIL SURVEY 2019

Feedback for Pupils

Thank you to everyone who completed the Pupil Survey in November. We had a record number of responses with 823 of you completing the survey. It has taken a while to go through all the feedback, but the work is now completed and here is a summary of the main findings and the actions we will be taking;

1. Teaching and Learning

- Most of you think teachers help you to do your best and give you work that challenges you. There was a view from some pupils that not all the lessons were challenging, so we are putting in place measures to ensure more lessons stretch you, and give a more consistent level of challenge;
 - Working with the Academic Ambassador team to work on a shared understanding of outstanding teaching
 - Specific staff training on making lessons challenging
- It was heartening to see that over half of you enjoy learning at this school all, or most of the time. Around a third of you enjoy learning some of the time and only a few (less than 10%) don't enjoy learning at this school.
- We asked whether you thought the behaviour of pupils in your lessons is good. Your feedback was mainly positive, but there are occasions where behaviour in lessons is not good. We understand that poor behaviour can be a distraction from learning and we are putting in place additional measures to further improve behaviour in lessons;
 - Working with the Academic Ambassadors to get a clearer understanding of what behaviour is specifically an issue in lessons
 - Implementing an external audit of behaviour
 - Improving the system of logging behaviour through a move to class charts – this will help us to intervene better with pupils who persistently demonstrate poor behaviour
 - Review of the current rewards and sanctions policy

2. Careers

- We added a new question to the survey about the information we provide about your next steps (for example, choosing qualifications, university options etc). We have analysed your responses according to year group and will use this information to help us decide on future support in this area.

3. Keeping in touch with family and friends

- There was a big increase in the number of boarders that agree or strongly agree that they can easily contact family and friends (in 2018 it was 43% and in 2019 it was 70%).

4. Bullying

- We asked about bullying and you seem to be well aware of who to talk to if this is an issue. Where specific issues of bullying were mentioned in the survey, we have followed these up with the individual pupils.

5. Chapel

- Another new question this year was about Chapel. Not all of you look forward to Chapel but the majority find it helpful and there were some good suggestions for other things that could be included in Chapel, for example, more contemporary/modern songs, Nigerian Christian songs. The Chaplain is going through all the suggestions and you should see some of your ideas in future services.

6. Food

- There were lots of comments about the food in the Dining Room and your suggestions have been forwarded to the Catering team. They won't be able to please everyone because your views are so divergent, for example some people want more chicken, and some want less chicken! The most popular things in the Dining Room were the theme nights and the staff.

7. Activities / Trips

- A number of you are unhappy that it is compulsory to attend after-school clubs/activities. We are aware of this and have made some changes to the number of clubs that you should attend. The number has reduced as we get closer to exam time. Nevertheless, there will still be an expectation that pupils participate in the co-curricular programme, after all, that is why most parents choose this school for their child!
- There were requests that academic clinics count towards club attendance. The reason we removed academic clinics from club attendance is that we were finding some pupils only attended academic clinics. We do not think it gives a healthy balance if the only clubs attended are the academic ones. We think it is important that pupils engage in a broad range of after school activities including hobbies and sport.
- There were comments that sanctions for non-attendance are not applied consistently. We are working with houses to address this.
- You requested more educational trips. We are talking to academic department heads to see what other trips can be offered.
- On a more specific level, here are responses to particular ideas you put forward;
 - More cooking clubs. We aim to increase these and this might mean cooking clubs at weekends, as Food Tech is at full capacity during the week.
 - Gospel Choir. This is being discussed with the Director of Music.
 - More astro time. We have increased this recently.
 - Better gymnastic equipment. We are reviewing this.
 - There are currently more boys matches than girls matches on Saturday mornings which doesn't seem fair. The days of matches depend on the fixture dates of other schools and there generally tend to be more rugby matches on Saturday mornings, with netball matches more often during the week.
 - Fishing Club. We are hoping to set this up, but details are not finalised yet.

8. Mobile phones

- Many of you requested more access to your phones. We continue to review the approach for access to mobile phones and will be consulting with key groups of pupils again in the near future. We will continue to educate pupils about the potential negative impact of excessive or inappropriate use of devices. Furthermore, we will continue to look into effective ways for pupils to contact their families if they live in different time zones.

9. Boarding

- Now that behaviour points are given in boarding, some of you feel it is unfair and it means that boarders could potential get more behaviour points than Flexi Boarders. We are reviewing the approach for behaviour points to try and address this imbalance.
- You asked that the boarding houses are made homelier. We have a thorough plan for improving standards and this will take into account which areas pupils think we should tackle first.
- Some of you asked for more information about the move to vertical houses. This term we will take you through the plans for moving towards the new structure.