

SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF '2018 STUDENT SURVEY'

Dear Student,

Here in Sacred Heart Grammar School we truly value the views of students as an important part of our self-evaluation process. The information that this provides helps us to improve our provision as well as help shape the future direction of our school. As part of this process, during the last term we invited students to contribute to the 2018 Student Survey, consisting of 21 set questions and 2 open questions, so that we could get a better understanding of the thoughts, views and opinions of students about our school and the work that we do. I am delighted to say that we had a terrific response to the survey, with a remarkable 658 replies having been received. The results were extremely positive and showed that a high percentage of you, the students, felt that we are providing high quality opportunities and experiences for our students.

I have included for your information a summary of the results of the '2018 Student Survey' indicating the responses received across the different year groups. The results are presented in two corresponding parts. The first is a set of percentage figures showing the responses to the twenty-one set questions. The second encapsulates a selection of the thoughts offered in two open questions asked, namely 'What do you like most about the school?' and 'What would you like to change in the school?' Included along with this are some of the changes we are proposing to make following your feedback.

Responses to Set Questions

Year Group							Overall	Percentage response to question asked
8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
100%	100%	95%	96%	93%	96%	100%	97%	agree/strongly agree that this is a good school to be at.
100%	99%	95%	99%	94%	97%	96%	97%	agree/strongly agree that feel that they are learning and making progress.
100%	99%	91%	91%	87%	96%	97%	94%	agree/strongly agree that they are taught well.
97%	80%	78%	64%	62%	91%	90%	80%	agree/strongly agree that feel able to ask teachers when they don't understand something.
99%	94%	84%	79%	73%	82%	94%	86%	agree/strongly agree that their work is assessed helpfully so that they can see how to improve it.
94%	96%	80%	76%	81%	93%	97%	88%	agree/strongly agree that they have good relationships with their teachers.
95%	97%	88%	92%	88%	97%	90%	92%	agree/strongly agree that their teachers have high expectations of them.
98%	97%	88%	86%	85%	91%	83%	90%	agree/strongly agree that they have high expectations of themselves.
97%	89%	79%	75%	78%	85%	96%	86%	agree/strongly agree that teachers listen to what they have to say.
96%	85%	53%	55%	63%	72%	77%	72%	agree/strongly agree that teachers treat all students fairly and with respect.
98%	87%	78%	89%	85%	94%	96%	90%	agree/strongly agree that students in this school behave well.
98%	86%	78%	83%	78%	83%	84%	84%	agree/strongly agree that students in this school respect each other.
98%	86%	79%	86%	78%	93%	93%	88%	agree/strongly agree that students in this school respect the school environment.
100%	99%	95%	90%	91%	93%	99%	95%	agree/strongly agree that the school has a caring ethos.
98%	99%	93%	95%	96%	97%	100%	97%	agree/strongly agree that they feel safe when they are in school.
99%	95%	85%	72%	76%	90%	93%	87%	agree/strongly agree that there is an adult in school that they can talk to if they have a problem.
98%	91%	92%	81%	82%	94%	100%	91%	agree/strongly agree that that the school promotes healthy living.
98%	94%	87%	65%	74%	75%	83%	82%	agree/strongly agree that there is a good range of activities for them to enjoy in school.
98%	95%	92%	88%	81%	87%	90%	90%	agree/strongly agree that they feel part of a whole school community.
100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	98%	96%	would recommend this school to another parent

Responses to Open Questions

Thank you for taking the time to offer detailed feedback regarding what you like about Sacred Heart Grammar School and what you would like to change. While on the whole you were very positive about school life, some of you made suggestions as to how things might be improved.

We have listened closely to what you, the students, have told us about your experiences here in Sacred Heart School. Through your feedback, we intend to try to keep making things better. Below is a summary of some of the changes we've made or are proposing to make this year.

You said...	We did...
Prices in Dining Hall were too high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHS prices were checked & were found to compare favourably with other schools in EA area (June 2018) • Price list displayed at entrance to Dining Hall • The good quality food used in the meals provided by the Dining Hall costs a little extra (on-going)
More chairs and tables needed at senior lunch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refurbishment of Dining Hall with new tables & chairs (additional 80 chairs) purchased (2017-2018) • Physical space is restricted by size of Dining Hall
You would like a drinking water fountain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water jugs made available in Dining Hall (Sept 2018) • Two drinking water fountains have already been installed (Sept 2018-2019) (partly funded by students' fundraising) with others to follow.
Sanitary products were missing from toilets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanitary vending machines installed (2018)
Some locks broken on cubicle doors in toilets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locks replaced & on-going checks to be made (2018)
You don't like standing at General Assemblies and that there are too many General Assemblies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot carried out for seated assembly (Outgoing Council Assembly in April 2018) • General Assemblies now reduced to one per month (Sept 2018) along with Year Group & Class Assemblies • Greater use of school app and internal email to communicate notices & information
Additional storage for school bags & files <i>(Comments included: "Have lockers for books & bags; leave bags in a more organised way"; "I would like to change the way we throw our bags at the Canteen door.")</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School will be installing storage units for school bags etc. in Lower H-Area (Nov 2018) as well as storage bays outside Dining Hall (Nov 2018) with possibility of extending this to other areas of the school.
PE Uniform: <i>(Comments included: "to have O'Neills skinny bottoms")</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PE Dept. have included this as a recommendation for the school PE Uniform for 2018-2019
More extra-curricular activities & clubs for Senior students <i>(Comments included: "Have more after school clubs - tennis, dancing and gymnastics"; "to change that there is a wider range of sports teams/activities"; "have some clubs on different days because some people like to be in certain clubs but they are on the same day and same time so can't attend")</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PE Dept. to lead initiative in offering non-competitive sporting activities during lunch times (Sept 2018) • Sports Captain (on Senior School Council) to encourage non-competitive games & clubs (2018/19) • Aim to have <u>all</u> subject departments offer some 'extra-curricular' activity at various stages throughout the school year (2018-2019) • Student led/organised extra-curricular activities (2018-2019)
Library to be open before school, during break-time and longer hours in evening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library is now open from 8.00am – 6.00pm (2018-19)
Study facilities - have more time after school for revision classes etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library study area to be extended (Sept 2018) • Library opening hours have been extended (2018-19)

<p>You would like more school trips</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential trips planned for 2018-2019 include: Geography/Home Economics trip to Italy; French Exchange; Year 10 French/History Trip to Normandy; Year 14 Physics Trip to CERN in Geneva (Switzerland) • Other trips proposed include History trip to Berlin (2019); Business/Economics Trip to Cologne (Germany) (2019); Ski Trip to Italy (2019) • Other suggestions are always welcome!
<p>You would like more fun activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 8 'Fun Day' / Year 8 Action MS walk / Year 8 & 9 Pantomime visit (2018) / Year 9 visit to Balmoral Show (2018) / Year 9 Film Day / Year 9 Zumba Session • Year 10 - Creative & Digital Industries Masterclasses • Daisy Lodge Visit (NI Cancer Fund for Children) • Amazing Brains (Years 11 & 12) • Year 11 Positive Mental Health week (2018) • Coffee get-together for music students (2018) / Year 13 coffee get-together at end of year (2018) / Year 14 'Leavers Breakfast' (2018) / 'Thank You Breakfast' for School Show participants (2018)
<p>You would like more advice & support for supporting students dealing with mental health issues (<i>Comments included: "Please, please, raise more awareness on topics such as mental disorders / ways to deal with depression, anxiety, & other mental disorders, and how to help people that suffer from them! Please, this is so important; teaching students how to help their friends when they are suffering from depression, stress, having a panic attack, etc. would help SO SO much!!"</i>)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student wellbeing has been identified as an area of focus on the School Development Plan (2017-2020) • Review of pastoral programme (e.g. delivered during Form Classes) to take place with a greater focus on student wellbeing • School to introduce themed 'Wellbeing Days' / wellbeing-based assemblies & activities (e.g. Michaela Foundation Programme for Year 12 students) • Increased availability of Student Support/School Counsellor, e.g. Helen Woods & Ursula O'Hagan
<p>Temperature variations in classrooms – some classrooms are too hot at times, while others are too cold</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engineers are working on heating problems associated with new classrooms (2018) • Temperature in specific locations will continue to be monitored (2018) • Promote understanding that temperature variations can be influenced by various factors, e.g. weather, open windows & doors, building characteristics, etc. • Promote good practices in reducing heat loss, e.g. closing windows & doors when appropriate.
<p>You want better 'sex education'</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School's Pastoral Care Team will review school Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) Policy and pastoral programme (2018-2019)
<p>You wanted more information for and about LGBTQ+</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced gender neutral signage (2018) • Cara Friend posters prominently displayed (2018) • Whole staff 'Awareness Raising Training' provided by Cara-Friend (2018) • Year 10s provided with a ShoutOut Anti-Bullying Workshop (2018) • Cara Friend provided a lunch-time 'drop in' session for students from all year groups (2018)

You would like internal exam timetables to be given out earlier (Winter & Summer) to assist with exam revision/study (<i>Comments included: "they are often given out only a week or a few days before"</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timetables for internal Summer examinations to be made available by the middle of November/May • All subject departments to provide informative revision lists & resources
Allow more Form Class time or year bonding for senior students who are under the pressure of exams and require some 'chill-out' time with classmates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 11 Positive Mental Health Week activities • Year 12 Leavers afternoon / Year 13 Coffee Morning / Year 14 Leavers Breakfast • Provided more extra-curricular activities, e.g. Zumba • Assign a period and a room for Form Classes to meet (Period 8) informally
You want more after school revision classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be promoted & organised at a departmental level
More laptops to be made available in Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional laptops/desktops to be purchased for use throughout the school (2018-2019)
You would like less homework (<i>Comments included: "What is the point of having 8 hours a day in school a day and then go home to do 3 more of homework?"; "It would be nice if we had a little less homework as the amount is unmanageable sometimes especially when I have activities after school"</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School will conduct a homework survey (students, staff & parents) about homework practices in SHS and to find out opinions about homework (Dec 2018) • School will review & revise its Homework Policy & associated practices
To only have to do one language.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doing a language (French, Spanish or Irish) at KS 4 is no longer compulsory (Sept 2018)
The amount of money we have to pay at the start of the year (<i>Comments included: "This year so far it's been £3.50 for the French play, £10 for Drama, £5 for Technology, £5 for Home Econ, ..."</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School will carry out an audit to see how much money students in the different Year Groups are contributing • School will introduce a 'Charging Policy' - this will be communicated to staff, students & parents.
Student Voice (<i>Comments included: "children need to have a voice in the school"; "I would like to have a suggestion box"</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Suggestion Box located in School Foyer with suggestions passed on from Mini-Company → Mrs L Fleming → Mrs L Curtis (Oct 2018) • Student focus groups to be set up within each Year Group – each to be led by an assigned member of the Senior School Council (Nov 2018)
(<i>Comment: "I would love to have a swimming pool but I know it won't ever happen"</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School agrees!

In conclusion, I would like to thank you for contributing to our '2018 Student Survey' and assure you that we will take your comments on board as we move forwards. We certainly will continue to do our best to ensure that Sacred Heart Grammar School is a happy, vibrant and forward thinking learning environment where all students are nurtured, encouraged and supported to realise their full potential.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Kane
(Acting Principal)