



SCHOOL FEATURES

St. Dominic's Priory College is a Catholic girls R-12 school of 630 students. The school strongly reflects the composition of the Australian multi-cultural community. Refugees from many parts of the world are welcomed, as are International students.

The College is located five minutes north of the city centre in a quiet corner of North Adelaide. Founded in 1884 by Dominican Sisters from England, it has in common with Dominican Schools around the world, a long tradition of teaching and learning. The Dominican motto of 'Truth, and the pursuit of truth wherever it is found' is seen as essential to its philosophy of learning. Acting on that truth in outreach to the neighbour is the desired outcome of this pursuit. The opportunity to nurture character and confidence is enhanced by the school's moderate size. Education at St. Dominic's is based on a deep respect for the unique qualities and gifts of each child.

The College has an outstanding reputation in South Australia for the quality of its students' educational achievements across a broad range of learning areas. St. Dominic's is committed to providing a balanced education where physical, intellectual and emotional growth are seen as complementary. St. Dominic's is now authorised as an IB School for the Middle Years Program. Joy and enthusiasm are valued in the school's daily life and a wide range of co-curricular activities foster these goals.

The report presented here is a requirement of the Commonwealth Government as outlined in the Schools Assistance Act 2004. St Dominic's reports this data with pride in the significant achievements of staff and students.

It is presented under three headings: Professional Engagement, Student Learning Outcomes and Satisfaction.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

The student attendance rate shows the days that each student on average, attended school during the year. The larger the percentage, the fewer the days that students are absent from school.

In 2016 the average student attendance rate for primary students was 94.18% and 94.59% for secondary students.

Four Indigenous students were enrolled in 2016.



STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1 Benchmark Results

Once again the overall results were excellent and reflect the commitment of staff and students. All students were above in Literacy.

Students achieving above the National Benchmarks 2016			
	Reading	Writing	Numeracy
Year 3	100%	100%	100%
Year 5	100%	100%	100%
Year 7	100%	100%	97%

2 Changes in Benchmark Results from the Previous Year

Many students scored in the higher proficiency levels, across both Numeracy and Literacy. This was also reflected in the My School website where St. Dominic's was clearly one of the highest achieving schools in South Australia.

Also pleasing were the estimated progress scores between 2014 and 2016. The tables below indicate that St. Dominic's has consistently more students in the Medium to High progress bands.

Progress Year 5	Reading School	Reading – All	Numeracy School	Numeracy - All
Low	12%	25%	18%	25%
Medium	59%	50%	47%	50%
Upper	29%	25%	35%	25%

Progress Year 7	Reading School	Reading – All	Numeracy School	Numeracy - All
Low	17%	25%	33%	25%
Medium	62%	50%	46%	50%
Upper	21%	25%	21%	25%



3 Average Standardised Assessment Results for Year 9 students

Congratulations to our Year 9 students who have achieved excellent results in the Year 9 Common National Tests in literacy and numeracy, held in May. The average scores were:

	St. Dominic's Average	National Average
Spelling	641	580
Grammar & Punctuation	613	569
Writing	610	549
Reading	607	581
Numeracy	616	589



SENIOR SECONDARY OUTCOMES

St Dominic's Year 12 students of 2016 achieved overall outstanding results. Forty-five percent (45%) of the Year 12 class achieved an ATAR score of 90 and above (top 10% in the State). Twenty-three percent (23%) achieved a score of 95 and above (top 5% in the State). Four percent (4%) were placed in the top 1% of the State, with ATARs above 99.

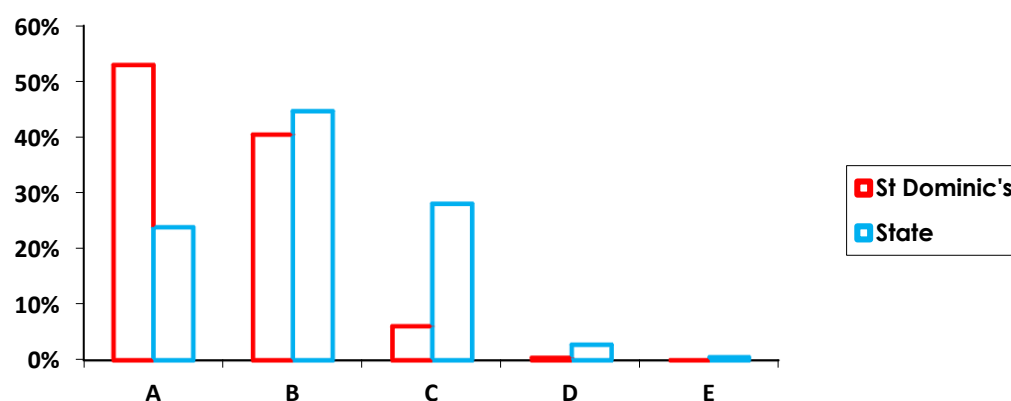
Over all 93.44% of all passes were of A and B grade standard.

Twenty-one Merits were obtained in the following subjects: *Biology, Chemistry, Drama, English as a Second Language Studies, English Communications, English Studies, Geography, Italian, Mathematical Applications, Music Individual Study, Religion Studies, Research Project, Society & Culture, Vietnamese Continuers.*

27 Year 12 Students were awarded a VET Qualification.

One student achieved an ATAR score of 99.70, with the next two highest scores also being above 99. Prominently displayed in the St Dominic's Reception foyer are the full range of subject achievements for 2016. We extend our congratulations to all Year 12 students of 2016.

Year 12 Grade Distributions 2016



	A	B	C	D	E
■ St Dominic's	52.95 %	40.49 %	6.11 %	0.45 %	0.0 %
■ State	23.89 %	44.68 %	28.10 %	2.79 %	0.54 %

4 Post-School Destinations

In January 2017 the following offers were made to our students of 2016:

Total University	95%
Total TAFE	2%



PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT

5 Staff Attendance

The average teacher attendance rate is an indicator of the time required to be at work. A higher percentage figure reflects less time taken from work due to illness, carers leave, bereavement leave and family events.

The average attendance rate for teachers at St Dominic's during 2016 was 96.9%.

6 Staff Retention

During Term 4, 2015 there were 51.0 full time equivalent teachers employed at St Dominic's Priory College. Prior to the commencement of 2016, two (2) teachers retired and five (5) teacher contracts ended.

Only permanent teaching staff are included in the calculation of the teacher retention rate. Teachers who are engaged to replace teachers who are ill and those on long service leave or maternity leave are not included.

7 Teacher Qualifications

The academic qualification of our teaching staff can be analysed as follows:

Teacher Qualifications	
Doctorate	3%
Masters Degree	15%
Post Graduate Diploma	41%
Bachelor Degree (some hold >1 degree)	115%
Graduate Certificate	13%
Bachelor Degree with Honours	13%
Advanced Diploma or Diploma	29%

In addition to these formal qualifications, all staff undergo training in mandatory notification and first aid care, and hold the necessary qualifications for teacher registration in South Australia.

8 Workforce Composition

In 2016 there were 59 teachers with a full time equivalent of 50.4.

In 2016 there were no Indigenous staff members.



PARENT SATISFACTION – RE SOCIAL MEDIA: EDUCATION AND USE

Schools and parents have a responsibility to work together in partnership and educate, as well as guard young people from common problems associated with Social Media use.

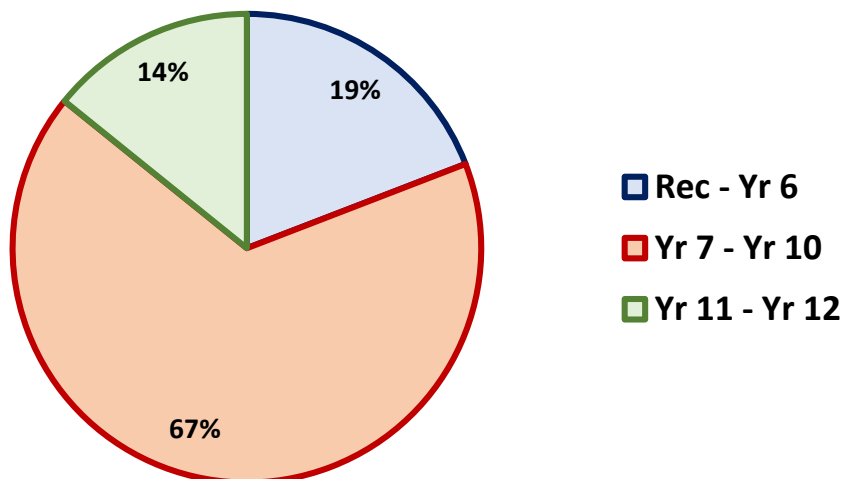
In order to assist St Dominic's Priory College in providing appropriate education and resources to students and their parents, Year 6-10 parents we asked to complete a short, anonymous survey that targeted the following areas:

- I. **Parent engagement with Social Media.**
- II. **Student engagement with Social Media**
incl. how many hours per week
- III. **How parents discuss and set boundaries per their daughter/s Social Media use**
- IV. **What further information parents seek about safe, responsible and respectful Social Media use and how they wish to receive it**

102 Parents participated in the survey

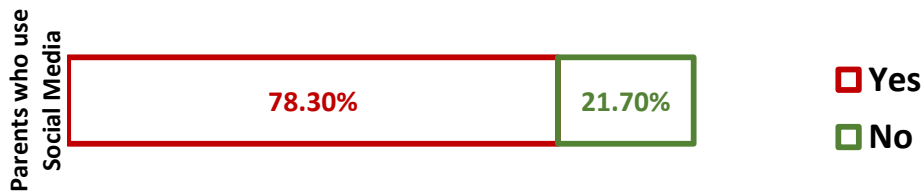
9 Demographic

Year Levels





Parents that use Social Media

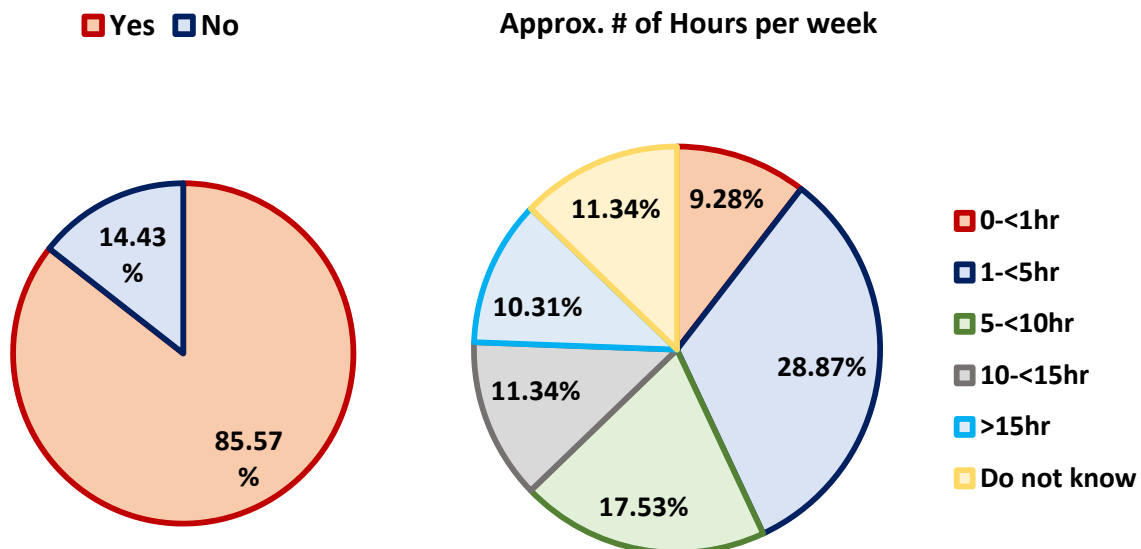


What Social Media platforms PARENTS use



Parent
Satisfaction

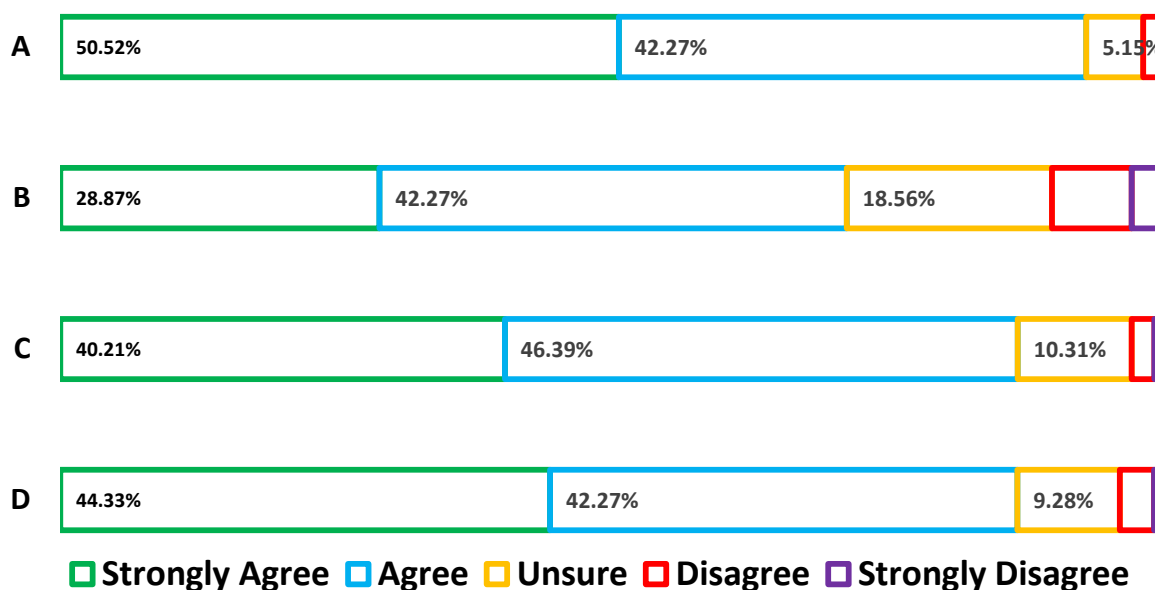
10 Daughter/s use of SOCIAL MEDIA





11 Parents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with the following statements...

- A. I frequently have discussions with my daughter/s about safe, respectful and responsible Social Media use.
- B. I feel confident that I know what my daughter/s are up to, when online.
- C. I consult my children and we reach an agreed set of rules as a family, regarding Social Media use.
- D. I set clear boundaries for my daughter/s regarding Social Media use.



Parent Satisfaction

Statements	Strongly Agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
A.I frequently have discussions with my daughter/s about safe, respectful + responsible Social Media use.	50.52%	42.27%	5.15%	2.06%	0.00%
B.I feel confident that I know what my daughter/s are up to, when online.	28.87%	42.27%	18.56%	7.22%	3.09%
C.I consult my children and we reach an agreed set of rules as a family, regarding Social Media use.	40.21%	46.39%	10.31%	2.06%	1.03%
D.I set clear boundaries for my daughter/s regarding Social Media use.	44.33%	42.27%	9.28%	3.09%	1.03%



12 Boundaries in our house include:



Boundaries in our house include:		%
A.	Parents regularly looking through devices	40.21%
B.	Befriending my daughter/s on Social Media	36.08%
C.	Direct supervision of daughter/s whilst using Social Media	15.46%
D.	Setting time limits	54.64%
E.	Use of electronic devices is only permitted in public spaces within our family home	25.77%
F.	Reading and adhering to the Terms and Conditions	23.71%
G.	Online parental controls and filtering	18.56%
H.	Social Media use is not permitted in our house	7.22%

Other [please specify]

Respectful use is expected – clear messages given around what is acceptable.

Use examples of inappropriate social media use / bullying / risks

Daughters do not use / are not allowed Social Media at this age

Not on mobile phone – only on family tablet

Harder to set boundaries and supervise eldest daughter

No network at home

No real boundaries

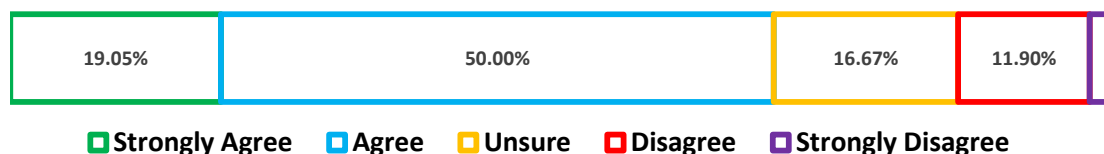
Trust – policing does not work and encourages secrecy

Ongoing discussion regarding Social Media issues

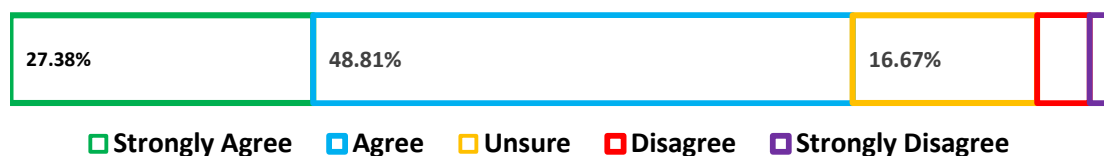
No devices in room at night



13 I feel informed about Social Media use and trends displayed by young people



14 I would like more information about parenting my daughter/s to use Social Media safely, respectfully, and responsibly

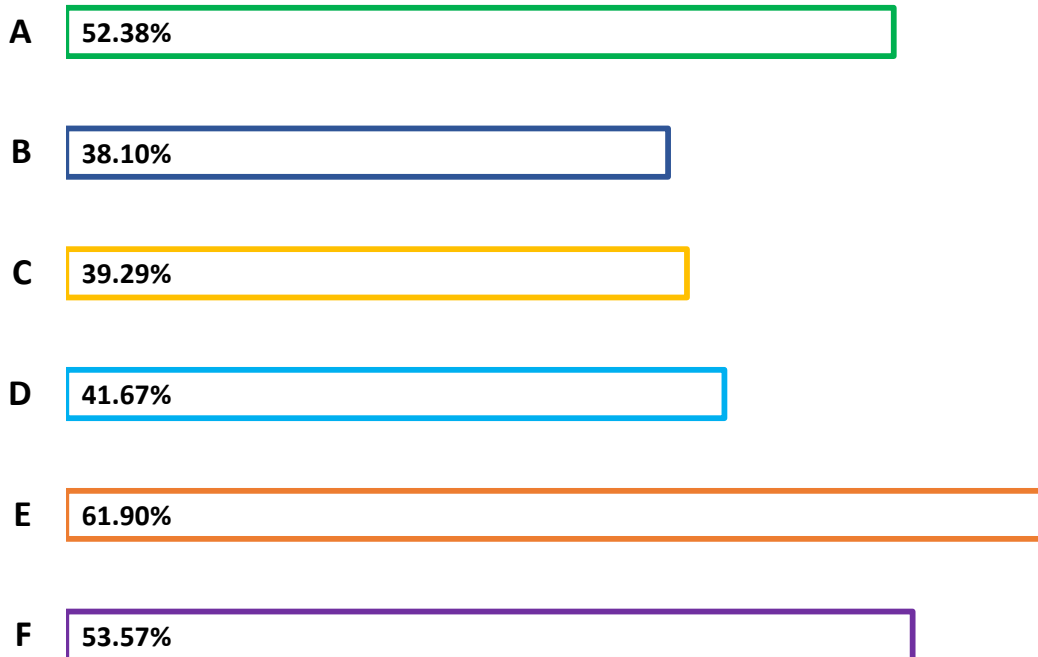


Parent
Satisfaction

Statements	Strongly Agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
13. I feel informed about Social Media use and trends displayed by young people	19.05%	50.00%	16.67%	11.90%	2.38%
14. I would like more information about parenting my daughter/s to use Social Media safely, respectfully, and responsibly	27.38%	48.81%	16.67%	4.76%	2.38%



15 I would like to receive specific information in the following areas:



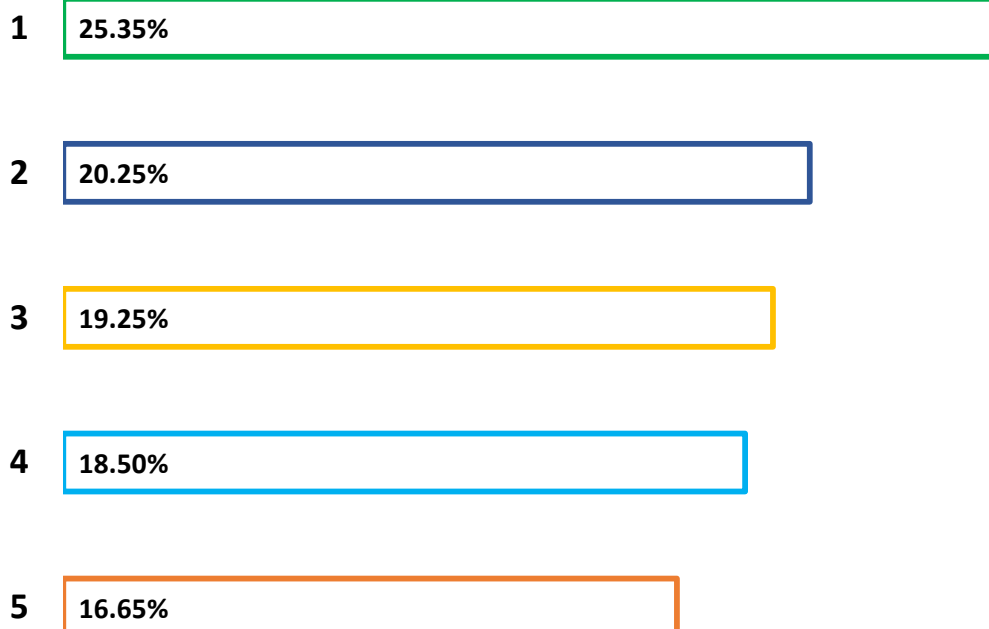
I would like specific information in the following areas:		%
A.	Current trends and statistics associated with young people using Social Media	51.85%
B.	Social Media 'netiquette'	38.27%
C.	How to instigate safe conversations with my daughter/s regarding responsible and safe Social Media use	39.51%
D.	Tips on setting reasonably boundaries at home	41.98%
E.	What parents can do to minimise the risks of Social Media use becoming problematic	61.73%
F.	What parents can do when Social Media use becomes problematic	54.32%

Other suggestions

Is it necessary for my daughter to use Social Media?
Government regulation on banning all Social Media
Tips on diverting peer pressure



15 My preferred mode of communication regarding this matter is:
[ranked in order of preference 1-5]



My preferred mode of communication regarding this matter is:		%
1.	E-mail Communication	25.35%
2.	Tips in weekly Bulletin	20.25%
3.	Parent Information Evenings [run by the College]	19.25%
4.	Pamphlets / Flyers	18.50%
5.	Parent Information Evenings [run externally by outside agencies]	16.65%



16 Any other comments about ways in which the school could support you as a parent, regarding your daughter's safe use of Social Media afterhours?

- Being informed and teaching at school the pros and cons of social media to students.
- To get in contact with the school principal as well as the class teachers to inform them with the situation so it can be dealt with immediately
- Setting standards and time limits on social media whilst at school
- Make it mandatory to hand in any phones to reception whilst at school
- Government policy to turn off social media four days a week or after 6pm every night
- I love that the school doesn't allow the girls to use their mobile phones at school
- No mobile phones as students are using phones at school and I feel nothing is being done by the school
- I think, primarily, this is an issue connected to the social values of the family in question. For example, we do not allow our daughter to have a Facebook page (too much unregulated exposure). We encourage conversations concerning the increasing need for the separation between public and private life, the long term damage of an undesirable digital footprint and the importance of respectful relationships and social etiquette. What constitutes these values tends to determine an individual's behaviour in life and, as a consequence, online.
- Keep reinforcing School Rules on mobile phone access and use during school hours
- Discussions in home group so all the girls are receiving the same messages and therefore more inclined to support each other with staying safe online
- More education within PC or curriculum time for students to enable them to be informed to make appropriate choices. Teaching them positive and negative outcomes for social media use
- Give them information about new technology and guide them regularly
- Our daughter tells us she needs her phone during class time to assist her work. Is this correct? We would prefer phone and iPods were banned from school activities in the classroom
- I would like the school to make their policies regarding bullying (on social media) public to both parents and students. I would also like to have the school's policy and expectations taught and reinforced with the girls during appropriate lesson times.
- We trust that she's responsible enough for using social media
- Inspections on phone in school time!
- Engaging with my daughter that parents have a right to have access to their devices and passwords



STUDENT SATISFACTION

Students in **Year 8** were invited to participate in a survey on their **transition from Year 7 to Year 8** at St. Dominic's Priory College. They were asked to rate what factors were **helpful** and **unhelpful** for their transition, and asked the following:

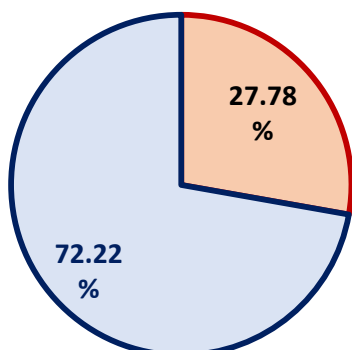
- I. Choose **THREE** qualities that you believe are the most important in a teacher
- II. What advice would you give to a Year 7 student coming to St. Dominic's Priory College in Year 8?
- III. What have you enjoyed most about being a student at St. Dominic's Priory College?

72 Year 8 Students participated in the survey

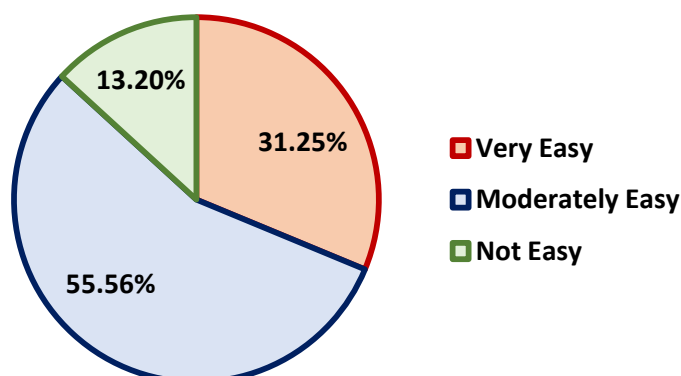
17 Ease of Transition

Were you a student at SDPC in Year 7?

Yes No



How easy has your transition been from Year 7 to Year 8?



Student
Satisfaction



18 What factors were helpful for your transition?



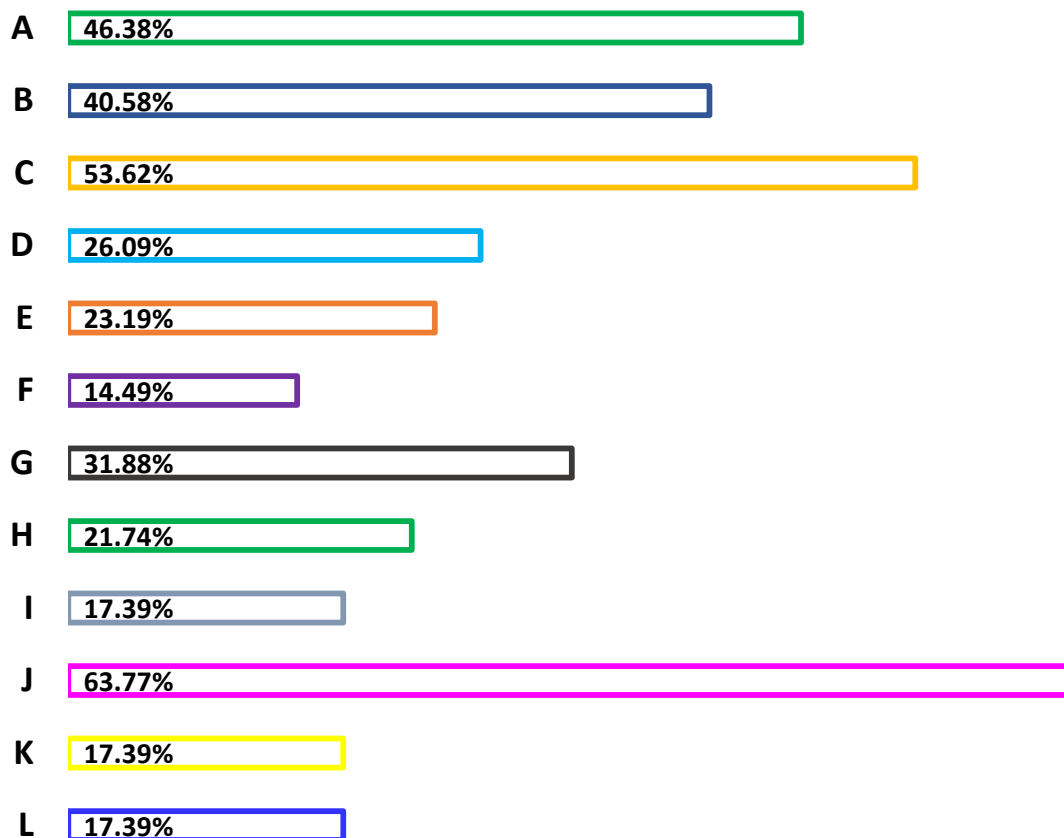
What factors were helpful for your transition?		%
A.	School visit in Year 7	35.71%
B.	Year 8 Orientation Camp at beginning of year	87.14%
C.	Knowing other students from your Primary School	70.00%
D.	An older sister who already attended St Dominic's Priory College	17.14%
E.	A mother who attended St Dominic's Priory College	7.14%
F.	The teachers	24.29%
G.	Clubs and activities	20.00%

Comments

I knew students from other schools beforehand because I had gone to tutors and language school
Already knowing the teachers and 28 of my peers from the previous year
Knowing students outside school curriculum
Already knowing the school
Being at St Dominic's in primary school
None. I'm used to change, and I have no social life.



19 What factors made your transition difficult?



What factors made your transition difficult?		%
A.	Meeting new students	46.38%
B.	Study expectations	40.58%
C.	Homework	53.62%
D.	Longer lessons	26.09%
E.	Multiple teachers	23.19%
F.	Multiple rooms for lessons	14.49%
G.	Uniform expectations	31.88%
H.	Transport to and from school	21.74%
I.	Lockers	17.39%
J.	New type of assessment (MYP)	63.77%
K.	School rules and procedures	17.39%
L.	Finding your way around the school	17.39%



Comments

Bigger trays

People talking at recess and lunch instead of playing on the oval. At my old school, I would play on the oval with my friends every day.

Being forced to socialise

20 Qualities that are most important in a teacher



Student
Satisfaction

Qualities that are most important in a teacher:		%
A.	Approachable	58.90%
B.	Patient	35.62%
C.	Sense of Humour	47.95%
D.	Knowledgeable	35.62%
E.	Sense of Discipline	9.59%
F.	Well organised	28.77%
G.	Makes subject interesting / relevant	69.86%
H.	Enthusiastic	24.66%
I.	Caring	38.36%

Comments

Values every student equally
Open-minded



21 What advice would you give to a Year 7 student coming to St Dominic's in Year 8?

SUMMARY

20 responses: Be organised – concerning the importance of being organised.

27 responses: Trust yourself, be confident, be positive, be brave. Try new things.

16 responses: Being prepared to make new friends.

4 responses: Wear correct uniform, ribbons etc.

Be organized and make sure your locker is clean because seriously it gets so annoying when it's messy and you lose everything

Be organized with your trays

Make sure you plan well ahead and use your college planner really well as it will help you for homework and future assignments/tests. Get your books organised before lessons so you don't need to hurry out and get it right before a lesson starts.

Make sure you give up your work on time and don't leave things last minute!!!!

Keep your planner in order at all times, and pay attention in class. Also, be prepared for a lot more work and assignments.

Stay organised with your homework.

I would recommend not stressing at all because in the end stress just makes the whole thing worse. I would also enjoy this year and plan ahead always finishing those assignments a couple days earlier.

If there are any problems or concerns, the teachers will help or guide you through things, so don't be shy to ask. Also, the people here are very friendly, and it's a very good environment.

If you were like me coming here all by yourself, don't worry about making new friends because if you really need help the teachers are all willing to help (especially your pastoral care teacher).

Everything will work out even if you are not too sure yet or are worried about what might happen

Just to be themselves and that Year 8 is not as bad as it seems

Be brave, don't worry. Include others.

Be confident

Be positive

Open up and don't be afraid to try new things. Try to get out of our comfort zone.

Engage in a wide variety of clubs and to have confidence when meeting a new student from within SDPC

Take every opportunity that the school can provide as it helps to meet new teachers and students



Don't stress it seems new and scary to everyone. Just be involved in everything and be kind to everyone

Don't worry. Worrying makes everything worse. Remember that now.

If you don't have much friends at school and no one seems to be approaching you, approach them instead.

Just to stay true to who you are

Mingle and talk to people

Be approachable

Don't be shy, smile a lot when walking around the school and try to start conversations with other students

Don't stress about Homework and don't stress about making new friends because you will eventually find a group of friends who share common interests with you.

Communicate with your friends, family or staff about whether you are unhappy or not.

Always wear the correct uniforms

Make sure you buy your ribbons!!

Make sure you listen to the teachers and follow the rules. Also make sure to always try your best!

22 What have you enjoyed most about being a student at St Dominic's Priory College?

SUMMARY

Making new friends

Kind students and teachers

New friends, new teachers

New knowledge

St Dominic's feels like a family

Different clubs on offer: Sports / Choir / Activities

The environment around me

The traditions (Gala Day etc.), the small and caring community and the nice, funny teachers

I have enjoyed the friends I have made, the activities and clubs, the teachers I have met, and the safe school environment

I enjoy the friendly community and the approachable students here at St Dominic's. Whether it's the students or the teachers

St Dominic's feels like a family and I like knowing most of the teachers and all of the Year 8 students. There is a sense of family.

The community. It's incredible. I love the teachers and the students and their relationships with each other

Everything!



I enjoyed the new friends I have made, all the sporting teams that you can join and I enjoyed the friendly community that welcome me in

That the community is very welcoming and nice, and that the school tries to make everybody disciplined

That I had the courage to make new friends

I have enjoyed the new journeys I have experienced and the new friends I have met

The students and teachers are very kind and friendly

Belonging to a welcoming community, having close friends and supportive teachers

Meeting new people who supports me well in both friendship and education

Meeting new people and getting to have a fresh start, also being challenged

Meeting new friends to only realise they went to my kindergarten

I have enjoyed meeting new people and all the different clubs on offer

Sports Day and Camp!

Being able to have such a wide variety of clubs and meeting new people

Participating in our school's Choir

Fundraisers

The religious and spiritual side of things really inspire me

Getting to learn new things and trying a new learning system (MYP)

Learning new subjects like tech and being able to actually go into proper subjects thoroughly

The engaging environment

Everyone is friendly and most of the teachers are approachable and actually wanting to help you improve on the subjects that we are struggling in

Meeting new people, learning a lot more and being able to feel more independent and responsible

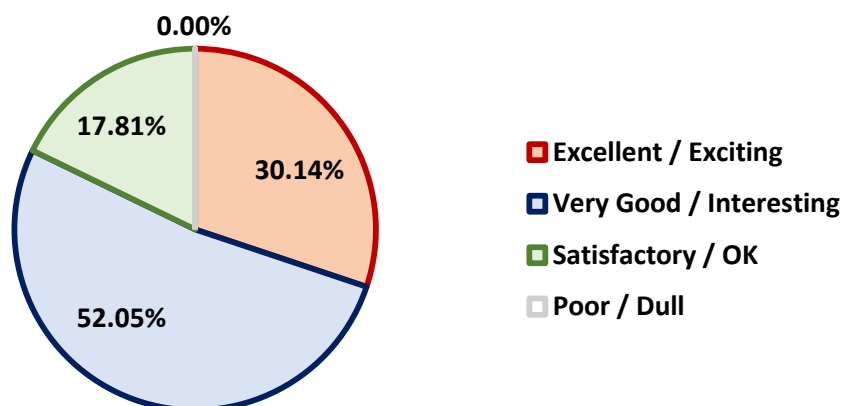
Having separate teachers for each subject, (because they know that subject really well) and having the opportunity to meet new people

I have enjoyed the fact that we can all have loads of fun with new friends as well as focussing on our education and knowing that we will have a bright future if we put our minds to it

I have loved learning all the new things and meeting all the new people that could possibly be my friends for the rest of my life. I have also loved to finally attend an all girl school because everyone understands each other like a group of sisters



23 Overall, what have you thought about your experience of being a student in Year 8 at the college?



24 Any other comments about your learning and/or your transition to Year 8 at St Dominic's Priory College that is not covered above?

SUMMARY

Laptops are heavy and difficult to use
Different grading through MYP
Teachers are understanding and approachable

The work is hard

I think we should have one study lesson to catch up on any work that you have to do

Just to have a bigger desk space maybe

Of course lessons in high school are harder to comprehend, but I will get used to it

I found that class time was very valuable since it allowed myself to understand more about my subject. I also found doing extra homework allowed me to have a stronger grip of my subjects

St Dominic's has given me many opportunities to be a part of and I became more confident with myself over the term because of presenting orals and everyone's there to support my oral so I'm never scared of being judged

The grading is a bit different and future students will need to explain this to parents like how I did. Some parents might think that 7-8 is an A+ while if you get an 3-4 it's a D or C

The MYP was very confusing but it's easy to understand when you get used to it

The first day I got lost, second day I was better, third week this place is like home

Teachers are all understanding and approachable if you need any help



I found St. Dominic's has helped me to move forward a lot more in my learning

I would recommend having the camp at the start of the year a little bit later to give the chance to get to know the girls in the class. I remember feeling a little worried during the camp because the girls in my group I did not know very well. Later on I got to know them well and made really good friends

I think the computers need to be improved but otherwise St Dominic's is an amazing school which I would recommend to anyone

Although I knew some people from my school, I wasn't really close with them so it was an awkward transition

For me it is all covered all above

I found the laptops very difficult to use and carry around because they were so heavy and slow. Otherwise no complaints

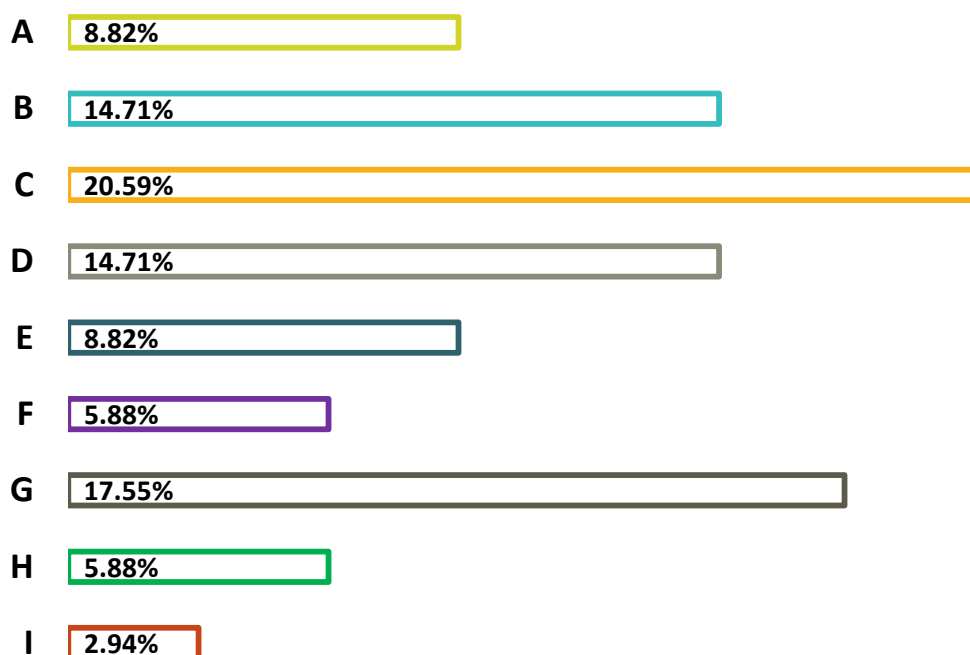


STAFF SATISFACTION

Teacher-Parent Engagement at Parent-Teacher Interviews Year 7-12: Staff Response

34 Staff Members participated in this survey

25 Faculties who participated in the survey

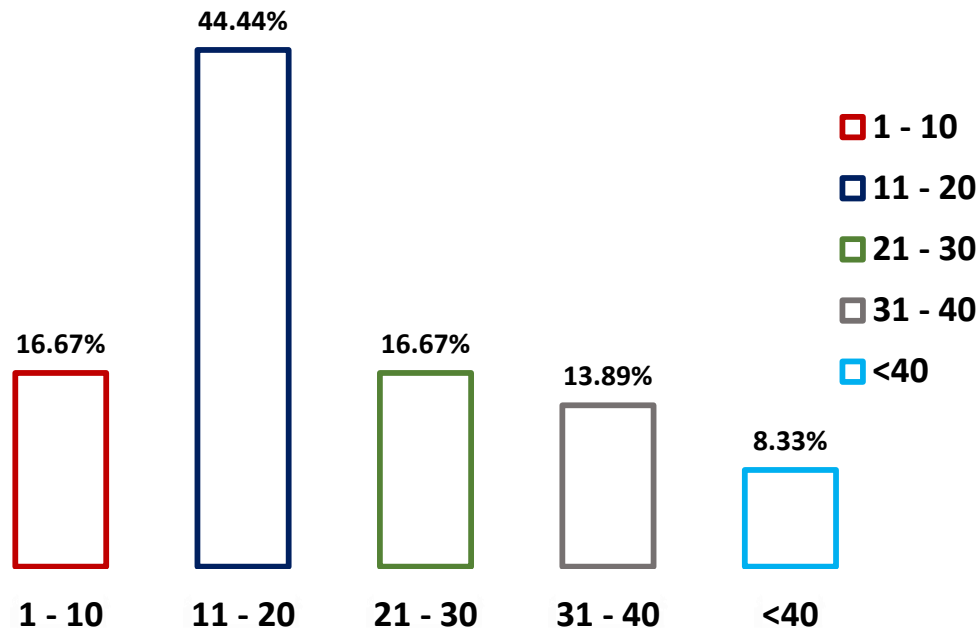


Staff
Satisfaction

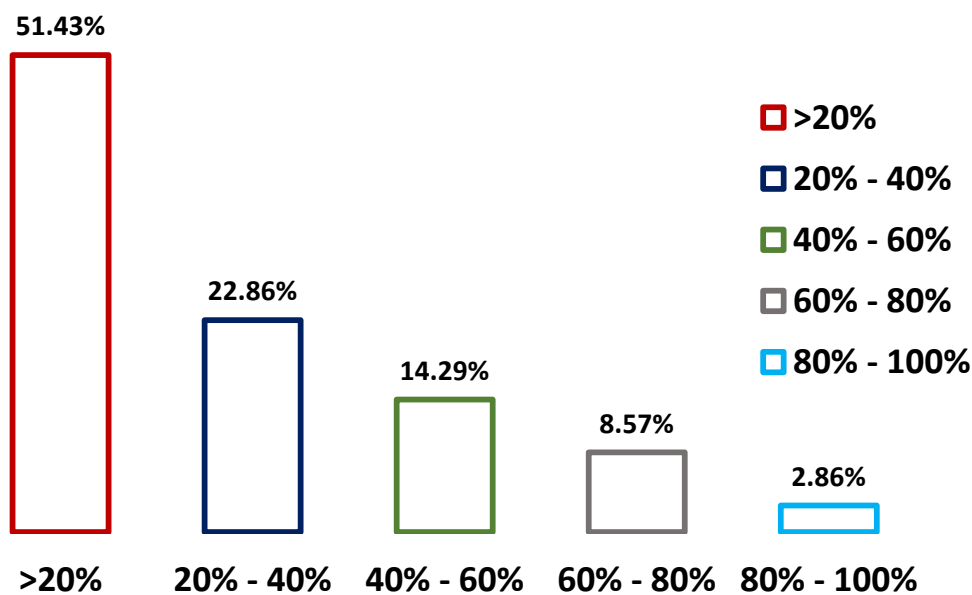
Faculties who participated in the survey		%
A.	English	8.82%
B.	Science	14.71%
C.	Maths	20.59%
D.	Arts	14.71%
E.	Health & PE	8.82%
F.	Religious Education	5.88%
G.	Studies of Society	17.65%
H.	Technology	5.88%
I.	LOTE	2.94%



26 Across the two nights of interviews, approximately how many interviews did you have?

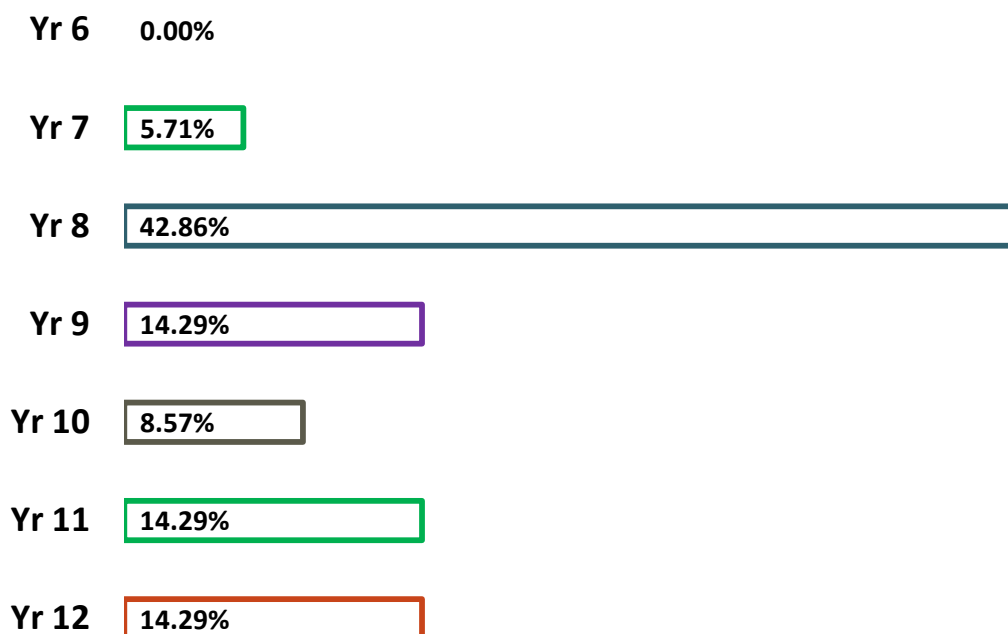


27 Estimate the percentage of students you teach whose parents requested an interview



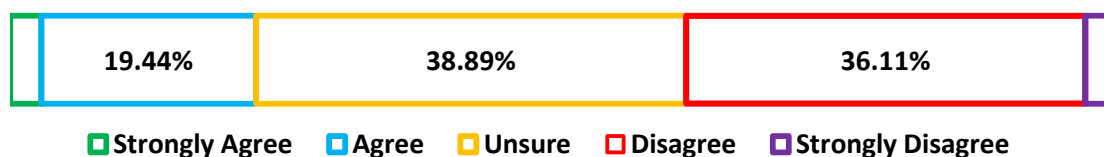


28 From which year level did you receive the largest number of requests for an interview?



Staff
Satisfaction

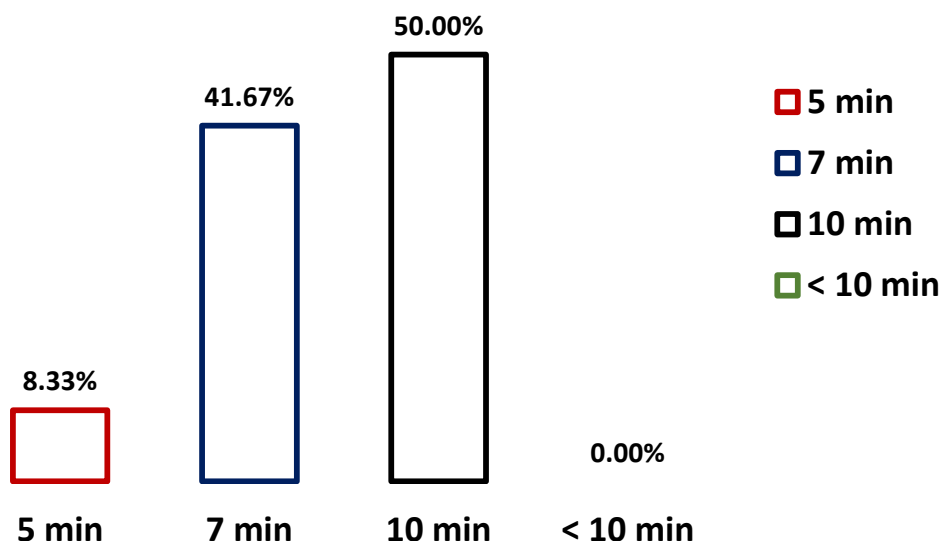
29 Do you agree with the following statement?:
"The parents I most wanted to see made an appointment for an interview"



Strongly Agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2.78%	19.44%	38.89%	36.11%	2.78%



30 What is your preferred length of each interview slot?



31 Other Comments

Other than the spread – it all seemed to work well.

The night worked well. I felt for the teacher who had every slot booked. I think the new process for booking is more workable for the person organising it.

Very smoothly organised. Parents very polite and easy to talk to.

Can we request interviews on Term 1 Report?

Very organised.

I requested one interview, but the parents did not make an appointment.

I would like more control of the bookings so that I don't have to wait so long between times e.g. I had one at 6:30pm and then another at 7:50pm. There was no option to request Year 12 for interviews and they are who I would prefer to see.

The buzzer is a good idea. Sometimes the interview time is too long and sometimes too short when there is a lot to say. I think it is important that parents are encouraged to come even if there is no specific requirement from the teacher – it allows them to get first hand detailed feedback from the teacher and sometimes you find out things about the student that are relevant.

I found both nights OK – even though I had interviews spread out for hours – which can't be helped.

We should return to teacher control, via students to parents and/or guardians.

I thought it went well. I like having the time clock and bell.