

S4 – S6

Resources for pupils including access to ICT, the Library, Common Room, Dining Hall

Do the school resources meet your needs? What could be done to improve this?

Girls toilets could be improved	Better equipment for PE
More high quality art equipment	
<i>We say this every year [above comments] and nothing ever happens</i>	
Better toilets for girls, there disgusting!	PE equipment
Art resources	Better food
Dining room has queues as it doesn't open on time [needs sorted].	
No – spend more money on good equipment and more resources for the sciences.	
Make sure there is enough for each pupil	The school resources meet my needs
Library seldom permit pupils in during free periods.	
Common Room – due to previous years will always be an issued but I feel a local of common room will cause seniors to feel disrespected.	
Common Room was poorly organised this year and S6s opinions were not listened to/took into consideration.	
Library staff were fair to me personally but I know some pupils were poorly treated for sometimes no reason.	
Sometimes the library is closed off to do things with other years so we can't get in to finish off projects.	
Library staff are ignorant! – no help	Dining hall – friendly staff/great environment
School resources are regularly available which is good/ the library is hash when trying to revise/ common room should be allowed for 6 th years no matter what/not their fault if last year wrecked it.	
Library is very limited	Little or no access to the library
Librarians are grumpy and unhelpful	
More seniors should be allowed in the library, if this isn't an ideal idea give back the old common room where there is plenty of space, it is a good distance from classrooms to let us listen to music and it is a place where seniors can relax and study.	
The librarians are awkward about how many people can be in there/as far as I know there isn't one but there should be / better system needs to be made for seniors on duties they need their lunch quickly.	
Access to computers that actually work when we need them and be treated fairly in the library.	
I think the books in the library should be aimed to adults as well as teenagers, as I think that there are not enough ranges of books.	
I think there are space and timing issues in the dining hall at lunch and break – I think that the structure at the high school is more efficient [2 dining halls for separate year groups] – I think this way all pupils get their food quicker and everyone can get a seat/table.	
Dining hall is never open on time!	
The librarians do not allow senior school members into the library to study – if the seniors had a common room then this problem would be solved but since there is not common room available then I think the librarians should accommodate those who wish to study.	

Don't tell us about these things like the common room until what it is when I am old enough to use it.	
Need a bell in dinnies.	Dining hall never has enough seats.
The dining hall does meet my needs, but food is rarely ready on time, and pupils have to wait outside for a long time.	
The library is fine, but the people who work there are rude. ICT is good. There was no common room – resulted in the year not mixing well.	
Dinner hall does not have enough room or seats for all people to use – very cramped and busy. Library is often booked for computers – no other place to use computers outside of classrooms and room 423 which is locked and for social subjects. No common room so 6 th years end up wandering the corridors in search of an empty room. Little access to ICT outside of classrooms.	
The access to computers and the library could be improved by at least allowing the S4-6s in. To my common knowledge we do not have a common rom and I believe there should be one – for S5-6 at least but would be good for S4s who are studying for exams. It would help if S4s to S6s were allowed in school all the time [I know S5 and S6s are but for that to be extended to S4s would be great].	
Difficult to get computer access during free periods if there are class in the library and no access during lunch.	
There are usually computers available although sometimes other years get priority for use – seniors and those who are using the computers for educational purposes should get priority for example, studying for Highers.	
ICT fine [computer room in art is not used enough?]. The library is a disgrace, it's a total mess – students don't feel welcome to study in their own school library. The common room? There is a common room? Again just a total mess. Dining hall is okay.	
No. English need their own set of laptops/computers. Also the library space is not big enough for the amount of people who need to access it whether that be for revision or the use of computers.	
School resources do meet my needs.	A lot of computers do not allow you to log on.
Barely any computers work. Dining hall is dirty and lacking fun and an atmosphere. There is no common room.	
Should be allowed in the library and ICT more often.	
Computers don't work.	
School uniform – the point is that we show up to school, who cares what we wear as long as it's the right colour.	
I think that the library and the librarians should be more approachable and more open to people using the resources they offer.	

S4 – S6

What could the school do to better support pupils under pressure?

I think there is a constant reminding of pupils that they are under pressure/stress. This is not helpful as many pupils are aware they are under pressure etc. I would rather a more positive outlook to reassure and take our minds off these stressful thoughts.
Offer tutor sessions (1:1)?
Bring in trained professionals to deal with kids rather than teachers trying to help and making it worse. Guidance do not support pupils and not many people can trust the Guidance staff.
More immersion sessions
Have more people like Mr Stewart as he is always lovely and supportive. Always up for a chat and very easy to talk to or go to if stressed or upset etc.
Bring in trained professionals to deal with pupil problems
Give us better facilities
Sort out the library. Make it so we feel welcomed to study in our own library. Focus on the important things instead of stupid things like shoes or the idiotic system in the morning. You're taking a pupil that is, say 2 minutes late for class out of that class for another ten minutes to make them more late, miss out on course work just to give them a stupid green slip? Utter nonsense!
Support groups
Let us study in homeroom! More study classes/groups. More Easter immersion classes
Have more study clubs at lunch and being allowed out of PSE, RE and PE core to do revision or catch-up work on a subject you picked.
Try not cram a lot of things into the last few weeks, do NABS and second prelims earlier
Stop making us go to Assembly where we're told to work hard instead of being in class working hard!
Not have assemblies during class time about something that could be said in the corridor!
Stop homeroom as it's pointless and takes up doing work and revision
Turn off the heating in summer and turn it on in winter!
Offer stress control sessions
Offer more support
Mentors to speak to about stress/problems
Instead of teaching us about drugs, sex and alcohol in SE which we have learned about for the past 5 years talk about revision techniques and how to deal with the stress of exams.
Less homework nearer exam time
Ensure they know what needs to be done to relieve the pressure by talking with pupils, setting and 'achievement plan?'
More help with UCAS
Finish the courses earlier, so we can spend time revising and going over exam technique.
Put them in the situation of an exam from early on and make sure coursework is completed way before the Easter holidays.

S4 – S6

Things to think about: variety of approaches, quality of feedback on your work, are you clear about what you need to do in your next steps? Do you know what your targets are? Do you have learning conversations? Are these things helpful? Why?

Teachers could write at the bottom of homework what we need to work on. Knowing my targets and having conversations lets me know how much I need to study.
Some teachers are more supportive and constant with their feedback, target settings and learning conversations. Other teachers do not have the same approach and do not do them at all.
Learning conversations would be helpful if all teachers do them, and did them more often.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• They either have an approach or they don't in this school.• Most of the time.• The learning conversations are helpful but they take a lot of time away from learning the course.
These things are quite helpful as they help me to understand how to plan out my studies as well as to understand what I need to work on better
I have had a reasonable good experience but I don't think it is the same for everyone. We don't get many learning conversations but I really don't think they are needed.
In home room there are frequent learning conversations to ensure what you know, what you need to know to reach your goals. These are helpful as they guide you to what you want to achieve.
Learning conversations are helpful as they show what you're capable of and keep you motivated. Target grades are useful with some teachers but too few just put anything down and don't actually think about it.
Yes, Guidance are the only people who care.
I don't have regular learning conversations but I can talk to teachers and receive feedback if I ask.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More info on target grades• More learning conversations• These help me to focus on the grade I need and what I need to improve on
Learning conversations are awkward and I haven't had them with all of my teachers
Always get good feedback and learning conversations help.
They are helpful because they help your learning and know how you are doing
Had 1 – quite helpful – know my goals
Teachers are helpful with improving my work. Yes to all.
The teaching staff vary. Some departments are great others are very inconsistent. Learning conversations are helpful; I feel that they have been useful to me this year.
Some teachers offer more support than others
Most teachers are rubbish at teaching, don't listen to our concerns, don't inform us about tests enough in advance, not helping with any revision, apart from Mrs Montgomery, she's the only one that has told me she believes in me.

I think that the quality of learning varies from teacher to teacher. I have experienced a mix of teachers from who I find very approachable to not in the slightest.
I have had some learning conversations but <u>not</u> all. I know my targets but very rarely get feedback like my homework for English I hardly ever get back!
I don't know what my next steps/targets are all the time. We don't really have learning conversations – not that they're helpful. It would be nice to get personal feedback on my work all the time and to know what the next steps/targets are for me.
Some teachers could make a bigger effort to the learning conversations as I've only had it in a few classes.
I often do not know my next steps what work to do
I am usually told what we still have left to do in the course but sometimes we are not give enough notice of when assessments are.
Some teachers make it important to let the pupils know their targets and have proper conversations but others are too lazy to talk to each individual in their classes
Learning conversations rarely carried out!
Some teachers do not give out enough homework, if any at all. Also some don't get given back so cannot see how we have done. More conversations individually, even just really short ones.

S4 – S6

**Things to think about: How prepared and informed did you feel about each stage of progression?
What would have helped?**

I think most in S3 should be introduced and start either the National 4 or 5 courses, giving more time to revise the appropriate materials.
Being given our timetable earlier and being told when exactly we are changing earlier would help.
I didn't feel very prepared as we didn't have time to think about our subject choices as it had to be handed back within the week.
For early in the year get course work done first instead of rushing all work before exams.
I found it satisfactory
Transitions were easy, and staff helped a lot especially from S4 into S5
Well prepared
It's fine. Nothing
It's pretty good
Informed
Prepared
There were no major problems for me in terms of transitions.
I think the transition was easy.
I felt prepared, just know that what you learn now really matters, focus from 3 rd year, and don't wait until 4 th year knowing your exams aren't until then.
Preparation was fine. Course choices were good.

S4 – S6

Things to think about: How prepared and informed did you feel about each stage of progression?

What would have helped?

I didn't really mind, just go with the flow.
I thought it was a good idea to be given your new timetable before the summer holidays start. Just to get used to the timetable.
Not much – went fine.
Not bothered about progression as long as I get the courses I wanted I didn't care
No information/support during the transition from 4 th year to 5 th year
There's no support going from 4 th – 5 th . You are just thrown in at the deep end
Fine, could do with more support for 4 th -5 th years
S4 – S5 still don't know what I am doing next year re PE/RE/HE/elective
Help to choose subjects & more career advice. SE was never given to us-& what was NOT helpful
I think most in S3 should be introduced and start either the National 4 or 5 courses. Giving more time to revise the appropriate materials
Being given our timetable earlier and being told when exactly we are changing earlier would help
I didn't feel very prepared as we didn't have time to think about our subject choices as it had to be handed back within the week
For early in the year get course work done first instead of rushing all work before exams
Yes
Very
I found it satisfactory
Transitions were easy, and staff helped a lot especially from S4-S5
Well prepared
It's fine – nothing
It's pretty good
Informed
Prepared
There were no major problems for me in terms of transitions
I think the transition was easy
I felt prepared, just know that what you learn now really matters, focus from 3 rd year, don't wait until 4 th year knowing your exams aren't until then
Preparation was fine. Course choices were good
I didn't really mind, just go with the flow
I thought it was a good idea to be given your new timetable before the summer holidays start, just to get used to the timetable
Not much – went fine

S4 – 6

Enthusiasm and commitment of staff and teachers

Most teachers pretty good – especially computing department
There are certain members of staff which seem uncertain in what they are talking about or cannot control the behaviour of various peoples'-but most teachers are good and work well
Some teachers could be more positive when it comes to evaluation of tests or prelims. Too many are focussing on what you have done wrong and not what you have done right. Although some staff are very committed for helping pupils after school ect.
Some staff have helped me greatly whereas others have not when it comes to handing homework back for example
I have been lucky with my teachers but from my friend I have heard that it is not the case for them. Some teachers don't seem to care, don't teach the correct coursework and don't alert the class about tests. My teachers are all good but I don't think it's fair that some people might not do as well or get equal opportunities just because of luck
Most staff seem like zombies
It varies between the staff on two extremes. There are those that are enthusiastic in their pupils and will stay all night to ensure that you get the help that you need but others don't seem interested at all in their job. The librarians And reception staff tend to treat you with no respect. They are either impatient with you or just ignore your presence and waste your time
Some teachers are exceptional whilst some teachers teach you very little and take no blame for eg. Class failing exams
Subject teachers are very supportive & helpful-generally (with some exceptions) SLT on the other hand don't listen to any ones opinions, even the SPLT!
Some are very committed to their pupils some are not and portray an attitude of not actually wanting to be in school
Staff and teachers are generally very committed to ensuring pupils receive the most from their learning
Excellent
Effort to mark important work is poor!
Staff don't make me feel welcome and some seem to lack the drive and determination that they once had. Lessons aren't fun and exciting which makes me dread coming to school and going to specific lessons.
Some teachers don't have the best attitude towards their jobs. They do not encourage pupils and make them enjoy learning
Sound
Some staff are enthusiastic and helpful others don't seem to care
Staff are just as frustrated as seniors, I believe many of them don't feel acknowledged
I think that teachers are quite good with supporting pupils with exams, but sometimes they don't help much with pupils with bullying issues and they should focus on that more
Some teachers are extremely committed, however, others do not show the same amount of commitment and this is not helpful when it comes to getting essays/homework feedback
Some of them are very good, others are awful
Some teachers could get more involved with individuals and go around checking if they need help or if they're doing things right

Good in most subjects
Teachers are enthusiastic but they just don't deal with the badly behaved pupils well enough
Certain teachers are more committed than others. You can tell what teachers are at school to help support pupils and what teachers are here for themselves
Very high committed and enthusiastic
Again this varies from department to department. Some teachers I'm over the moon with, very committed, always make time for me but on the other hand other departments aren't willing to help at all. Some teachers don't put effort into their lessons, it feels like some are just here to get paid and go home. What is the point of that? We don't learn anything and the teachers don't even want to be here. It's a horrible environment to learn in when teachers are like that.
Staff/teachers are always enthusiastic.
Many teachers lose enthusiasm as the year progresses meaning many pupils become unmotivated
Most teachers are committed and always encourage us to do our best. Most give out good resources and homework.
Could be improved

S4 – S6

Things to think about: The facilities, the atmosphere, the relationships with others in the school community, pupil behaviour, how issues are dealt with etc.

School atmosphere is dead and school corridors smell bad. Pupil behaviour and respect for Seniors has significantly decreased in the past 18 months. Issues are not dealt with well. Teachers deny to other staff which leads to issues with parents & pupils.
School looks dirty and old. The behaviour has decreased old recently. Some issues are not dealt with well.
Rubbish everywhere Vendies broken half of the time. Nice teachers.
Classrooms behaviour is an issue and some teachers just play long with it, that isn't helpful.
Facilities are good. The atmosphere is alright but could be better. The community in school is getting worse – with name calling a making fun of people that keeps going on and the teachers don't do much to help. Pupil behaviour is bad as well and I don't think the school deals with it appropriately. I think that the issues need to be dealt with a lot more seriously.
In most classes the atmosphere is positive and focused, especially the computing department – which is very organised and can always notice those who are falling behind and usually ensure the problem is solved – other departments should learn from this.
Bullying is not dealt with at all, the teachers don't care and nothing gets done about it. And the Bullying goes on.
Bullying – al lot of the teachers a no help.
Sometimes when you have an issue when you tell someone nothing is done to help you.

S4 – S6

Things to think about: The facilities, the atmosphere, the relationships with others in the school community, pupil behaviour, how issues are dealt with etc.

Littering is a problem. Younger years have no respect for prefects and we can't really stop them from coming into the school.
Prefects should be in school looking out for people disobeying the rules in the school, instead of keeping people out the school.
I feel as I have got older in the school it is harder to enjoy your time in school. Other than an exam, which is obviously going to be stressful, I don't think the school helps or cares.
I think that the library should be a usable room to get study and work done, but when you're in 5 th year and you're asked for a note from your teacher I think that's too far. Also the librarians are very hostile and treat the pupils with no respect.
The relationship between staff and seniors has slipped, there is not relationship. I would go as far as to say seniors are forgotten about. We are told we have a good 6 th year but have 0 benefits. There is no community in year groups due to lack of common room. Pupil voice is never followed up; nothing is ever done so it feels pointless.
The atmosphere is awful for seniors! We are always an afterthought and are never taken seriously! Stop treating us as children, if we are making decisions that will dictate the rest of our lives then we should be treated as adults, with respect!
Issue of the toilets, in horrible condition, being shut because of young pupils. The dinner ladies don't open the dinner hall till after the bell.... this defeats the purpose of being allowed out early for duties, and results in there being a huge surge of people in one place when they open it
The situation with everybody being banned from accessing toilets without the inconvenience of going to the office first was irritating especially as girls have different requirements. There are fairer ways to handle this situation.
Toilets are poor
The girl toilets are disgusting and need to be re-done and fixed
Toilets cleaned please
School feels dirty (especially after lunch or break). Toilets disgusting (girls) Younger pupils especially are sometimes really rude and don't respect Seniors & Prefects at all.
School girls toilets are not good but the idea of a key does not work
Senior toilet a good idea. 6 th years keep to their immediate friend group and don't really mix. Pupils who need extra support outside history in Room 6 often disrupt the class by shouting, screaming and swearing.
Toilets could be better Overall atmosphere and relationships are good.
Pupils are often patronised and treated like children – this reflects in their behaviour. Treat pupils with respect and the corridors, classes etc, may become a better and calmer place.
School has not really contributed to my personal growth, only to my learning. I feel that I would be the same as a person whether or not I attended school. I only enjoy it when I'm with friends.

S4 – S6

Things to think about: The facilities, the atmosphere, the relationships with others in the school community, pupil behaviour, how issues are dealt with etc.

I think there is a lack of discipline & respect in the junior years. Genuine punishment should be carried out (detention, punishment exercise etc) to correct this. I am fed up with the noise and rude behaviour in the corridors.

The school is a bit run down on the inside and could do with refurbishments, especially in the PE department.
