

Salesian Parent Survey Feedback - “You said, we did...”

Summer 2021

Thank you for your feedback following the various consultations and surveys that have come your way in recent weeks.

The feedback received from the survey was hugely positive. Class teaching, school leadership, our culture of high expectations, Catholic ethos, communication, pastoral care, academic rigor and results were all things clearly valued by parents and guardians. Many of you simply put ‘everything’ which was also very much appreciated. Naturally, there were some areas you felt we could do a bit better. Below is a summary of those main areas and the school’s response. If the point you raised does not fall into a category below and as a result you feel unheard please contact your child’s tutor or a member of the leadership team who will direct your concern.

Can we get more information on my child’s progress?	Yes. Following your child’s KS3 formal Year group examinations (once yearly) you will receive their percentage result alongside the class or year average (depending on whether the subject is in sets or not). This will be in addition to their normal reports and parents evening. We are looking closely at how we report to parents (at KS3 particularly) following your feedback.
Is there a fairer way to allocate trips?	Going forward all trips will be allocated using a ballot system. We understand the concerns raised by some respondents that trips awarded on a ‘first come, first served’ basis were gone within minutes, and that parents who are not sat at a computer during the working day are disadvantaged and therefore, indirectly, so is their child. This has prompted this change.
Could more healthier options be served in the canteen?	There were positive comments about the improvement to food quality. The introduction of a ‘main meal’ offering at the college was universally positive. There was a call however, for more healthier options. A meeting will be organised with the catering company to discuss this, review any items with a high sugar content and to look into ways we can allow Y9&10 (C19 permitting) to access the wider range of food served in the canteen.
Is there a way emails from school could be reduced?	Whilst communication from school was identified as a clear strength some felt that they received too many emails and were concerned they would miss the ‘important ones’. With this in mind we have asked Year Heads to collate communication from their Year group and to send out a single email a week. We will be looking at how we title emails too to give parents and guardians a clear idea of the contents and importance.
My child gets too little/too much homework	There was an exact split of respondents saying their child gets too little or too much homework. We are constantly attempting to find the right balance here but it is clearly a difficult (if not impossible) task. Extra work can always be provided if requested for your child from their class teacher if required. As per your request we will look to prevent students getting homework over holiday periods too.

Uniform consultation

Nearly 300 students and just over 300 parent/guardians responded to the uniform consultation many stating they were completely happy with the situation as it is currently. We received a whole range of suggestions for improvement as you can probably imagine from minor tweaks to much more radical changes. Following the feedback we have taken a number of actions; these are:

- As of September 2022 all students will have the option of wearing trousers. We have been working with our uniform suppliers to provide a tailored trouser option for girls.
- Beyond an option to wear trousers for girls the uniform will remain largely unchanged, this will include school blazers and a shirt and tie for all.
- We are currently exploring options for parents/carers to purchase uniform items from some high street stores. This will hopefully provide opportunity to reduce the cost of the uniform. More details on what this will look like will reach you in the New Year.
- We will also be exploring the possibility in PE of sport leggings to be offered in KS3 as an alternative to the tracksuit.

A huge thank you to everyone who responded. Please get in contact with your child's form tutor, Head of Year or a member of the Leadership Team should you wish to discuss any of the above.

Paul Gower
Head of School