

**HILLS ROAD SIXTH FORM COLLEGE**  
**Upper sixth subject survey – November 2008**

## **1. Introduction**

Between 10-28 November 2008, the College conducted the sixth running of this triennial survey concerned with students' experience in each of their two-year A level subjects. For the first time an online format was used for this survey. We are grateful for the contributions of the 565 students who participated, this being about 64% of the year group; thank you.

Below is an overall summary of the results across all subjects. Teaching departments will be discussing the results for each of their own subjects in January 2009, including any textual comments written by students, and they will consider potential improvements. Since 2005, this survey has been based on 12 of the original 21 questions. There have also been some minor wording adjustments over the years. For 2008, the only such change was to Q5, the previous version of which had been 'Learning activities are appropriately varied', our intention this year being to achieve clearer wording to examine the same theme.

## **2. Scoring system for results**

Attached is an overview of the 2008 results, including comparisons with earlier years. The average scores for each survey question are based on the College's usual scoring system, as follows:

- strongly agree = +2
- agree = +1
- disagree = -1
- strongly disagree = -2

The College's normal colour-coding has been used to highlight the strength of the average scores for each question: blue = strongest, then green, then yellow, then red = weakest

It is the relative values of the average scores and the trends over time which tend to be most revealing, rather than their absolute values. Improvements in the levels of satisfaction between 1994 and 2008 are evident from the ever-positive changes in the (College standard) colour-coding as one progresses from left to right. In 2008, for the first time, each of the twelve questions secured our highest colour coding (i.e. blue).

## **3. Main features of the 2008 results**

When this survey was last conducted (in 2005), a new record average response (i.e. level of satisfaction) was recorded for all twelve questions. It is reassuring to report that a new record level has been set for each of the twelve questions in 2008.

The most significant upward average movements were as follows:

- +0.30 Q5 (For your own learning, the balance of lesson activities is effective)  
(though this may, in part, reflect the wording change)
- +0.14 Q12 (You were well-prepared by your teachers for the AS exams)
- +0.10 Q10 (You are encouraged to take responsibility for your own learning)

The highest levels of satisfaction were as follows:

- 1.5 Q1 (Teachers turn up on time for lessons)
- 1.4 Q9 (You are able to get help if you need it)
- 1.4 Q10 (You are encouraged to take responsibility for your own learning)

Overall, 91% of responses were favourable (compared with 88% in 2005, the previous best).

Mr Dave Jones (Assistant Principal)

## UPPER SIXTH SUBJECT SURVEY (Nov 2008) - OVERALL SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Question number	Questions	Total responses	2008 results								College average						Change 05-08
			Strongly agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly disagree		1994	1996	1999	2002	2005	2008	
1	Teachers turn up on time for lessons	1792	973	54%	746	42%	66	4%	7	0%	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.5	0.02
2	Lessons are well run	1766	713	40%	920	52%	118	7%	15	1%	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.2	0.04
3	The classroom atmosphere is good for learning	1765	749	42%	878	50%	123	7%	15	1%	0.8	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.3	0.04
4	You find lessons interesting	1748	675	39%	870	50%	170	10%	33	2%	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.1	0.02
5	For your own learning, the balance of lesson activities is effective	1739	519	30%	971	56%	217	12%	32	2%	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.7	1.0	0.30
6	You receive sufficiently frequent feedback on your work	1759	566	32%	940	53%	224	13%	29	2%	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.06
7	You receive sufficiently helpful feedback on your work	1751	601	34%	937	54%	184	11%	29	2%	0.7	0.9	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.06
8	You are satisfied with the time it takes for work to be assessed	1760	592	34%	1022	58%	128	7%	18	1%	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.1	1.2	0.08
9	You are able to get help if you need it	1772	882	50%	820	46%	65	4%	5	0%	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.4	0.04
10	You are encouraged to take responsibility for your own learning	1780	864	49%	874	49%	39	2%	3	0%	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.4	0.10
11	You have the opportunity to discuss your progress when you need to	1714	480	28%	1092	64%	138	8%	4	0%	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.1	1.1	0.06
12	You were well-prepared by your teachers for the AS exams	1757	769	44%	836	48%	127	7%	25	1%	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.3	0.14
<b>All</b>	<b>College overall 2008</b>	<b>21103</b>	<b>8383</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>10906</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>1599</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>0.08</b>
All	College overall 2005	21907	8265	38%	11065	51%	2344	11%	233	1%							