



# St Robert of Newminster Catholic School and Sixth Form College



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Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will no doubt remember, just before the half-term holiday we invited parents of students in Years 7 to 11 to participate in a questionnaire about the school. I said at the time that we would seek to feedback to parents on the outcomes during this half-term. We received 128 responses to the questionnaire, 51 of which also provided a free text comment. I intend to summarise below the overall feedback, section by section, along with any planned action points which have come out of the process.

## Curriculum

We were very pleased that parents overwhelmingly expressed the opinion that the school provided an appropriately challenging and balanced curriculum. The feedback on the appropriateness of homework was very positive, although some parents did say that they would like to understand better the expectations around this homework. Furthermore, some parents did state that they would like more information about the subjects their child is studying. Feedback was extremely positive on the GCSE revision and intervention sessions. Comments were positive about teacher feedback on work. Parents were overwhelmingly positive about the role the school planner plays in keeping their child organised. They were positive too about the way in which the planner keeps parents informed, but we would like to increase this further. The school's extra-curricular provision received good feedback, although some parents felt they did not know enough about what was actually on offer.

The specific areas, in light of this feedback, which we now intend to address during the forthcoming school year are:

- Greater provision of information for parents on their child's curriculum, study and homework.
- Build further upon the role of the pupil planner as a means to parental engagement.
- Publicise better the details of the school's extra-curricular provision.

## Communication

Feedback was very positive with regards to general communication, the timeliness of responses and knowing who to contact. However, like every large organisation, this is something which we will continually seek to improve and refine. We were most pleased indeed with the extremely positive feedback on the MyEd App and the school website. Those parents who expressed an opinion on the school *Ethos* magazine were overwhelmingly complimentary. However, a large number of those who responded stated that they did not know, which would suggest many students do not bring the magazine home on a termly basis.

In addition to the ongoing process of refinement of school/ home communication, we will specifically address the following area:

- Move to the digital distribution of the school *Ethos* magazine to ensure receipt of the publication by parents.



## Pastoral

We were extremely pleased with the feedback in this section. Comments on clarity of school rules, the school's values and student safety were all overwhelmingly positive. The same was also true for parents' understanding of policies on attendance and punctuality. We also received very positive comments on behaviour, rewards and people whom students could go to in school. However, we are always keen to improve these areas further still, and we will continue to do so. The transition process from primary school was also very highly commended.

As I have said above, there are areas within this section which we will continue to try to improve further still, but no major areas for attention emerged from the feedback provided to us.

## Assessment

Parents responded very positively about their awareness of their child's current and target grades. Feedback on reports was also very good. The Year 10 and 11 Information Evenings received extremely positive comments. Feedback on parents' evenings was good, although there were some issues with the Year 9 evening which we will address next year. A number of parents commented that the current format represented an improvement on the previous system. There were some parents who commented on issues around queuing and timings, which we will endeavour to address. We were pleased with the overall feedback on this question and very happy that parents thought recent changes represented an improvement, but we will continue to try to address the remaining issues as best we can. Finally, we were very pleased with how many parents felt they understood the new GCSE grading system, but we will try to spread this understanding further still.

The specific areas, in light of this feedback, which we now intend to address during the forthcoming school year are:

- Continue to improve the system for parents' evenings, especially around queuing and timings.
- Ensure even more parents understand the new GCSE grading system.

## Ethos

We were pleased that so many parents said their child enjoys attending St Robert's. Overall parents said they were very well informed on the Catholic life of the school. Participation in collective worship and the school's support of charitable organisations both rated extremely highly, although a number of parents did say that they did not know. This level of *don't know* probably relates to some degree back to the previous comment about the school *Ethos* magazine. There was also a high level of *don't know* in relation to individual children's participation in fundraising events and, although the majority responded positively, some parents did say that they did not think their child was actively involved. As well as addressing the publicity around collective worship and charity work, we now intend to address:

- The active participation of a wider range of students in charity fundraising.

Thank you for taking the time to participate in the questionnaire and for reading the feedback. We have found it a very useful means to identifying areas which you feel we are already doing well, and also aspects which we can try to improve further. Our next questionnaire will be focussed on parents of post-16 students, but we do hope to carry out another main school survey at some point next year and we would value your feedback again.

Yours faithfully,

  
Mr D Juric  
Headteacher



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consultant  
school  
accreditation