

S4 Learning Group

October 2015 – Minutes

Pupils were offered a series of discussion points and asked to comment on them:

- **Describe the year so far in terms of learning and teaching?**
- **Have your subjects had a smooth transition from S3 to S4?**
- **Have the subjects or the style of learning and teaching differed greatly from S3?**
- **What aspects are you finding particularly stressful and what do you think might help alleviate this for you this year and for future years?**
- **Is there anything that has improved this year within the classroom environment?**

The pupils felt the move into S4 was very smooth. They had a thorough understanding at the start of the year regarding the requirements for National Qualifications. They thought that the yellow course specification booklets helped with this and that every teacher was very clear in sharing expectations.

The style of learning and teaching this year has become more fixed. Due to demands of the courses pupils work individually most of the time and almost never engage in group work. They do however prefer this as they feel it helps them to be more focused on work needed to pass qualifications.

All pupils agreed that the jump from S3 to S4 in terms of expectation from teachers and standards of work has been really noticeable. Most pupils are feeling under pressure to meet tight deadlines and complete a large amount of homework whilst studying for prelims. They also feel anxious about producing the standard of work that they believe is required of them this year. They feel that the pressure from staff to perform well is more noticeable this year although they understand this is because staff want the best for them.

Some pupils feel that the fluctuation of class teachers has not helped to build their confidence.

We discussed the assessment calendar produced for S4 and the reorganisation of course timelines. Pupils felt that in all subjects except one, S4 was more demanding in terms of time required.

Pupils were asked how well prepared they felt towards the prelims:

Most pupils feel prepared although there is concern regarding a few subjects.

Some pupils are concerned about content in course booklets not having been covered in class. Others are very concerned about the allotment of time to prep for the prelim due to other topics/levels being covered in class.

A few pupils stressed concern over the timeframe of the prelims with some pupils sitting 7 prelims over 4 days.

If you could request any type of support what would you ask for?

Pupil Requests: More time needed before prelims start just to study and not have to complete homework at the same time.