

Student Voice mid-year update: February 2016

As we pass the mid-point of the 2015/16 school year, 75% of our students in Years 7-11 have now taken part in our regular cycle of pastoral surveys of student opinion.

Headlines so far include:

95% of our students feel safe and secure in our school environment.

94% of our students feel that if they have a problem in school they know who they can go and talk to for advice, guidance and support. There is also increasing awareness of extra support available, for example our regular on-site visits by the school nurse, and by our Police Community Support Officers.

In terms of the behaviour and conduct of fellow students around and about the school, 87% feel students are well behaved.

Take-up rates of our online learning support are high (e.g. My Maths 98%, 85% Doodle)

“You said, We did”

Last year SV told us the boys wanted improvements making to the quality of their toilet facilities in school -> Improvements were made to C block toilets last year and now quotes have been obtained and plans drawn up to fully refurbish the main boys toilets in the centre of school (B block), with work due to be undertaken summer 2016.

Students have told us we can improve the School Planner - 3 clear messages from students -> include a school map; provide more space to write homework & independent learning tasks / more 'notes' pages -> these changes have been incorporated for September 2016. The layout of the planner will continue to be reviewed and improved using student opinions.

Student voice has told students would like more lockers, and for them not only to be available for Year 7 students -> an increased number of lockers (400) have now been made acquired, which are now being used by students across other year groups:

178 by Year 7

112 by Year 8

54 by Year 9

37 by Years 10-13

Students told us the school environment had improved and there was less litter, but that there was still some. Some told us they would be prepared to help make further improvements -> a significant number of students have already committed to volunteer their time to help tidy the school site for the benefit of all of us, and some litter collection has already taken place – but there is more to do.

Our next steps:

To continue to address issues raised by our surveys. At Helsby, our surveys use close to 100% of our students, rather than taking a smaller sample, and so scores of 100% will always be difficult to achieve. Nevertheless the school is committed to strive for this, and to always aspire to improve.

- To further develop our HHS and Proud initiative about caring for our school, our environment, our community

- To survey our students who have joined Helsby with experience from other high schools, and newly arrived staff, to find out how they feel Helsby compares and see what can learn from elsewhere
- To facilitate students meeting with our school caterers to review & discuss menu choices
- To explore student views on, and to promote British Values / the Prevent agenda through further surveys

Mr Howe