

## **HILLS ROAD SIXTH FORM COLLEGE PARENTS' SURVEY 2008: Summary of findings**

The results for the third running in May 2008 of the triennial Parents' Survey were very positive, showing substantial improvements on the already strong outcomes recorded in 2002 and 2005. Indeed, a higher average score was achieved in all twenty questions in 2008 compared with 2005. Although some differences in scores were marginal, the overall cumulative difference was significant.

As summarised on the table below, for the first time all questions received a score which equates to 'outstanding strength' on the College's four-point colour-coded scale. Across all questions, about 48% of responses were 'very satisfied', a further 48% were 'satisfied', 4% were 'dissatisfied' and only 0.5% were 'very dissatisfied'. For no question did there appear to be a significant difference in the strength of the results depending on gender or on year group.

Compared to 96.5% in 2005, as many as 97.7% of parents in 2008 indicated that they would recommend the College to someone else (348 said 'yes'; only 8 said 'no').

This was also the first time that this survey had been conducted electronically (at least for the majority of parents who now subscribe to 'HillsMail'). Of the 348 respondents in 2008, which was slightly up on the corresponding figure of 333 in 2005, 92% responded electronically and only 8% on paper.

For each of the multiple-response questions, the level of parental satisfaction was high and the responses raised no issues of concern. Although there was comparatively little variation across questions, the strongest levels of satisfaction were associated with:

- The informal admissions interview and any subsequent guidance offered?
- The provision of facilities and learning resources to support your daughter's/son's progress at the College?
- The information provided by the College during the admissions process?
- The information provided about College events (such as concerts & plays) through HillsMail if you subscribe to this service, or through posted written communications if not
- Your daughter's/son's personal development at the College?
- Your daughter's/son's academic progress at the College?
- The overall quality of the educational experience provided by subject teachers?
- The information provided in the Parents' Handbook?
- The information provided in the termly calendar?

The majority of respondents also included textual comments which are likely to prove helpful in considering possible improvements, not least those resulting from a question which asked parents to indicate the aspect of the College that they considered most in need of change or improvement. The full set of textual comments will be examined in due course by relevant senior managers and any matters arising will be reported to the Standards Committee in the October.

We should like to thank all parents who contributed to this survey.

**Dave Jones & Nigel Taylor (Assistant Principals)**

**HILLS ROAD SIXTH FORM COLLEGE  
PARENTS' SURVEY 2008 - RESULTS BY YEAR**

	<b>Question</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>Change 05 to 08</b>
	The informal admissions interview and any subsequent guidance offered?	1	1.4	1.5	1.5	0.08
	The support and guidance offered by your daughter's/son's tutor?	2	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.01
	The support offered by the Study Skills Centre, if required?	3	1.3	0.9	1.2	0.24
	The information provided about your daughter's/son's progress through the progress review?	4	1.3	1.2	1.3	0.13
	The format and usefulness of the annual parents' subject consultations?	5	1.2	1.2	1.3	0.17
	The support and guidance offered for progression to higher education or employment after Hills Road?	6	1.0	1.0	1.2	0.24
	The way the College helped your daughter/son to manage their work in Year 12?	7	0.7	1.0	1.3	0.30
	The way the College helped your daughter/son to manage their work in Year 13?	8	1.1	1.2	1.3	0.12
	The opportunities your daughter/son has had to participate in enrichment activities (e.g. music, sport, drama) or other extra-curricular clubs and societies?	9	1.1	1.2	1.2	0.09
	The way in which subject teachers have supported your daughter/son (e.g. through subject workshops/surgeries, individual advice, home contact)?	10	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.04
	The overall quality of the educational experience provided by subject teachers?	11	n/a	1.4	1.4	0.06
	The information provided by the College during the admissions process?	12	1.6	1.5	1.5	0.03
	The information provided in the termly calendar?	13	0.9	1.3	1.4	0.03
	The information provided about College events (such as concerts & plays) through HillsMail* if you subscribe to this service, or through posted written communications if not?	14	1.1	1.0	1.5	0.51
	The information provided in the Parents' Handbook?	15	1.5	1.4	1.4	0.04
	The provision of facilities and learning resources to support your daughter's/son's progress at the College?	16	1.6	1.5	1.5	0.04
	Your daughter's/son's academic progress at the College?	17	1.5	1.4	1.4	0.09
	Your daughter's/son's personal development at the College?	18	1.5	1.3	1.5	0.13
	Any specific communications between you and the College about your daughter/son?	19	n/a	1.2	1.3	0.12
	<b>[*an element new to the 2008 survey, which needs to be borne in mind for comparisons]</b>	<b>Overall</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>0.2</b>
	Number of respondents		98	333	348	
	% recommending College		n/a	96.5%	97.7%	