

The Learners Voice

The Geography Department Survey of Pupil Opinion

Earlier this Year the Geography Department decided that it would survey the opinions of all students of Geography at Y Pant. There follows a brief summary of the findings, for the full report see the Geography Department Website.

KS3

Selected Questions	Response
How do you prefer to learn?	The results clearly show that you prefer to work collaboratively rather than alone.
How would you rate your understanding of the topics that we have studied?	You scored 3.8, 3.7 and 4.1 out of 5 and for years 7, 8 and 9 respectively. Is the loss of teaching time in year 8 a factor in your lower score?
Do you know how much progress you are currently making?	The large majority of you gave us a good score here and have a clear idea of the progress you are making.
Do you know what you must do to improve?	A lower score suggest that we need to do more to help you know how to improve.
Is the classroom environment an attractive place to learn?	The lowest scoring question!!!!
Do you feel that you are given enough opportunities to use IT within each module?	Generally no! - you would like to have more opportunity of learning through IT.
Do you feel that the work challenges you and do you feel that you are given enough support?	You overwhelmingly feel that the work you are challenged and that teaching staff provide you with the support you need to complete tasks.
How much do you enjoy Geography as a subject at Y Pant?	Geography provides enjoyment to the vast majority of you. 40% of year 9 students gave a score of 5 out of 5.
Which tasks do you feel help you to learn the best?	Your response was for variety – different people liked different ways of learning – although DVDs and fieldwork came out on top!!

What are we going to do as a result of your comments!!!

1. Inform students of the results of the survey through displays and the school website.
2. Focus attention on the year seven scheme of work due to this year group producing the lowest enjoyment results in the questionnaire.
3. Reduce the teaching time allocated to each module, given some students' statement that too much time was spent of each topic.
4. Seek funding from the school to replace broken and damaged furniture and also to carpet Room 10 and generally improve the appearance of teaching rooms.
5. Help will be sought from the school and IT department to turn the area between Room 10 and 11 into a computer suite to better provide for the IT needs of all students.
6. The department will investigate and discuss the possibilities for providing students with better regular formative feedback.
7. Finally, the department intends to increase the amount of fieldwork opportunities available to all KS3 students in the future, with a particular emphasis placed on 'decision making exercises', given their importance at KS4.

GCSE

Like/Dislike	Reponse
Things you liked about geography lessons:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watching DVDs • Using Play-doh • Powerpoint introductions • Learning about our world • It's really fun • A relaxed atmosphere • Making mindmaps • Everything we do is explained in depth by the teacher
Things you didn't like about geography lessons:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning the same things as in year 7 • Not being given enough notes to help us revise • Being shown out of date videos • Not enough fieldtrips • Too many handouts • Controlled assessment became tedious • Working on my own • Teacher rambling on and interrupting

What are we going to do as a result of your comments!!!

1. Look at the topics we teach at KS3 to try to eliminate too much overlap with the GCSE course
2. Look at how we can provide you with more notes to revise from
3. Replace dated videos
4. Deliver two units before Christmas, leaving the controlled assessment until after Christmas so that it doesn't drag as much.
5. Introduce a decision making investigation at KS3 so that students have a clearer idea of what is needed to achieve success.
6. Look at teaching approaches
7. Buy more Play-doh!!

If you would like to add your thoughts and opinions on any of the points outlined above or any other comments that will help us improve the teaching and learning of Geography then please let us know what you think!!!!

“Think of our world as it looks from a rocket heading to Mars. It is like a child's globe, hanging in space, the continents stuck to its side like coloured maps. We are fellow passengers on a dot of earth.”

Lyndon B. Johnson (1908-1973)