

**Learning Resource Centre
Sixth Form Student Survey Report
January 2011**

Introduction

A survey of sixth form users of the Learning Resource Centre was carried out Wednesday 19th January. The survey was handed out to sixth form students during tutorial as part of a wider session on the Code of Conduct for the LRC.

NB the sixth common area (winter gardens) were closed for exams when the survey took place.

Survey responses

Year 12

220 surveys given out
162 were received
73% response

Year 13

192 surveys given out
83 were received
43% response

A summary of the main findings of the survey can be found below. Full results can be found in a separate document (sixth form student survey results). Comments are copied out exactly as written in the survey.

Question 1

How often do you use the Learning Resource Centre?

In year 12, 31% use the LRC daily and 40% use the LRC 2 or 3 times per week. Only 4% have never used the LRC. Reasons given included "I live near the school and always have access to a computer" and "Only when the winter gardens are closed".

In year 13, 68% use the LRC daily and 19% use the LRC 2 or 3 times per week. There were no students who had never used the LRC.

Question 2

Do the opening hours suit your needs?

In year 12, 96% of students felt that the opening hours suited their needs. In year 13 this figure was 98%. The few students who commented requested later opening on Fridays and 5.30 for the rest of the week. One interesting comment was "But could you advertise the hours more clearly".

Question 3

How do you usually find the information you need?

Using the Internet was the most popular method of finding information for years 12 and 13. This was followed by asking the librarian. Browsing the shelves and asking a friend were also popular with both years.

Question 4

Do you find the information you need?

Most students usually found the information that they needed (92% of Year 12 students and 95% of year 13 students). Some of the examples of books or topics that students were unable to find included common themes: "Biology AS book (the one is used in class). There aren't enough!!!!". "Biology textbooks and more chemistry textbooks would be handy". "History A2 coursework – lots of reference books needed". "The history section is poor...".

Question 5

How often do you use the following resources?

This question showed that the internet and study spaces were by far the most well used of the resources. Fiction books for example were only used by 31% of year 12 students and by 24% of year 13 students. Whereas the internet was only not used by 5% and 4% of year 12 and 13 students respectively.

Question 6

How useful do you find the following LRC services and facilities?

Students felt that computers were the most useful service/facility (91% of year 12 students, 96% of year 13 students found computers very useful or fairly useful). This was closely followed by Study/desk space (90% of year 12 students, 96% of year 13 students). The LRC shop was also considered useful or fairly useful by the majority of students.

Question 7

Have you used Searchstar – the LRC computerised catalogue?

Only 15% of year 12 students and 23% of year 13 students have used Searchstar. In actual fact, all students used Searchstar in English in year 9 but most obviously do not remember or have not used the catalogue since. Opinion was divided on how easy it was to use ranging from: "Was helpful and easy to use". "Very easy", to "Complex", "Very Difficult".

Question 8

How do you rate staff knowledge, expertise and helpfulness?

85% of year 12 students rated staff knowledge, expertise and helpfulness as good or very good. This was also 85% for year 13.

Question 9

In general – is the Learning Resource Centre: Too noisy, about right, too quiet?

75% of year 12 students thought the LRC was about right compared with 66% of year 13 students. 17% of year 12 students thought the LRC was too noisy compared with 21% of year 13 students. 8% of year 12 students thought the LRC was too quiet compared with 13% of year 13 students.

Question 10

Is the LRC: Too hot, about right, too cold?

84% of year 12 students thought the LRC was about right compared with 75% of year 13 students. 16% of year 12 students thought it was too hot compared with 25% of year 13 students. Less than 1% of students thought it was too cold.

Question 11

Are there enough study spaces for your needs?

54% of students in year 12 felt there were not enough study spaces for their needs, this figure was 45% in year 13.

Question 12

Are there enough computers for your needs?

Most students felt that there were not enough computers for their needs (77% in year 12, 72% in year 13). Many students mentioned the lack of computers in their general comments at the end of the survey.

Question 13

Is the LRC an attractive place to study?

Most students felt that the LRC is an attractive place to study (69% in year 12, 73% in year 13). However, a few students had some suggestions for improvement to the décor.

Suggestions for improvement

“Brighter walls, modernising.”

“More desk space? I know it’s pretty full already though.”

“Improve aesthetics and size”

“Lighter – new carpets”

General comments

Student comments can be divided into 6 main categories: atmosphere / behaviour, computers, food and drink, lower school and resources. A few of these comments are listed below. A full list is available in a separate document.

Atmosphere / Behaviour

"Don't forget, 6th formers don't really have anywhere else to go when the winter gardens is closed because we're not allowed in the hall."

"Lots of noisy year 13's don't work but get chance after chance, I don't think it's fair."

"Staff should lighten up a bit, chillax"

"Talking should be kept to a minimum in the LRC – it distracts me from work."

"A little bit of noise isn't a bad thing, sometimes you need to talk about work."

"A separate space for sixth form to socialise in is needed so that the LRC is not used for that."

"More tables would be useful, but space is an issue for that to happen."

"Please could you be more lenient towards students having academic discussions."

Computers

"Also access for personal computers / laptops to the internet should be allowed."

"Would like to use internet on laptop if there are no computers to do work."

"More computers, separate learning space for sixth form with computers."

"Great as it is, could do with more computers and desks for study."

Phones

"Phones should be allowed as you can work on them."

Food and Drink

"Should be allowed to eat, less strict at break and lunch times."

"No food / drink policy unfair."

Lower School

"I think 6th formers should have priority over lower schoolers, since GCSEs don't require study."

"Less lower school students taking up desk space, when only reading or socialising when 6th formers have work to do."

Resources

"Give book reviews. And give a list of new books bought."

"Not enough fiction aimed at older readers."