

INTRODUCTION

LIFT OFF to Success (LO2S) 2008 ran from 3rd to 8th of August, at the University of St Andrews McIntosh Hall. Now into its third year of operation, the programme is designed to give pupils about to enter S4 the chance to experience life as a student and to expose them to a range of available subjects.

LO2S was promoted in target schools by members of the LIFT OFF team. Pupils were asked to hand their completed application forms back to the teacher, who would then place them in order of priority and return them to LIFT OFF. We requested 10 applications be returned per school – 5 places, and 5 reserves. The information provided for teachers to help them make decisions about who should attend LO2S is below.

LO2S Pupil Criteria

We know that identifying which pupils should be given the opportunity to attend LO2S is extremely difficult for teachers, particularly with relatively few places allocated per school.

Here is a brief description of the pupils we are most interested in working with on LO2S, which we hope you will find useful.

LO2S is designed for those young people who you know have the potential to do well at either college or university, but who may not be achieving as well as they could be, or who may lack the confidence to strive to fulfil their potential. In other words, the “high flyers” who are well on track are not those who we believe will benefit the most from the programme.

Of course every person is different and there is a huge variety of social factors that can influence a young person's perception of themselves and their own ability. This list, therefore, is intended only as a guide for staff when considering who might best benefit from LO2S:

- Low income family*
- No family culture of attending college or university*
- Long-term parental unemployment*
- Looked after young people*
- Lacking in confidence*
- Overcrowded / substandard accommodation*
- Family break up/single parent families*
- Long-term illness or disability of a family member*
- Bereavement*
- Other adverse circumstances (e.g. alcoholism/domestic violence)*

Although post-codes are never a deciding factor in selecting pupils, we hope to receive applications from significant numbers of pupils living in SIMD 5 – the lowest 20% of areas of multiple deprivation.

2006	2007	2008
50%	37.5%	31%

Table 1 - Percentage of LO2S participants drawn from SIMD 5 2006 - 2008

There is no preference given to applicants by gender, which has resulted in a higher proportion of girls to boys attending every year.

2006	2007	2008
36%	33%	31%

Table 2 - Percentage of male LO2S participants 2006 - 2008

There are currently 65 places available on LO2S (5 per target school), and this year we achieved a full compliment for the first time. This was pleasing as there had been recurring feedback from teachers and pupils that there were not enough places.

Authority	School	2006	2007	2008
Angus	Arbroath Academy	4	4	4
	Brechin High School	6	7	6
Dundee City	Baldrigon Academy	3	0	7
	Braeview Academy	6	4	7
	Craigie High School	0	7	6
	Menzieshill High School	4	5	0
	St Paul's RC Academy ₁	7	6	4
Fife	Beath High School	1	2	4
	Kirkland high School	10*	3	5
	Lochgelly High School	4	5	6
	Viewforth High School	5	3	6
	Woodmill High School	N/A*	5	6
Perth & Kinross	Blairgowrie High School	6	4	4
TOTAL		56	55	65

Table 3 – Target school participation from 2006 - 2008

* Woodmill High School became a target school after LO2S 2006, so did not participate in the first year of the programme.

₁ St Saviour's until August 2008, after a merge with Lawside created the new St Paul's.

The following is a breakdown of partner participation in LO2S from 2006 – 2008.

	2006		2007		2008	
Abertay University	■		■		■	
Adam Smith College	■		■		■	
Angus College					■	
Dundee College	■		■			
Dundee University			WHAN		■	
Edinburgh University	■				■	
Elmwood College			■			
Heriot-Watt University			■			
Napier University			■			
Perth College	■					
Queen Margaret University	■				■	
St Andrews University	■		WHAN			
Careers Scotland					■	

Table 4 – Partner participation in LO2S 2006 – 2008

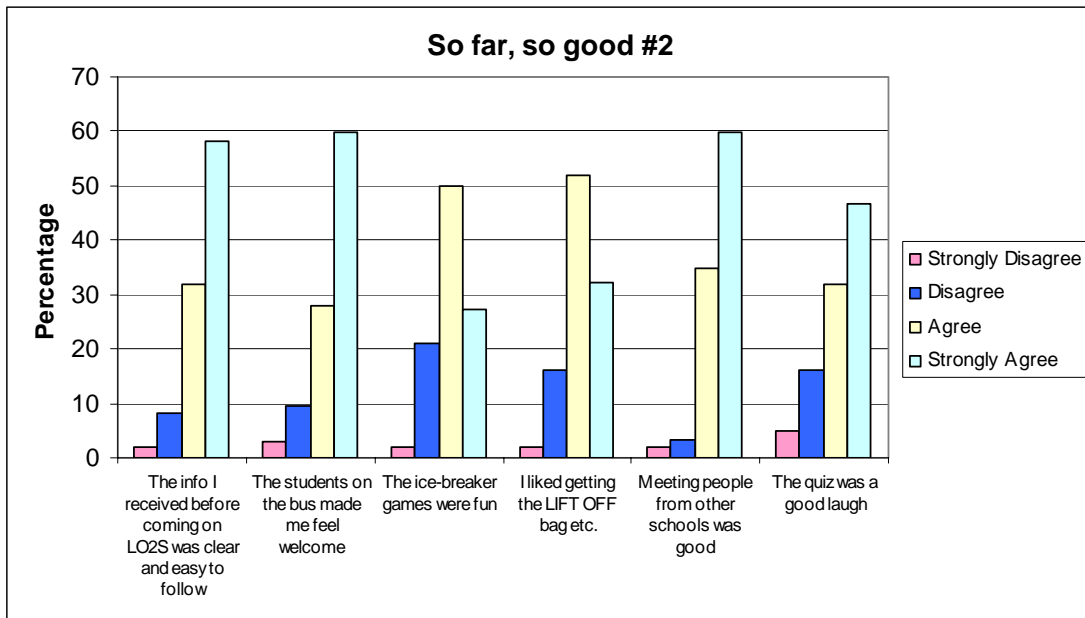
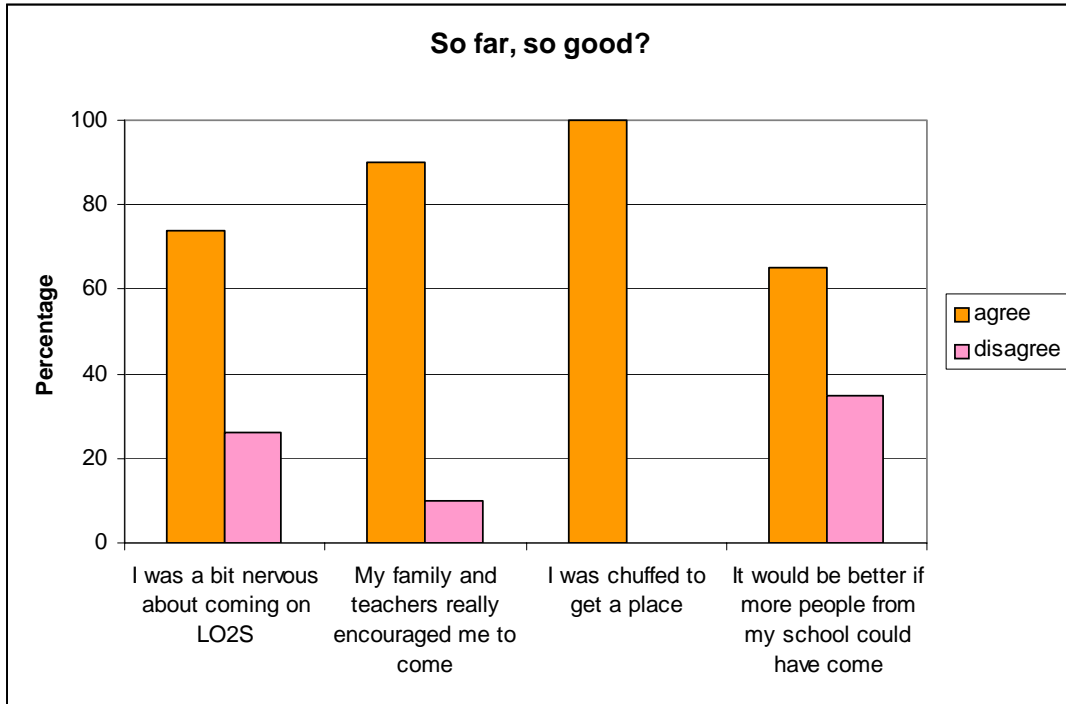
Each small yellow box represents a half days activity

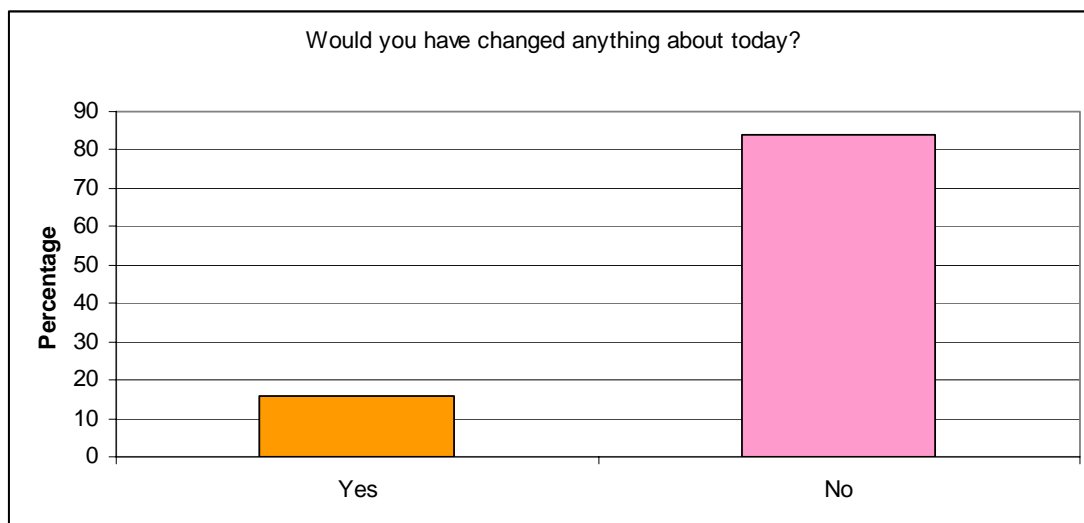


The four universities in Edinburgh run one session twice, i.e. half the group in the morning and half in the afternoon.



Dundee and St Andrews universities collaborated in 2007 to deliver a full-day session through their WHAN projects.





Comments from Sunday

Today went great. Journey was alright and the students on the bus were great. Ice-breaker games were fun. Getting put into groups with none of my friends was strange at first but then I got used to it and made friends. Food was alright. Quiz was boring – too many rounds for 9 o'clock at night – I was tired and couldn't be bothered. So far LO2S is GREAT!

The students were very welcoming and happy to help with the least little thing. This is a good thing. My leader Rob is a fab guy, sound and funny. Thanks for everything!

The LIFT OFF students are great fun and they are telling very good advice

I was having second thoughts about coming to LIFT OFF (to Success) but I'm really glad I came now.

Should be allowed to stay in each others rooms a bit longer – if you keep the noise down (whisper).

Some of the guys here at hot! Also, the quiz – you need to put in a better variety of music choices like metal or rock even indie or alternative so there's something for everyone.

The sheets with the courses available for our subject interests was a good idea

The LIFT OFF students are great fun and they are telling very good advice.

It was really good.

The quiz was great. My team won and were given £5. The quiz was long but very entertaining.

Timetable of activities

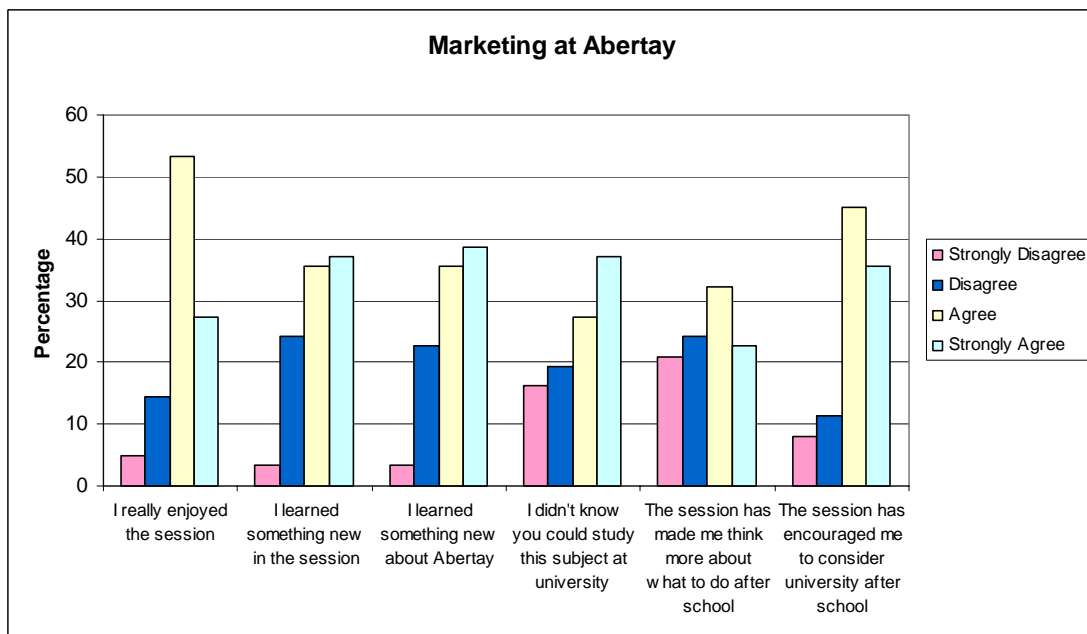
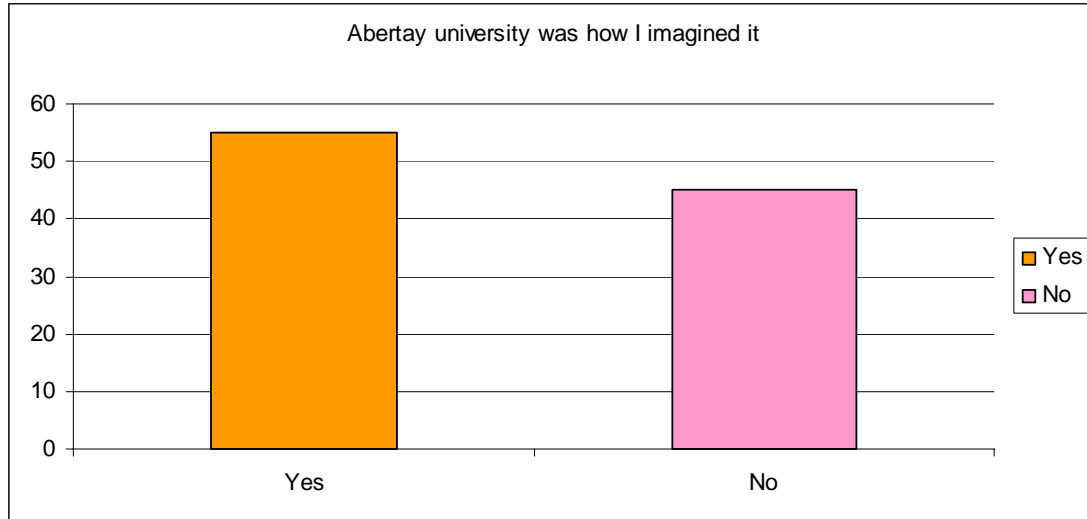


LIFT OFF to Success

Timetable 2008

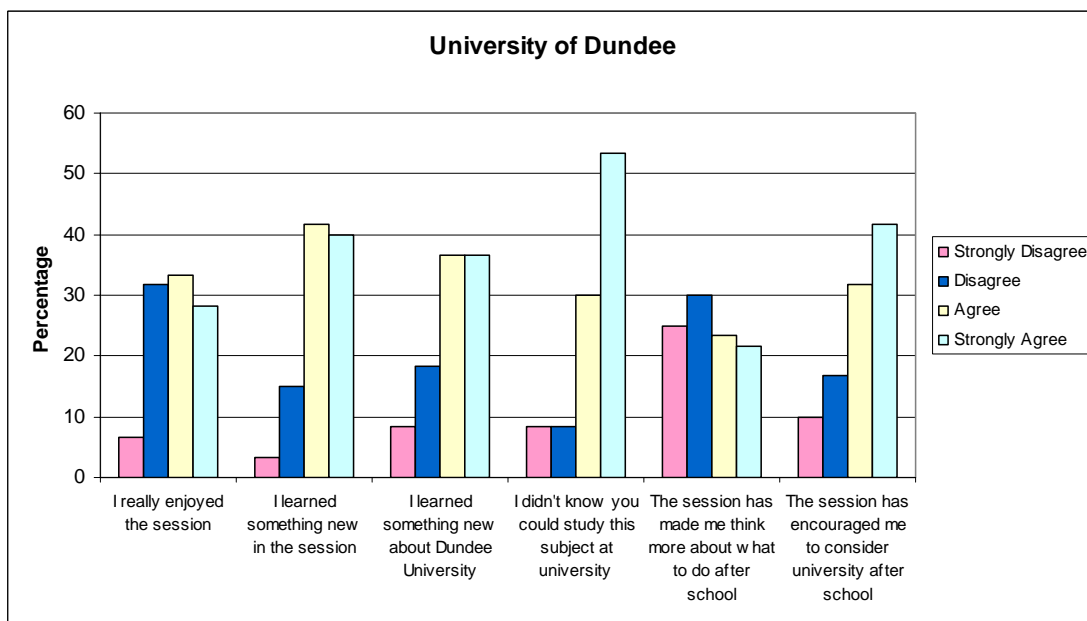
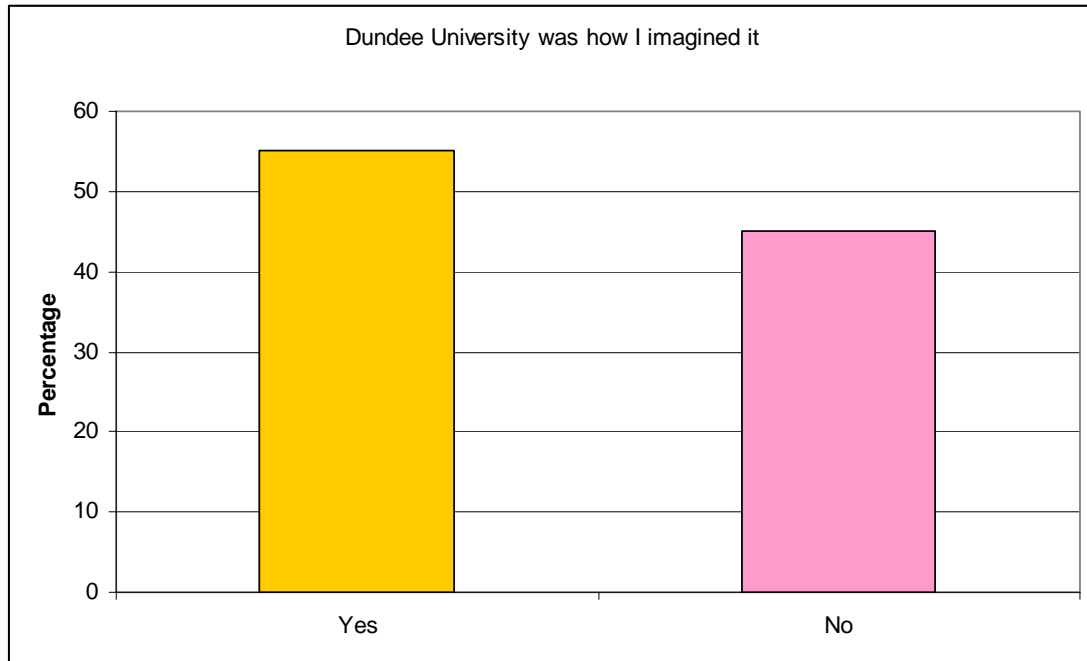
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>University of Abertay</p> <p>Marketing</p> <p>Dundee</p>	<p>Angus College (all day)</p> <p>Arbroath</p>	<p>University of Edinburgh & Queen Margaret University</p> <p>Edinburgh</p>	<p>Adam Smith College</p> <p>Engineering</p> <p>Kirkcaldy</p>	<p>Clear room</p> <p>9-10.30 Complete poster</p> <p>Last check of rooms</p> <p>Head to Gateway 11.30</p>
Lunch @ Abertay	Lunch @ Angus College	Lunch @ morning university	Lunch @ Adam Smith	Lunch @ Gateway
<p>University of Dundee</p> <p>Town Planning for "T in the Park" Dundee</p>	<p>X5 sessions:</p> <p>Hairdressing Wallpaper Hanging Sport (with Wii) Hospitality Computing</p>	<p>UoE: Law Music QMU: Drama Group 1 - UoE am QMU pm Group 2 - QMU am UoE pm</p> <p><i>*flat shoes only today!</i></p>	<p>Careers Scotland (@ Adam Smith College)</p> <p>Begin working on posters once back at McIntosh Hall</p>	<p>GRADUATION</p> <p>Finish by 2.30</p>
BOWLING	SPORT	GHOST TOUR	CEILIDH	

Morning Session - University of Abertay, Dundee
MARKETING



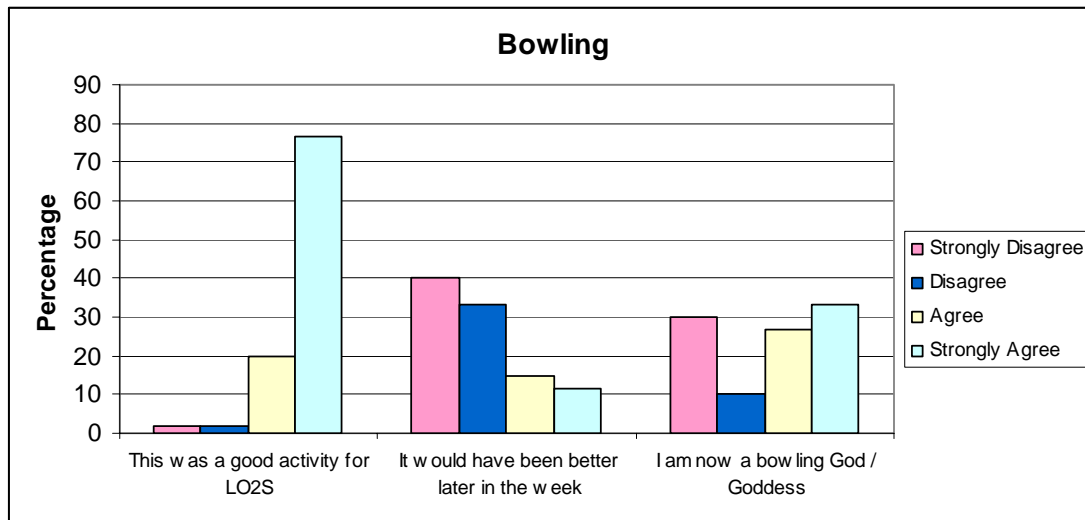
What pupils said about Abertay University	
It was a lot bigger than what the high school is.	I expected it to be older and not modern because when you think of St Andrews you think old and posh
I thought it would all be boring but it was good.	It was a lot more modern than I thought.
I dunno – it was not as bad and scary as what I thought it would be.	The lecture hall was smaller than I thought and I thought it would be one big building

Afternoon Session - University of Dundee
TOWN PLANNING



What pupils said about Dundee University	
It was really modern and smart	It was modern looking
Smaller than I thought	I expected seats in a row etc.
Big inside and a bit weird	I thought it would be exactly like the other one (Abertay)

Evening Session
Megabowl, Dundee



Comments from Monday

Universities were not only fun but also really interesting. Day went really slow and I was really tired. Bowling was great fun.

I need more sleep!

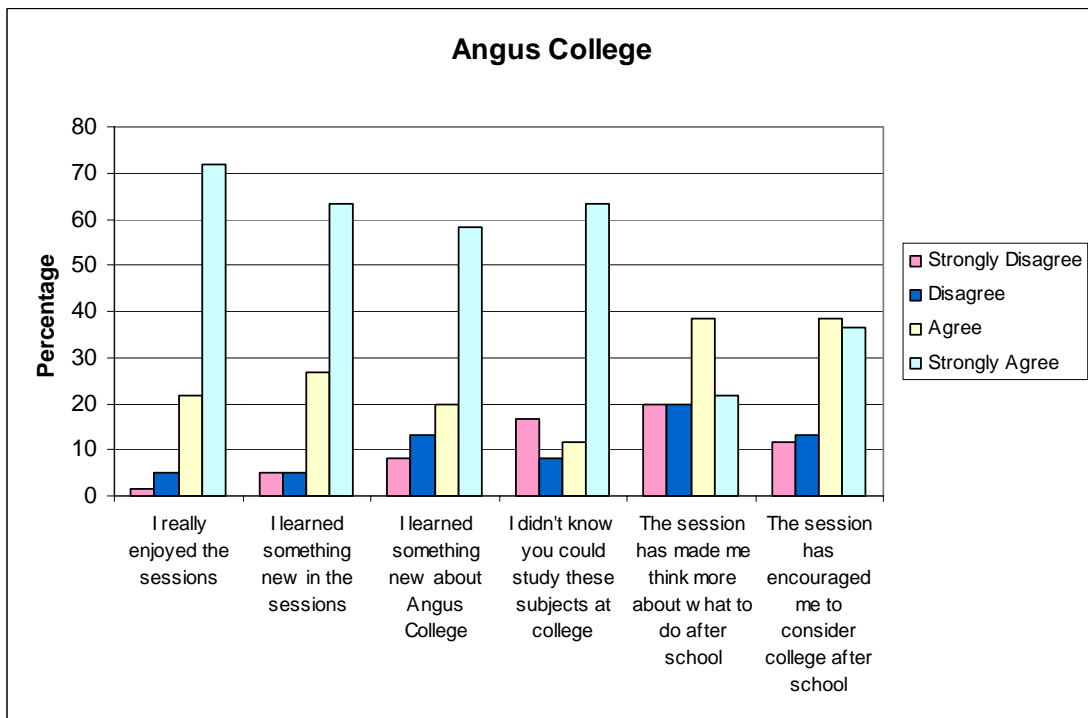
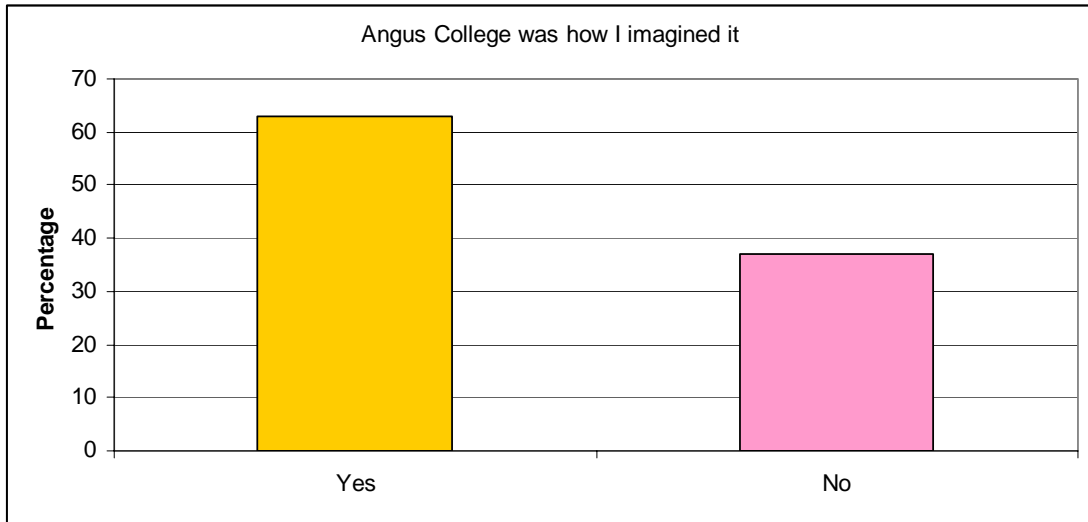
Overall average. Didn't enjoy having to go back into Dundee for bowling

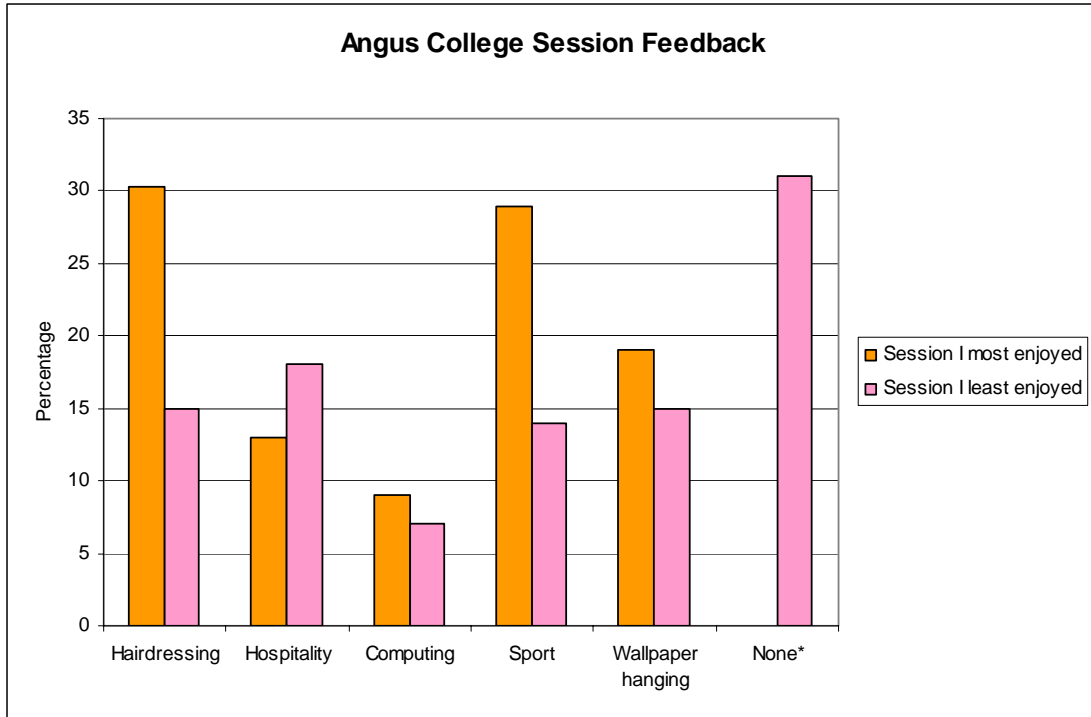
I enjoyed today a lot. It was good to go bowling. I liked the T in the Park thing too (Dundee University).

It was funny as anything 😊

Got to donder about a bit more without being like on a leash.

All day - Angus College, Arbroath
 HAIRDRESSING
 SPORT(with Wii)
 WALLPAPER HANGING
 HOSPITALITY
 COMPUTING

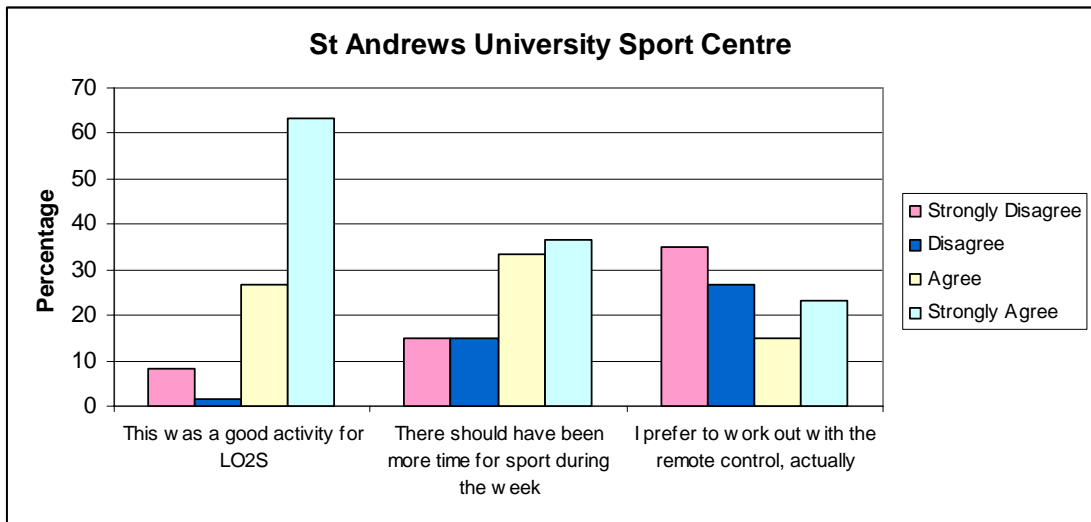




* - "None" was not an option given in the logbook, but so many pupils wrote it down, it has been included.

What pupils said about Angus College	
I expected all colleges to be the same but they all seem to have individual advantages	It was bigger and better equipped
I thought it would just be one building	There was two and it looked different to other colleges
I thought it would be fancier	I didn't think it would be that good

Evening Session
St Andrews University Sports Centre



Comments from Tuesday

Was sooo much fun. To be honest, I wasn't looking forward to it, but when we got there I thoroughly enjoyed it. The students who helped us were a great laugh.

Such a great day. All of the lectures were fun. The sports at night was also fab – sooo much better than I expected it. I think this day was better than the rest because it was fun subjects and we didn't have to wait around too long for busses.

Keep up the good work

I wish it didn't rain – oh well . . .

The sports wasn't that good. Not everyone likes playing football or tennis for hours on end.

The best day so far by far, I really liked the range of activities. Sports was great.

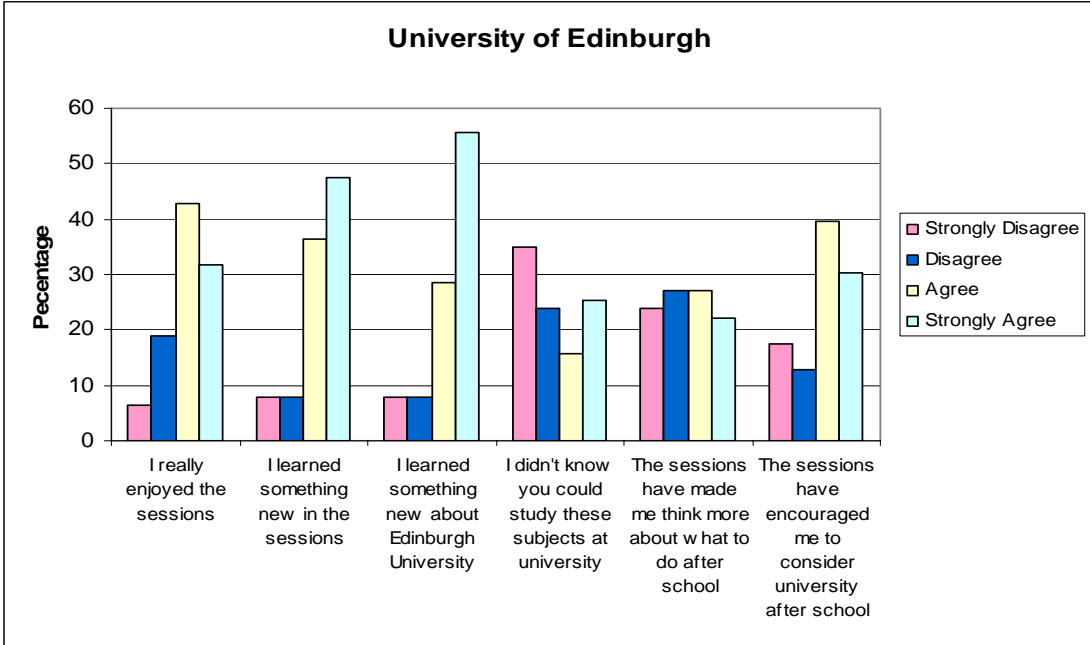
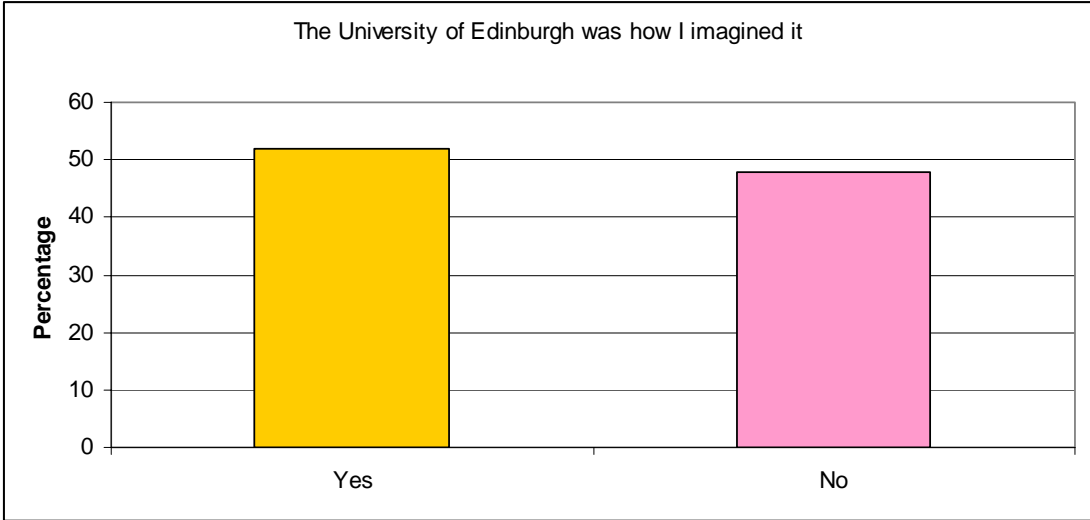
Really enjoyable (thumbs up!)

The food was a little nicer today – I could actually eat something.

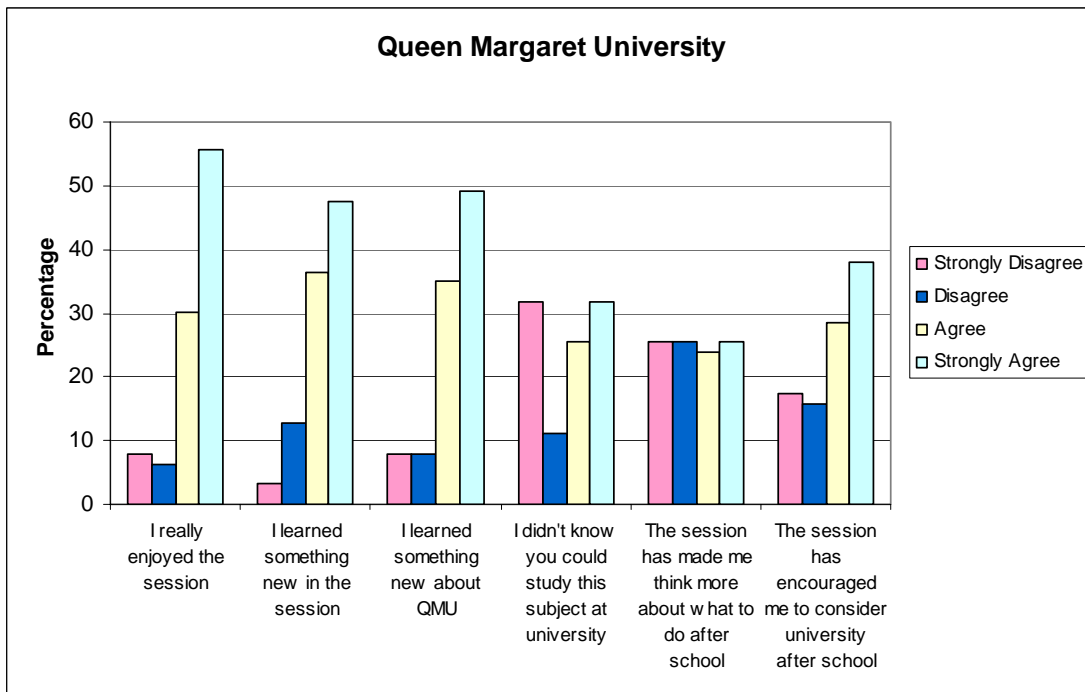
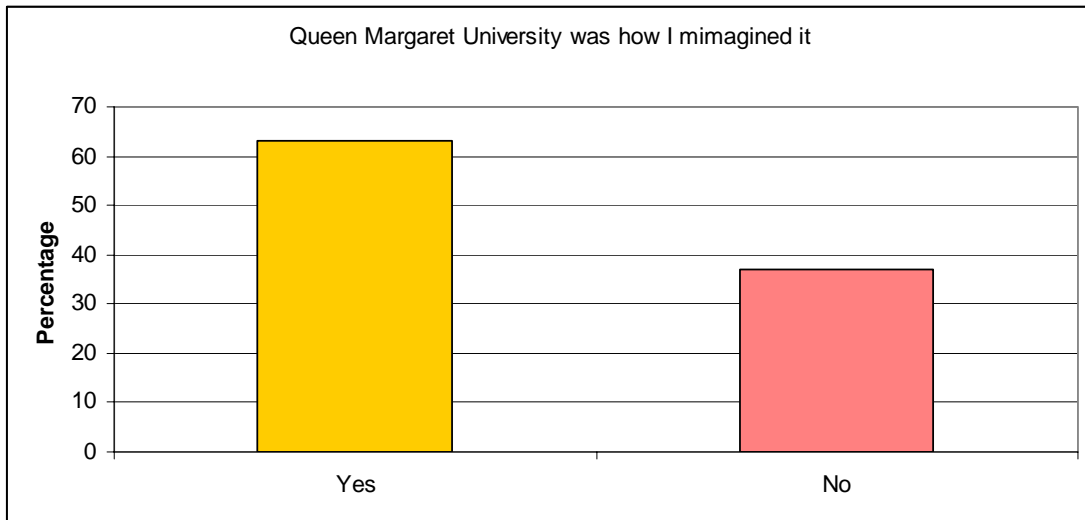
The night activities are too long if you don't like them

I really enjoyed being in different groups and getting a chance to mingle with different pupils.

All day – University of Edinburgh
 LAW
 MUSIC
 Queen Margaret University
 DRAMA



What pupils said about Edinburgh University	
It looked ancient yet modern. The entrance was cool.	Too big and old-fashioned
Thought it would be more modern	It was much better than I thought
It was bigger and basically more impressive than I'd imagined	I thought that the university would have been newer

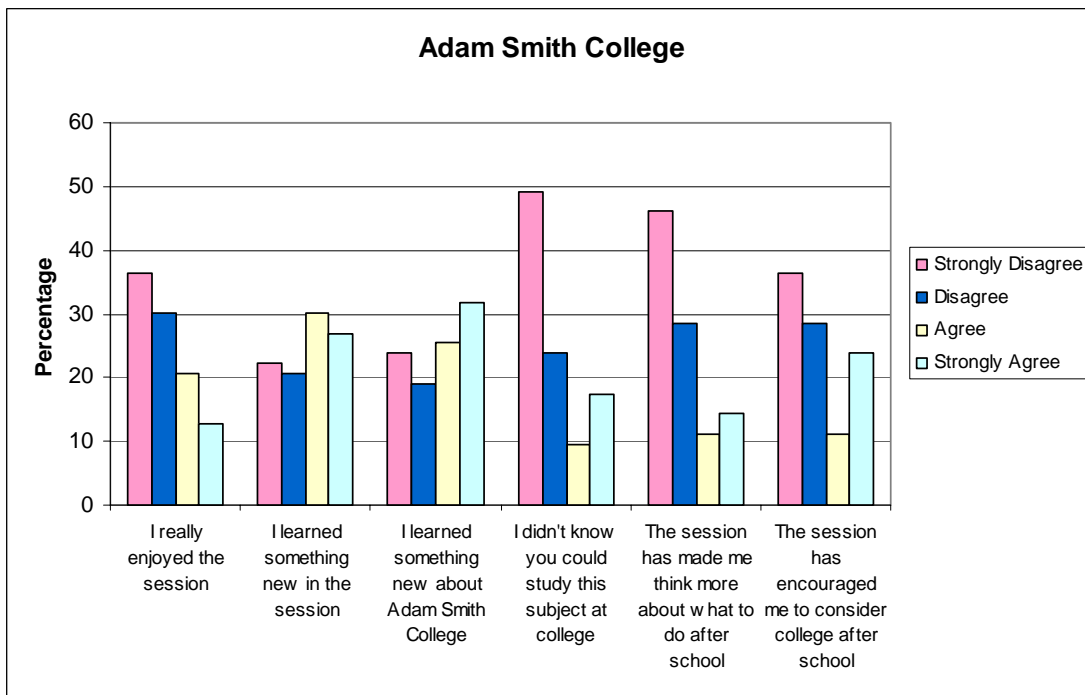
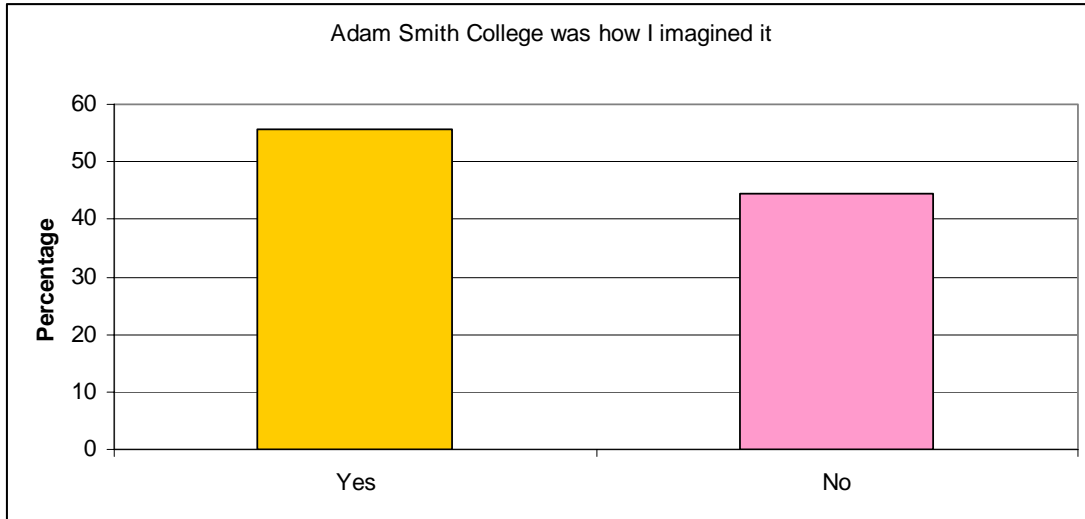


What pupils said about Queen Margaret University	
It was so new and really big and had lots of computers	It was newer than I thought
Well, it was really big and posh	I thought it was different to the others and I thought there would be a stage
It was more fun than I thought	It was modern and cool

The evening session (the Witchery ghost tour in Edinburgh) was cancelled due to bad weather.

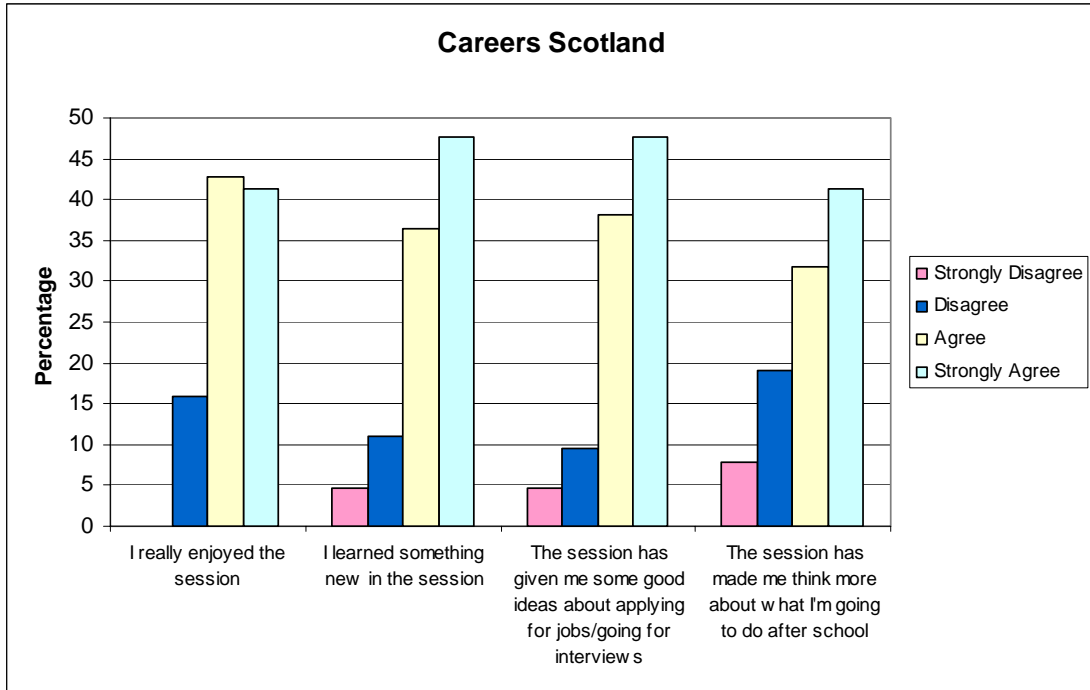
Comments from Wednesday
The tour was cancelled due to the weather. Instead pupils were given time to relax, which I preferred.
<i>I was disappointed that we did not get to go on the ghost tour as I was looking forward to it.</i>
Well, since we didn't go on the ghost tour I really enjoyed sitting in front of the telly with everyone watching the ad's we made (at Abertay), and Lee told us a dirty joke. (A wee boy fell in a muddy puddle. That was the joke)
<i>I was disappointed about music 'cos I thought it was real music but it wasn't.</i>
We didn't go as the weather was bad. I wish we could have went ☹

Morning – Adam Smith College
 ENGINEERING
 Afernoon – Careers Scotland (at Adam Smith)

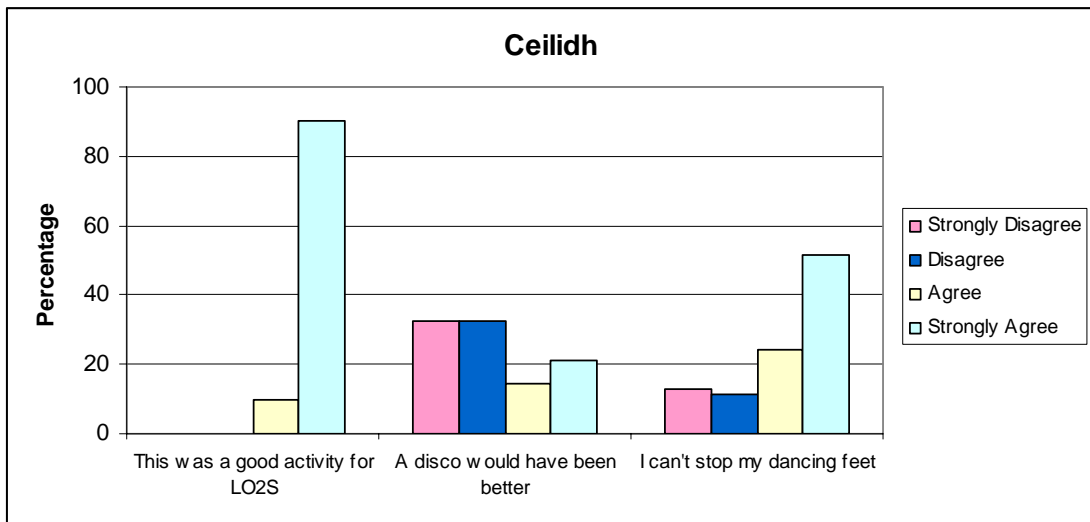


What pupils said about Adam Smith College	
I thought there would have been lots more lecture rooms.	I didn't think it would be busy with all the kinds of studies.
It was dark, cold and empty.	It was unexpected.
It was better than I thought.	I thought we would be doing stuff.

Afternoon – Careers Scotland (at Adam Smith)
 VARIOUS ACTIVITES FOCUSING ON COURSE CHOICES AND CAREERS
 ADVICE

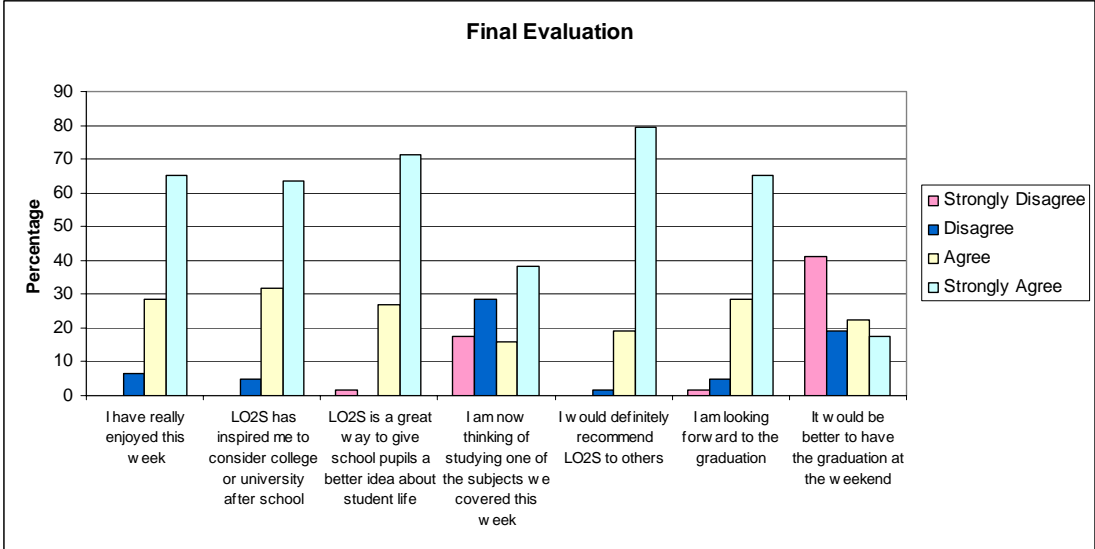


Evening Session
 Ceilidh



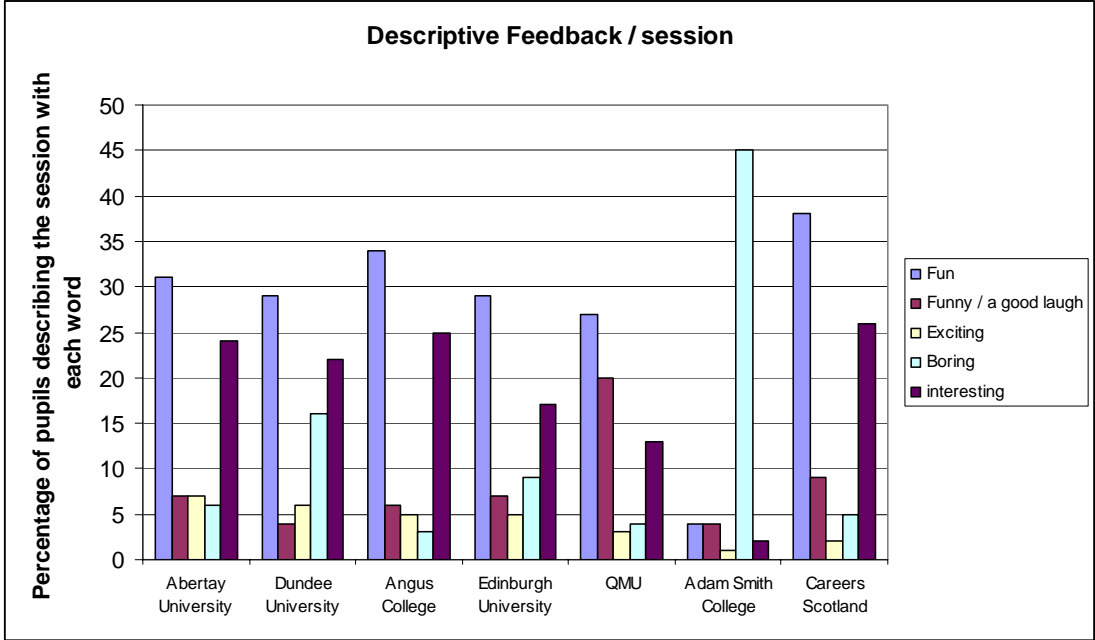
Comments from Thursday
Thanks LIFT OFF – it was BRILLIANT!
<i>Ceilidh was amazing. Absolutely enjoyed it! Best night I've had for ages!</i>
Strip the willow was class. I'm dizzy as I write this, lol.
<i>The ceilidh was AWESOME!</i>
Tonight was great. I joined in on every dance. My feet and knees are so sore at the moment! Everyone had fun!
<i>I WANT TO COME BACK NEXT YEAR!!!!!!</i>

General Feedback from the week



Pupils were asked to write three words describing each session in their log books.

The graph below shows the occurrence of the 5 most commonly used words/session.



What pupils had to say about LO2S!
I wouldn't change anything – this week has been fab. You should let us come back to LO2S every year until we leave school and go to uni.
I would have made it longer . . . possibly 2 weeks
Put at least two people from the same school together
LO2S has been absolutely great. I have met lots of new people and made new friends and have also had an absolutely brilliant week.
Great room (mine is huge). Good idea giving us the alarm clocks for us sleepy-heads! A good variety of courses. The information about courses in our (LIFT OFF) bags is a fantastic help. I think it is a great experience and a great chance to meet new people. The nightstaff need to lighten up at nights ☺. More meals like pizza and chips and the choice of healthy stuff too, though.
I hated sleeping in a room on my own. Sharing a room with someone would have made me feel much more comfortable.
Later breakfast. People get moody because of it (being tired) and me and my mates kept falling out because they were grumpy from an early rise.
I wish the week was longer because it was great fun and I didn't want it to end – but am happy to see my family!
I thought that the week should be longer. I think that the activities were an eye-opener to what college and university is really like. I wish we could have had more freedom to do more things 'cos people get a bit moody spending so much time together and falling out. I thought the staff and leaders were really nice and if you had a problem you could speak to them easily.
I loved meeting people my own age from different schools.
I had a really fun time! I would definitely recommend it to other people! ☺
It sometimes can get boring at night because there's nothing to do. The ceilidh should have been earlier on in the week because everyone was just starting to get to know each other and now we have to leave ☹. The ceilidh rocked ☺. I'm really sad about leaving . . . was just getting used to life here and now we have to leave! So sad! Thank you guys so much for the week. Loadsa love & hugs xxx
Can I come back next year? Please . . . ? ☺x☺x PRETTY PLEASE?
I was a bit anxious about going at first but when I got here it was okay. I met a few new friends – J is the best one though. I missed my family but I don't want to go away now ☹. My favourite activity was the ceilidh. It was the greatest. I think it was better than a disco. I danced with J, D and S. Rob (student) is the greatest guy ever – he's well funny. He was my group leader. I really liked Angus College and its activities. The McIntosh food was quite good and we had our own table bit. I would have really liked the week to be 2 or 3 weeks – it was too short and I'm gonna miss LIFT OFF a lot and I'd really, really like to do it again (hint hint). I'll also miss J and D 'cos they're the soundest people ever. LO2S was immense. I loved it. Overall it was great. Thanks.
LO2S was a great week – all the people were really nice and some were really funny. I can't wait to get a big picture on my bedroom wall. All the students were great fun. Lee, Phil, Sarah and Alice were the best laugh. I wish it had lasted 2-3 weeks. I want to come back next year. (to all the students / nightstaff) You were all amazing and so much fun. I'm going to miss the good laughs with you. You made the week fun and exciting. I hope everyone stays in touch with me because everyone was lovely.
LIFT OFF 2008 – THE BEST

On the final day, the pupils made posters about their week. These were displayed during the graduation lunch and later taken to their respective schools.

Parents and carers were invited to attend the lunch and graduation ceremony. There was also the option to attend a session on student finance. Both were very well attended. Indeed, extra chairs were required so everyone could be seated comfortably.

The head of Education in Dundee City, Anne Wilson, gave a speech at the graduation event and presented the pupils and students with certificates.

LIFT OFF to Success

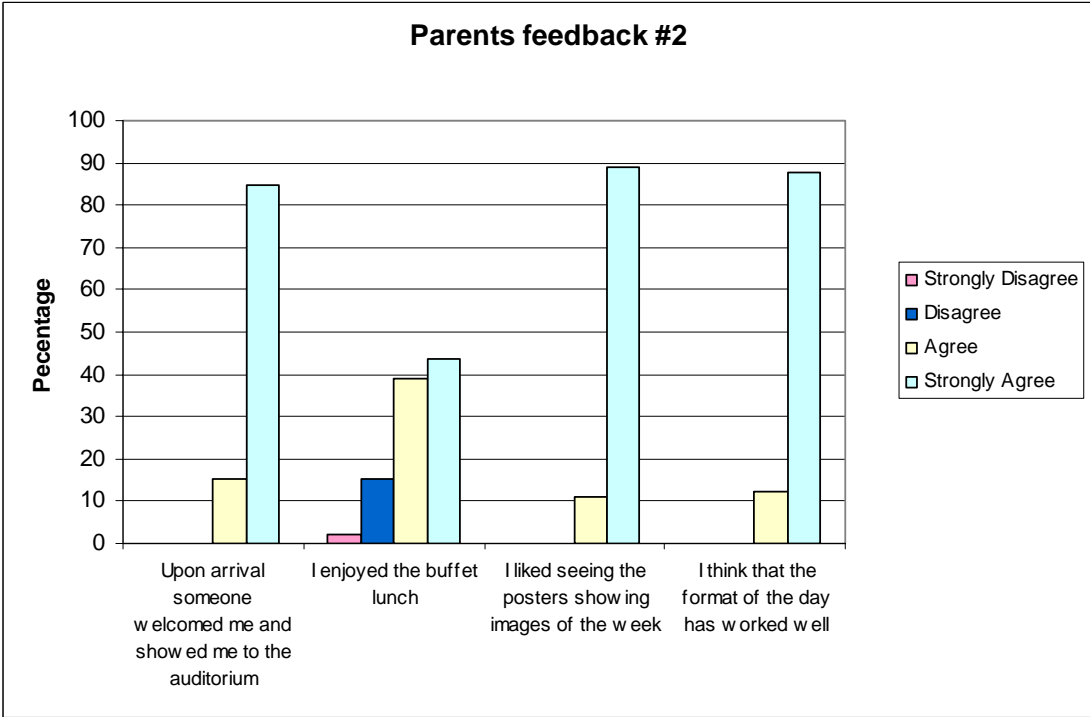
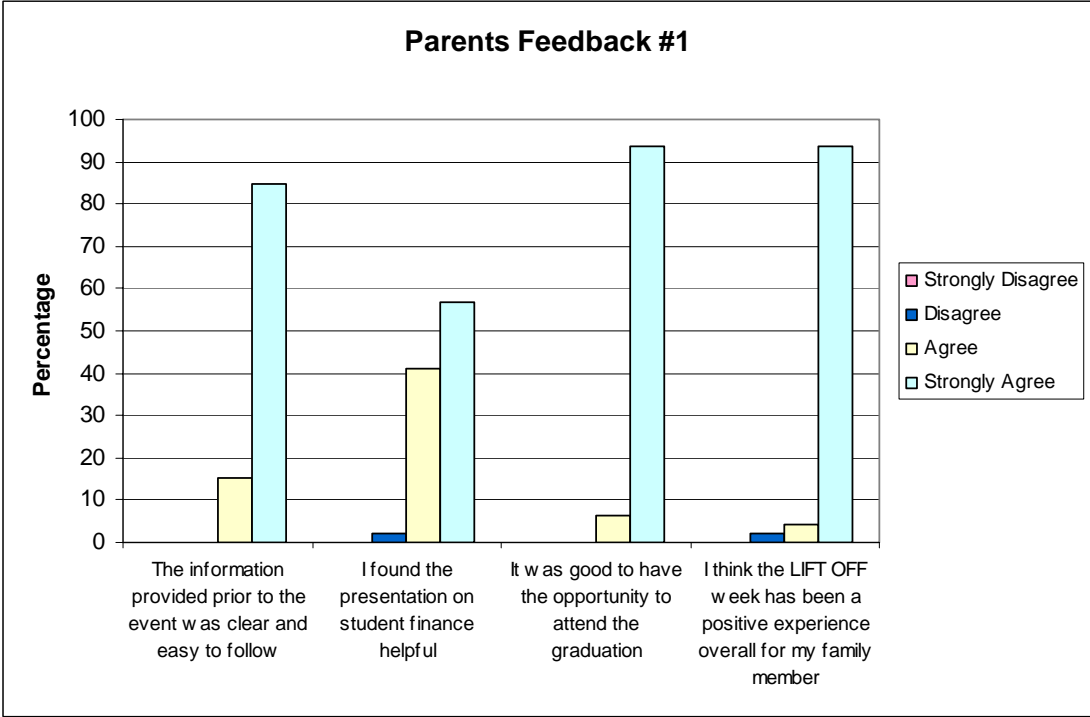
GRADUATION PROGRAMME

8th August 2008

Gateway Building, University of St Andrews

12.45	Welcome	Wilma Clark, Fife & Tayside Wider Access Forum Manager
12.55	LIFT OFF – A Dundee City Council perspective	Anne Wilson – Director, Dundee City Council Education Department
13.10	The LIFT OFF week	Sarah Morrison, LIFT OFF Development Officer
13.20	The Student Perspective	Gemma and Callum LIFT OFF Senior Students
13.30	The Pupil Experience	LO2S Graduates
13.40	Presentation of certificates	Anne Wilson
14.00	Vote of thanks	Wilma Clark
14.15	End	

Parent & Carer Evaluation



What parents had to say about LO2S!
I am extremely grateful for this opportunity for my child.
<i>(LO2S) should be more widely available to other student from school as there is a limit as it is just now.</i>
Thank you!
<i>If it hadn't been for the fact my partner was on A/Leave this week he would not have been granted time off to attend.</i>
A good wide ranging amount of subjects and activities on offer, enjoyed by my daughter.
<i>Thank you for your time and effort, much appreciated- parents need help too!</i>
I think that it is a great idea that LIFT OFF is going to follow up with the kids later on in the year.

Conclusion

LIFT OFF to Success remains popular with pupils, teachers and their parents. The young participants graduate from the programme with a much greater understanding of what becoming a student might entail, and the wide range of subjects offered gives a good idea of the scope available in post-school learning.

It is inevitable that some sessions will be better received than others. However, the Engineering session at Adam Smith received particularly lukewarm feedback. It is worth pointing out that there were some issues with communication in this instance, and that those delivering the session did not have access to all of the information they should have had. We will work with partners to ensure this does not happen in the future.

Last year, we set ourselves three specific targets:

- To ensure that all places are taken up on LO2S.
- To improve communication with schools, pupils and parents.
- To work with our Pupil Forum to continue to develop LO2S.

The evaluation feedback demonstrates that the first two of these have been met. Input from the LIFT OFF Pupil Forum is integral to everything we do.

Challenges for LO2S 2009

- We hope to have pupils from all target schools present at LO2S.
- We will attempt to address the gender imbalance on the programme.
- We will continue to communicate with parents to better inform and improve our work in the future.

LIFT OFF would like to thank all of the pupils, teachers, parents and all of the partner institutions who have participated in LO2S for their ongoing support.