

INTRODUCTION

LIFT OFF to Success (LO2S) 2007 was held at McIntosh Hall at the University of St Andrews from 5 – 10 August. Pupils moving from S3 to S4 were selected by their schools as being likely to benefit the most from this activity. The pupils are those who guidance staff know have the potential to do well at college or university, but who are not achieving as well as they could be. There are many reasons why this might be, including illness, family breakdown, bereavement, lack of confidence or social skills etc. Although post-codes are never a deciding factor in selecting pupils, in 2006 50% of participants were drawn from SIMD 5 – the lowest 20% of areas of multiple deprivation. In 2007, this figure was 37.5%.

There are currently 65 places available on LO2S (5 per target school), and although there is recurring feedback that this is not enough from teachers and pupils, we have yet to achieve a full compliment of places. LIFT OFF is keen to work with schools to ensure that all places are taken up in 2008 and beyond.

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

* Initially Buckhaven High School had been asked to participate as a LIFT OFF target school. As they declined, additional places were offered in 2006 to Kirkland High School, as they serve the same catchment area. Woodmill High School became a target school after LO2S 2006, so did not participate in the first programme.

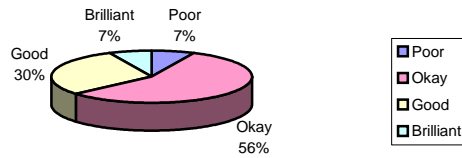
LO2S EVALUATION

During their week at LO2S, all participants were given a logbook to record their thoughts about the week and to give specific feedback on activities. The following graphs and comments are compiled from this information.

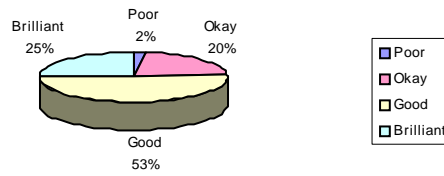
The pupils were asked

“What did you think of today?”

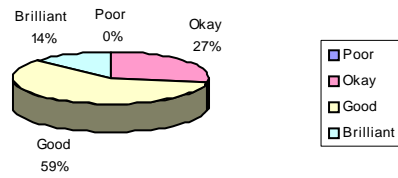
The bus journey



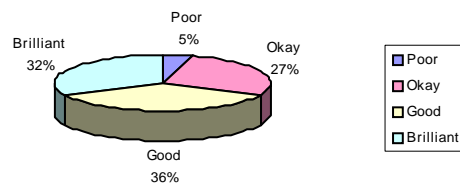
Getting my room



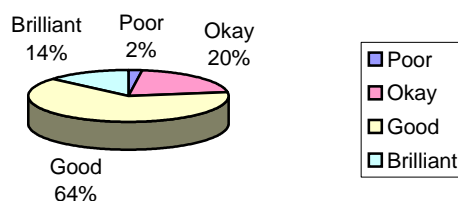
The LIFT OFF bag etc



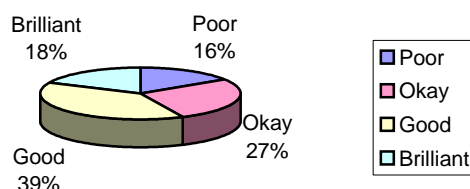
Meeting people



Meeting students



Ice breakers



Tell us what, if anything, you would change about today

Better icebreakers

The bus journey should have been shorter

I would have joined in more on the games

Put at least one person you know in your group because I would be more comfortable and confident

More for us to do at night time

Make the groups interact with each other better

I like running about and being energetic

There was a space for pupils to add any other thoughts or comments about the day:

It was good

Two people from each school in a team at least

Ice breakers were fun

I thought that the bus journey was quite boring. Although I am happy that I have met a lot of friends

I had a good day but I wasn't keen on meeting new people. I think you should have games after dinner

My room is too small, my heater doesn't work and my bed is very noisy

I was a bit nervous but everyone helped by being friendly

Need a games room

I liked going to the shops

Very good fun games, really enjoyed dinner

It was good having the night to do what you wanted and to mix with people

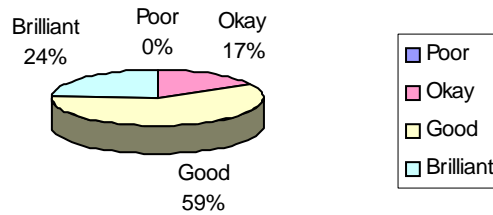
More games to get to know each other better

Yummy food!

More active icebreakers

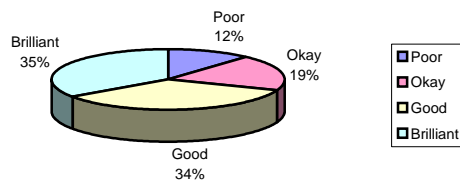
The day started at the Adam Smith College, Fife where staff ran a session on raising self-esteem and boosting confidence through a variety of different games and activities.

Adam Smith Activity

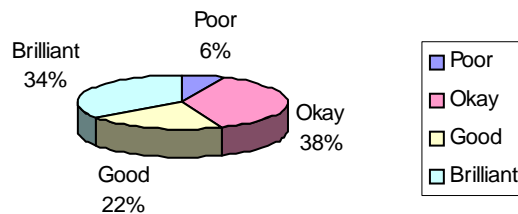


In the afternoon, the group visited Elmwood College in Cupar, where a number of different activities were provided:

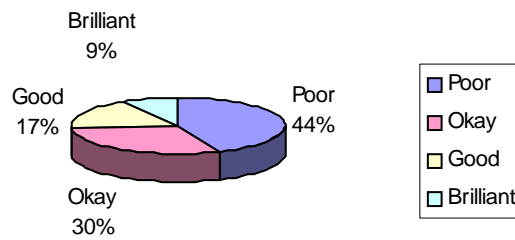
Interior Decorating



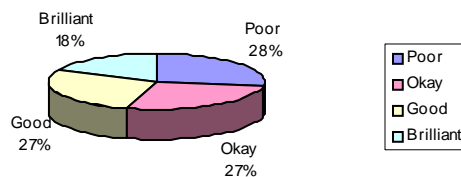
Multimedia



Golf Course Management



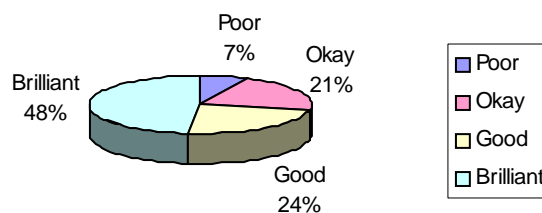
Game Keeping



68% of pupils did not know that it is possible to study golf course management and gamekeeping.

In the evening, the group were taken down to the beach in St Andrews by students and night staff:

Beach Trip



Other thoughts and comments:

Paddling in the sea was great!

I liked Game Keeping

I liked going to the beach

Jumping in the sea was fun

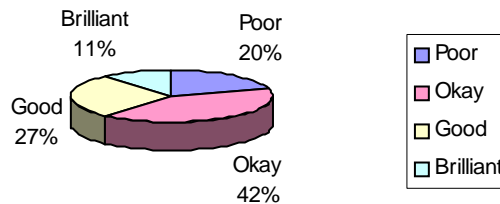
I liked talking to the students and staff

Yummy food

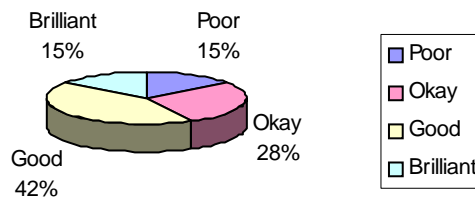
Getting to meet people caring so gracefully for livestock

The group were taken to Edinburgh, where they visited Heriot-Watt and Napier Universities. Heriot-Watt staff delivered a workshop on Sport and Exercise Science. At Napier, the pupils were given a lecture on Film Studies.

**Sports and Exercise Science
Heriot-Watt**



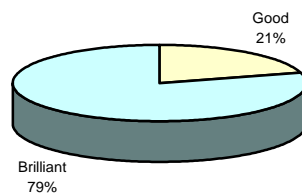
**Film Studies
Napier**



25% of pupils did not know they could study these subjects after school.

In the evening, the group were taken on the Witchery Ghost Tour of old Edinburgh:

Ghost Tour



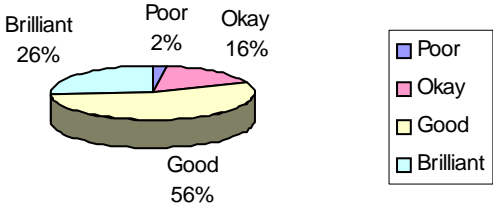
Other thoughts and comments:

I really enjoyed the ghost tour
The ghost tour was very funny!
The tour rocked!

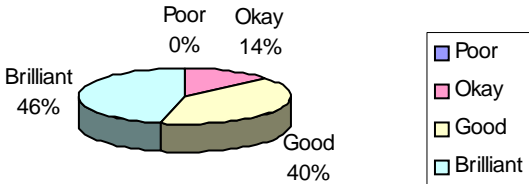
Learning about important historic facts about Scotland was great
Lectures were a bit confusing
There should have been more to do in film making instead of just listening

The group visited Dundee College in the morning, where they did a session on Care, one on Fashion Retail and then *either* Beauty Therapy or Horticulture.

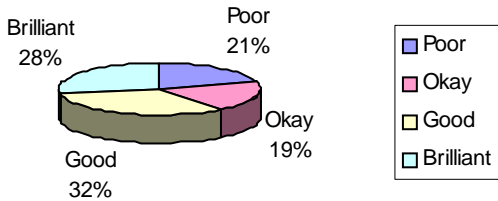
Dundee College Fashion Retail



Dundee College Care

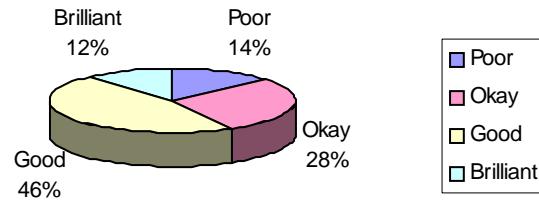


Dundee College Beauty Therapy/Horticulture



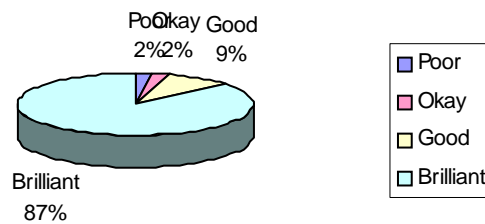
In the afternoon, they went to the University of Abertay, where there was a session on Animation. The group also visited the Students' Union in Abertay.

University of Abertay Animation



The group visited the Megabowl in Dundee in the evening.

Bowling, Megabowl

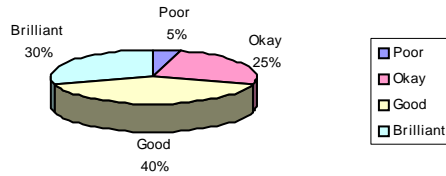


Other thoughts and comments:

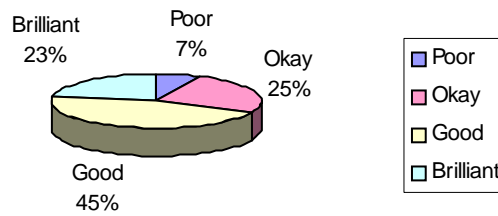
- Really liked the student union!
- I liked being interviewed for the lift off website
- The bowling was great!
- Really enjoyed fashion retail and care
- Fashion and care were really interesting

We stayed in St Andrews on the Thursday. Staff members from the WHAN (Working in Health Access Network) project had arranged delivery of different activities focussing on careers available in health care post-college and university.

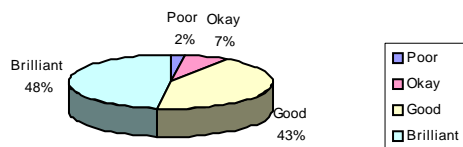
WHAN Red Cross



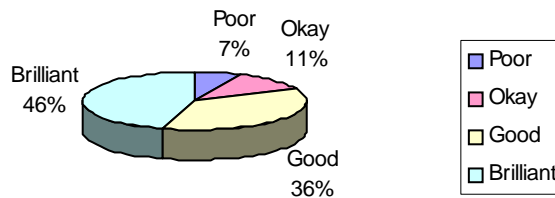
WHAN St Andrews Ambulance



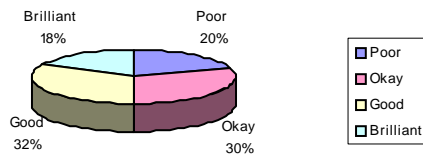
WHAN Sensation 1 Dundee



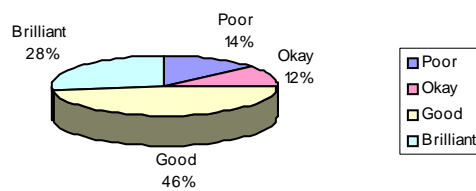
WHAN Sensation 2 Dundee



WHAN Podiatry

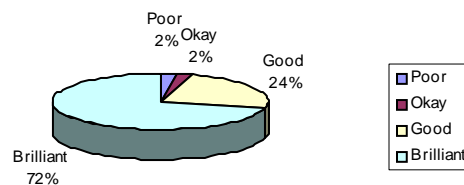


WHAN Medical Illustrator



57% of pupils did not know that Medical Illustration was a subject that could be studied after school.
In the evening, LIFT OFF ran a ceilidh at the Students' Association in St Andrews.

Ceilidh

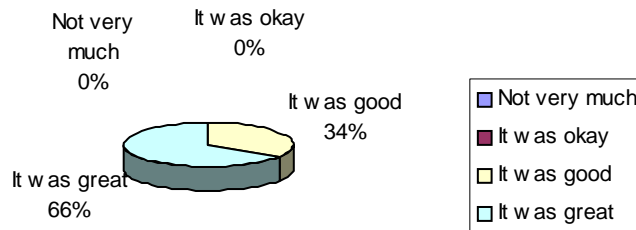


Other thoughts and comments:

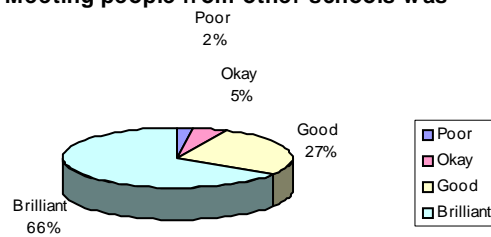
Learning about all the different sorts of careers in medicine was interesting
I had so much fun today I don't want to leave
Enjoyed the ceilidh
Dancing was really fun

On the final day, the pupils made posters about their week to take back into school with them. A lunch and graduation ceremony was held, to which parents and carers were invited. Ken Greer, the Executive Director of Education in Fife gave a speech and presented the “graduation” certificates.

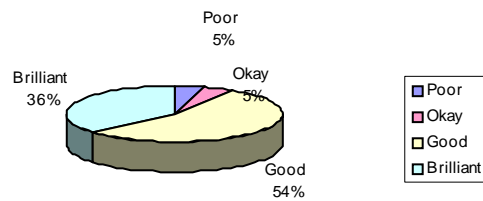
How much have you enjoyed this week?



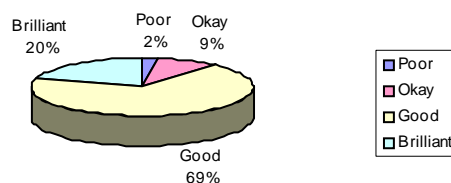
Meeting people from other schools was



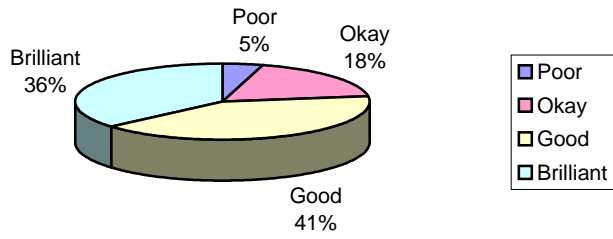
Meeting college and uni students was



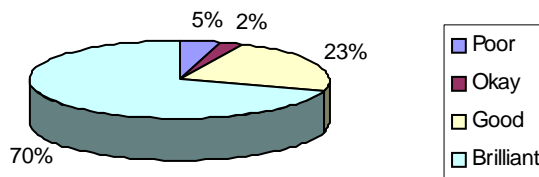
Visiting colleges and universities was



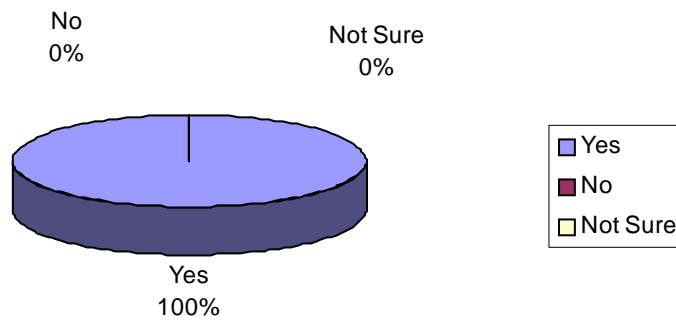
Learning about different subjects you can study was

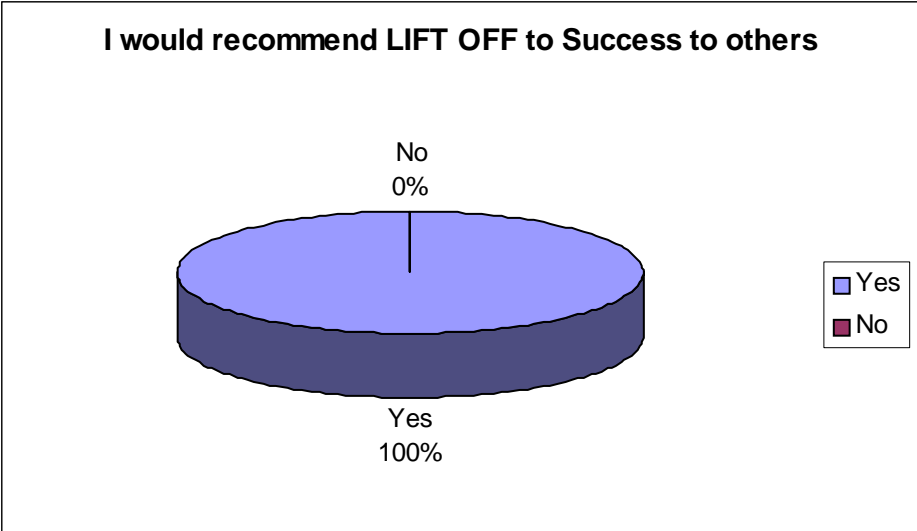
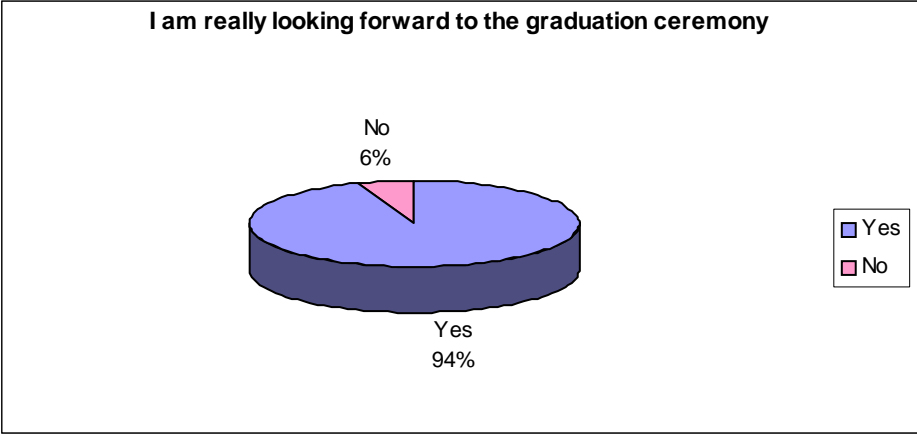
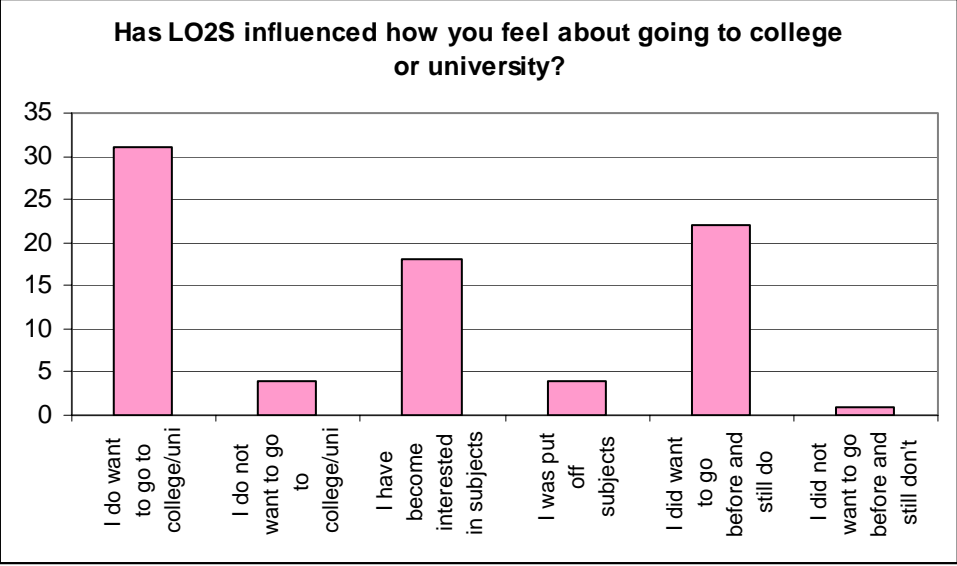


The social activities were



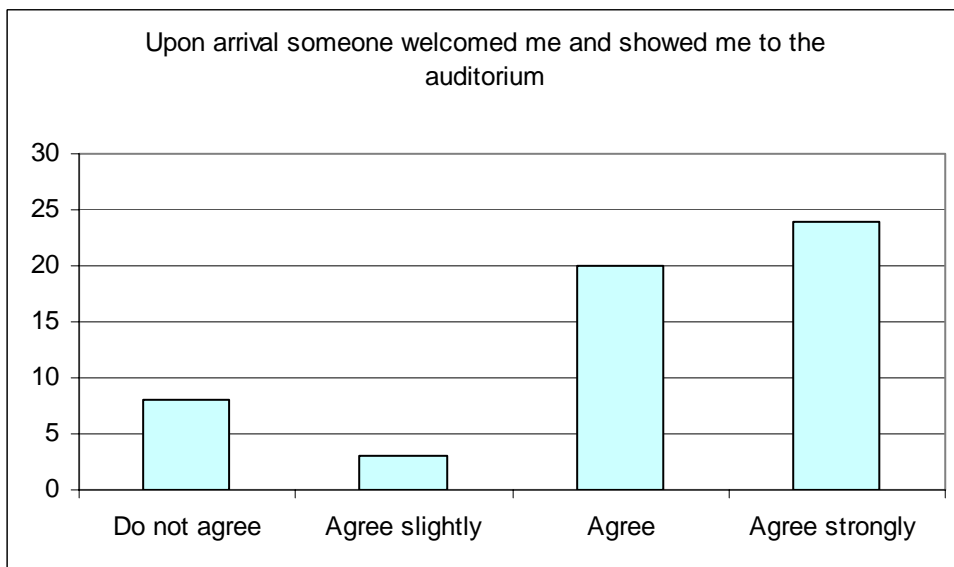
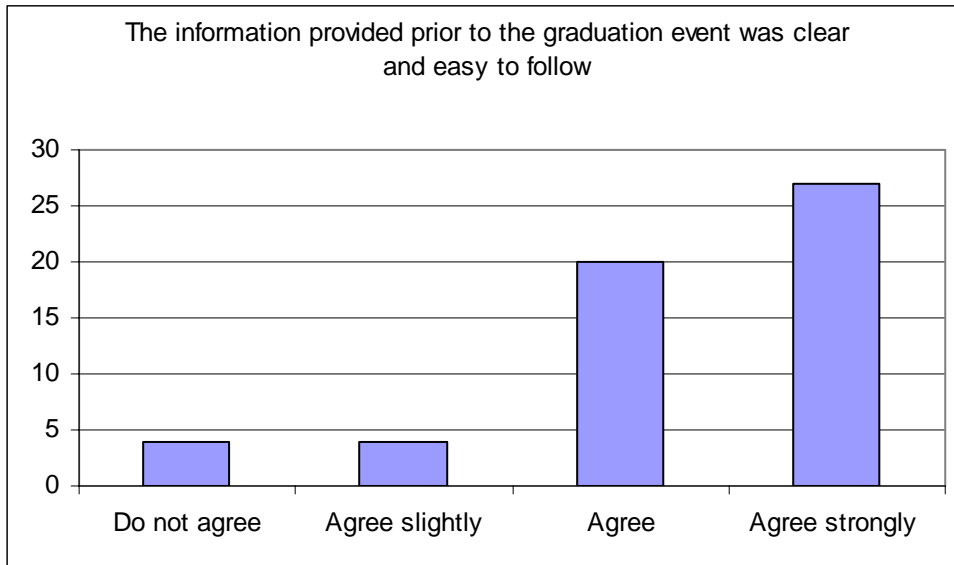
Has Lift OFF given you a good idea of what it would be like to study at college/uni ?

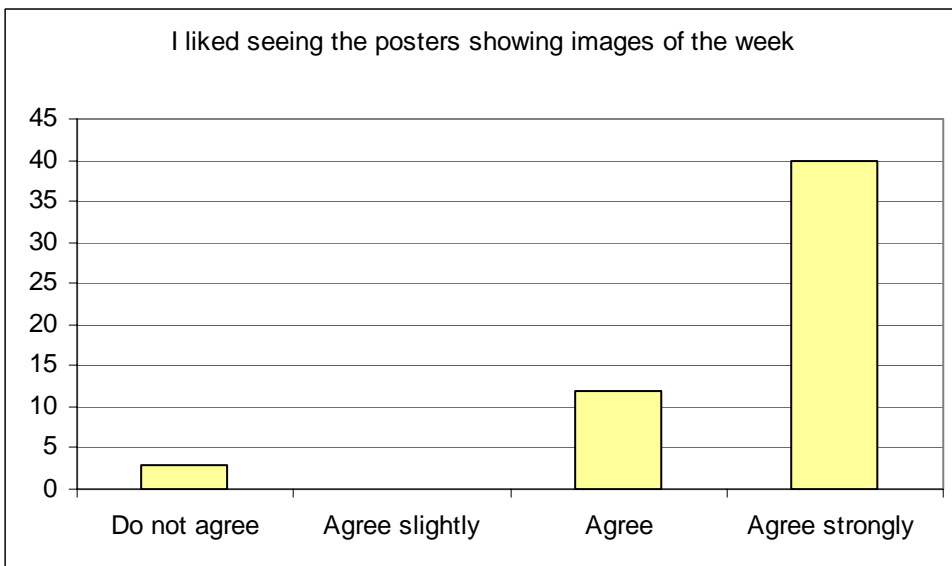
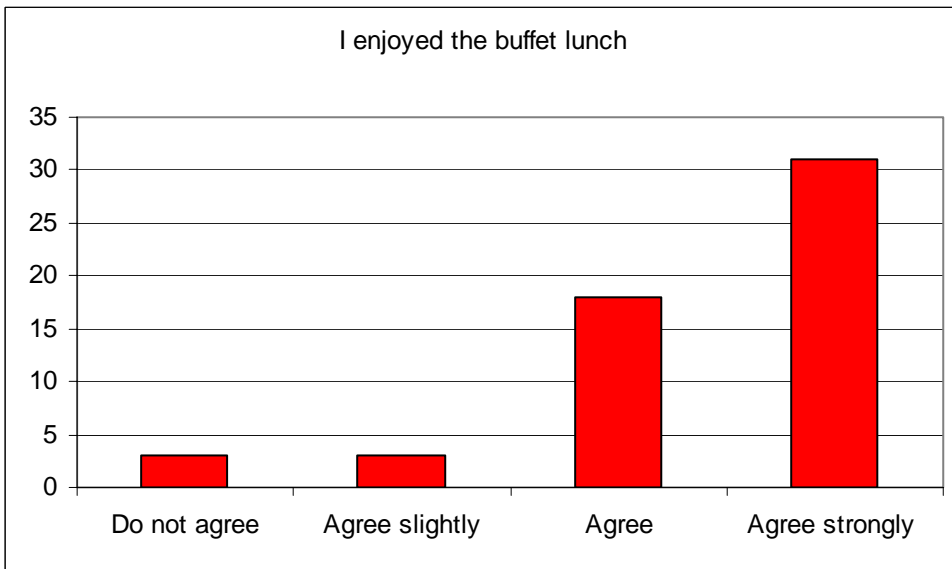
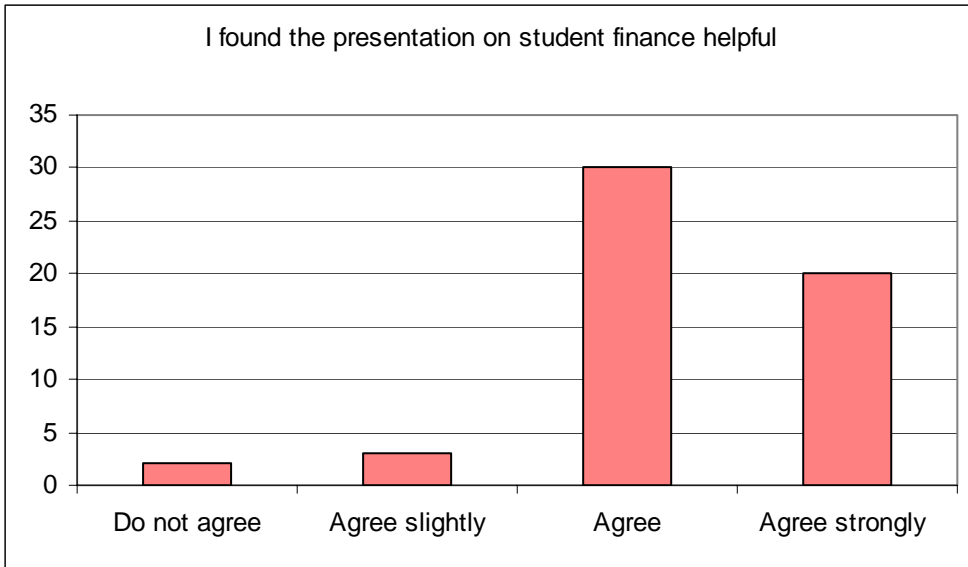


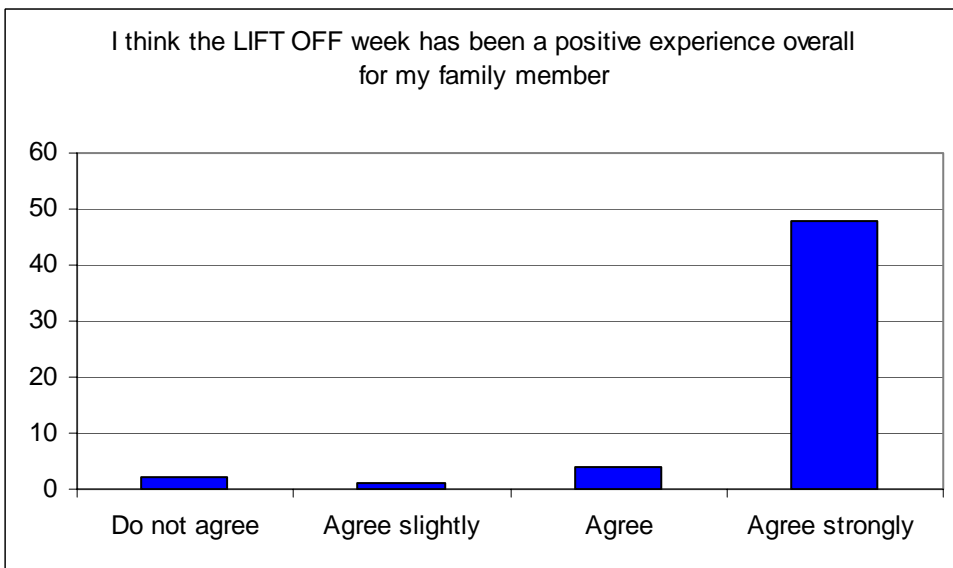
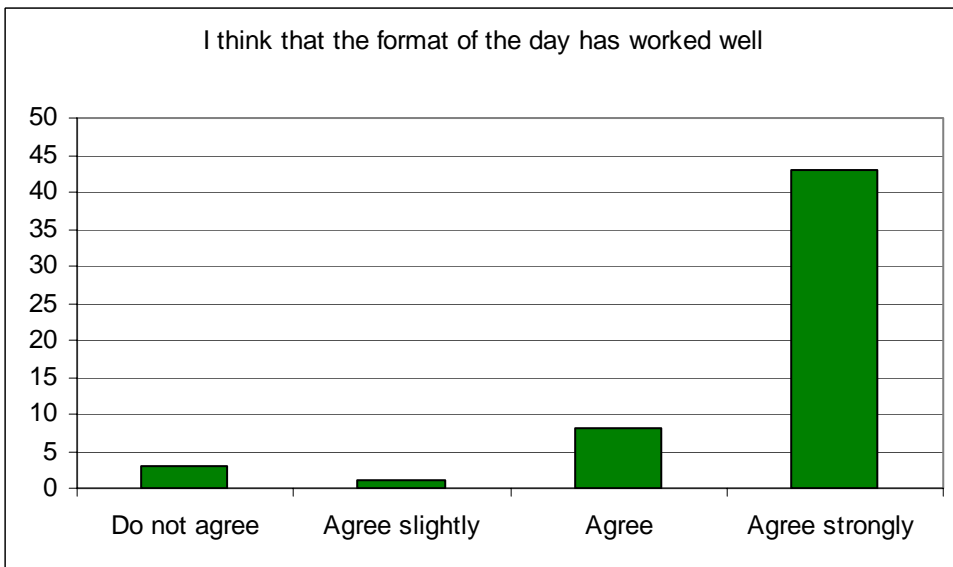
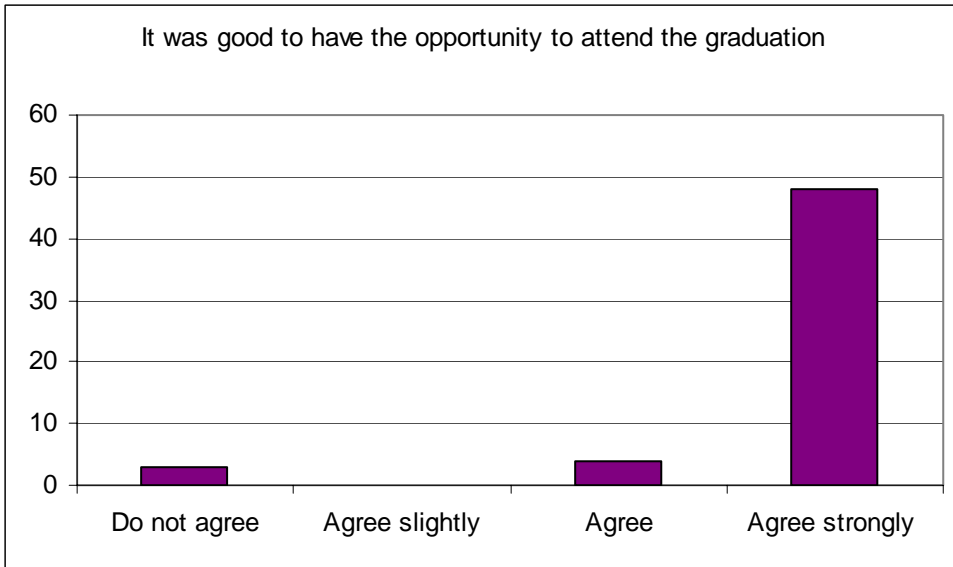


Parent Evaluation

Parents and carers who attended the LO2S Graduation were asked to complete evaluation forms, and to feedback any comments they had about the week.







Parents comments

Excellent opportunity for pupils. Well done and good luck in future years.

Thanks for the opportunity

I strongly agree that as many LIFT OFF weeks should be available as possible. The graduates have packed a lot into the week, all with the great skills of the organisers

More up-to-date information on the website, e.g. this years timetable. Separate timetable along with the invitation card that had to be returned

As students need to choose subjects at end of the year, I think it may be helpful for the kids to know what choices to make if they are introduced to this scheme a year earlier

Our daughter has enjoyed this experience immensely. It has given her and ourselves an insight into university and college life. We would like to congratulate and thank the staff who have done a great job

I think this has given my daughter a fantastic opportunity and insight into further education

Thank you very very much

Very well run. My daughter loved every minute of it. Thanks!

Very encouraging and helpful to provide an insight to both parents and pupils on potential options and the reality of student life. Thank you.

I think the presentation on finance would have worked better if the students were in the room.

It was very interesting and our daughter enjoyed the week immensely.

Very proactive approach.

Conclusion

The evaluation data and feedback from the week are extremely positive. That 100% of pupils said that they felt LO2S had given them a better idea of what college and university are like, shows that the programme “does what it says on the tin”. Furthermore, the positive comments and obvious support from parents is hugely important for the continuing success of the programme.

LO2S 2008

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

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.