

Student Responses

'I am proud to be in this school'

In Pursuit of Excellence Survey

St Michaels College Parents Association 2013

Highlights of 'In Pursuit of Excellence' Survey

1 July 2013

In Pursuit of Excellence Survey

Dear Parents

On 5 November last, the School Board of Management ('BoM') invited all parents, teachers, trustees and a representative selection of students to participate in the evaluation of the School in the 'Pursuit of Excellence' questionnaire with a view to providing information to input to the Board's strategic plan for the future of the School. The parent response rate to the survey was just over half the parents, approx. 52% (245 parents).

The survey results for parents and students were presented to the Parents Association on 25 February 2013 by Mr. Pat Sheridan, Chairman of School Board of Management, Mr. Tim Kelleher, School Principal and Ms. Marie Bramble, Director Finance and Facilities and the parent representatives on the Board of Management, Ms Annette McDermott and Mr Conor Killeen. We wish to congratulate the School for undertaking this initiative and welcome the School sharing the responses with us.

We, the Parents Association, have highlighted the strengths and challenges arising from the parent and representative student responses. We are delighted to report that the overall responses are very positive indicating a very positive atmosphere in the School. We aim to work with the Board of Management on all responses prioritising the challenges identified in the survey and make recommendations to the School in areas we think appropriate.

We also include, for your information, a list outlining work that is in the course of taking place or has taken place over the past few months around the Campus. We would like to congratulate the School on the works done to date.

If you have any comments, please feel free to give us feedback at parents@stmichaelscollege.com.

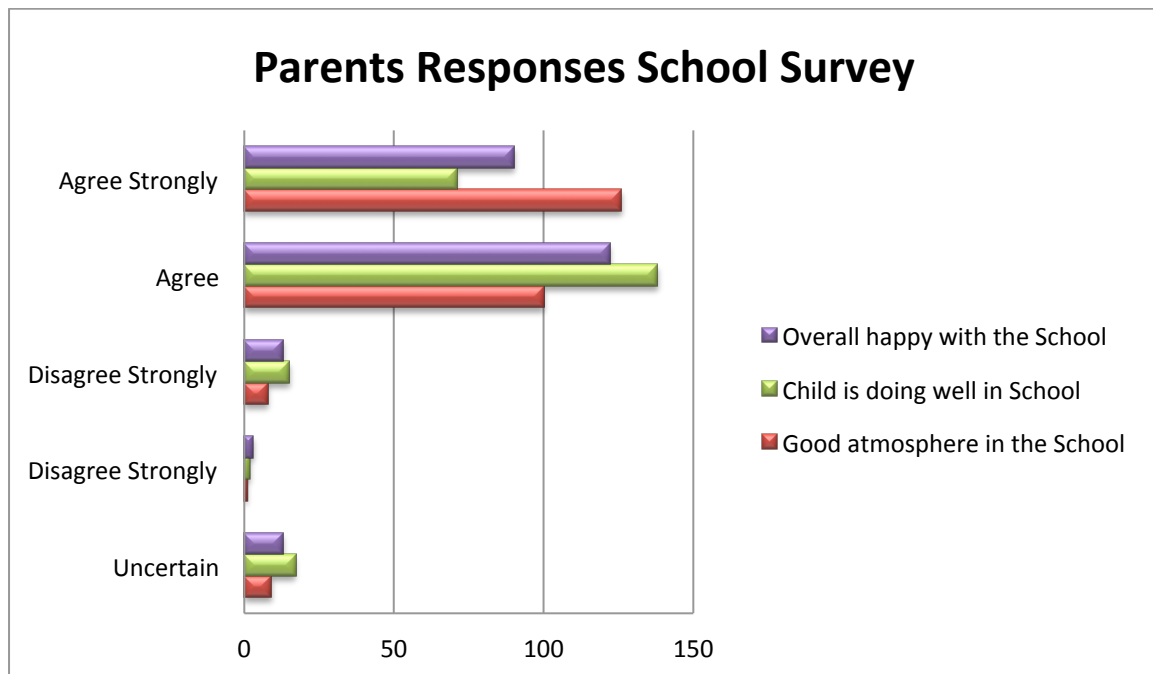
Yours Sincerely,

Evelyn Cregan
Parents Association

Highlights of 'In Pursuit of Excellence' Survey

Parents Survey- General Information

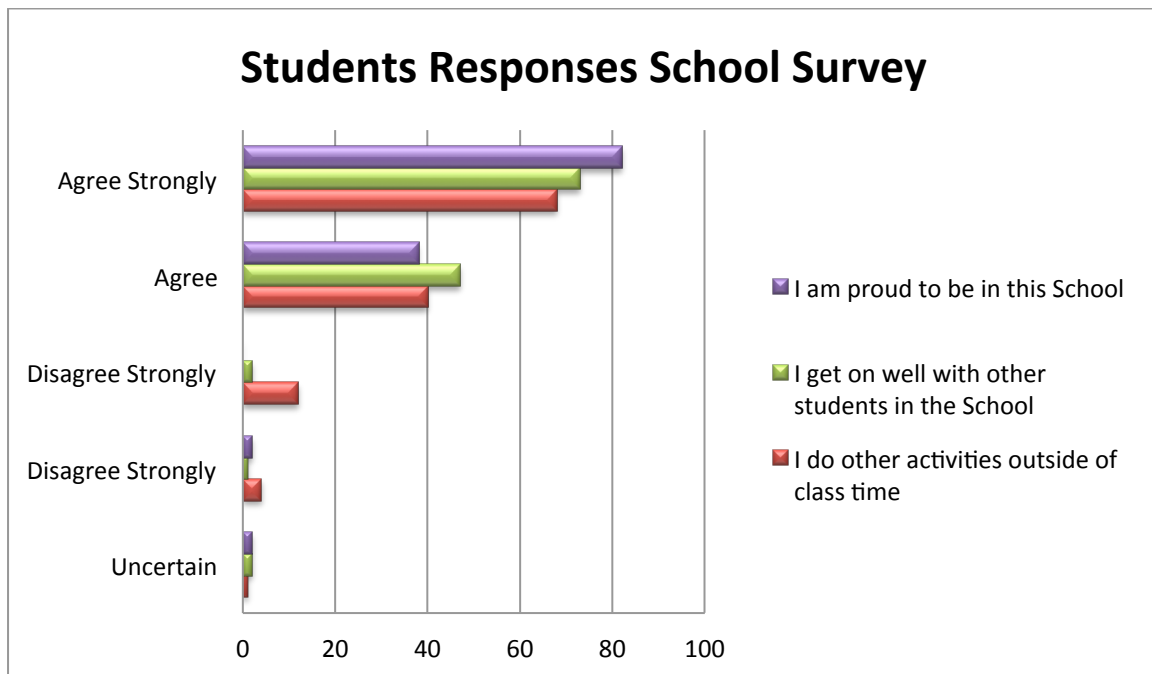
	Statement	Agree Strongly (AS)	Agree (A)	Disagree (D)	Disagree Strongly (DS)	Uncertain (U)	Total
5	There is a good atmosphere in the School	126	100	8	1	9	244
18	My child is doing well in School	71	138	15	2	17	243
29	Overall I am happy with the School	90	122	13	3	13	241



Highlights of 'In Pursuit of Excellence' Survey

Students Survey- General Information

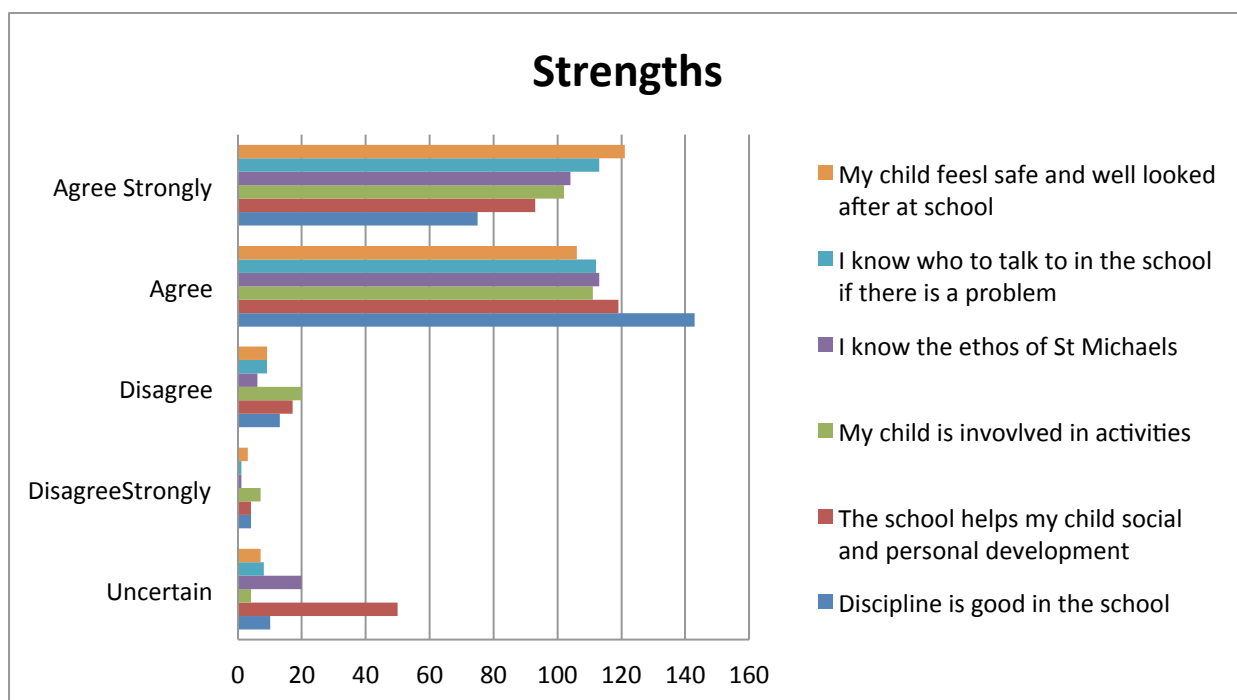
Statement	Agree Strongly (AS)	Agree (A)	Disagree (D)	Disagree Strongly (DS)	Uncertain (U)	Total
I am proud to be in this school	82	38	0	2	2	124
I get on well with other students in the school	73	47	2	1	2	125
I do other activities e.g. music / sports / debating outside of class time	68	40	12	4	1	125



Highlights of 'In Pursuit of Excellence' Survey

PARENTS - Strengths

	AS	A	D	DS	U	Total
My child feels safe and well looked after in school	121	106	9	3	7	246
I know who to talk to in the school if there is a problem	113	112	13	1	8	247
I support the ethos of St Michaels	104	113	6	1	20	244
My child is involved in activities	102	111	20	7	4	244
The school helps my child social and personal development	93	119	17	4	50	243
Discipline is good in the School	75	143	13	4	10	245



POSITIVE COMMENTS FROM PARENTS

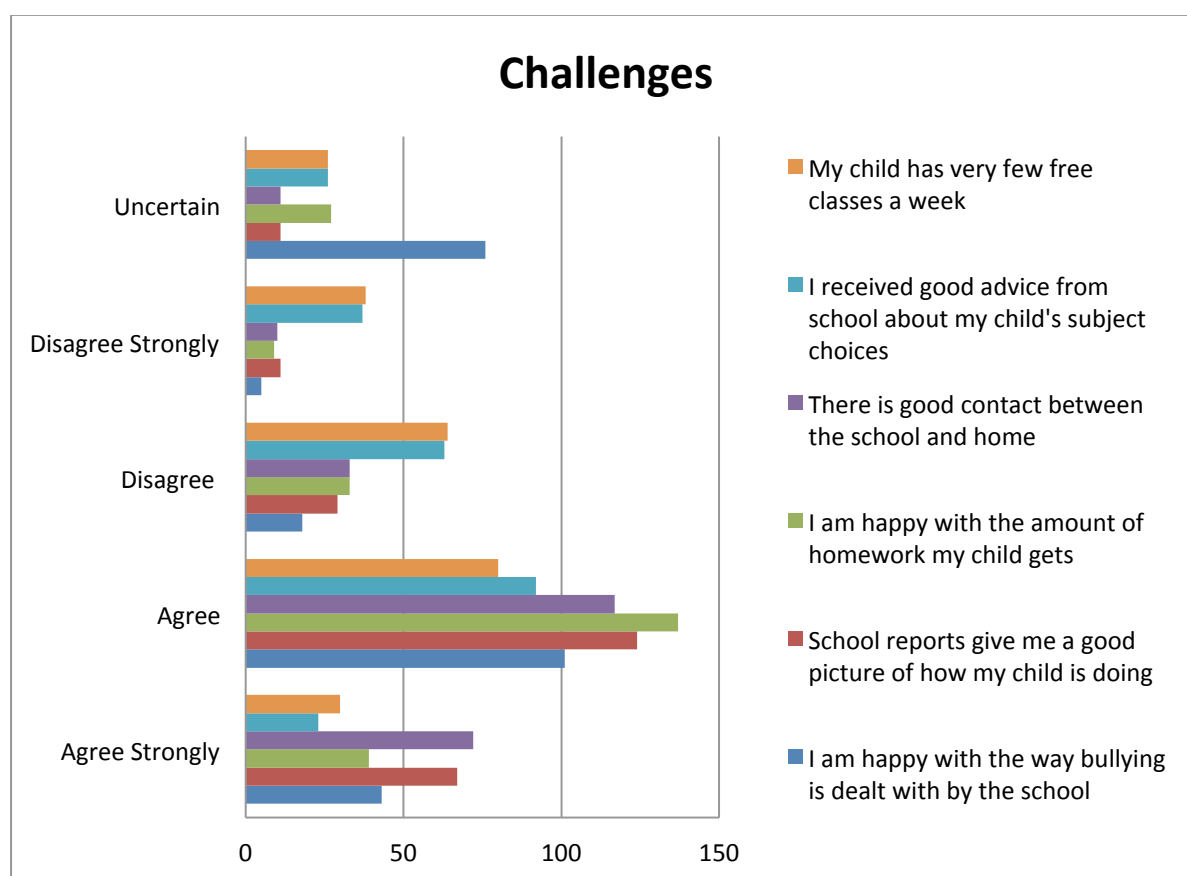
1 Atmosphere/friendly/sense of belonging	116
2 Boys-happy/nice/motivated /love school/proud	71
3 Teachers-good/committed /young	63
4 Good facilities	29
5 Teacher and student interaction	27
6 Discipline/policies	26
7 Ethos/pastoral care	26
8 Extracurricular activities	23
9 Academia and subject choice good	23

Highlights of 'In Pursuit of Excellence' Survey

PARENTS - Challenges

	AS	A	D	DS	U	Total
My child has very few free classes a week	30	80	64	38	26	238
I received good advice from the school about my child's subject choices	23	92	63	37	26	241
There is good contact between the school and home	72	117	33	10	11	243
I am happy with the amount of homework my child gets	39	137	33	9	27	245
School reports give me a good picture of how my child is doing	67	124	29	11	11	242
I am happy with the way bullying is dealt with by the school **	43	101	18	5	76	243

** whilst numbers dissatisfied are low, the School and Parents would aim for 100% satisfaction on this issue.



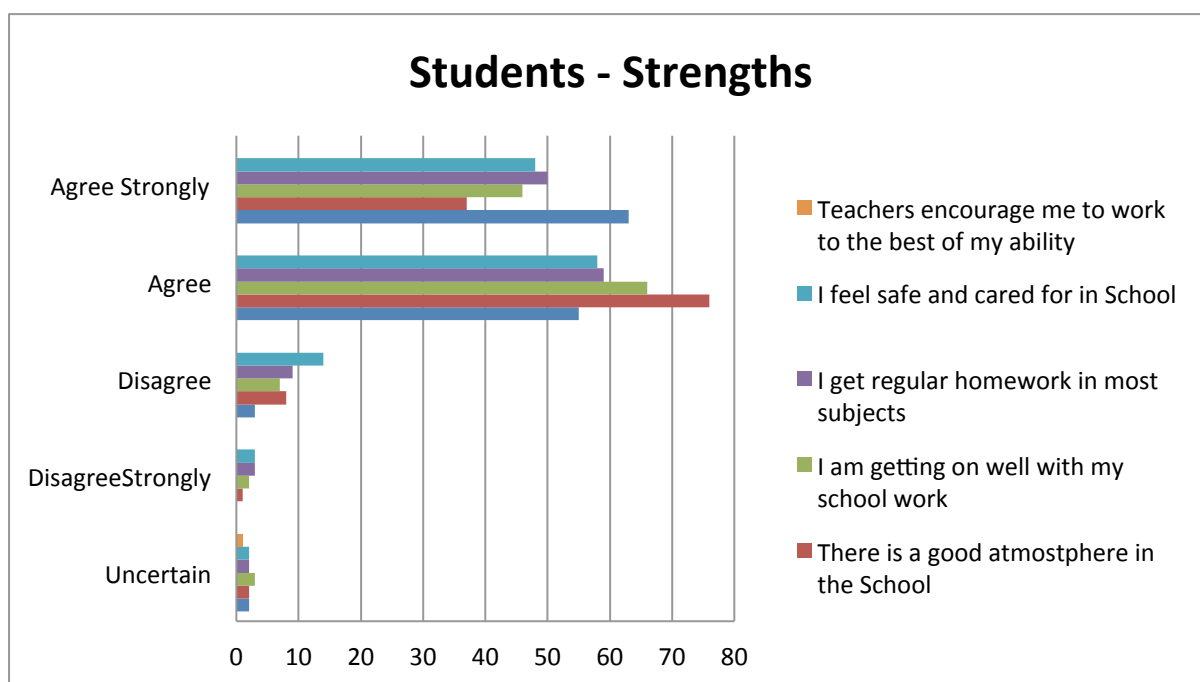
COMMENTS FROM PARENTS RE CHALLENGES

1 Rugby- all panel 1/too much/ not other sports	66
2 School fees/pupil no's/recession/budget cuts	36
3 Teachers-poor/grinds/uneven teaching standards	32
4 Alcohol/drugs/substance abuse	29
5 Communication between school and parents/reports	20
6 Free periods-too many	18
7 Discipline-poor	16
8 Bullying-cyber	13
9 Focus on IT/ePortal	12
10 Career guidance	11

Highlights of 'In Pursuit of Excellence' Survey

STUDENTS - Strengths

	AS	A	D	DS	U	Total
There is a good atmosphere in the school	63	55	3	0	2	123
I am getting on well with my school work	37	76	8	1	2	124
I get regular home work in most subjects	46	66	7	2	3	124
I feel safe and cared for in the school	50	59	9	3	2	123
Teachers encourage me to work to the best of my ability	48	58	14	3	2	125



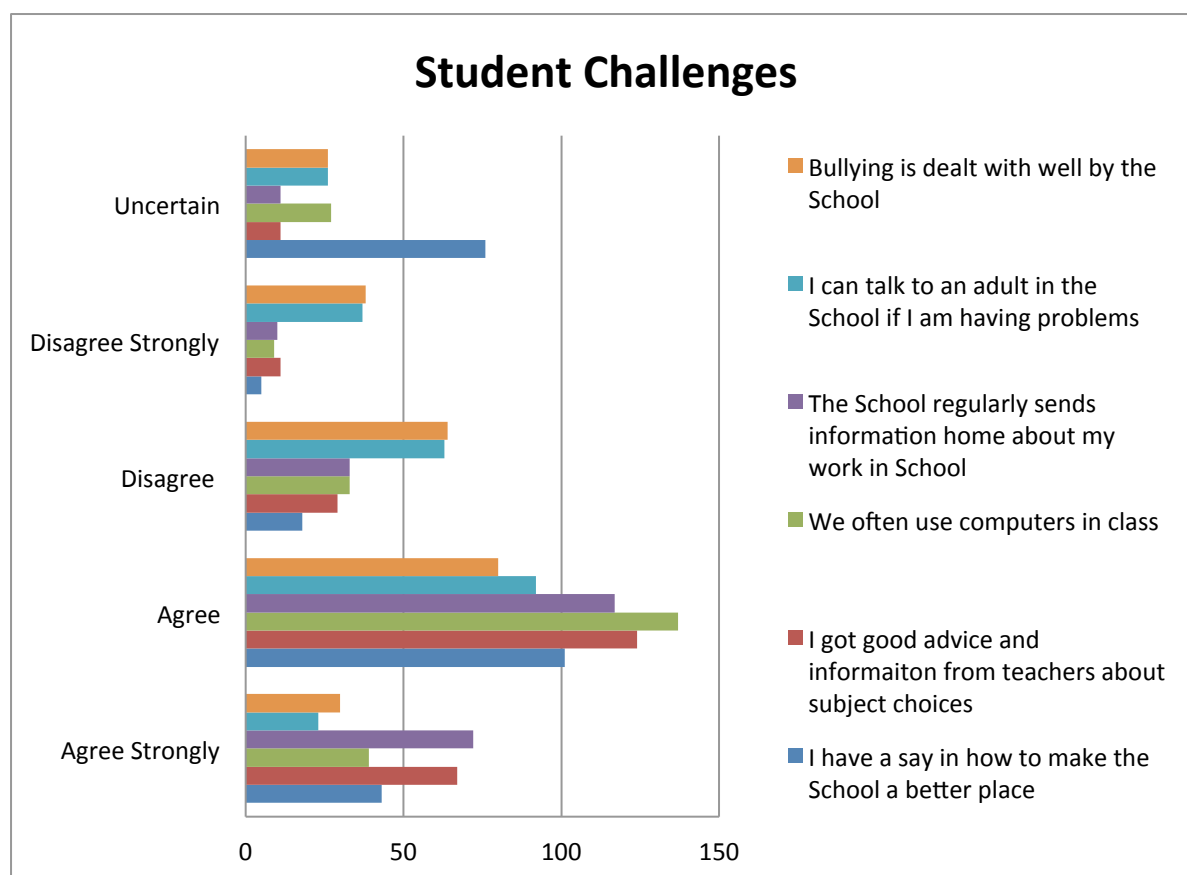
STUDENTS – POSITIVE COMMENTS

1 Atmosphere/community/friendly	54
2 Facilities-sports/gym/pool	38
3 Helpful teachers	33
4 Teachers good/ok	31
5 Extracurricular	31
6 Rugby good	20
7 Relationship between teachers and students	14
8 Nice students	13
9 Nice staff	12
10 Innovative teaching/classes interesting	10

Highlights of 'In Pursuit of Excellence' Survey

STUDENT - Challenges

	AS	A	D	DS	U	Total
The school regularly sends information home about my work in school	16	38	43	16	11	124
I have a say in how to make the school a better place	12	39	28	32	12	123
I got good advice and information from teachers about subject choice	12	35	37	26	15	125
We often use computers in classes	11	19	36	54	5	125
I can talk to an adult in the school if I am having problems	26	66	19	7	7	125
Bullying is dealt with well by the school	35	50	14	14	10	123



STUDENTS - CHALLENGES

1 Canteen- food bad/drinks/microwaves	68
2 Teachers- some bad/disinterested/not listening	32
3 Internet	28
4 Toilets dirty	17
5 Sports no fun-all emphasis on rugby	15
6 Improve facilities-pool/furniture/bells/gym	15
7 Bullying- cyber/during class	12
8 Little use of computers/IT/computers broken	12
9 Pitches poor	8
10 Too many free periods	6

Highlights of 'In Pursuit of Excellence' Survey

Questionnaire for Parents - November 2012						
1 = Agree Strongly 2 = Agree 3 = Disagree 4 = Disagree Strongly 5 = Uncertain	No. of votes for each score					
	<i>No. of 1's</i>	<i>No. of 2's</i>	<i>No. of 3's</i>	<i>No. of 4's</i>	<i>No. of 5's</i>	<i>Total</i>
I sign my child's homework journal on a weekly basis	7	25	109	70	21	232
The school consults me if my child needs extra help	14	49	35	27	103	228
The school regularly seeks the views of parents on school activities	18	60	76	35	51	240
I received good advice from the school about my child's subject choices	23	92	63	37	26	241
My child has very few free classes in a week	30	80	64	38	26	238
Teachers regularly check my child's written work	30	109	24	14	61	238
There are sufficient learning supports in place	30	64	21	9	108	232
I am happy with the amount of homework my child gets	39	137	33	9	27	245
There are good arrangements for parent/teacher meetings	40	140	28	11	26	245
I am satisfied with the way bullying is dealt with by the school	43	101	18	5	76	243
Teaching is good in the school	43	149	19	5	27	243
If I have a problem with the school I get a fair hearing	44	91	19	6	76	236
The school pays attention to drugs and alcohol issues	53	119	17	4	50	243
I have had opportunities to interact with parents in my son's year group	54	143	19	5	18	239
I am aware of the work of the school's parents association	56	143	25	6	16	246
After school study arrangements are working well	60	101	9	4	58	232
Discipline is good in the school	62	137	22	5	15	241
Facilities are good in the school	67	158	16	0	4	245
School reports give me a good picture of how my child is doing	67	124	29	11	11	242
My child is doing well in school	71	138	15	2	17	243
There is good contact between the school and home	72	117	33	10	11	243
The school is well run	75	143	13	4	10	245
I am aware of the code of behaviour / school rules	77	144	12	1	12	246
The information about how to enrol my child in the school is clear	83	117	5	0	28	233
Overall I am happy with the school	90	122	13	3	13	241
The school helps my child social and personal development	93	119	12	6	15	245
I understand the Ethos of St. Michael's College	100	126	2	3	15	246
My child is involved in activities (e.g. music/sports outside class time)	102	111	20	7	4	244
I support the Ethos of St. Michael's College	104	113	6	1	20	244
I know whom to talk to in the school if there is a problem	113	112	13	1	8	247
My child feels safe and well looked after in the school	121	106	9	3	7	246

Highlights of 'In Pursuit of Excellence' Survey

There is a good atmosphere in the school	126	100	8	1	9	244
My child enjoys going to school	129	96	7	2	9	243
The school made my child welcome when he first enrolled	137	98	4	3	4	246
I would attend evening classes if made available	NO	75			YES	120

Highlights of 'In Pursuit of Excellence' Survey

Questionnaire for Students - December 2012							
1 = Agree Strongly 2 = Agree 3 = Disagree 4 = Disagree Strongly 5 = Uncertain		No. of votes for each score					
		<i>No. of 1's</i>	<i>No. of 2's</i>	<i>No. of 3's</i>	<i>No. of 4's</i>	<i>No. of 5's</i>	<i>Total</i>
I am proud to be in this school		82	38	0	2	2	124
I get on well with other students in the school		73	47	2	1	2	125
There is a good atmosphere in the school		63	55	3	0	2	123
I am getting on well with my school work		37	76	8	1	2	124
I get regular home work in most subjects		46	66	7	2	3	124
I feel safe and cared for in the school		50	59	9	3	2	123
I do other activities e.g. music / sports / debating outside of class time		68	40	12	4	1	125
Teachers encourage me to work to the best of my ability		48	58	14	3	2	125
I understand the school rules		51	52	14	5	3	125
Attendance at classes is checked regularly		53	47	20	2	3	125
I enjoy going to my classes		18	78	17	1	7	121
My classes are interesting		21	74	16	4	7	122
My work is checked regularly in school		19	77	18	7	3	124
Teachers explain things clearly for me in my classes		27	68	15	5	10	125
I have very few free classes each week		34	58	21	10	1	124
I can talk to an adult in the school if I am having problems		26	66	19	7	7	125
The facilities available in the school are good		23	69	19	7	7	125
Bullying is dealt with well by the school		35	50	14	14	10	123
Teachers tell me how I can improve		29	56	28	4	8	125
I am expected to use my journal to record all homework		37	46	21	17	2	123
I get opportunities to work with other students in my classes		24	57	28	12	2	123
My classes begin on time		23	59	30	5	8	125
Teachers listen to me and take notice of what I say		25	55	26	10	8	124
The school pays attention to drug and alcohol issues		31	45	21	12	14	123
The school regularly sends information home about my work in school		16	38	43	16	11	124
I have a say in how to make the school a better place		12	39	28	32	12	123
I got good advice and information from teachers about subject choice		12	35	37	26	15	125
We often use computers in classes		11	19	36	54	5	125

Highlights of 'In Pursuit of Excellence' Survey

Meeting with the Parents Association on facility works following comments by Parents and Pupils during the "In Pursuit of Excellence" Survey – 25th February 2013

The following work is in the course of taking place or has taken place over the past number months around the campus:

- Third year corridor (first floor)
- Toilets
- ICT/Wi-Fi network upgrade
- Internet broadband
- Computer classroom
- Canteen
- Playing fields
- Swimming pool
- Gym/weights room
- Furniture replacement

In addition to the above, over the past two years there has been substantial upgrade works carried out around the school and campus:

- Construction studies room
- Sports hall
- Installation of well
- ICT equipment
- Guidance Suite
- Other
 - Substantial roof repairs (on-going)
 - New accounting software
 - CCTV Security equipment partially replaced
 - Resurfaced tennis courts
 - New lift doors
 - New heating installed in the canteen/kitchen
 - Staff room kitchenette replaced
 - New blinds in most classrooms
 - Sound proofing rooms 17 and 18