



**Blatchington
Mill School**
Involvement, Achievement & Care



Blatchington Mill Summer School 2021 Report

Overall Organisation	3
Aim	3
General Information	3
Values and Ethos	4
Activities	4
Logistics	5
Week Plan	5
Daily Routine	6
Food Provision	6
Activities Planning	7
Primary Leaders and Leaders	7
Activity Plan Submittal and Approval	7
Risk Assessments	7
Volunteers	7
Financial Data	8
Students Attending and Financial Claim towards DfE	8
Personnel	8
Catering	8
Resources	8
Expenses Chart and Final Conclusions	9
Evaluations	10
Feedback from Staff	10
Primary Leaders Responses - Activities Planning	10
Leaders Responses - Activities Running	12
Primary and Leaders Responses - Run of the Summer School	13
Feedback from Parents and Carers	16
Feedback from Students	18
Conclusions	21

Overall Organisation

Aim

The aim of the programme is to deliver a short summer school with a blend of academic education and enrichment activities, ensuring students had the opportunity to socialise with each other and develop face to face friendships; areas often lost during lockdowns.

During our varied activities the students had the chance to

- meet with their peers
- make new friends
- visit the school for the first time ever
- explore school facilities in a more contained, quieter environment
- get ready to go to school after the pandemic
- get to know different teachers & school staff in a more relaxed educative approach
- boost self confidence and supporting wellbeing
- overcome shyness and bias regarding whether liked or not activities by incentivizing their sense of discovery
- relieve apprehension for the new start at a new school
- have fun with educational activities
- develop team working skills and communication
- experience the Blatchington Mill School ethos and understand the values BMS holds as important
- be treated equally with the provision of food etc for all
- become part of the school community

The intent is for students to complete tasks they may never have tried before as well as learn new skills. The variety of activities that the children will undertake each day will enable them to find the right balance between what they already like and what they probably haven't had the chance to try yet!

General Information

The Blatchington Mill Summer School took place **from Monday 23rd August to Friday 27th August for 4 hours a day (10.00am to 2.00pm).**

A total of **three sessions of 1 hour each** were organised for each day.

There were **two break times** during the day. The first break would last 20 minutes (from 11.00 to 11.20) and the lunch break of 40 minutes was from 12.20pm to 1.00pm.

On **Monday** all students were welcomed during Session 1 in the Theatre by their new Head of Year, where the specifics of the Summer School were discussed in detail: recap of timing, Attendance, Ethos and Values, behaviour expectations, food provision etc..

On **Wednesday** a Sports Day merged all students together in competing as their different form groups in 7 different disciplines.

On **Friday**, a celebratory session closed the Summer School week. During this session the Head of Year awarded those students who achieved the most points in those categories presented during the Welcoming Session (further details in "Values and Ethos").

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10 - 11am	Welcoming Session	Session 1	Active Wednesday	Session 1	Session 1
11 - 11.20am	B	R	E	A	K
11.20am - 12.20pm	Session 2	Session 2	Active Wednesday	Session 2	Session 2
12.20 - 1pm	L	U	N	C	H
1 - 2pm	Session 3	Session 3	Active Wednesday	Session 3	Celebration & Certificates

Values and Ethos

The **Year Office** set out the 4+1 pillars of the Summer School.

All Primary Leaders were asked to create or modify their activity in accordance to those values: not only by integrating them into the structure of the session but also by actively promoting them during the day.

All the values of Summer School were shared with students during the Welcoming Session.

The Year Office also promoted these during the Celebration Session at the end of the week, the students with most **Achievement points** were rewarded with certificates and prizes, ranging from wireless earpods, medals and Amazon gift cards.

In this way, the students were stimulated in acting according to the ethos and values promoted by the Summer School, reinforcing the positive behaviour and values expected and celebrated in the Blatch community.

A first pillar would be **Attendance**: the commitment to attend every day in order to take advantage of the experience will be rewarded.

Kindness: Showing outstanding kindness to others during the activities. Be nice to each other.

Inclusivity: Working well as part of the team and making sure all members of the group feel included

Resilience: Showing outstanding resilience during the activities. Being determined and not giving up at the first sign of challenge.

Discovery: Taking initiative to deliver outstanding independent work. Develop an independent thinking process.

The **ethos** surrounding Summer School doesn't differ from our community day-to-day spirit.

Education is a transformative force, even when it is curated through 'fun' activities.

High expectations in terms of behaviour and conduct set the standards for the interactions within our community, where the emotional, mental health and wellbeing of the individual young person is nurtured through a caring, positive, safe and stimulating environment.

Activities

The Activities chosen would fall into 6 categories:

- Practical with something to take home
- Practical
- Indoor Teamwork
- Outdoor Teamwork
- Physical/Sport
- Classroom based

In this way, we offered busy sessions for adventurous children, calmer ones for reflective minds, creative ones for the artistic spirits. But everyone experienced the full range. The approach was deliberately varied; classroom, allotment or field based. The intent is for students to complete tasks they may never have tried before as well as learn new skills. The variety of activities that each child will undertake each day will enable them to find the right balance between what they already like and what they probably haven't had the chance to try yet!

Below is the list of activities **planned and delivered** during the Summer School.

Bouldering Wall	Gardening	Rounders
Dance	Survival Abroad (Languages Fun)	Harry Potter Science
First Aid	Book Reading & Drama	Spray Paint / Stencil Paint
Food Tech	How High? Newspaper Building	Trampolining
Football	Teambuilding	Treasure Hunt
Twist and Twirls (Design Tech)		

Active Wednesday (Sports Day) Activities:

- Long Jump
- Howlers
- Tug War
- Sack Race
- 80m Sprint
- High Jump
- Tchoukball

Additional Activities were also planned for as a backup in case a supply leader was needed or in case of poor weather :

- Basketball
- BitBot Robotics
- *Design our new Quad!*
- Friendship Bracelets

Logistics

Week Plan

Eleven Year 7 **Form Groups** of 30 students were each **divided in half**, taking into consideration expression of preferences regarding student's friends. Groups were never larger than 15 students at any one time, often less.

Therefore, **every day** a total of **22 different activities** were run at the same time.

Each **half group** had a total of **13 sessions at the end of the week**, plus the Welcoming and Celebration Sessions.

A mix of different kinds of activities was scheduled for each group: in this way each one would have the opportunity to experiment at least each one of the six categories mentioned above.

Daily Routine

Every morning, all students were asked to gather in a specific Blatch playground for registration with their leader leading the first session of the day.

After the first session, each half group would go to a designated **break space** (rotating during the week) in order to meet with a cluster of students. Break spaces rotated to help students get to know the school environs.

This measure also helped us in containing and identifying potential isolation needs in case of infections by COVID-19 for a student in any cluster.

At the end of the break, the Session 2 Leader would go and pick their half group up and escort them to the next session.

The same approach would be followed by Leaders of Session 3 after **lunch break**.

Each break space was supervised by a staff member on duty.

Food Provision

All students were given a free BMS water bottle at the start of the week to ensure they were always hydrated. Families had been told in advance they would receive this. Access to our multiple outdoor drinking taps aided this.

Each child and member of staff was provided with free lunch every day during the Summer School week.

The food was catered by our Blatch catering provider. This helped us in showcasing the food range and standards of quality of the products that the new Y7 would encounter when the school started.

All food provided met School Food Standards and legal requirements.

The food preparation also adheres to halal requirements.

Two set of menus were designed specifically for the programme:

Cold Deli Menu

- 1 Baguette (Meat or Veggie Option)
- 1 piece of Cake of the Day
- 1 piece of Fruit
- 1 carton of Drink

Hot Deli Menu

- 1 portion of Main Meal of the day (Meat or Veggie Option)
- 1 Dessert
- 1 carton of Drink

Children chose each day which to have.

There was a rotation of groups each day as to who went to lunch first or last.

Activities Planning

Primary Leaders and Leaders

The preparation for the Summer School started in June.

Following an initial survey sent out to staff on the interest in running a Summer School, Blatch staff were asked to offer their availability for the chosen week and what kind of involvement they would like to offer towards the activity planning.

Primary Leaders were those who offered to be the main person responsible for an activity and all the requirements that this entails: planning, budgeting, briefing other people on how to run it, evaluate risks and get risk assessments approved, as well as actually running it. Leaders were those that only offered availability to run an activity designed and curated by others.

However, the whole process of planning the entire week didn't make any discrimination between the two categories of people when it came to the level of involvement with routine meetings and feedback requests.

Activity Plan Submittal and Approval

All staff who applied to be a Primary Leader were then asked to submit details of an Activity they would like to organise.

After a review, conducted by Summer School Leadership members, of all the activities submitted and an evaluation on how these would cater to the ethos and values that drove the project, the final activities were chosen.

The Primary Leaders were then asked to submit a **Financial Bid** in which all the expenses were calculated based on the number of sessions they would have covered (15 students in each).

Once the bid was approved against a comprehensive analysis of benefits vs costs, the materials were purchased and provided to the Primary Leader, ready to prepare for the Summer School.

Risk Assessments

The risks concerning each activity were assessed by the Primary Leader by completing the standard form provided by BHCC.

The Risk Assessment was then reviewed by the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Health & Safety Lead.

Once approved, all Leaders were asked to read and understand the RA associated with the Activity they were due to lead.

Volunteers

The organisation "Off the Fence" also took part in the Summer School offer, by supporting our Admin Staff and meeting the students during their breaks in order to familiarise themselves with the activity of the charity.

All charity's personnel went through the complete safeguarding process and work in the school already.

Financial Data

Students Attending and Financial Claim towards DfE

All New Y7 Students were offered a place in May 2021.

The **total amount claimed** is 1481 days * £59.7 per student per day = **£88,415.70**

Personnel

The total costs for personnel during the Summer School period is £27,937.50

Catering

A free meal was provided for both students and staff for all five days.

The menu as described above had a cost of £2.90 each.

The **total cost for catering provision is £4,655.70**

Resources

In accordance with Government guidance regarding Summer School, the value for money was amongst our top priorities when choosing the kind of activity to perform and the kind of materials to purchase to do so.

Therefore, all equipment necessary for Summer School has been chosen wisely, having in mind which department, academic programme or extracurricular activity may benefit from the use of those materials once the Summer School was over.

For this reason, not only the leaders preparing the activity but also the Head of Departments, SEN and First Aid Department were involved in the decision making process.

Moreover, Blatchington Mill School committed to let the new Y7 students benefit from a legacy: a series of improvements to the school's facilities will accompany the new starters during their years at Blatch.

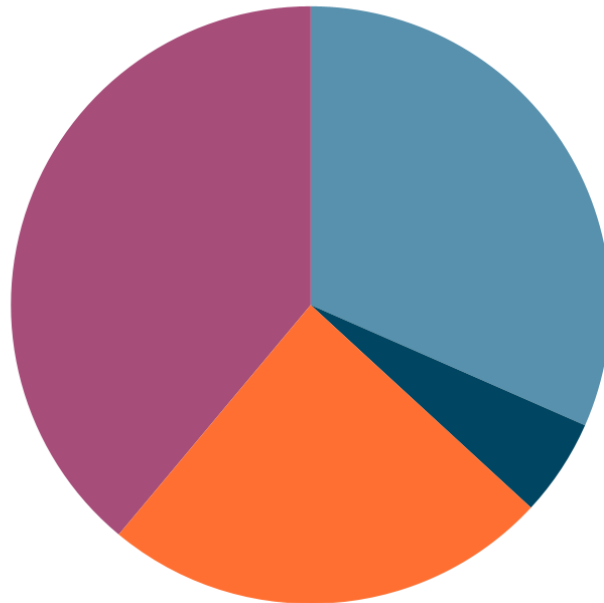
A renovation of the equipment in the Food Tech is now provided to the students; new benches across all break spaces designed to integrate disabled students are being delivered to school; new standing baseball hoops for a break space where football playing was deemed as unsafe. An ongoing project saw our Y7 designing the new Quad.

The total amount spent on equipment for activities and permanent improvements is **£55,822.48**

Expenses Chart and Final Conclusions

Blatchington Mill Summer School 2021 Expenses

- Personnel
- Catering Provision
- Activities
- Permanent Improvement



*Permanent Improvement = items which were bought for Summer School use which the rest of the school now benefits from beyond the Summer School itself eg picnic benches, free standing basketball hoops.

A total amount of £88,415.70 was spent on Blatchington Mill Summer School 2021. The whole allowance was spent towards Summer School 2021.

Evaluations

On the last day of the week, all the Summer School users were asked to **evaluate the experience considering several different factors**.

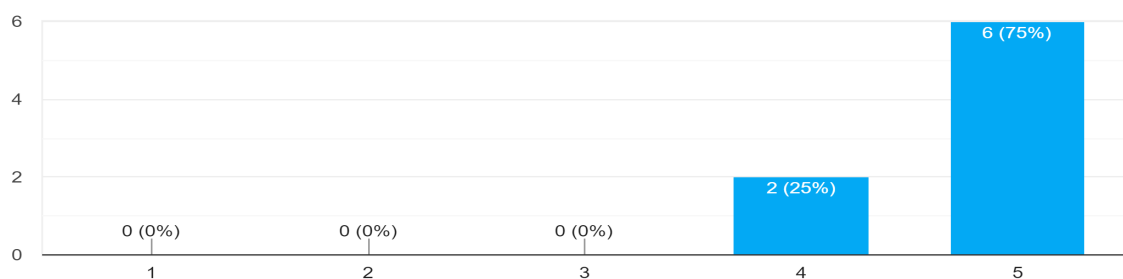
Feedback from Staff

The survey was completed by 8 members of staff.

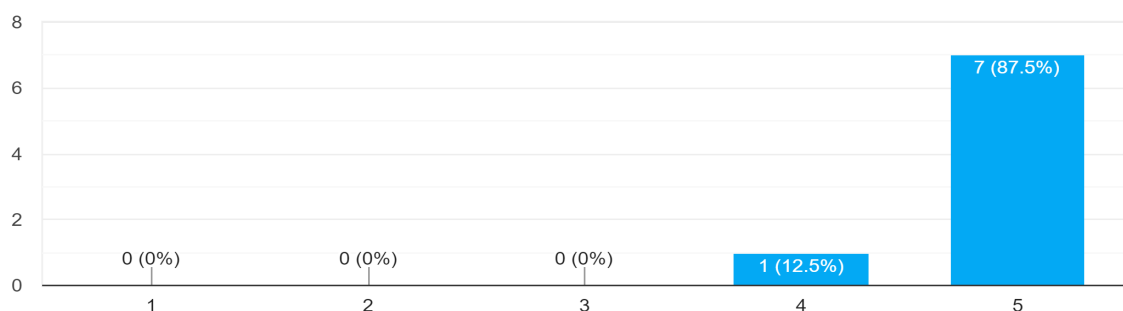
The 62.5% of the responses were from Primary Leaders and the other 37.5% from Leaders.

Primary Leaders Responses - Activities Planning

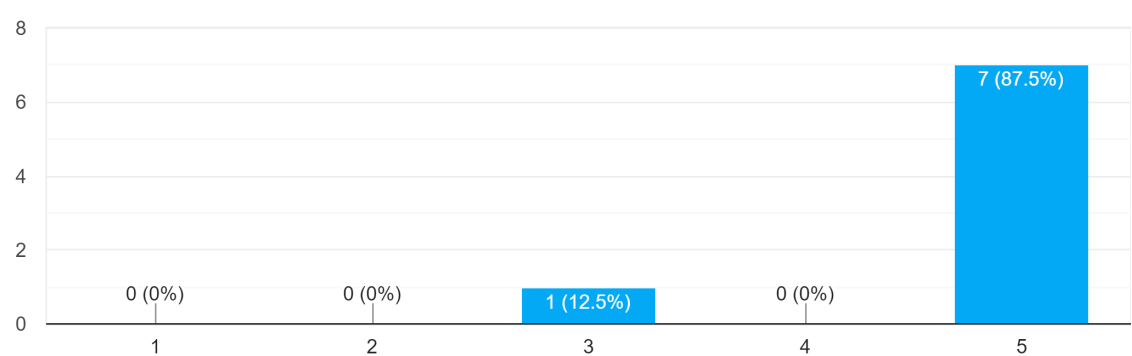
How would you rate the process of submitting your activity plan? (1 being poor and 5 being excellent)
8 responses



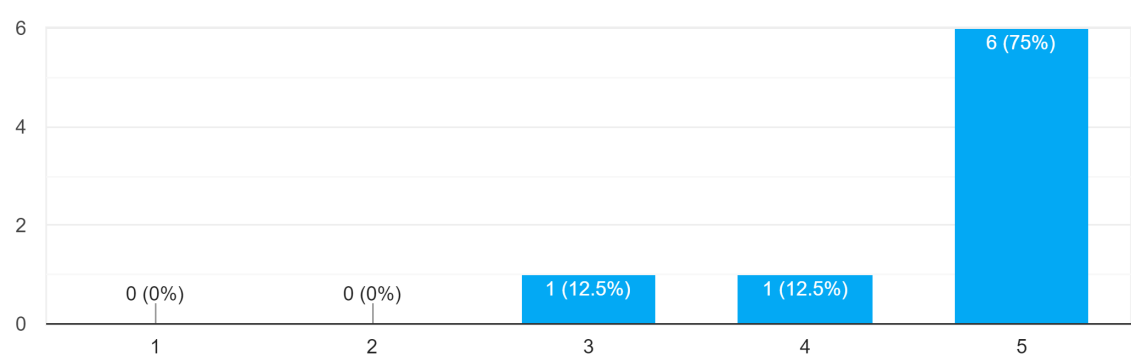
How would you rate the process of getting the funds approved for your activity? (1 being poor and 5 being excellent)
8 responses



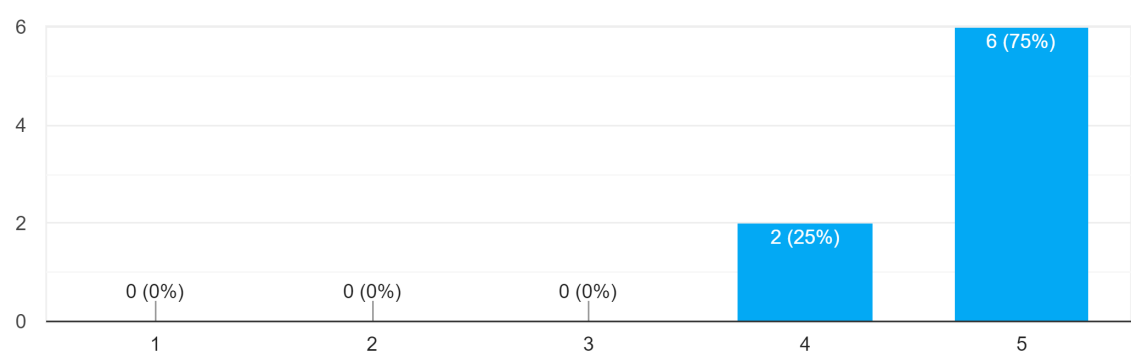
How easy was it to find information regarding each subject in the Shared Drive? (1 = hard, 5 = easy)
8 responses



How easy was it to SHARE information in the Shared Drive? (1 = hard, 5 = easy)
8 responses

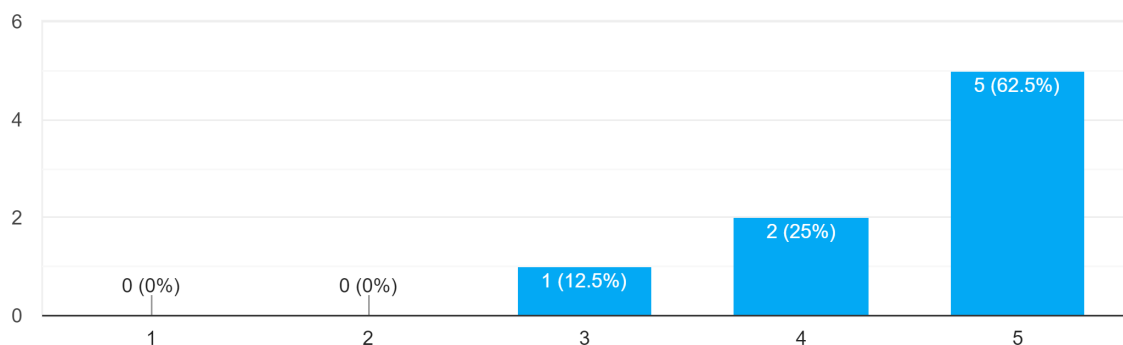


How clear did you find the communication between you and the SS management during the organisation of the Summer School? (1 being poor and 5 being excellent)
8 responses



How smooth did you find the preparatory organisation of the Summer School?(1 being poor and 5 being excellent)

8 responses



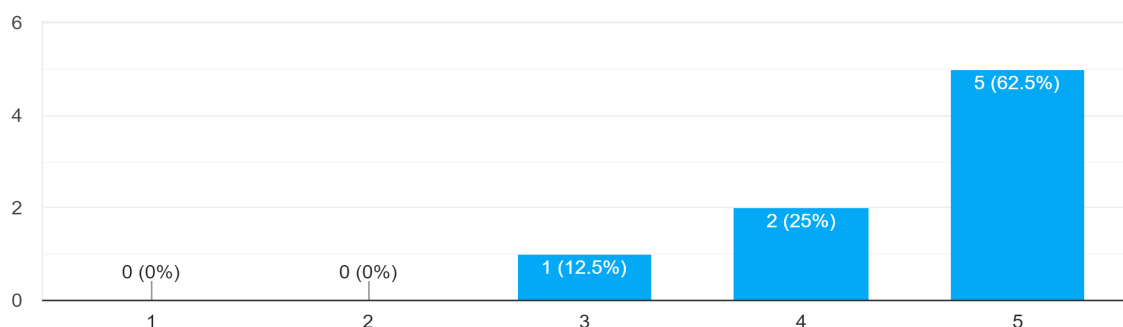
At the questions related to suggestions of improvements, different systems that could be used or general recommendations for improvement to different aspects of the Summer School, the **responses ranged**

- None [improvements to recommend]
- it was all very organised and clear
- Nothing, absolutely fantastically run, all areas covered thoroughly.
- Fewer and clearer spreadsheets, there was a lot of information to read through

Leaders Responses - Activities Running

How easy did you find collating all the information to smoothly run your activity? (1 being poor and 5 being excellent)

8 responses

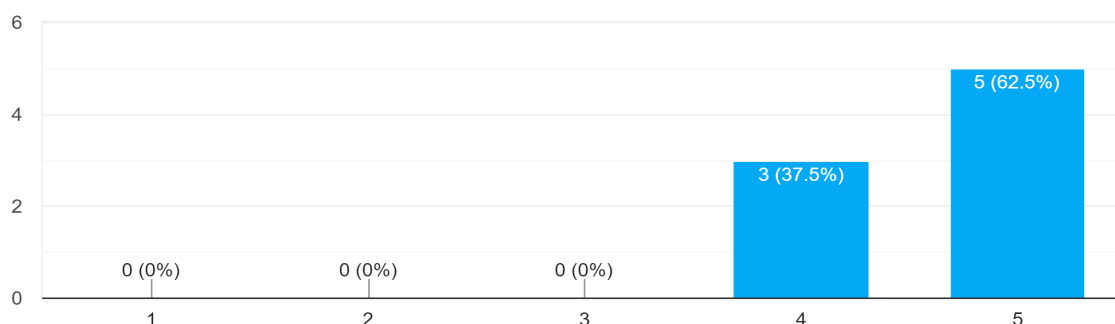


When asked: “Is there **any recommendation** you would like to suggest **to improve the system of sharing information** between Primary Leaders and yourself?” 100% of replies (37.5% of the total) replied that **there wasn’t any**.

Regarding the level of **satisfaction** on the **communication from Leadership Team** (VCI and RK)

How smooth did you find the general communication and preparatory organisation of the Summer School? In other words the more generic communca...dominantly. (1 being poor and 5 being excellent)

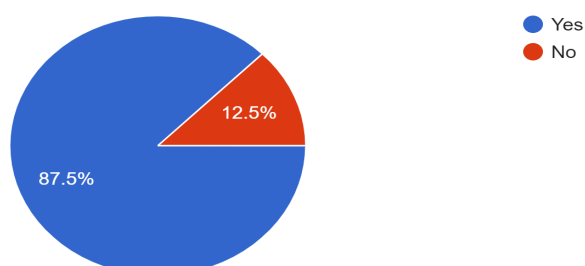
8 responses



Primary and Leaders Responses - Run of the Summer School

Was the information shared with you with regards to your timetable, rooms allocated and duties clear?

8 responses



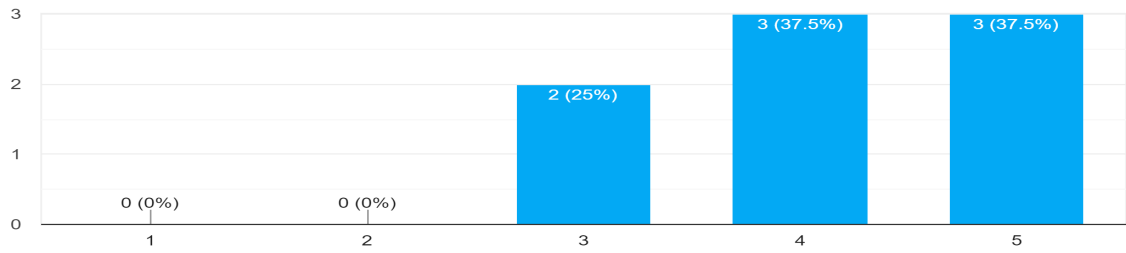
When asked what they would **improve** the responses are:

- Nothing
- Simpler collections and drop-off of students during breaks
- Too many documents to check
- Staff to be with the same group of students for whole day

All staff members that completed the survey think that all **students were aware** enough of what the Summer School would have consisted of. However, 1 person suggested that the timetable should have been shared in advance with students. It was a deliberate choice to not do this, as explained to families, to help students experience new experiences.

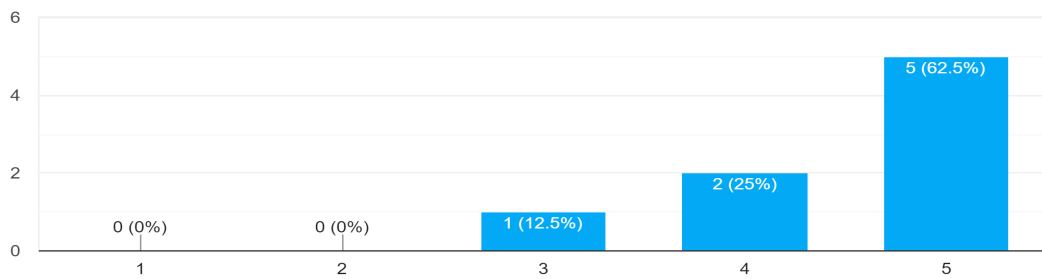
How would you rate the food provision?

8 responses



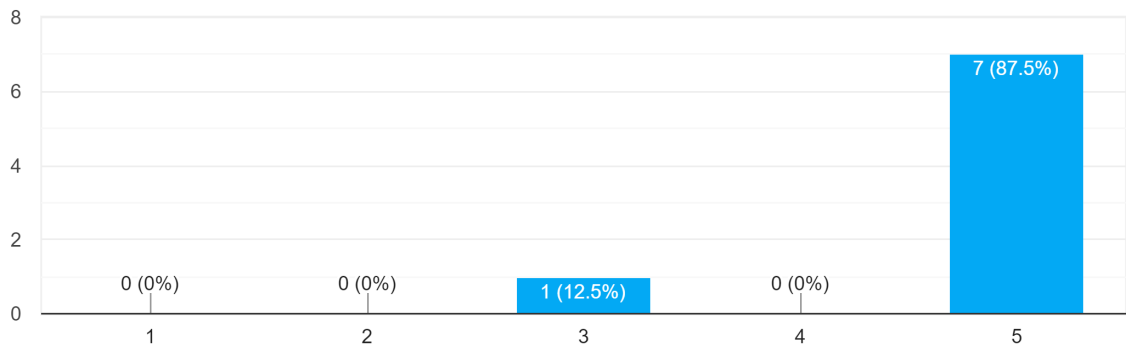
How clear were the instructions related to Breaks, Safeguarding, First Aid, Welcoming and Award sessions?

8 responses



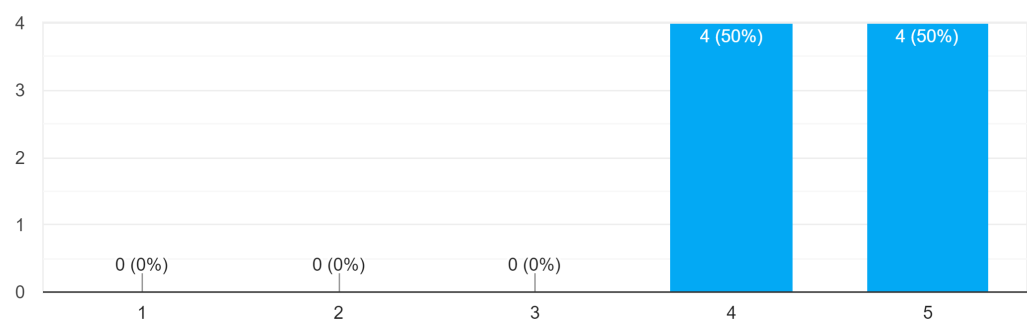
How would you rate the activities equipment provided?

8 responses



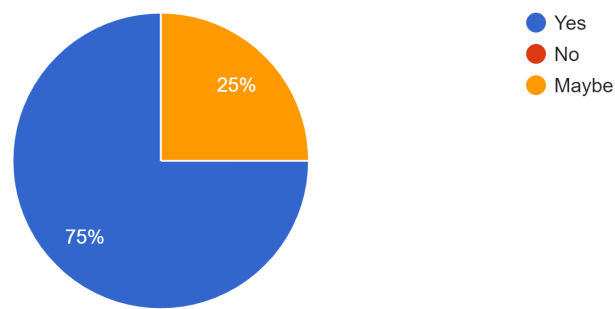
How would you rate the overall organisation of the Summer School during the week?

8 responses



Would you apply for participating into the Summer School next year if we ran one?

8 responses

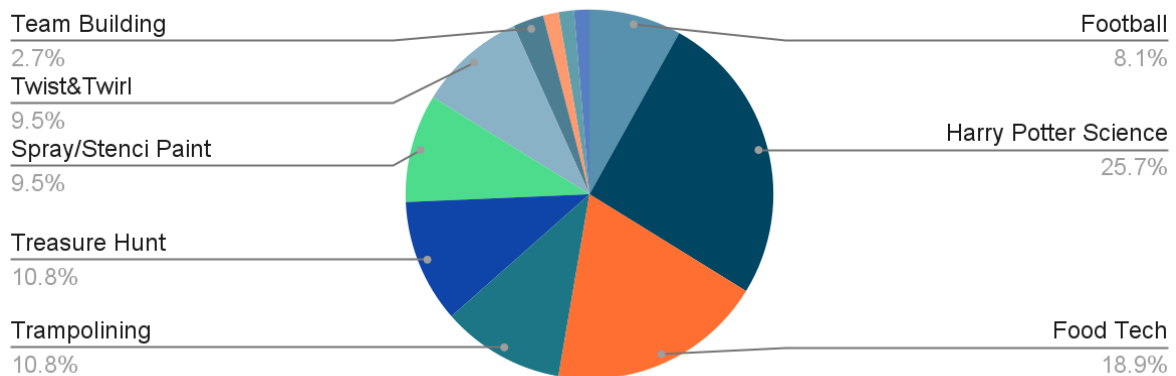


Feedback from Parents and Carers

The survey was completed by a total of **74** parents/carers.

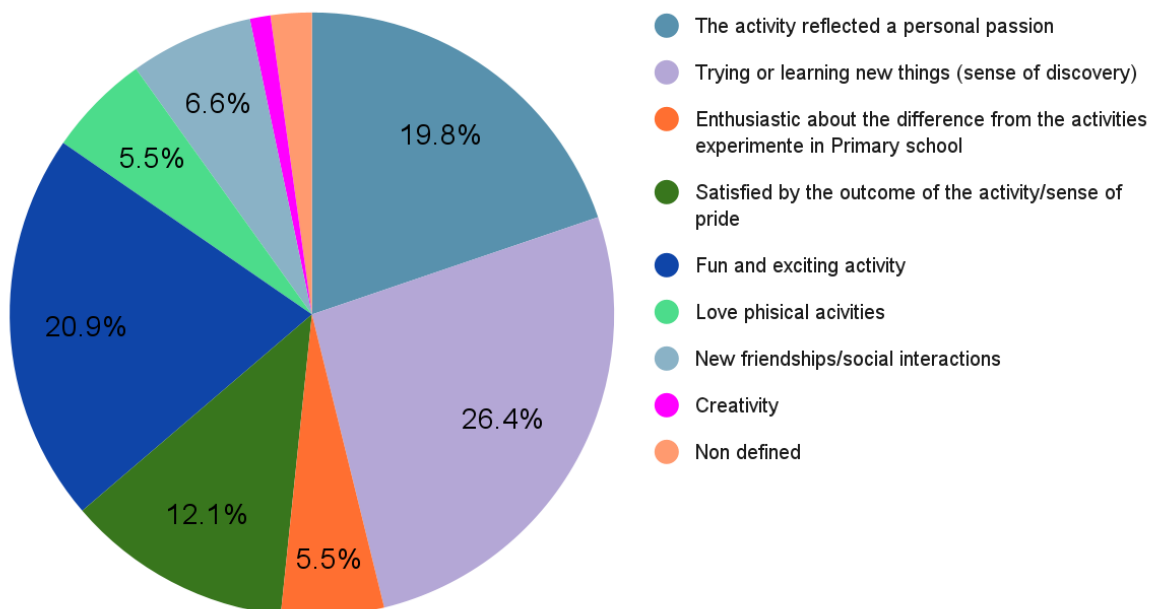
Below a chart of the favourite activities chosen by their children, as reported to parents/carers.

Favourite Activities



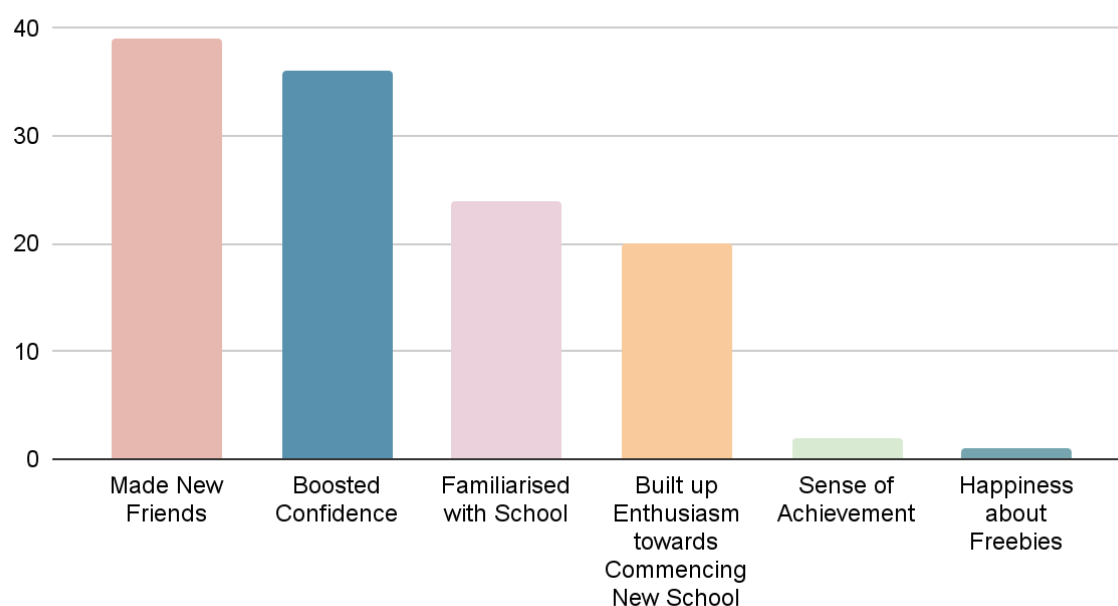
The reasons why those activities were chosen differ widely from one to another. Here it is a summary of the most recurrent statements about why they chose a specific activity

Why the child chose the preferred activity



The parents/carers were also asked what is the **most evident benefit** that their child gained from the experience.

What did your child gain from Summer School



When asked about any **improvements** they would like to see, the comments received were as follows:

- **No improvements** needed/ nothing [they] could think of: *31 expressions*
- To guarantee more **equality** among groups of students in accessing all the **activities** [due to lack of qualified teachers for specific sessions on some days]: *19 expressions*
- Suggested to **offer** the programme every year to **New Y7 Cohort**: *8 expressions*
- Ensure **groups are mixed** more [Covid measure]: *7 expressions*
- Different layout of the system to allow the **access to canteen**: *6 expressions*
- **Extended hours/more days**: *3 expressions*
- Miscellaneous: 3

Suggested Activities that could be introduced in future plannings:

- None (35)
- Activities that were already offered but that child didn't get the chance to experience (21) of which:
 - Trampoline 7
 - Harry Potter Science 3
 - Climbing Wall 3
 - Spray paint/Art 5

- New Activities suggested

Computing 3	Archery 1	Basketball 1	Tennis 1	Sewing/Knitting 2	Skateboarding 1	Board Games 1
Hockey 2	Crazy Golf 1	Music 1	Board Games 1	Netball 1	Water/Inflatable Games 2	

The feedback from all 74 forms submitted over the **Food Provisions** could be summarised as follow:

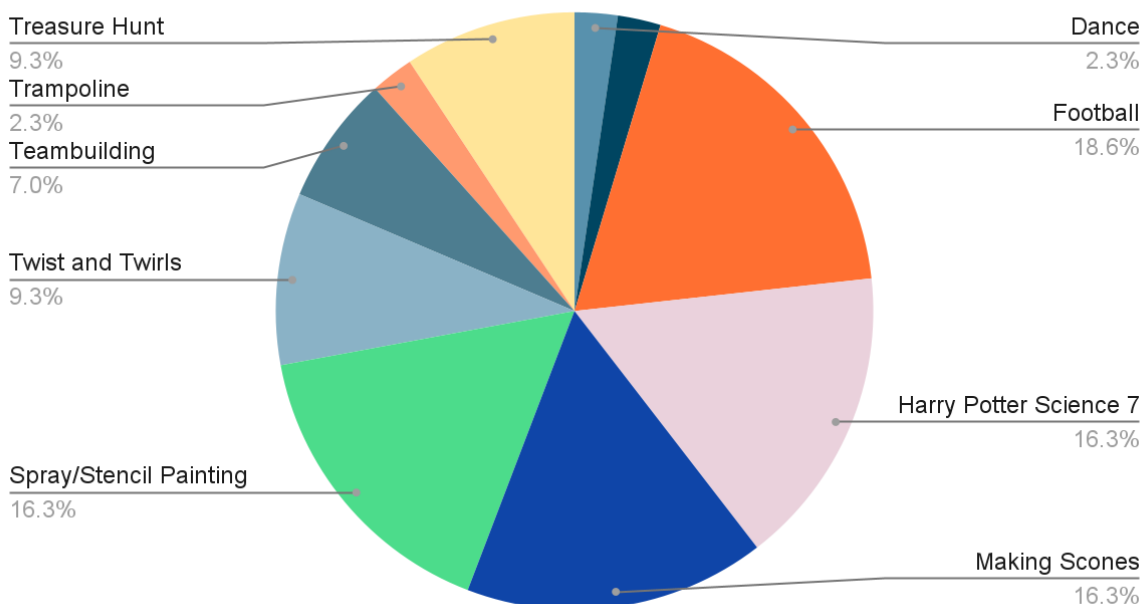
- 89.2% liked/enjoyed/loved the food
- 9.5% were confused about the queuing system/didn't always find what they wanted
- 1.4% didn't like food options

As **final conclusions**, 94.6% of parents/carers declared that their children made new friends during Summer School and 97.3% of the students are now enthusiastic about the commencing of the school.

Feedback from Students

The form was completed by a total of **43 students**.

Which was your favourite Activity?

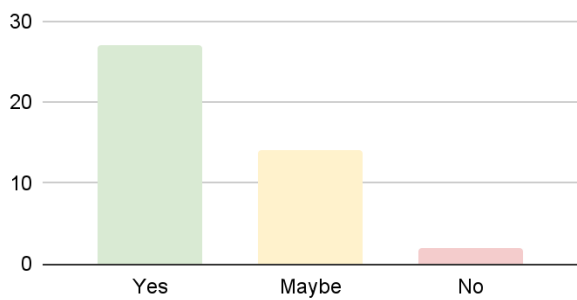


Among the **reasons** (more than one per reply) explained by the students as of why they liked that activity the most, they replied:

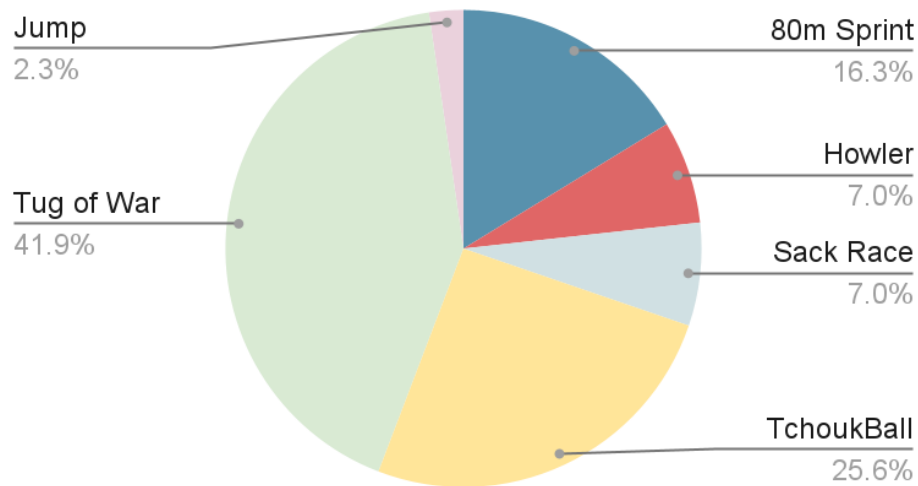
- Discovered something new: 16 students
- It was fun: 14 students
- I met new people: 9 students
- Boosted my sense of independence: 6 students
- It was already my passion: 5 students
- I enjoyed the final product: 4 students
- Allowed me to be creative: 4 students
- Loved being in a team: 3 students

ACTIVE WEDNESDAY

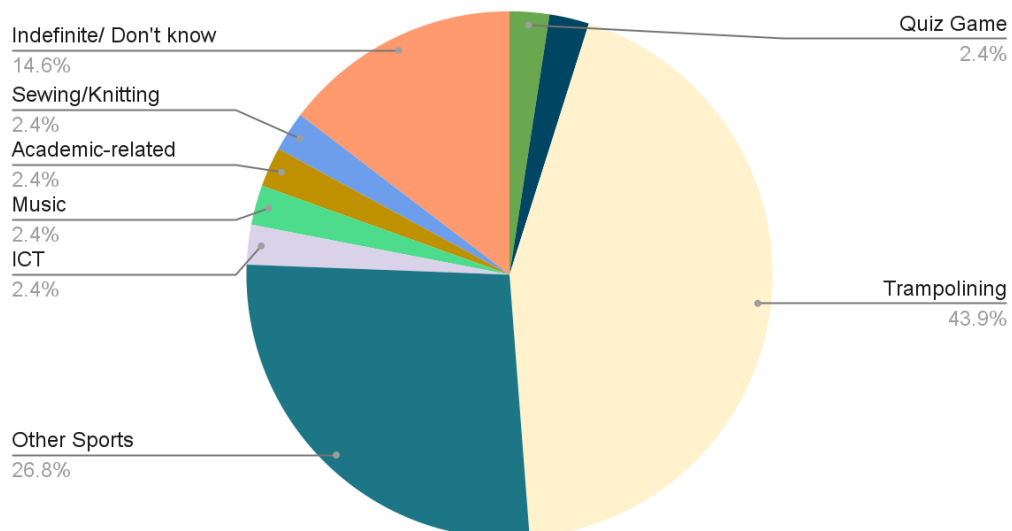
Did you like Active Wednesday?



Which Active Wednesday's Activity you liked the most?



Which Activity you would have liked?



Regarding the **canteen food**, 93% of students declared that they liked it, whilst only 7% of students (3) were not satisfied by it.

Only **one student** declared that they **haven't made new friends** during Summer School, whilst the other 42 declared that they did.

Six students when asked whether they were looking forward to the commencing of Blatch replied with "Maybe", whilst the other 37 replied with a "Yes". There were no "No"s registered against the same question.

When asked to add any comment on **what worries them the most** about commencing at Blatch, **31 students** said "**Nothing**".

Remaining 12 students said they were afraid of getting lost/not being able to find their classes (7 students) ; of getting along with new friends (3 students) ; to get in trouble for poor behaviour/get punishments (1 student) ; being in the same school with much older students (1 student).

The Year Team staff were then able to pick up on all of these concerns with students at the start of the school year and allay their fears.

Conclusions

We think that nothing better than direct feedback from students and parents/carers can summarise the general feeling about how the summer school went.

Students' Comments

- *"I found summer school really fun and enjoyed meeting people who are in my form and year group. I also enjoyed meeting teachers who may teach me during my time at Blatch. Therefore I recommend you organize this every year when new year 7's join Blatch."*
- *"Thank you for this joyful experience you've been able to offer. I already feel part of the Blatch family, and hope to continue with that kind of attitude and mindset throughout the coming years. I promise to do my best and try to give it all I've got. Thank you for making me feel at home."*
- *"I really enjoyed it all and think so that all the teachers are lovely."*
- *"no everything in summer school was really great and the teachers are all very kind and helpful"*
- *"I am really excited"*
- *"Thank you for letting me come to summer school"*
- *"The food is yummy 😊"*
- *"Thank you for an amazing time."*
- *"I thought that Summer school was a very good idea to get to know the school, people and it got me excited for starting at Blatch. Thank you!"*

Parents'/Carers' Comments

Just thank you so much for putting it on

My child graded summer school 10 out of 10. Just fantastic. Thank you so much!

Not really. I would just like to thank you again for organising such a great summer school and for all the information you have sent about how to prepare and what to expect. It makes the world of difference and has made my son feel such much more settled and confident about making the move to secondary school. You are doing a great job and it is really appreciated.

Thank you for all the effort you've made to make this week such an enjoyable experience for the children. I really hope that it pays off in terms of making the start of school smoother for everyone. I feel really appreciative of all the hard work that's gone into this. I'm sure it would benefit children in future years too. Many thanks

It's been very well organised-Thank you very much for your hard work and dedication and make our children less worried .

Thank you giving all the children such a great week! This has helped massively in settling my daughter before she starts school. She was so nervous about starting secondary but is now really looking forward to it. She's made friends in her form group and can't wait to start now. Thanks to all the teachers that made this happen!

Thank you soooooo much it was an amazing idea and excellent week. It has made a huge difference to anxiety over transition to Blatch- now she is just super excited.

It has been a huge, enjoyable success for Ruby and us as a family. We would like to thank everyone for all they did to make this experience possible. Already we are looking forward to many more great experiences for Ruby at Blatchington Mill.

Summer School has been fantastic - thank you very much. Great timing in the hols & really good way of engaging the students.