

Student voice interviews: (Questions compiled by A Banton. Interviews conducted by English and Citizenship teacher)

1. What are the main difference between your old school and this school?

I prefer it at Wize Up. At my old school I was doing bad, but that's because I knew I could do what I wanted. I would just not go to lessons and people would not catch me. Here there is more disciplined. The environment is better...smaller. It's much more calm.

When I was in mainstream, I used to get U grades in everything. I never used to attend lessons. It was too easy to get away with things. I got caught a few times though. Teachers knew that I never attended lessons. They would just leave me. They gave up – they knew I wasn't going to learn. They just gave up.

2. How did you feel about your old school? *Learning, relationships with staff, behaviour, support.*

Staff:

I disliked them. I never used to get along with them. I didn't like the teachers and they didn't like me. I would just avoid them, or try to annoy them. I got them into trouble, and they got me into trouble.

Behaviour:

I used to run around the school and walk out of lessons. In my GCSE History class, me and my friends would walk into the lesson and the teacher would send us outside for the entire lesson this was my GCSE class. So I used to just open the doors, throw rubbers at kids and walk out. Sometimes, I would try go in and do my lesson. But they wouldn't let me in. So I just stopped trying.

My little sister is like me. If my mum had moved us earlier, we wouldn't be here. I told her that I hated my old school and she wouldn't move me because all my other sisters were there. So I kicked myself out. I knew on the day I was going to get kicked out. I planned a fight. The week before, X and X were arguing in science and I told them 'if anything touches me, one of you is gonna get f'ed up'. X got angry and threw a chair at me - she sort of pushed it over. I gave her a look and said 'watch I am gonna come back for you'. So the next week, same day, same lesson - I went back for her. It was her first day back in school coz she knew I was after her innit. But it was exams, and she had to be there. I just returned from exclusion, like a week earlier because I had a fight.

Learning:

I used to get detentions in school, and in my primary school. I got a detention in primary school for throwing a rubber at a teacher.

3. How do you feel about this school? *Learning, relationships with staff, behaviour, support.*

Staff:

Teachers are different here. They are more like us. It is easier to speak to them...they just know.

Learning:

Improved. I am much better learning wise. I can actually learn here. It's just easier. There are lots of teachers and it's like 1-1. Better than old school where there is just one teacher against 30 kids.

Behaviour:

My behaviour has improved. I know that it's my last year so I had to fix up. I spoke to Ms Boyd and she showed me some stuff that made me realise that I had to fix up. When I first came to the centre,

I was arrested in the first week. I was not turning up and everything. But then I spoke to Ms Boyd and I changed.

4. What about your behaviour outside of school?

My behaviour outside of school is a lot calmer. I used to put myself at risk of being arrested. I used to, I dunno, I used to enjoy the thrill of it. Like a rush. My mum knows what I do outside. I am the worst one in my family. When you realise that you put your mum through so much s***. Like, I always respected my mum though, but I used to be such a b****. But now, in here, it makes you realise that you need to fix up. This is the point where if you're kicked out...your *kicked* out.

5. What do you hope to do in the future?

I am hoping for A-C grades. My predicted grades are A's and B's and 1 C'. I want to work in a bank, not at the front but more behind the scenes...office work. I applied for Barclays and The Point.

6. Would you recommend this school to other students? Why/why not?

Yes...because it's just... everyone would like these teachers coz they always find a way to talk to you.

7. Do the lessons meet or exceed your expectations? Prompts: Always/often/usually. If no, what happens in the classroom when lessons fall below expectations?

I think these teaches actually do good with planning. Ms K's planning is sick. I don't like being in lesson but the way she does it...you get more understanding. You do bare slides and give out loads of work. My grades have improved here compared to my old school. If I stayed in my old school I would not have even got any GCSEs.

Student voice interviews: (Questions compiled by A Banton. Interviews conducted by English and Citizenship teacher)

1. What are the main difference between your old school and this school?

Dunno. Quite the same. You can do more GCSEs in my old school. Here you can get easy GCSEs. They give us less GCSEs. I can do the work here much faster.

2. How does that make you feel?

It makes me feel good...that I can do more work

3. How did you feel about your old school? *Learning, relationships with staff, behaviour, support.*

Behaviour.

Bad. I did not work, I was hardly in. I was involved in stupid things, like fights. I started to act up so they kicked me out. I didn't bunk lessons...wait I buked Geography. I wasn't good at it anymore. It got harder.

Learning:

My learning was not good at my old school coz I was never in lessons that much.

Staff:

Good. Teachers listen to me at my old school. They did things with me, like the English teacher, Ms Smith, helped me go to the disco. Mr Sayers took me out of lessons every time I got angry. Cathy helped me out... she spoke to me and helped me to calm down my anger.

4. Would you back?

Yeah - 100%. I want to spend my last day in school with everyone else.

5. How do you feel about this school? *Learning, relationships with staff, behaviour, support.*

Behaviour:

My behaviour is quite good. I do still get involved in things but not fighting wise anymore. I met people that were the same as me basically.

Have you made good friends here?

Yeah – 100%.

Staff:

Staff yeah, I can talk to the staff. They know us. I can talk to the staff easy.

6. What do you hope to do in the future?

Sports...to continue doing football at Charlton Community Trust. Just doing PE.

7. Are you looking forward to it?

Yeah looking forward to it - can't wait.

8. Would you recommend this school to other students? Why/why not?

Don't know. If they got kicked out, I would say to come here. But I would tell them try to just stay in school and try to get their full GCSEs.

9. What is the best lesson?

Citizenship, because she just makes it fun. She just makes it understandable. I didn't know what Citizenship is and now I can understand it. I got a C in my mock exam. She puts games out so we can understand things. She asks us questions and gives us activities.

10. Do the lessons meet your expectations?

Kinda... a bit. Like RE we just talk and I like that. I can give my opinion. English... dunno about English. I just find it boring. Maths, sir just sits with us and does one-to-one. I see that as a good thing. Science is fun. We just talk and do work. I actually like science. Different to my old school, I didn't learn anything in Science.

11. Are your books marked regularly?

I think so not sure.

12. Are you aware of your grades?

No. But I have a mini booklet with grades in it but it's at home.

13. Do you understand the comments made by your teachers?

Sometimes I understand the comments. If I don't understand, I can just ask them and they tell me what to do.

Student voice questions (Questions compiled by A Banton. Interviews conducted by English and Citizenship teacher)

1. What are the main difference between your old school and this school?

In my old school you can get away with more, coz it's a big place. Teaches don't really have as much time for you, not because they don't care. They have more time in [this school] you have to do what you are told. In my old school I could just run out if I wanted to. [This school] has more discipline, that's why I like it more.

2. How did you feel about your old school? *Learning, relationships with staff, behaviour, support.*

Behaviour:

In my old school, I think I was like, quite bad...actually pretty bad. I used to not go to lessons or listen that much. I used to just walk about. Sometimes I used to bunk half the day in school, just jump over the fence or something. Coz I didn't really... I thought there was not really any point me being there coz I would get in more trouble anyway, so I used to just go home...and it was easy to get out anyway.

Staff:

There was like a few teachers that I liked, but most of them I didn't get on with that much. Most of them used to just tell me off... so they didn't have time for me as much. Maths used to be fun and he used to teach us a lot.

Learning:

In year 7 and 8, I used to learn quite a lot, but when I hit year 9, I stopped learning because I used to walk out or get sent out. I would just be walking around the school. I would be in seclusion most days. I would do my work in seclusion but it wasn't really the same.,

3. How do you feel about this school? *Learning, relationships with staff, behaviour, support.*

Behaviour

I think it has improved a bit more. I am in lessons more and for longer. You can't really run about as much because it's more secure here. They know what everyone is doing and stuff. I do sometimes get distracted and stuff. Sometimes I go outside and mess about a bit but not as much as in my old school. I don't leave.

Staff:

I like all the staff here. They are more down to earth. You get in trouble but not for silly things. I used to get in trouble for silly things a lot and that's why I used to get annoyed... but here they have more of like a joke with you and stuff. Just silly things like if I wasn't doing my work in class, I would get sent out and someone would tell my Head of Year...but here, they will help me and tell me how to do stuff.

Learning

I am learning more here than in my old school. I am mostly in lessons now, so I get most of the work done. I still don't do homework though.

4. What do you hope to do in the future?

I want to be working with my uncle. He sets up the dressing rooms at the O2 for all the gigs and stuff. He goes to Wembley and abroad so...but I have to finish my education first. He says I can work with him if I get my GCSEs.

5. Would you recommend this school to other students? Why/why not?

Yeah, I would recommend it. The only thing I wouldn't recommend is there isn't as many GCSEs in [this school]. So if they want to go far they should stay in school. But if they can't, then I would say come here. It's a good centre.

6. What is your best lesson?

I think my best lesson is probably Art because I like Art. In my old school, I picked Art as a GCSE. I like just chilling and drawing pictures. It calms me down...I like it.

7. When are your books are marked?

Yeah, the books are marked every term or every two weeks or something. Not as much as in old school. I prefer every term, coz some days I do bad work and some days I do good. At end of term you can see where I have done well.

8. Do you understand the comments made by your teachers and do you know what you need to do to improve?

Yeah... they tell me what my weak points and strong points are and what I need to work on and stuff. They usually write a paragraph. I understand what they want me to do better. Sometimes, I complete the feedback to improve. Sometimes I just, like...act lazy, but miss just tells me what to do and sits with me and tells me how to get better.

9. Do you feel you are making progress? How do you know?

Yeah, because in old school, a few weeks before I got kicked out, I didn't really go to any lessons... maybe one lesson a day. In here, I have to be in the lesson as well. I have a report every day and I don't want to get 3's or 2's cos you get a detention...so I do the work and try to get 5's.