

3rd February 2021

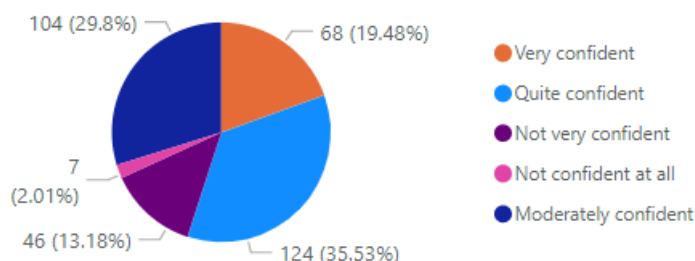
Dear Parent/Carer

Remote Learning Feedback

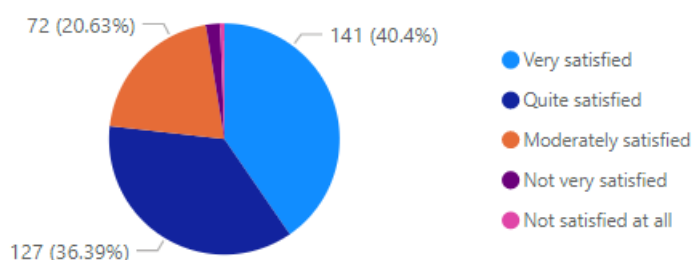
We were thrilled to receive 350 responses to our parents’ survey on the remote learning experience that was shared recently. The feedback was hugely positive and praised a number of elements of our provision, such as the structure in following the children’s timetables, the quality of the lessons being delivered and the many benefits of teachers being present for the majority of the lesson to support and encourage.

Several suggestions for improvement have been made and we have included those comments in this feedback, as well as a response to how we will tweak our remote learning experience from this week forward.

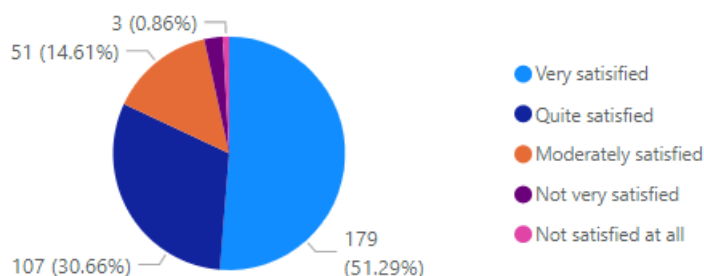
How confident are you that your child has made progress over the past two weeks?



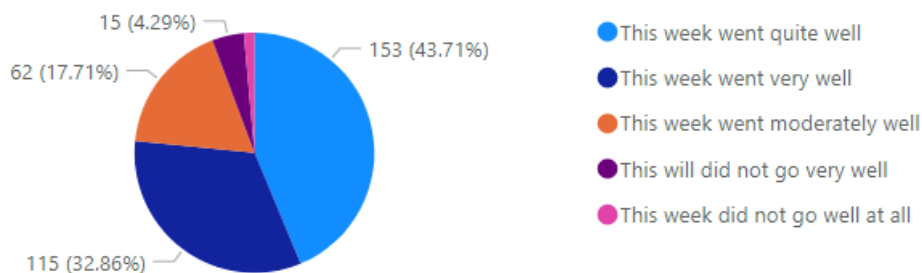
How satisfied are you with the support your child has received from the college over the past two weeks?



How satisfied are you with the college’s communication this week?



In general, how did you find remote learning arrangements over the past two weeks?



What did parents like about the remote learning experience over the past two weeks?

Organisation: Following the student's timetable each week has been helpful for students and parents to structure the day and ensure that students can settle into effective routines.

Interaction: The interaction between students, teachers and teaching assistants has been a wonderful feature of this period of remote learning – the combination of video conferencing or chat facility within teams – students have been able to stay in touch with tutors and teachers to support learning.

Motivation: Student motivation has been very high – largely in part due to the clarity of communication, the ability for staff to communicate clearly with students and provide teaching guidance where necessary.

Quality: Students are receiving lessons of high quality and parents have enjoyed being able to peer into their child's learning experience when time permits.

Is there something parents could use the college's help with over the next week?

Screen time: Parents were concerned about the length of time that students were sat in front of the screen and have asked for work to be completed that didn't require the screen as much.

Feedback: Parents would like more guidance on how to monitor the work their children are completing, how many lessons they are attending as well as some feedback from teachers periodically on the quality of their child's work.

Longer breaks: This is linked to the feedback on the amount of screen time. The short break in the morning and for lunch work well in college but can result in a shorter break at home whilst students manage the completion of work.

Homework: Some parents were concerned about the amount of work that students were having to complete after the lessons, particularly after 5 lessons online during the day.



Some examples of feedback from parents

- In general, most lessons are working well and the more structured approach to learning in this lockdown is a big improvement. I greatly appreciate the efforts that most teachers are putting in.
- Teachers who actively check the students are listening by asking them to raise hands. A lot of the time the child joins and then does 'other' things other than listen to the lesson.
- The fact that lessons are happening is a remarkable achievement for everyone involved! Thank you.
- Those members of staff who can manage to convey a dynamism about their subject remotely especially in the sciences. It makes so much difference!
- The best alternative to my child being in school. Lessons are interactive. Following a timetable gives my daughter the structure and routine.
- School is managing it all brilliantly, it must be so hard to teach to blank screens and monitor engagement. I can see teachers are developing good techniques of spot questioning etc. Will they never have facetime interaction with teachers? But well organised and mixture of teaching time and 'go off and 'complete' time so they're not in front of a screen without moving. Thank you for all your hard work.
- There is very little gap between lessons and short lunch leaves little time for family interaction during day. As a result, my daughter is mentally exhausted at the end of the day. I think the kids need a little more downtime and maybe 10 min gap between lessons.
- Less screen time. No extra work on top of lesson activities and work as this adds to stress. Perhaps more activities that are not on screen where possible e.g. writing, reading, drawing etc. Thank you.
- Not really. I know it's not forever and it's a terrible situation we're all in, but I hate to see them just sitting at a screen all day. I know it can't be helped, but could you consider a 10 min break in between each lesson, an extra 10 mins at lunch and then only have tutor time once a week?
- Personally, I would like to see cameras on. There are too many times students are 'missing' when on a lesson but not visible. Too much 'chat' on the chat function not relating to the lesson. Some students have ability to kick other students off lessons which is causing problems.

How we will respond to your feedback over the next week

1. Mr Warburton held a whole college assembly addressing the concerns raised in the parent, student and staff survey regarding, focus, technology issues (such as boosting WiFi and using night mode settings) and communicating with staff – a link to the assembly is here just in case you missed the assembly: <https://sway.office.com/QV6XxvuKzIWbeM1v?ref=Link>
2. From Monday 8th February all lessons will be reduced to 50 minutes maximum of live content – there may be some additional work to finish off, but staff have been asked to reflect on how much work students are completing during the lesson to avoid work building up.
3. As from (today) Wednesday 3rd February we will not set homework to students in Year 7 and 8. Instead we would like to encourage your children to read in the evenings, get some fresh air (whilst meeting the rules regarding the lockdown) and switch off from the screen. Students in Years 9 – 13 should expect homework to be completed as part of their

day but, again, we will ask staff to be considerate with student's workload and screen exposure.

Student wellbeing

Can we please take this opportunity to remind you that our worried@elycollege.co.uk email address is still monitored daily and we would like to know of any student who is struggling with any aspect of the lockdown and remote learning. Our pastoral team is in college each day and we are committed to support all of our community whether they are inside our buildings or working at home.

Yours faithfully



Simon Warburton
Principal