

## **In which environment do you learn best?**

The School Council representatives asked their class to describe the perfect classroom or space to help them to learn best. Below is their report for teachers and parents, to help us all think about how to improve our educational spaces.

(These answers were not gathered as a scientific test but more as discussions in classes that have been generalised for your information.)

### **Do you prefer to sit in rows or at tables? Of sixes, fours, eights or U shapes?**

- Many children liked working in tables of two, some classes liked rows (particularly the girls in 5A)
- Most children in the upper school liked the idea of working in a U shapes or sixes although felt this would only work well in the bigger classrooms. There was much thought and discussion about distraction from others and that individual's concentration had to be considered.

### **Do you like to work on the floor or at a desk?**

- Depending on the activity, but the majority prefer roomy desks.

### **Do you prefer quiet or background music?**

- Very mixed answer across the school. It seems that generally the lower school were happier with background music and the upper school swayed towards quiet study times with occasional music for more relaxed lessons. Apparently 5H expressed a preference for loud rock and roll!

### **Working outside or inside?**

- The responses were weather. Year 3 prefer outside, the majority of year 4 prefer inside, year 5 were mixed but more inside. Year 6 enjoy both but would like a desk to work on if they are outside.

### **With lots of things on the walls or blank calm spaces?**

- Results were about half and half over all in most classes, some felt they could concentrate better in calmer spaces.

### **Working alone or in a group or pair?**

- Consistently the classes seemed to split their votes equally three ways.

### **Talking allowed or in silence?**

- Surprisingly the majority of children would like to work in silence (however a certain teacher joked that it was some of these voters that prevented it ever happening!)

### **Teachers using a microphone or own voice?**

- About a half and half response.

### **Messy or tidy, ordered and labelled resources or bring in your own?**

- Majority response for a tidy, ordered classroom with 5H being the odd one out here.
- Overwhelming response for having your own things in your own pencil case. We had much discussion over why and most responses were to do with rubbers! Good ones, bad ones chewed ones, written on ones and worst of all- never finding the school one when you need it!

### **Some other ideas from a variety of classes**

Air-conditioning or fans, water fountains with ice or juice dispensers, bigger tables, tables and chairs in outdoor learning spaces, cushions in library or reading corners, year 6 toilet block, more pegs or lockers for year 6, swivel chairs, pillows for rests in the middle of the day, designs and textiles on the walls, more computers for everyone, iPads and touch screen interactive white boards (like we saw at Boxgrove).

**The school council would very much like to hear from you with any comments you have so please write to us on this matter or any other topic you wish us to consider at [schoolcouncil@holytrinity.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:schoolcouncil@holytrinity.surrey.sch.uk)**

We would be very interested to hear how you are finding the healthy snacks initiative.

Our next big topic for action is discussing the proposal to sell off the land near the school for development. What do we think about building housing on our green space and can we do anything to help?

If you have any advice or information to help our discussions please email us.