



Researchers:

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Blue Cats:

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Brain Boxiz:

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'What was wrong with the old rules and sanctions?'

'Do students feel under pressure because of the new rules?'

'What do students in Fresh Start think about the new rules?'

Are the new behavior rules effective?

Young researchers find out what students and teachers think about the new sanctions policy

Ten students were given the task of investigating the new behaviour policy as part of the Illuminate Student Research Programme. After four sessions of intensive research training, students worked in groups to design and conducted their own research project. Each group came up with their own research questions and decided which research methods to use. They wanted to find out how students and staff feel about the new behaviour policy and after discussing the issue, they chose to investigate the following three questions:

1. How do students and staff feel about the new sanctions system?
2. Why did the rules and sanctions need to change?
3. How do pupils in Fresh Start feel about the new rules and are they going to change their behavior?

Our Research

The researchers carried out interviews with teachers and staff across the school to find out what they thought about the new behaviour policy. They made sure they asked the same questions to all of the staff and recorded their answers. .

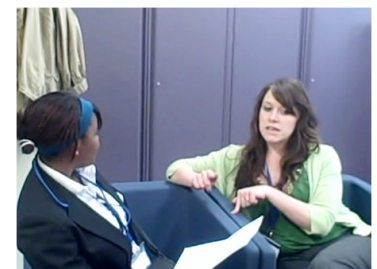
Shevontay talked to Ms Cantrell about the impact the new rules have had on students. Ms Cantrell said that she was aware that some students may feel under pressure with

the new rules, particularly those who had not been in trouble before.

Hollie, Shevontay and Cherrin carried out a focus group with year 7 students. Here's what Hollie said about the experience: "It was good because they gave us their honest opinions". The group chose to do a focus group because they thought it would make pupils more relaxed "I think we mad them feel comfortable and like they



Beyanka and Charlotte try out visual research methods by making a short film about the school canteen



Shevontay interviews Ms Cantrell

could talk about anything". During the focus group the pupils shared their opinions about lateness, the difficulties they face travelling to school and how the new rules have affected their behaviour.



The Brain Boxiz group interview Ms Colebourne

The Blue Cats conducted their research using the online research tool, Survey Monkey. They wanted to give pupils the chance to give their opinions anonymously. When they looked at the results the researchers were surprised at how many students felt that the new rules were still not strict enough: "It surprised me" said Samina Ahmed "because around the school everyone was complaining

about how strict they were. Maybe when they think about it privately and are not influenced by their friends, they tell the truth". In the online survey they found that a majority of students thought that behavior around the Academy had improved since the new rules were introduced. Students also



Year 7 students agreed to share their views as part of a focus group discussion

gave lots of ideas for how the new system could be improved. The Blue Cats used this information to feedback some of their results to Ms Fletcher.

Our Results

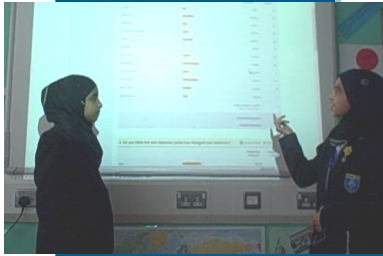
Are the new rules effective? How do students and staff feel about them? Did they need to change? Here are some of their results:

- The rules needed to change because there was too much low-level disruption affecting learning in the classroom.
- 75% of those in the survey said they had seen an improvement in behaviour around the Academy since the new rules were introduced.
- 50% of those in the survey said that their punctuality had improved
- Both students and staff feel that the new rules are harsher than the old rules, but not everyone agrees that this is a good thing.
- Some students feel that the new rules are too strict and do not give pupils a chance to change their behaviour. Others feel the new rules are an improvement but do not go far enough
- Students identified that it was important that all teachers applied the new rules in the same way.
- Students in Fresh Start felt that it would be more motivating for them if they spent less time on report. They felt that it was easy to get into trouble but very difficult to get back on track.

What happens next?

The research has been written up and the Young Researchers have met with Ms Fletcher to discuss their results. They also attended a conference at Goldsmiths to tell other schools and university staff what they have been doing.

The evidence produced by the research will be used by teachers and Academy staff to help make the important decisions about how your school is run. If you would like to get involved get in touch with Miss Mullen the Student Voice co-ordinator.



Samina and Lamya present their results

'I would give extra-curricular trips as a reward for good behavior'

'I would give everyone two warnings, then an exit'

'I don't want it to change because it is ok the way it is now'



Student researchers receive their certificates at Goldsmiths University