



Mid North Christian College 2023 Annual Report



College Overview

Board

Board Chair Mr John Polden
Deputy Chair Rev Mark Hawkes
Treasurer Mrs Cheryl Rossiter
Secretary Mr Ian Jones

School

Years Taught Foundation - Year 12

Staff	FTE
Teaching	19
Non-Teaching	14.05
TOTAL	33.05

Students

Primary	111
Secondary	102
TOTAL	213

Affiliations

- Christian Education National (CEN)
- Association of Independant Schools of South Australia (AISSA)
- South Australian Christian Schools Association (SACSA)

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Board Chair's Report

Our VISION at Mid North Christian College is:

- To provide students with a positive Christ centred education in a safe and nurturing learning environment.
- To enable students and their families to express, nurture and share a passionate faith in God revealed in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit.
- To encourage and facilitate personal excellence in all learning.
- To prepare students with resilience for life, helping each child to reach his or her full potential, spiritually, academically, socially, emotionally and physically.

As you read though this vision, how do you think we are going?

To achieve our vision the Board late last year prayerfully looked at the Strategic Plan, from which we selected three points to be our main focus for the next period of time. Not to say we wouldn't be working on other areas but to put special effort and prayer into these three areas:

1.1.2 Integrate spiritual and scriptural learning into daily College practises and curriculum and to incorporate a clear Christian world view, integrated in all areas of teaching.

5.2.1 Value and develop the strategic partnership with all stakeholders and other associations.

5.3.1 Develop key initiatives and strategies that build a positive culture and ethos within the community.

Board Members 2023/24 are:

Chairperson	John Polden
Treasurer	Cheryl Rossiter
Deputy Chairperson	Rev Mark Hawkes
Member	Ian Jones

The make up of the Board will change with Ian Jones not standing for reselection. Thanks so much for the three years you served on the Board so well. Cheryl Rossiter is putting her hand up for reselection for another term - thankyou Cheryl. We have also three new members of the association who are nominating to join the MNCC Board. They are Dale Howe, Pastor Ray Van Keulen, (both worship at New Life Church) and Daniel Irimie (Romanian Church).

I want to thank you for being a part of MNCC in whatever capacity. Thank you to our leaders, my fellow Board members, and our wonderful staff. But most of all I want to give praise to our amazing God whom we have hope in. I thank God for the opportunity to have a wonderful school like MNCC where students can receive a quality Christian education.



John Polden
Board Chairperson

Treasurer's Report

We are very thankful to God for the financial provision of resources to enable Mid North Christian College to operate effectively.

In 2023, our College achieved a surplus of \$205,401, a significant increase from the 2022 Operating Surplus of \$6,812. During 2023 the College's operating revenue increased by 9% and operating expenditure increased by 4.7% when compared to the previous year.

The College's cash balance as of 31 December 2023 was \$833,952 an increase of \$462,818 from the previous year.

In 2023 the College spent \$280,000 on capital expenditure items. The major items purchased include a 45-seater bus, smartboards for Primary classrooms, laptops and an industrial dishwasher for use in Home Economics and at College events.

Our College is very fortunate to have a College Foundation that supports the work of the College. The College Foundation was set up some time ago after an initial bequest from the late Tom Skewes. The College Foundation is still accepting donations and all donations received are tax deductible.

The College Foundation provides a donation to the College each year. These funds are used towards fee relief for low-income families and families experiencing financial hardship. The Foundation also provides loans to the College for capital items.

The Foundation achieved a surplus of \$37,391 in 2023 and has investments of \$1.6 million.



Cheryl Rossiter
Treasurer

Principal's Report

It is my pleasure to present the Principal's AGM report for 2023.

As I prayed for the College community during the 2022 holidays, God gave me a message from the Bible to share with staff, students and families which was in line with our College motto, "Hope in the Living God". Romans 15:13 NLT says, "I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in Him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit."

Whatever came our way throughout the year, whether in society, in our College community, in our families or in our personal lives, the Sovereign God was our hope in all circumstances. This wonderful promise was what we as Board, Management and staff held onto and encouraged students and families to hold onto throughout the year. We walked confidently through the year knowing that God was with us at Mid North Christian College.

It was not a year for major building projects, but a year for reviewing, improving, and consolidating systems behind the scenes and slowly introducing some new things into the culture of the College. This involved gathering information from parents, staff and students through sentiment satisfaction surveys to ensure that the Board and Management of the College are responding to the immediate needs of our community members and planning strategically for the future.

One of the big tasks for 2023 was completing our self-review for the Education Standards Board in August. This involved numerous policies and procedures being reviewed and quite a few entirely new ones being developed. The Education Standards Board confirmed in October 2023 that we had successfully met the Standards from our submission.

It was wonderful to see the beginning of a new Parents, Carers and Friends Committee and I commend those involved on their initiative and support of Mother's and Father's Days' stalls and for providing food for numerous events like the Open Day and Book Week afternoon tea. We look forward to many more opportunities to grow parent and community support in our College.

We were also very excited to have the Café Culture subject begin in Secondary, and it was wonderful to have students develop the skills to provide a range of hot beverages at College events and for staff.

2023 Priorities

Christian Culture

Staff Orientation Days and Devotions

One of the priorities for developing a strong Christian culture in our College is to ensure that there is a strong Christian culture in our staff. One of the things that helps to focus areas of spiritual growth is having a theme for the year and encouraging this to then flow into the team devotions and then into our classes and other workspaces. The theme for 2023 was 'Hope in the Living God' and in 2024, it is 'One Another'. These were introduced on Staff Orientation Days and followed up during other staff training days.

A few different ways have been tried to encourage spiritual growth and care between our staff. For teaching staff and some administration staff, we have devotions shared on Mondays and Wednesdays, Tuesdays are prayer groups, Thursdays are café catchup, and corporate singing on Fridays.

There has also been some discussion and ideas trialled towards developing a more consistent and authentic approach to introducing many of our students to what is central to Christianity and what that looks like in a school culture, as well as working with students who already have a relationship with Jesus Christ, and to help them grow stronger in their faith. We have been thankful to staff who have led Bible studies during lunchtimes to encourage some aspects of that.

Awarding students both at assemblies and at the end of year, for demonstrating our Learner Attributes and wider community involvement and engagement has been another way of embedding the Christian values in the culture.

CEN Developing Leaders Conference

In August, the Head of Primary, Monique Eggers, and the Head of Secondary, Jordan Smith, went to Melbourne to attend this conference. This was a wonderful opportunity for them to learn more about leading their teams effectively and from a Biblical perspective, to develop their own leadership skills, and to network with other Christian educational leaders from around Australia.

Church Connections

The College has continued to develop relationships with our local churches in a range of ways. Morning Teas between the staff and Minister's Association have continued once a term and these are always well attended and appreciated.

The local ministers are to be thanked for their support as they have attended and participated in a number of College events and supported our staff through a time of grief when a staff member passed away. We have also appreciated their support of our Year 9 Life Book project, which saw members of different churches participate in interviews, sharing their life stories with the young people for several weeks. We hope that this partnership will continue again this year.

Wellbeing

Child Safe Organisation

As with all organisations that interact with children and young people, Mid North Christian College has a legal responsibility, and before God, also a spiritual responsibility to improve the policies and procedures to ensure the safety of all children and young people in our care.

The Child Safe Environments Policy has now been updated and has met the requirements of the Department of Human Services as well as the Education Standards Board. This policy is an umbrella for a number of updated policies and procedures across the College.

Health and Wellbeing Committee

A committee has been formed made up of Primary, Secondary, Learning Support and Wellbeing staff that meet once a term with the aim of discussing and making proposals of how to best address the health and wellbeing of staff and students, including events, initiatives and curriculum.

Some of the initiatives that have come from this group are:

- Digital citizenship and cybersafety programs for parents and students in the primary school
- Trauma and grief counselling training
- Youth Mental First Aid training for new staff and home group teachers
- Providing fruit for students to access for breaks
- Making sure staff are aware and plan for significant health initiative days and weeks
- Organising guest speakers for secondary on various issues
- Cybersafety and vaping
- Organising staff socials once a term and special morning teas

Teaching and Learning

Improving Writing and Numeracy results

The Big Write and VCOP program have improved the level of writing from Years F-8 and enabled a more consistent approach in assessment of writing. NAPLAN results and our own internal records will continue to be monitored in coming years to ensure that it continues to raise and hold the standard over time. All Years 1-6 primary teachers have moved to using one phonic based spelling program to improve consistency and engagement with spelling and word knowledge.

Both the Maths Online (Years 1-5) and Maths Pathways (Year 6-9) are providing a more individualised online approach to our teaching of Mathematics, and the data provided helps teachers to better cater to the topics and areas that require further teaching and support. We will continue to monitor NAPLAN and standardised PAT results to ensure that it is helping all students appropriately. Our Math Coordinator, Samantha Smith, has also raised the profile of Mathematics in the school as well as providing opportunity for students to participate in external competitions.

Other Curriculum Initiatives

Both the Science and HASS faculties investigated, trialled and have invested in online textbooks and programs in line with V.9 of the Australian Curriculum for 2024. The Primary team also trialled and have moved to using the Inquisitive program for a range of subjects, including Science, HASS and some aspects of English and Mathematics. This has also assisted the move to V.9 of the Australian Curriculum.

Mid North Minis – Ready For School Program

The Transition to School program for 2023/24 has been redeveloped, and it is now the Ready for School Program that runs over 12 weeks in Terms 3 and 4. One of the main reasons for changing its format and length is that we were finding that many children were coming with a deficit in their skills for formal learning. We have seen the advantages of a more thorough preparation for Foundation, and especially as we now have even younger students starting with mid-year intake in 2024. This program will now run twice a year to cater for two Foundation intakes a year.

Aviation

The Aviation program continued to attract a pleasing number of internal and external secondary students last year under the leadership of Andrew Burfield and Cherie Benstead. Due to some external staffing changes, the difficulty of covering internal staff for two weeks each term, and the challenge for external students to do the program over two years, we decided to review the program and trial some different approaches to the structure of the day. As of 2024, we will now offer this program as a one-year option, with longer hours and a slightly different structure, whilst maintaining its integrity as a SACE course. We have also introduced an introduction to aviation in our Year 9/10 electives, which is also attracting our own students to the course in Year 11.

Leadership and Staff

Leadership

All the College Leadership team worked hard to improve systems and culture throughout the year. There was a wonderful sense of unity and creative problem-solving in meetings, with every member going above and beyond their role on paper to serve the College and each other. A new Head of Teaching and Learning has been appointed and will join the team later in 2024.

Other Staffing Matters

Although there was difficulty throughout the year with staffing requirements, particularly for the Year 6 class, God helped us find solutions and the impact was minimal. It did indicate that staffing concerns continued to be widespread and that careful decisions about enrolments, subject choices and class structures would be required heading into 2024. With difficult decisions being made early, and miraculous provision of staffing early in Term 1, there is sufficient staffing, although there are still some gaps to be filled that would enhance certain areas of the College.

There has been an increase in Learning Support Staff for 2024 as we look to better support students with additional learning needs and to provide better support to staff and students in the Secondary School. We have also had an additional part-time Wellbeing Officer join the team, which we were able to provide due to extra funding for wellbeing post-COVID.

Professional Development

All staff have completed either a First Aid update or full course at the beginning of Term 4. Allergy and anaphylaxis online and practical training has also been undertaken at the beginning of the school year.

All teaching staff continue to work through one module of the CEN New Teacher Induction module per term, with a staff meeting dedicated to discussion around what was learnt and how to implement in the classroom.

Infrastructure and Resources

Primary Classroom Refurbishments

Over the summer holidays of 2023/24, four primary classrooms had new downlights installed, as well as having old carpet and lino replaced with carpet tiles and new lino. New student desks were also purchased. All primary classrooms have also had Smart TVs installed during 2023.

Library

There has been a significant process to reduce the amount of Library books and resources, especially obsolete textbooks, teacher resources and oversupply of picture books and novels. Where possible, these resources have been given to other Christian schools or sent to overseas schools through Rotary.

The Primary Library has been moved to the newly refurbished Room 4 instead of being over in the Secondary area. We are now hoping to redesign the old Library to still be a resource storage, but also a study space for Year 12 moving forward.

Science

The Science Rooms have also had some improvements with the replacement of stools. The rooms are also in the process of having sound absorbing panels attached to the ceilings to improve sound quality for learning.

BGA Grant

An application was approved to fund the building of a block of individual cubicle toilets near the COLA. This will be a wonderful addition for sport lessons, break times, special events and after school sport.

Final Comment

God is praised for all that was achieved in 2023 and we look forward in anticipation to what God has in store for us in the remainder of 2024.



Rachel Richardson
Principal

Staff Numbers

The information below outlines the full-time equivalent staff numbers in 2023 and 2022.

	2022	2023
Teaching	20.8	19
Non-Teaching	16.3	14.05
TOTAL	37.1	33.05

Teachers Highest Qualifications

The following is a list of the highest teaching qualifications held by teaching staff at MNCC for 2023.

Qualifications of Teaching Staff	% of staff
Bachelor Degree	100 %
Doctorate	4 %
Graduate Certificate	13 %
Graduate Diploma	13 %
Master's Degree	13 %
Undergraduate Certificate	27%
Undergraduate Diploma	22%

Enrolment Statistics

The information below outlines the student enrolment numbers for 2023 and 2022.

	2023			2022		
	M	F	TOTAL	M	F	TOTAL
FOUNDATION	10	3	13	5	10	15
YEAR 1	6	9	15	9	9	18
YEAR 2	9	7	16	8	14	22
YEAR 3	10	14	24	6	9	15
YEAR 4	5	9	14	9	5	14
YEAR 5	14	5	19	8	15	23
YEAR 6	7	13	20	8	9	17
YEAR 7	8	12	20	7	12	19
YEAR 8	7	12	19	9	12	21
YEAR 9	7	13	20	6	12	18
YEAR 10	7	13	20	12	8	20
YEAR 11	14	8	22	3	7	10
YEAR 12	3	7	10	3	2	5
TOTAL	107	125	232	93	124	217

Student Attendance Rates

The information below outlines the student attendance numbers in 2023 and 2022.

	2023 %	2022 %
FOUNDATION	Unknown	87.4
YEAR 1	83.21	87
YEAR 2	91.63	89.7
YEAR 3	88.16	83.9
YEAR 4	88.41	87.1
YEAR 5	90.19	89.8
YEAR 6	91.99	80.6
YEAR 7	89.47	91.2
YEAR 8	91.28	84.9
YEAR 9	85.84	86.2
YEAR 10	84.17	86.3
YEAR 11	Unknown	88.8
YEAR 12	Unknown	Unknown
STUDENT ATTENDANCE RATE	88.39	86.9

Value Added

How does MNCC add to a child's education which other schools may not be able to?

MNCC:

- is co-educational;
- enrolls children from Foundation to Year 12;
- provides a Christ-centred education in a caring family environment;
- values each child as an image bearer of God;
- offers a Curriculum prepared through the lens of a Biblical worldview
- is a non-denominational school drawing on multiple different denominations;
- offers a good range of subjects at Senior School level for SACE;
- has high standards of academic achievement;
- provides a Christian perspective in all subjects taught;
- offers holistic education, developing the God-given giftedness of each student;
- prepares children for life in this world and beyond;
- has committed Christian teachers who not only teach but encourage, listen to and pray for their students;
- is governed by a Board of Directors elected by the Mid North Christian College Association
- is affiliated with over 65 other schools through Christian Education National (CEN).

Selected Highlights of 2023

National Science Week and Family Science Night

This year's theme was Innovation: Powering Future Industries. Year 6 students from Harvest Christian College came and joined our Year 6 students to take part in the Bottle Rockets challenge. There were prizes given for best designer and performer, however it was the team work that was the greatest achievement of the day.

Family Science Night was another exciting event with families coming along to design and construct a rubber band car. Once constructed, it was time to race! It was a wonderful evening of fun, creativity, competition, food and fellowship.

Veta Morphus

This course is a nationally accredited year-long VET course that helps young people to explore and grow in their faith. We had four students who completed the course and were awarded a Certificate III in Christian Ministry and Theology.

After Hours School Soccer

A record 46 primary-aged students represented MNCC in the local soccer competition. This is such a wonderful initiative to encourage fitness and sportsmanship. The families are very supportive, with many of them assisting with coaching and managing the teams.

Book Week

There was a different approach to Book Week this year. All the Primary classes studied the picture book, "Dirt By Sea" by Michael Wagner, which is about a journey where a young girl and her dad take a road trip around the coast of Australia in an orange combi van.

Each class studied one of the states/territories of Australia and decorated their classrooms with features to match the story. On the Friday of that week, students came dressed up in "Aussie" costumes and families were invited to take a journey around Australia by visiting each classroom. Once they had completed the journey, the PCF had prepared a lovely "Aussie" afternoon tea for everyone to enjoy.

Performing Arts

All of the Year 5/6 students were involved in the Festival of Music Choir performance this year. They learnt 13 songs and performed at the Keith Michell Theatre alongside a number of other schools from Port Pirie and the Mid North.

The end of year Primary Performance was a Christmas musical called "Away in a Mango". The story and songs shared a story about being rescued from a deserted island and helped the students and audience recognise that the story of Jesus is also a rescue story. All the Primary students performed amazingly under the direction of Megan Footer and Louise Simmons.

Camp Program

Our students had the opportunity to experience a wonderful range of camps from Years 5-12. The Year 5 students went to Adelaide Zoo, the Year 6 students went to Woodhouse Adventure Camp, the Year 7/8 students went to El Shaddai Christian Campsite, the Year 9s went on the Rite Journey Camp, and the Year 10s travelled to Adelaide to explore on their PLP camp. It was also the year for the inaugural Ski/Canberra Trip for Year 10-12 students, with three days in the snow at Perisher and then a few days in Canberra, visiting many of the capital city's famous sites.

Secondary Technology

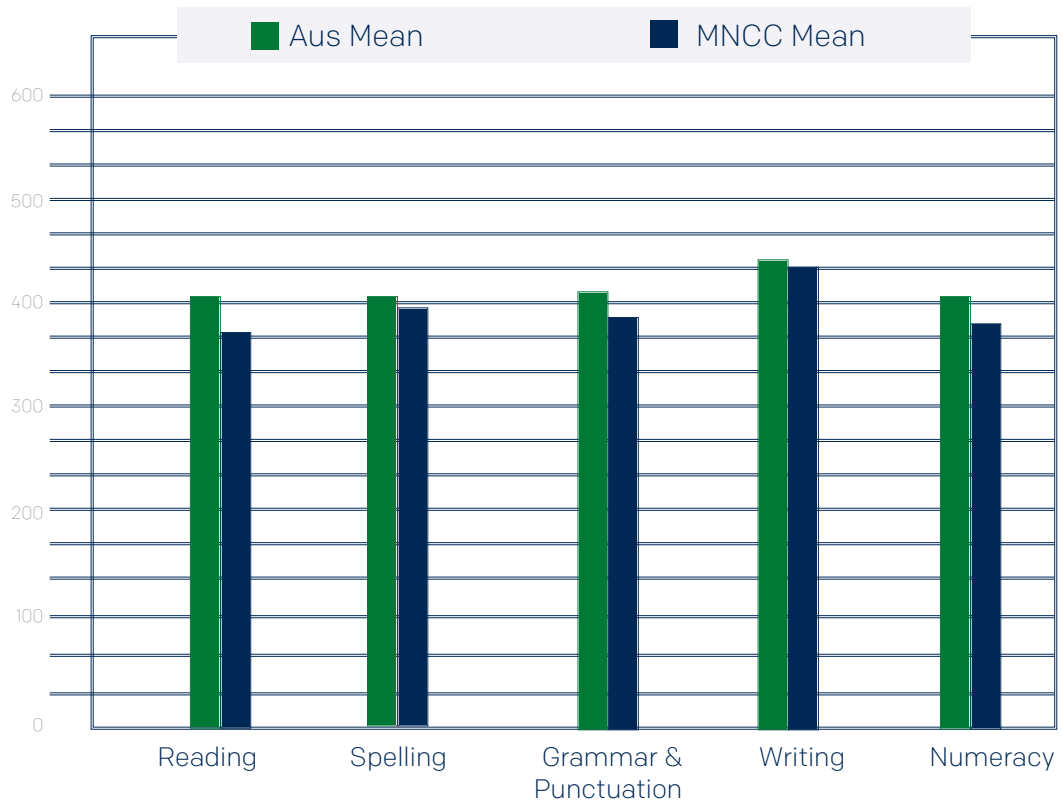
The Year 7 students won 3rd prize in the Commissioner's Digital Challenge. Two teams were entered in the SAPN Robotics Competition with the challenge to automatically remove and install stobie pole fuses. Extra 3D printers and CNC routers helped students further develop their design and construction skills.

NAPLAN Results

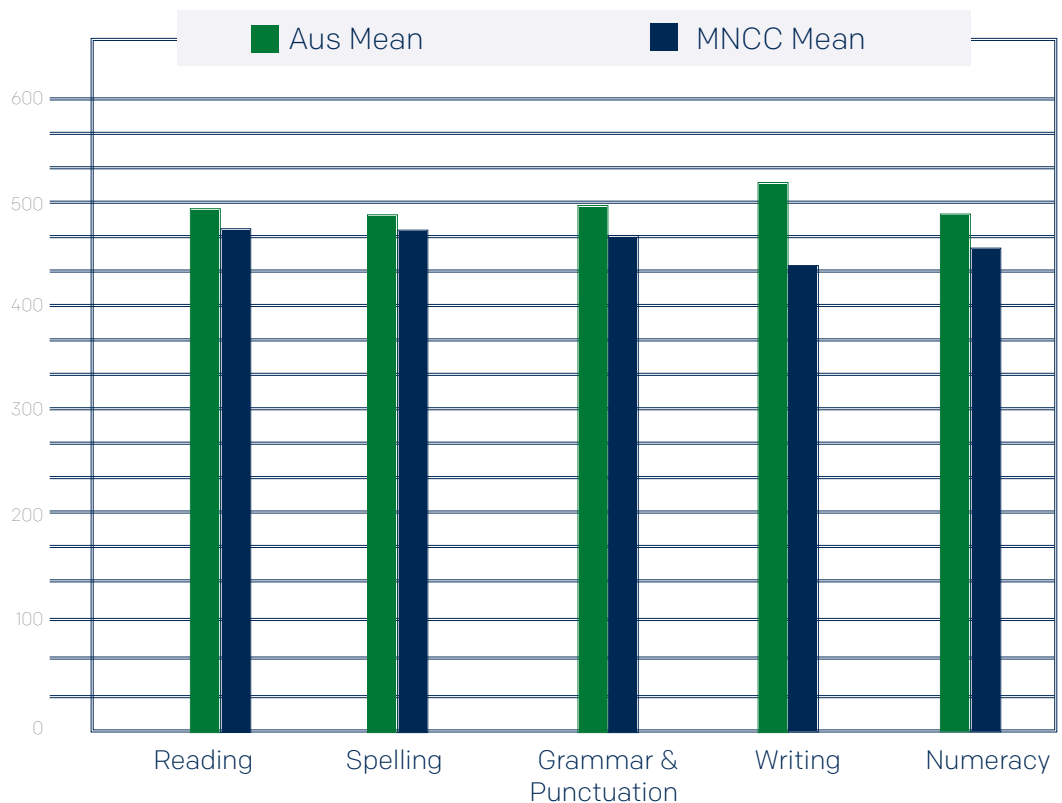
Naplan

The Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 cohorts of students were tested under the Benchmark System of Testing, NAPLAN. The graphs below show the comparison between mean results for Mid North Christian College and the National average for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

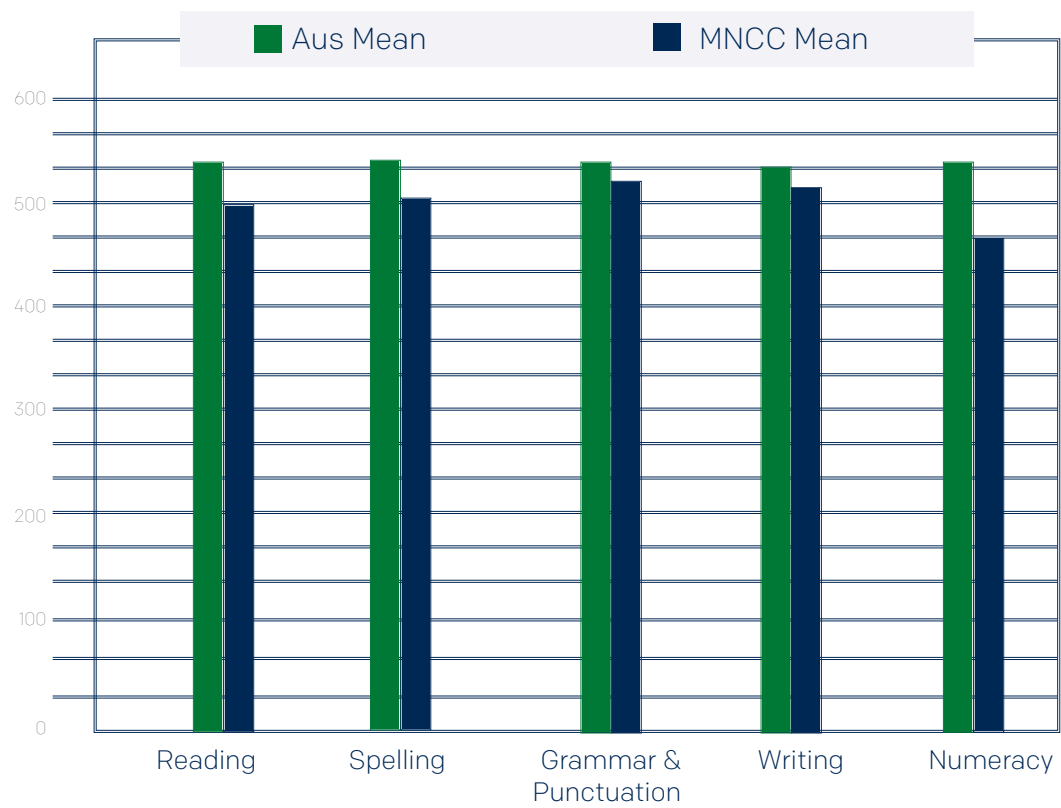
YEAR 3



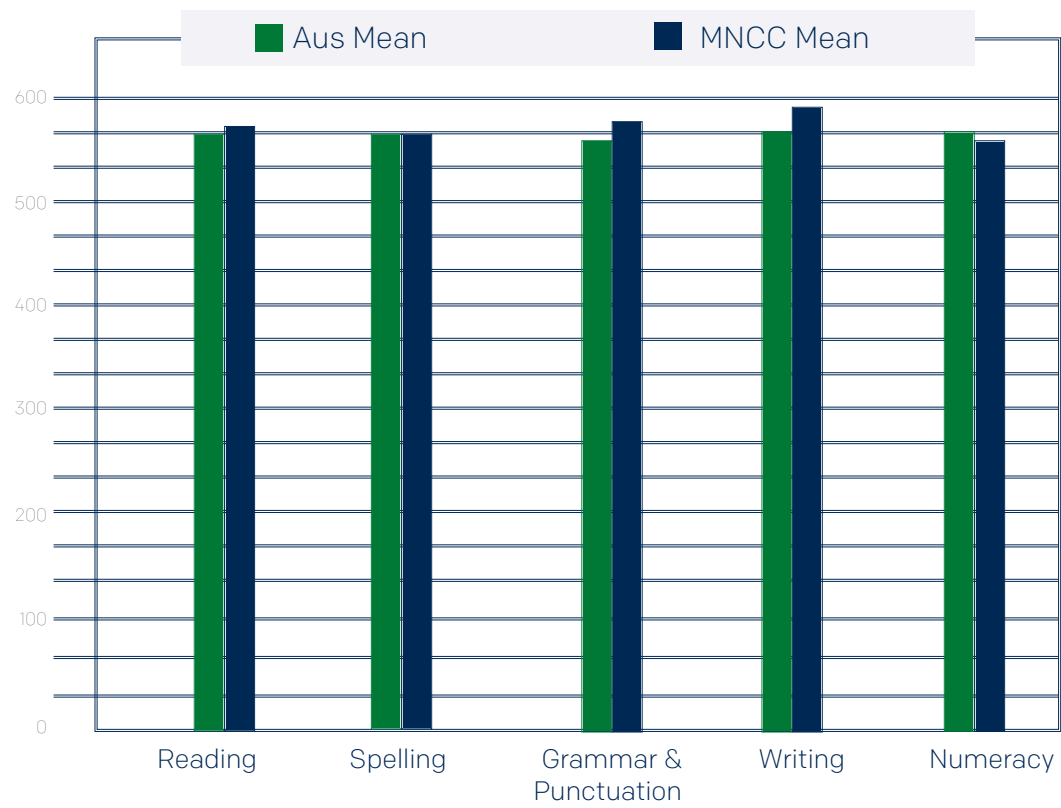
YEAR 5



YEAR 7



YEAR 9



SACE Stage 2 Results

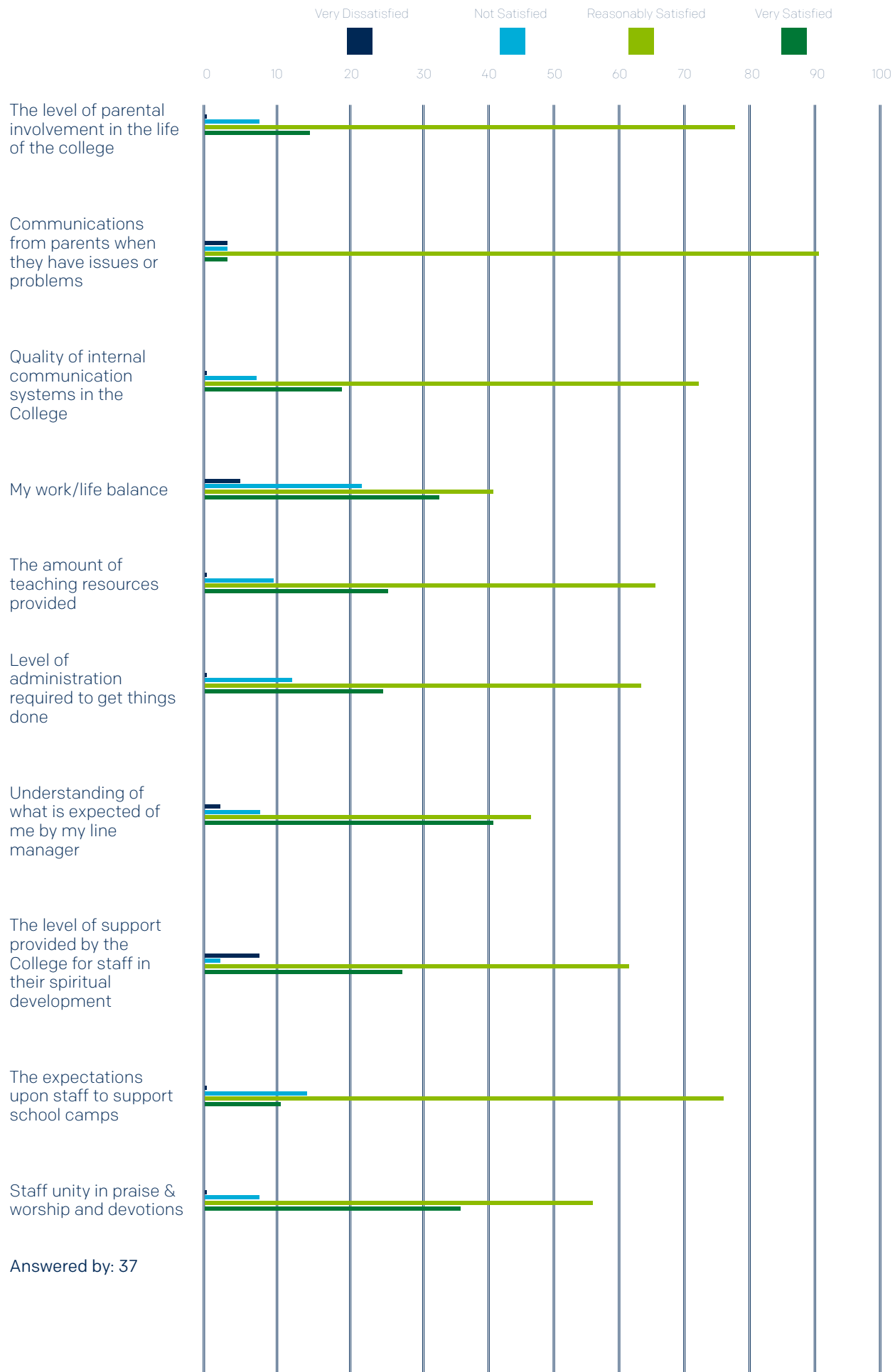
The information below shows the number of scores achieved across all subjects offered at MNCC and their average scores.

Grade	No. of results for MNCC	MNCC %	
A+	0	0	19.64
A	4	7.14	
A-	7	12.5	
B+	9	16.07	44.64
B	7	12.5	
B-	9	16.07	
C+	4	7.67	25.52
C	7	12.5	
C-	3	5.35	
D+	2	3.57	10.71
D	2	3.57	
D-	2	3.57	
E+	-	-	-
E			
E-			
F+	-	-	-
F			
F-			
N	-	-	-

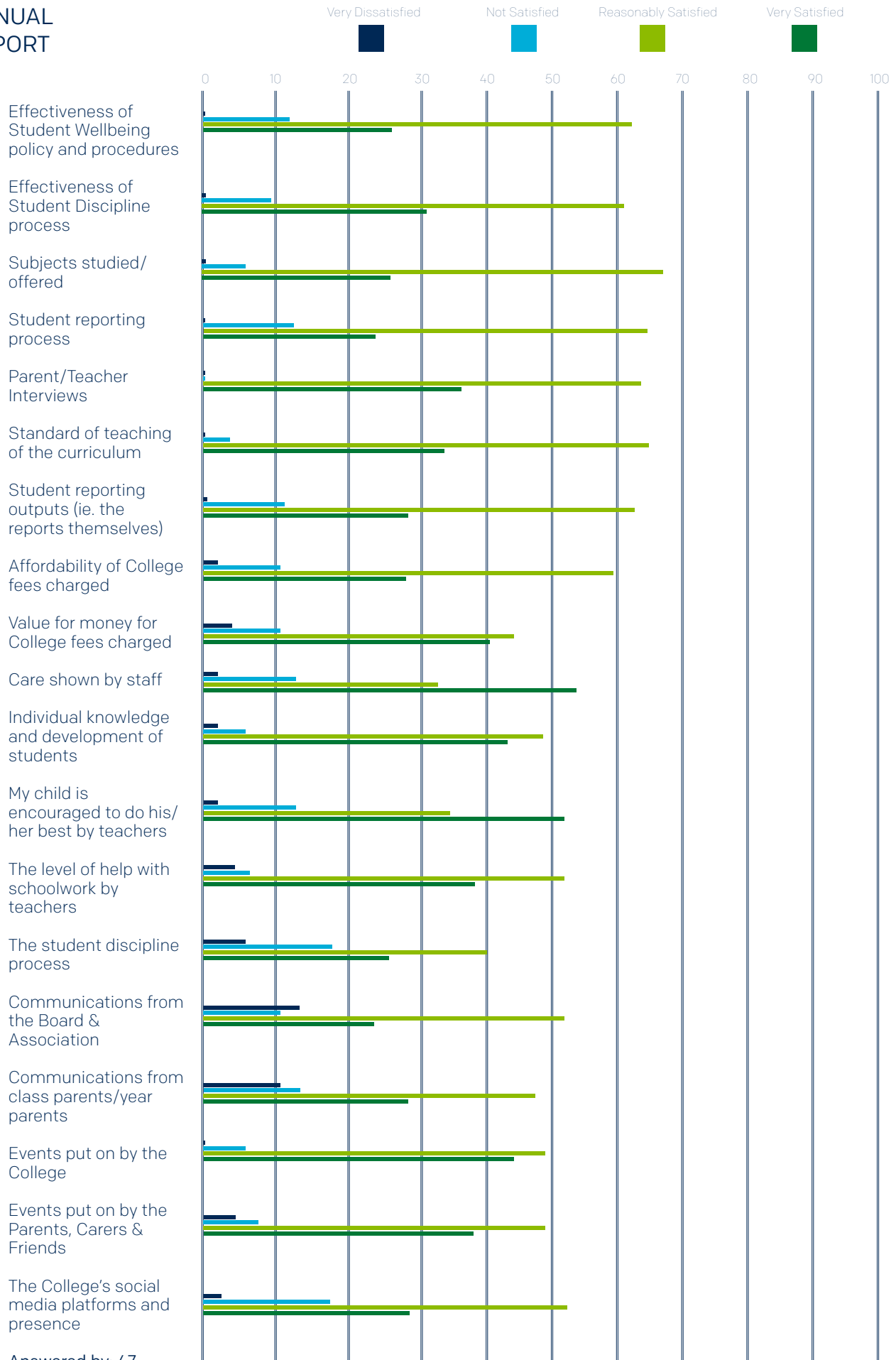
SACE Highlights

- SACE Completion – 77%
- Eleven A's in total
- Best student result was a top ATAR of 90.45%

Staff Satisfaction

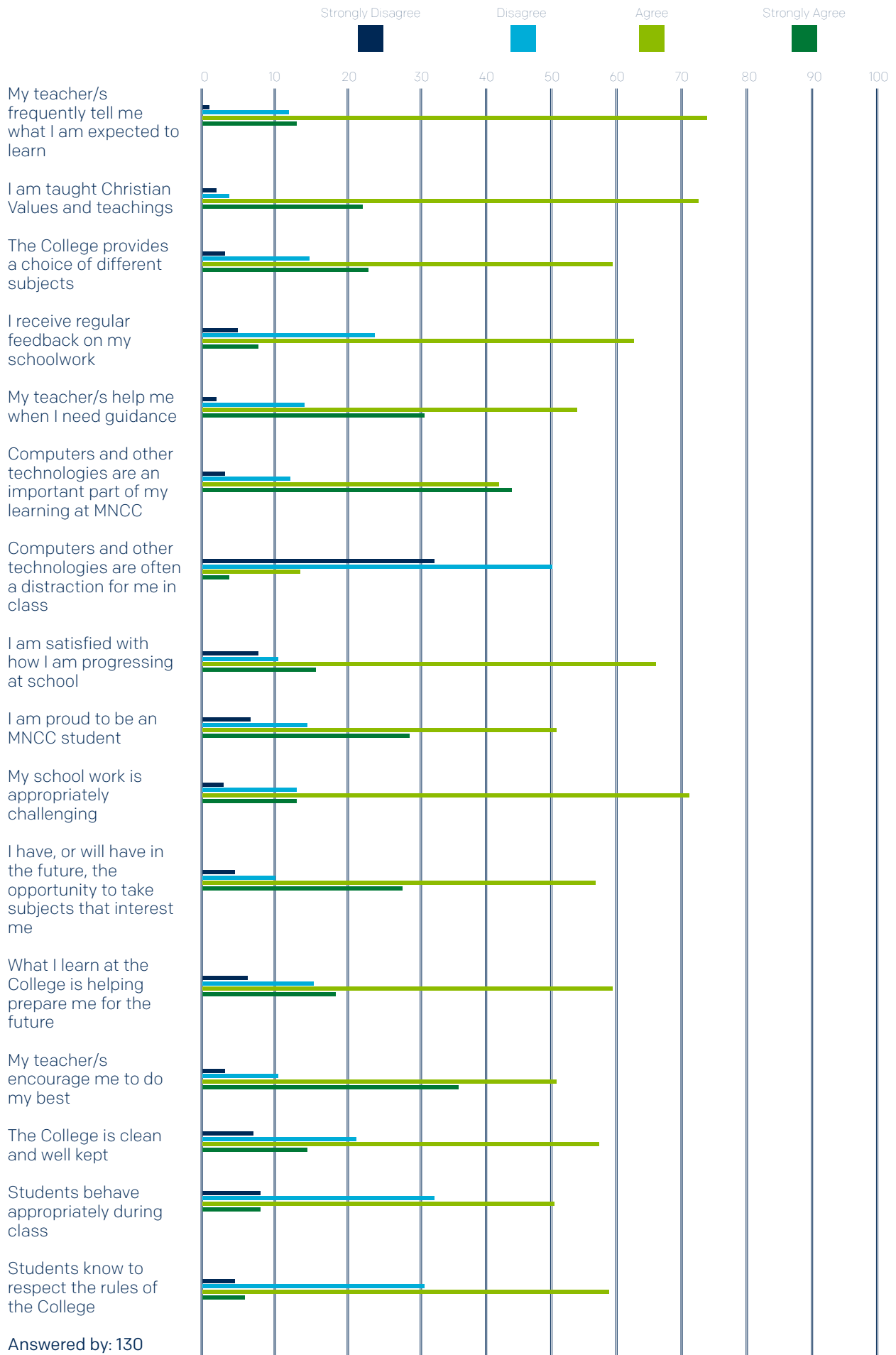


Parent Satisfaction



Answered by: 47

Student Satisfaction



Student Satisfaction

