

**AGENDA ITEM NO: 8** 

Report To: Education & Communities

Committee

Date: 3 September 2024

Report By: Ruth Binks,

Corporate Director,

Education, Communities and Organisational Development

Report No: EDUCOM/40/24/HS

Contact No: 01475 715450

Contact Officer: Hugh Scott,

**Service Manager** 

**Community Learning and** 

**Development, Community Safety** 

& Resilience

Subject: Clyde Conversations 6 Report

### 1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 □ For Decision □ For Information/Noting

- 1.2 The purpose of this paper is to advise the Committee on the Clyde Conversations 6 report which was noted at the meeting of the Inverclyde Alliance on 17 June 2024.
- 1.3 Community Learning and Development (Youth Work Services) supported young people to plan and deliver two events as part of Clyde Conversations 6. The first event for S1-S3 pupils was held on the 6th of February 2024 and the second for S4-6 pupils on the 7th of February 2024. A total of 122 young people from across Inverclyde took part in the 2 events.
- 1.4 The Clyde Conversation report is presented in Appendix 1. Samples of graphic illustrations produced on the day are provided in Appendix 2a and 2b.

### 2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Education and Communities Committee:
  - notes the success of Clyde Conversations and acknowledges the participation of young people at all levels of planning; and
  - notes the key actions as detailed in the event report (see Appendix 1) which will be taken forward by young people and partners.

Ruth Binks Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development

### 3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In March 2015, the first Clyde Conversations event took place in Inverclyde to provide an opportunity for young people to come together to discuss issues which affect them.
- 3.2 Extremely positive feedback was received from facilitating 2 separate days and it was agreed to continue using this model as a means of engaging young people on relevant issues.
- 3.3 As in previous years, a steering group is formed to organise Clyde Conversations events. The group consists of young people from each local secondary school and was supported by CLD Youth Services staff. The steering group develops the initial consultation, plans and supports the events and play a critical role in the development of the final report.
- 3.4 In 2024, the steering group carried out a consultation to identify the top issues young people would like to discuss at this year's Clyde Conversations.

#### For S1-S3 the main issues were:

- Lack of things for young people to do in Inverclyde;
- · Bullying;
- Alcohol/drugs/smoking/vaping misuse;
- School canteen issues; and
- · Mental health & wellbeing.

#### For S4-S6 the main issues were:

- Pressure to succeed in schools & SQA Qualifications;
- · Secondary school canteen issues;
- · Mental Health, loneliness, and isolation;
- Finance and poverty; and
- Lack of things for young people to do in Invercivde
- 3.5 This year's events began with a recap for young people around how the actions highlighted in previous years have been taken forward by partners.

#### 4.0 CLYDE CONVERSATIONS REPORT

- 4.1 The Clyde Conversations steering group produced a report to highlight the key points and actions to arise from the Clyde Conversations 6 events held in February 2024. The report provides details of the following:
  - The areas of strength and actions that young people would like to see in relation to the key issues, themes and topics; and
  - Information about the initial consultation, the programme each day, workshop summaries and participant feedback about the events; and

Information about feedback sessions held following the Clyde Conversations events, including details of what young people consider to be the top priorities moving forward.

- 4.2 The report is contained within appendix 1 of this report. Examples of graphic illustrations produced during the event are presented in Appendix 2a and 2b.
- 4.3 Partners will now be asked to provide comment with regards to proposed actions that will be taken forward to address the issues raised by young people. Progress on actions will be reported

through the existing children's services planning arrangements, and of course to young people through the following methods:

- Input at school assemblies;
- Focus groups/workshops;
- Social media; and
- Padlet's/newsletters.

### 5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO
Financial		Χ
Legal/Risk		Χ
Human Resources		Χ
Strategic (Partnership Plan/Council Plan)	Χ	
Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People's Rights		Χ
& Wellbeing		
Environmental & Sustainability		Χ
Data Protection		Χ

#### 5.2 Finance

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

### 5.3 Legal/Risk

None at present

### 5.4 Human Resources

None at present

### 5.5 Strategic

Clyde Conversations supports Theme 1: People within the Council Plan.

### 6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 No consultations outside of those mentioned within this report.

### 7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None





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## Introduction



2023/24 Steering Group with Tony McEwan, Head of Culture, Communities and Educational Resources

Clyde Conversations has run regularly in Invercive since 2015. Clyde Conversations is an integral part of Invercive Council's Youth Participation strategy and seeks to support youth voice across the Local Authority Area. Invercive Council was keen to work with local young people to plan and deliver Clyde Conversations in February 2024.

Clyde Conversations was facilitated over two ½ days on 6/7 February 2024 in Greenock Town Hall. Young people from S1-3 attended on the day 1 and S4-6 attended on day 2. As in previous years, schools were be asked to nominate 2 young people to be part of the Clyde Conversations steering group, whilst trying to ensure representation for the S1-3 cohort and for the S4-6 cohort. The steering group met regularly in the Greenock iYouthZone to plan and prepare for the event with the support of CLD Youth Work Services.

This report details the planning process, workshop feedback from the conversations which took place and actions to be taken forward in order to create positive changes for the young people of Inverclyde.

The total number of young people in attendance over the 2 events = 122

S1-3 Event = 60 young people

S4-6 Event = 62 young people

The Steering Group would like to thank Community Learning and Development Youth Work staff for their continued support throughout the planning process; workshops facilitators from Inverclyde Council, Education Department, Poverty Team, HSCP, Food & Nutrition Team, and Young Person's Health & Wellbeing Substance Team.

The Steering group would also like to extend its thanks to school staff who co-ordinated pupils attendance and Greenock Town Hall for its practical support in hosting the event. An additional thanks to the Poverty Team for bringing along free sanitary products for all the young people attending both events and to John Paul & Stacy for cater both events. Finally the steering group would like to thank the young people who attended this year's Clyde Conversations to give their opinions on how things can be improved for the young people of Inverciyde.



## **Consultation**

Throughout the planning process the steering group carried out a consultation to identify the top issues young people would like to discuss at this year's Clyde Conversations. It designed 2 different short, questionnaires (one for S1-S3 and one for S4-S6) asking young people to choose the five most important issues to them as a young person in Inverclyde.

Workshop ideas for Clyde Conversations S1 – S3

erclyde? Please circle your 5 choices:
Lack of Mental Health Services
Lack of Sexual Health Education within School
LGBTQI Issues & Support
Lack of things to do in Inverclyde – shops, fun, leisure,
UNCRC (Children's Rights)
Alcohol & Drug use in young people
School Education needs improved/changed
Loneliness & Isolation in young people
Politics & Fake News
ered about your school/community/other?  Clyde Conversations S4 – S6 Year Group:
Clyde Conversations S4 – S6  Year Group:
Clyde Conversations S4 – S6
Clyde Conversations S4 – S6  Year Group:
Clyde Conversations S4 – S6 Year Group: verclyde? Please circle your 5 choices:
Clyde Conversations S4 – S6  Year Group: verclyde? Please circle your 5 choices:  Lack of the right education in PSE Classes
Clyde Conversations S4 – S6 Year Group: verclyde? Please circle your 5 choices:  Lack of the right education in PSE Classes  Equal Sexual Health Education within All schools
Clyde Conversations S4 – S6 Year Group: verclyde? Please circle your 5 choices:  Lack of the right education in PSE Classes  Equal Sexual Health Education within All schools  LGBTQI Issues
Clyde Conversations S4 – S6 Year Group: verclyde? Please circle your 5 choices:  Lack of the right education in PSE Classes  Equal Sexual Health Education within All schools  LGBTQI Issues  SQA Qualifications
Clyde Conversations S4 – S6 Year Group: verclyde? Please circle your 5 choices:  Lack of the right education in PSE Classes Equal Sexual Health Education within All schools LGBTQI Issues SQA Qualifications Pressure to succeed in school
Clyde Conversations S4 – S6Year Group: verclyde? Please circle your 5 choices:  Lack of the right education in PSE Classes Equal Sexual Health Education within All schools LGBTQI Issues SQA Qualifications Pressure to succeed in school Health & Wellbeing
Clyde Conversations S4 – S6Year Group: verclyde? Please circle your 5 choices:  Lack of the right education in PSE Classes Equal Sexual Health Education within All schools LGBTQI Issues SQA Qualifications Pressure to succeed in school Health & Wellbeing Things for Young People to do in Inverclyde



## **Consultation Results**

The Steering Group received **240** responses from pupils.

<u>262</u> paper responses from St Stephen's High School, Port Glasgow High School, Inverclyde Academy and Clydeview Academy.

40 online responses from St.Columba's High School.

## Results from S1-3 consultation showed that the top 5 most important issues affecting them were:

- 1. Lack of things for Young People to do in Inverclyde
- 2. Smoking & Vaping Misuse
- 3. Bullying
- 4. Mental Health & Wellbeing
- 5. School Lunches

## Results from S4-6 consultation showed that the top 5 most important issues affecting them were:

- 1. Things for Young People to do in Inverclyde
- 2. School Lunches
- 3. Finance & Poverty
- 4. SQA Qualifications & Academic Pressure
- 5. Mental Health, Loneliness & Isolation



# Programme for Day 1 Tuesday S1-S3

9.15am - Registration & Breakfast

9.40am - Opening Session

Welcome and Introduction – Ruth Binks, Cooperate Director

Background – Steering group members—Rob and Aoife

9.50am - Workshop 1 choice \*

10.15am - Workshop 2 choice \*

10.40am - Inverclyde Council Budget Consultation

11am – Break & Stalls—Period Poverty & Inverclyde Youth Work Services

11.20am - Workshop 3 choice \*

11.45am - Evaluations

12pm – Round Up & Thank you by Steering Group—Franz & Oliver

Final remarks from Tony McEwan, Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources

Buses return pupils to schools for 12.30pm.

### Young people take part in 3 workshops out of 5.

Young people assigned workshops and given there workshops at registration.

- 1. Smoking & Vaping Misuse Facilitated By Gemma & Calum, Young People's Health, Wellbeing & Substance Team
- 2. Things for Young People to do in Inverclyde Facilitated By Jac & Lauren, Youth Work Services
- 3. School Lunches Facilitated By Gavin Marshall, Food & Nutrition Team and Tony McEwan, Head of Service
- 4. Mental Health & Wellbeing Facilitated By Allison McLennan, Education





<sup>\*</sup> Workshop arrangements detailed below



# Programme for Day 2 Wednesday S4-S6

The young people arrived via Taxi's at Greenock Town Hall and were seated by 9.40am.

9.15am - Registration & Breakfast

9.40am - Opening Session

Welcome and Introduction – Tony McEwan, Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources

Background – Steering group members—Matthew, Olivia & Kaytie

9.50am - Workshop 1 choice\*

10.15am - Workshop 2 choice \*

10.40am - Inverclyde Council Budget Consultation

11am – Break & Stalls—Period Poverty, Inverclyde Youth Work Services & Childcare Training
Consultation

11.20am - Workshop 3 choice \*

11.45am - Evaluations

12pm – Round Up & Thank you by Steering Group members, Zoe & Emily.

Final remarks from Tony McEwan, Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources

Buses return pupils to schools for 12.30pm.

\* Workshop arrangements details below

Young people take part in 3 workshops out of 5.

Young people assigned workshops and given there workshops at registration.

- 1. Poverty & Finance Facilitated By Louise from Poverty & Early Years Collaborative & Lauren from HSCP
- 2. Things for Young People to do in Inverclyde Facilitated By Lauren & John, Youth Work Services
- 3. School Lunches Facilitated By Gavin, Food & Nutrition Team
- 4. Mental Health, Bullying & Loneliness Facilitated By Paul, Youth Work Services
- 5. SQA Qualifications & Academic Pressures Facilitated By Michelle, Youth Work Services

62
young people in attendance





## Additional Information of both Clyde Conversations Events

Workshop format – Each workshop lasted 30 minutes and was replicated 3 times in total during the day. Workshop leaders facilitated the workshop discussions using the questions that were set by the steering group. The steering group helped scribe and note down the opinions/ideas/voices of the young people at each workshop. Each workshop discussion had 8-15 young people participating at each time.

Aim – To facilitate a discussion with young people to establish what changes or improvements they believe could be put in place around the given topics and allow them the opportunity to discuss with other young people any concerns or positive information they have around this topic area.

**Art Work**— On both days of the events, there was an artist that listened and created animations in relation to what young people were saying. These have been created into both physical books and a PDF File for young people that will be emailed to young people's glow accounts.

**Stalls at Break**—We Louise & Angela from the CLD Period Poverty Team running a stall that gave out free sanitary products & information on Period Poverty and how to get free sanitary products across Inverciyde.

On day 2, the S4-S6 also had the opportunity to be consulted on Childcare Employment Education Training consultation.



Angela & Louise from CLD Services giving out free period products and consulting with young people



## S1-S3 Tuesday's Workshop Main Points

Mental Health & Wellbeing—Mental health is still so important to young people. There are many great supports in the community & in schools but it isn't the same for everyone. Some of the young people were brave enough to share their story and how bad mental health had impacted and affected their lives. All young people that took part in this workshop felt that a focus on being supportive and building better relationships is the primary way to improve mental health & wellbeing in young people. Young people feel that PSE/Guidance staff need to be trained better on dealing with the vast issues that young people deal with and go through. Young people also feel that PSE Teachers should teach only PSE and be more available to support their young people. Young people are very aware of Mental Health services such as CAMHS but are also aware of the long waiting times to be seen and felt that this needs to improve. A list of support for young people out with school hours needs to be more accessible and promoted. Young people echoed the cost of activities needs to be reduced as this would contribute to positive physical and mental wellbeing. A few young people expressed a wish for football pitches to be opened more, especially out with school hours and during school holidays. Some young people made suggestions to help improve physical & mental health such as Youngscot discounts; more inclusive sports teams/activities; reducing of costs for activities; and more opportunities for young people to participate.

Bullying— A few young people felt able to share their own personal experiences and stories and they commented that they felt it was a none safe and non-judgmental environment. Young people felt that the MVP Programme in schools was a positive in assisting with bullying as an issue. Young people felt that support for young people needs to be individualised and that PSE/Guidance Teachers need to be ONLY guidance teachers so that they could be available for young people when they need them. Others felt that they should be available to teach PSE Classes and be able to provide education on Bullying and other topics/issues and life skills that will help young people. Young people felt that counselling/ therapy should be available at school to support young people and felt that a safe place for young people to go where there is a an adult there for support. They also felt that once a situation has occurred, regular check-ins should be followed up with young people.

Smoking & Vaping Misuse— Vaping is a crisis and needs to be prevented and reduced before it gets worse. All young people who took part in this workshop were very open and gave honest explanations on why young people vape and smoke and why it is appealing. Young people are also very aware of the negative effects it is having on young people such in terms of education and health and becoming addicted, as some cannot go 2 periods in school without needing to use a vape. Young people were aware of how it affects their moods and concentration if their use of vaping is limited. Young people find vaping easily accessible and that it is more unusual if you do not vape. Because vaping is so new, young people recognise that schools and parents can't deal with this epidemic correctly. They feel like they are being punished for vaping rather than helping young people when they are addicted. Young people stated that shops are selling them illegally to young people and selling vapes that are cheaper. Young people were also agree that disposable vapes are bad for the environment and want to move to rechargeable vapes to help the environment.



# S4 - S6 Wednesday's Workshop Main Points

Finance & Poverty—This was a popular workshop and young people had many views on finance and poverty. Young people report that they have noticed that the cost of food, and everyday bills are causing a strain on everyone, including their families. Their worries are that young people will never get onto the property market; that they wont be able to move out of their parents' home, even to relocate for university because of the rising cost of living. Young People were given the opportunity to discuss their thoughts on the affordability and sustainability of school uniforms. They felt that school uniforms reduce stigma and promote equality, safety and security. Young people do however feel that the uniform is too expensive, especially blazers and felt that the only shop in town takes advantage of being the only school uniform shop. Young people felt that schools can sometimes r focus too much on uniform and are too strict on their punishments and don't think about the reasons why young people aren't wearing correct, full uniform. Schools should appreciate that the young person has decided to show up to school knowing they will get into trouble. Young people came up with great suggestions, such as an Inverclyde Thrift Shop, school tie exchange and discretion around uniform compliance. Young people remain worried about moving on from school and not having the right knowledge and life skills to deal with finances, student loans, By Now Pay Later companies and interest rates.

SQA Qualifications & Academic Pressure— This workshop was one of the busiest and most chosen of them all. Supported study, study packs, masterclasses and easter schools are all great sources of support for them. Young people feel pressure from school and home to make choices that effect their future and feel that they should feel encouraged and given more and better opportunities to explore their future through work experience and visits to college, employers and open days rather than just focusing on only university. Young people feel that Careers events, continued learning conversations and meetings with Careers advisors throughout their senior school life will help them seek and try opportunities and keep them on track. There was a great deal of support for Work Experience to be reintroduced for S4 to S6 to help give young people life experience and to help further their knowledge and education so that they make informed choices on what they choose to do as a career.

Mental Health, Bullying & Loneliness — Everyone was appreciative of the workshop and was able to come up with causes and solutions for each of the issues. The facilitator highlighted to the young people different services and online support out there for young people, as some young people weren't aware of some of the services available. Young people felt that there seems to be lots of support for them but they need to be advertised better and current Mental Health Services aren't doing enough—waiting time is too long and the services are strained. PSE Classes need to be regular, consistent and used correctly where young people can be taught life skills and coping strategies. Additionally, the cost of activities can be a barrier to young people taking useful suggestions such as dangers of social media 'think before you post'; better transition support for S6 onwards; better support for young people with autism and ADHD and more opportunities for young people and social days for young carers.



### Workshops—School Lunches &

### Things for young people to do in Inverclyde

### **School Lunches**

Overall, young people felt that lunch queues were long, and dining halls noisy and rarely supervised. Some felt that school lunches prices are increasing but they are not worth the money. Portion sizes are too small and do NOT differ between younger and senior pupils. A suggestion of regular and larger size portions with a slight cost increase for the larger plate, this would help this. Young people are queuing for lunch too long and either have no time to eat their lunch and sometimes young people do not receive a school meal due to when they eventually get to the front, what they eat is no longer available. This workshop was great, and the feedback from young people was that they learned all about school lunches. There was some myth busting that happened where young people were made aware that the Scottish Government has set guidelines that school canteens must follow, the school canteens do not make a profit and they are given a budget that must meet the school needs. Young people that are recipients of Free School Meals felt that the allowance sometimes do not cover a full meal that will fill a young person and a suggestion of a morning snack for young people to help them get through the day as food will help fuel them so that can learn. The young people were also told about the future implementation of a school lunch pre-order app but young people brought up that this is a positive but what about the young people that do not have a device or have data? Young people also made suggestions for 'Meal Deals' as this is something that young people would buy and use.

### Things for young people to do in Inverclyde

Young people report that lots of shops have closed down in all the town and there needs to be more and better shops for everyone. 80% of the young people that attended preferred to leave Inverclyde for leisure and fun as it is too expensive in Inverclyde and not a lot to do. JD Gym & Waterfront gym are popular amongst young people and this is influenced by their friends, better equipment and classes than the community gyms. They like the swimming, cinema & ice skating but feel like they are too expensive and facilities aren't being updated. Young people would want more things to do that will keep them in Inverclyde such as Youth Events, music festivals and better facilities with better advertisement on social media. Young people feel that there are a number of good sports clubs and activities for young people but they aren't inclusive as they could be. They also feel that Duke of Edinburgh is a highlight of Inverclyde for young people. Young people enjoy going to the Oakmall but feel it is bleak and suggestions of an activity centre for young people and families to encourage more footfall in the mall. Young people did not know about Inverclyde's Partnership Plan. Young people feel that Inverclyde is a beautiful place due to the scenery and nature but are aware that Inverclyde's image is dull and some do not feel safe in their community.



At the end of each day's event, the young people were asked to answer three questions as part of the events evaluations.

These responses will shape future Clyde Conversations events and give the steering group valuable feedback for the next event.

'open discussions'

'Free Food' 'Inclusive event'

'Getting a voice on Inverclyde budgeting'

'Each leader actually listened to everyone's ideas'

### What did you enjoy?

'Meeting new people' 'Not being judged on what I say'
'How organised the event was'

'Free pads & pants #endperiodpoverty'

'Variety of topics and address problems'

'Different Workshops'

'smaller groups'

'Full Day event'

'More discussion time'

'hot chocolate' 'More Social Activities'

### What would you change?

'Better way to have everyone speak'

'more workshop choices'

Have Questions in advanced to think about answers'

'Opportunity to have private conversations'



'Child trust funds'

'Other people feel the same as me'
'School Lunch Rules' 'Everything costs a lot'

'Council budgets and how they manage money'

'Learned about foundation apprenticeships'
'learned more about mental health services'

### What did you learn?

'Need to treat people the same no matter who they are'

'Inverclyde Alliance Partnership Plan' 'Social skills'

'our community and ways it can be helped'

'there is always someone to talk to you'

'side affects of vaping'





## Suggestions/Ideas/Actions

### Things for Young People to do in Inverclyde

Better equipment & updated facilities for waterfront & community gyms.

Young people would like more affordable things to do such as bowling, youth events and music festivals.

Young people like the Oakmall but suggest an Activity Centre for young people & families to liven it up and increase footfall.

Football pitches to be open more often—during school holidays and weekends.

### **Bullying**

Support for young people needs to be individualised.

PSE/Guidance teachers as ONLY Guidance teachers.

PSE Classes throughout S1-S6 & provide education on Bullying, other topics/issues and life skills.

Counselling/Therapy available for Young people in schools

Regular Check-ins with young people and a safe place for young people to go.

### **Finance & Poverty**

An Inverciyde Thrift shop, especially for uniform.

Learn life skills in PSE from S1 to S6, such as money management, applying for jobs, personal finance, By Now Pay Later and paying for bills, etc.

### Mental Health, Bullying & Loneliness

Better advertisement of Mental Health Support as there is a lot out there!

PSE Class to teach life skills, such as coping strategies and "thinking before you post on social media".

Better transition support for S6 onwards and young people with autism and ADHD.

Cost of activities need to be reduced to improve physical & mental health.

More opportunities for young people.

Social day for young carers.

### Mental Health & Wellbeing

PSE/Guidance staff need better training to deal with the vast variety of issues and young people.

Mental Health Services for young people need to be improved as waiting times are too long.

Cost of activities need to be reduced or youngscot discounts especially for under 16s to improve physical & mental health.

Football pitches to be open more often—during school holidays and weekends.

More inclusive sports teams/activities & more opportunities for young people.

### **Smoking & Vaping Misuse**

Education and support for young people to quit.

Teachers need educated on how to support young people that are addicted.

Moving from disposable vapes to rechargable ones.

### **SQA Qualifications & Academic Pressure**

Work Experience should be brought back with different learning opportunities continued through <u>S4 to S6</u>.

More Careers events, college open days and employers fayres rather than focuses only on University.

Learning conversations & meetings with Careers advisors throughout their senior school life.

### **School Lunches**

Have different portion sizes at different costs

Have Meal Deals for young people

The dining experience needs to be better

Young people welcome the idea of a Pre-order lunch app but need to think of those that don't have data or a device.



## **Summary of feedback**

- 1. Better equipment & updated facilities for waterfront & community gyms.
- 2. Affordable activities & youth events across Inverclyde– possible youngscot discounts.
- 3. Football pitches to be open more often—during school holidays and weekends.
- 4. PSE/Guidance staff need better training to deal with the vast variety of issues and young people.
- 5. PSE Classes throughout S1-S6 & provide education & support on Life skills, coping strategies, Bullying, and other topics/issues such as vaping.
- 6. Counselling/Therapy available for Young people in schools.
- 7. Work Experience brought back with different learning opportunities continued from S4 to S6.
- 8. More Careers events, college open days and employers fayres.
- 9. Learning conversations & meetings with Careers advisors throughout senior phase.
- 10. Better advertisement of Mental Health Support.
- Improve the dining experiences in schools and have different portion sizes at different costs for school lunches.
- 12. Extended Lunch period during exams & prelims.



