

Summer School Review August 2021

Background and Intent

Thomas Adams Summer School took place between Monday 9th – Friday 13th August. The goal of the Summer School was to provide the upcoming Year 7 students with a week's transition activities with the goal of making the transition comfortable, alleviating anxiety in students and a focus on skills to support students' future learning, in particular looking at developing careers related skills such as teamwork and presenting.

Then financial breakdown of the event can be found at the back of this document.

Executive Summary

- Overall we provided 569 places over the 5 days for students. We had 648 students sign up and additional turning up, this is the figure we will claim for in our finance document.
- Surplus of £10,103.76 from the Summer School.
- 84 students attended all 5 days with just under ¼ increasing the number of days they were due to attend throughout the week.
- High satisfaction scores from students for variety of lessons and a rating of 4.54 / 5 for the overall quality of the experience. The theme of chocolate proved popular with 24% of students mentioning chocolate in their answer. The School met its goal of supporting student's transition with 103/113 saying it improved their confidence in starting.
- High satisfaction with parents, almost all students said it helped with their child's confidence in starting a high satisfaction score, one who replied it wasn't, that doesn't fit with other comments they made on the form. Parents rated the experience as 4.76 out of 5 stars. Most negative comments said they were dealt with quickly and effectively by Hannah Lester, Head of Year.
- Staff feedback was positive, with those involved happy with their impact on transition and happy with the organisation.

Lessons and Themes

The Summer School's lessons predominantly followed the theme of designing and branding a chocolate bar, similar to enterprise challenges we hold in year 9. The following lessons were taught during the week.

- Welcome Assembly / School Orientation
- Chocolate Challenge and setting up your team. Team Time/Names/Logos/ Slogans/Badge design
- Adverts and Brands and Chocolate Design
- Package Making
- Adverts (Drama)
- Recording your jingles

- Graphs, Charts and business maths
- Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
- P.E
- Yoga
- Chocolate Printing Science
- Where Chocolate comes from
- Cooking with Chocolate
- Art
- History Shield Making
- Marketing your product – email, social media posts
- I.T and PPTs
- Presentations
- Roman Army Drill

Review and Impact

As part of our programme of feedback we questioned 3 stakeholders; students, staff and parents.

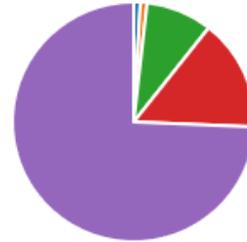
Student Feedback

2. How many days of Summer School did you attend?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

1	1
2	1
3	10
4	17
5	84



3. Did you end up attending more days than you originally planned?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

Yes	23
No	89



4. Do you think there was a good variety of sessions on offer?

[More Details](#)

Yes	106
No	3
Maybe	3



Questions 2 - 4 analysis

Nearly 3/4s of students attended all 5 days with 23 out of 112 students increasing the number of days they attended. We can conclude from this that the students enjoyed themselves during the week to the extent they were willing to attend additional days. In question 5, 95% of students enjoyed the variety of activities held during the week.

5. On a scale of 1-5 with 5 being the highest, how much did you enjoy attending Summer School?

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[Insights](#)

112

Responses



4.54 Average Rating

The results of question 5 show that students rated Summer school highly in terms of enjoyment. As a staff we can be proud of the lessons and learning that took place during this week.

Question 6 - What was your favourite part of Summer School?

24% of responses related to the word chocolate in some manner, the results suggest that the theme of the Summer school was popular. Other key phrases included cooking, PE. It was pleasing to look at the results and see the social aspects of Summer school getting mentioned frequently, including making new friends and meeting their new teachers. This shows that our goal of supporting with the social aspects of school was met.

Question 7 - What was your least favourite part of Summer School?

There was no overriding theme to the answers to this question. Some disliked the short first break which was originally designated as a toilet break and nothing more. Some students disliked sitting in one classroom as their base, this was true for the first day but then there was quite a bit of moving around.

8. Do you feel more confident about starting Thomas Adams in September having attended Summer School?

[More Details](#)

 Insights

	Yes	103
	No	3
	Maybe	7



Question 8 – 91% of students felt more comfortable starting at the school then they did before the start of Summer School. I am disappointed with the 3 who do not feel more confident, when looking at what they rated Summer School, they gave them 3,4 and 5 which suggests that at least they enjoyed the experience and may be more representative of their confidence than their experience.

Question 9- What else could we have done to make Summer School better?

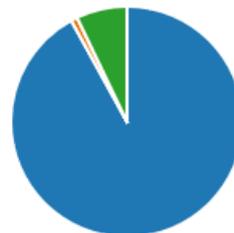
The main response was about the lack of chairs for lunch or for longer breaks. All things which you would expect due to changes made from COVID.

10. Would you recommend Summer School to a friend?

[More Details](#)

 Insights

	Yes	104
	No	1
	Maybe	8

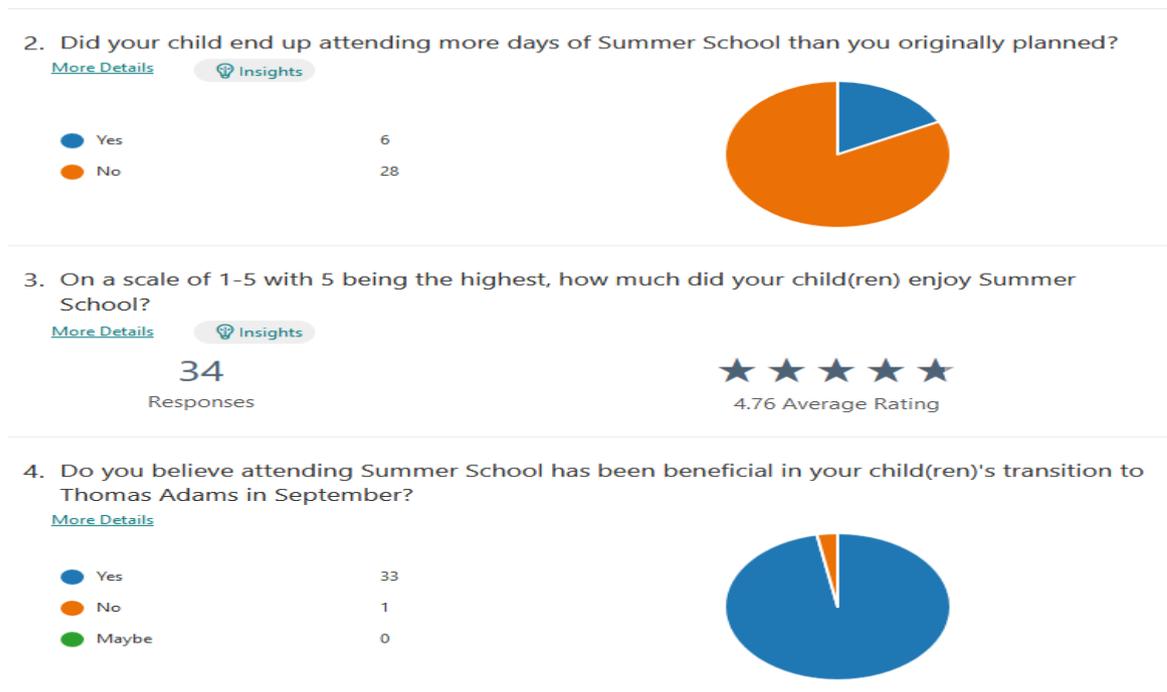


Overwhelmingly positive responses to this question with 92% of students saying they would recommend Summer School and only one student who would not, however, that student gave 5 stars for the enjoyment question.

11. Anything else you want to say?

Most answers were positive, thanking staff for their experiences.

Parental Feedback



Question 2 mirrors the answers given in the same question as was posed to the students, showing that some parents were pleased with their experience that their students completed more days than they originally expected to do so. In question 3 parents rated Summer school highly, with a score of 4.74. This shows they rated it higher than the children but may be impacted by the lower number of parents who completed the survey compared to the students. Regardless, the school should be proud of a very high satisfaction score. Question 4 has parents overwhelmingly believing that Summer School was beneficial to their child's transition – with 97% answering yes. This again proves that we met our main target with Summer School.

5. How do well do you feel Summer School was organised?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

Extremely Well	30
Quite Well	3
Fair	0
Poor	0
Extremely Poor	1



6. Given the option, would you send your child to Summer School again?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

Yes	32
No	0
Maybe	2



Question 5 – the overwhelming responses (88%) believed the event was planned extremely well, and 9% quite well. The 1 response that was poor can be claimed to be an accident as they gave the experience 4/5 and the comment thanks the school for the experience. Question 6 reinforces the positive experience with the majority of parents saying they would send students again.

Question 7 - Any other comments or feedback on Summer School would be greatly appreciated.

Overall the responses were positive, even those that were negative were turned positive by speaking to Miss Lester, HOY. This is a credit to her diligence and care for the pupils. Most of the comments talked of how the students felt more confident following their time at the school.

Staff Feedback

1. On a scale of 1-5 with 5 being the highest, how well do you feel Summer School was organised?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

20

Responses



4.85 Average Rating

2. How confident did you feel teaching the sessions you were timetabled?

[More Details](#)

Extremely confident	9
Somewhat confident	8
Neutral	2
Somewhat not confident	0
Extremely not confident	0



3. How well was key information shared with you leading up to Summer School?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

Extremely well	19
Somewhat well	1
Somewhat not well	0
Extremely not well	0
Neutral	0



Question 1 shows that staff were happy with the organisation of the Summer School and that with a rating of 4.85 out of 5. This is pleasing to us and helped foster the sense of community that we hoped to instil within the staff involved. Overall staff were fairly confident of the lessons they were teaching, this can be explained by the distributed leadership model relating to the lessons where staff with certain specialisms were asked to plan the lessons. Question 3 highlights how information was shared with staff, again the results rated this highly.

4. How well was key information shared with you **during** Summer School?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

Extremely well	17
Somewhat well	3
Somewhat not well	0
Extremely not well	0
Neutral	0



5. How well supported did you feel during Summer School?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

Extremely well	19
Somewhat well	1
Neutral	0
Somewhat not well	0
Extremely not well	0



6. How beneficial do you feel Summer School was for the children who attended?

[More Details](#)

Very	20
Slightly	0
Neutral	0
Not Very	0
Not at all	0



Question 4 confirms that we shared information well during Summer school, I feel that the reason for this high score was due to daily briefings, which were of course necessary due to the rotation of staff. Question 5 shows that staff felt supported during the Summer school, this is no doubt due to Mr Gough visiting each class during each lesson. Question 6 shows that staff noticed the beneficial nature of Summer school, both in terms of preparation for year 7 and the social benefit.

Question 7. Any other feedback that you wish to share?

Comments were positive with the staff realising the importance of the event to supporting students in their transition. One area to consider is that teachers need to introduce TAs to the students.

Overall Comments

- Overall the Summer School was a positive experience for all involved with students, parents and staff all extremely happy with the event and its outcomes
- Parents and Staff were pleased with the organisation
- One point to consider would be length of breaks and dining arrangements
- Would recommend holding a Summer school in the future if the COVID fund continues next year as the benefits seem to be worth the work.
- Theme of chocolate was popular and majority were pleased with the lessons.

Appendix – Student Feedback

What could we have done to improve the experience?

Nothing

Add chairs for lunch

Maybe showing round school more

Not really much

Maybe add some more food to lunches	Something to sit on at lunch	To let people go out of the playground if a parent or carer is at the gate.
No	Made more chocolate	
More chocolate	Chairs during lunchtime!	I have no idea
I don't know	I don't know	I don't know
Don't know	Chairs in the dining hall during lunch	More to do with chocolate
Seats for when you eat	Longer brakes	Nothing
More P.E	Nothing	Nothing
Trampolining	Not sure	More outside activities at break time
Nothing	More choice on school dinners	Nothing
More food	No	I think it was perfect
Chairs at lunch time	Not having actual lessons	Don't know really
More toilets	Nothing	Nothing
Not Sure		Being in more rooms over the school/not having a main classroom to be in
Nothing	No	
Another break after lunch	Nothing	I don't really think there is anything
Chairs in dining hall	Have lunch earlier	
Earlier lunch maybe	No	Nothing
Nothing	I loved it all.	Less sitting in the classroom
No	I don't know I liked it all	Not sure
More lessons in a day	More art	Not sure
Have more days	If we did all the subjects in the rooms we would have done them in, like a normal timetable	Nothing
Not sure		Not sure
I don't know		Not sure
Escalators	Not sure	Not sure
Chairs in hall	Don't really know	More directions of where the rooms were
More PE		
More chocolate		Nothing

Nothing	Chewing gum under tables	Give everyone chocolate
Nothing		Lessons in a more variety of classrooms
Nothing	Nothing	More teachers
Choosing who you work with in groups	More benches in the yard	More sports
Nothing	More sports/outside activities	We could have eaten more chocolate
More outside activities	Not sure.	Have more creative lessons
Nothing	Mix forms more	More p.e
Nothing	More chocolate	Proper cricket games
Nothing	More sweets	More PE
Move around more, from classroom to classroom seeing more of the school	More creative things	More fun activity's eg:Football
Chairs to sit down when you eat	More art	
	More art	

Question – Anything else you would like to say?

No	No thank you thanks for having me	way around Thomas adams. I can't wait to join year 7 in September
No		
No	I made some friends that I might keep in September	No
	No	Maybe better meals
	No	No
# banana	Thank you	No
No	No	Can't wait for the next 7 years
Really good school, staff very friendly and welcoming to me	No	No
	No	Thank you
No	Thank you for making summer school possible for everyone	It is good ☺
#monkey		Nothing
Trampolines at lunchtime please	I really enjoyed summer school as now I know my	

Thank you for a brilliant week! Looking forward to September.	No	No.
	No	Friendly teachers
Thank you for a good week	No	No
I loved summer school and has been some of the best experiences I've had	It's been the best week I've ever had!	No
	Nothing	This has been a lovely school to attend
It was good	No	No
No	No	Not really
No	No.	Summer school has boosted my confidence for Thomas Adams and has made me less nervous and more excited and Mrs partridge is very kind.
Yes to get people to line up before they go into the lunch hall for dinner time.	No.	
	No.	
No	No	
No	No.	Teachers are amazing eve is my favourite
I really enjoyed Summer school as I met my teacher and loads of new people that are going to be in my form/year	I really enjoyed it and I hope others do too	I made lots of friends
	No.	I really liked making the shields
	It's been fun.	
No	No.	Evie is a good teacher
No	No.	All the teachers are nice
No	No	Evie is an amazing and funny teacher.
Thankyou	No	Thanks to Mr Hargreaves

Appendix – Parental Comments

- Really well organised, great communication and it was lovely to be able to see the children's work today. Credit to the staff who worked and planned this, it will help make the transition less daunting.
- ... has absolutely loved it and was keen everyday. He has said he hopes Danny gets to do it too next year, so as a parent, I couldn't ask for more.
- This was a welcome addition to the move up journey, thank you to all staff for their time.

- .. has made my daughter feel at ease and enjoyed making new friends and talkin to some of the new teachers, she is now looking forward to starting year 7 as before she was worried and scared. i feel more confident that my daughter will settle in quite well in september. Thankyou for giving her the oppurtunity.
- It has been really helpful for jade as she panics about changes.
- This has given them an insight and confidence to attend in September. They are having a fantastic time and really enjoying it
- Appreciate the staff running the Summer School
- An amazing approach to transition and woll help my son greatly as he is not very confident. This will help him on his way in September as he will allready know and made friends with some of the pupils going into year 7.Thank you.
- It's a great idea and really helps to take the edge of the big move to secondary school. ... is quite nervous but meeting some of his future class mates and getting to know the building beforehand has helped to calm his nerves.
- I think it is a great opportunity to meet the teachers and new people. My daughter is not worrying about starting in September. Thank you Thomas Adams for setting it up for the children.
- A great opportunity for Sam to see the school and meet some of his peers. Made him very excited about starting in September. Thank you
- ... has thoroughly enjoyed his time at summer school so far. He has participated in a wide variety activites and orientation exercises. The staff have made him feel very welcome and he can't wait to start school in September.
- ... was so nervous about starting in September but since he has been to summer school most of his fears have gone. He is more confident and relaxed when talking about school. He has really enjoyed himself and can't wait to tell me all about his day. Thank you for the hard work put in by all the staff involved.
- We are very grateful summer school has been put on this year. Olivia is generally shy particularly after the lockdown and missing so much of year 5/6. She is now so much happier about starting in September and it's given her a real confidence boost - thank you!
- ... was without his lunch on the first day and didn't ask for help. The reception staff insisted everyone was offered food and asked if he didn't like the options, suggesting it was ... fault. Thankfully it was resolved when HoY discussed this with me and with the next morning to prevent further anxiety and right level of support has been provided. Thank you for providing this opportunity for ... this summer.
- For my daughter being placed in teams was very difficult for her as she didn't know any one and was not with her friend. This made it hard for her to return the next day, I have to say that the staff at Thomas Adams are truly fantastic. After phoning and speaking to reception and later head of year and again on returning the following day, they could not be more helpful and I can't thank them enough, this turned the whole experience around for my daughter who has now started to talk to people. I'm not sure if this is something I would want to do again, maybe it would have been better if I left her until move up day or maybe this has been good for her it's difficult to say. All I can say is that the staff are very supportive and all children are different.

- Please thank all the people who helped organise and deliver the summer school. My son enjoyed all the activities, netting new friends and teachers and it also gave him an understanding of his new secondary school, its layout and organisation.
- I think it's a fabulous experience for ..., it will enable her to feel more at ease when starting full-time in September. Thank you for offering this experience.
- Madalyn is so great full for summer school she was so nervous about starting she was having panic attacks and being sick. Summer school has made her so much more relaxed and now she's able to enjoy the rest of her summer. It's been so helpful for her ease her worries and learn about the school in a fun way
- Great variety of activities.
- The summer school has been really enjoyable and beneficial. Rohan has loved meeting new friends and given him Confidence for when he starts in September. Thank you.
- ... reports that she has had a great week, has made new friends and feels less nervous about starting high school.
- My son has really enjoyed this week, he found Monday abit stressful but that was due to his ... plus new environment but this was handled extremely well by the staff
- great idea for introducing the new children to the school in a fun way
- The summer school has been a really useful scheme, it has allowed our daughter to grow in confidence with regards to the September start, and has been really useful to allow her to meet staff, students and to experience the environment for a prolonged period of time. All round, fantastic.
- I think summer school has been excellent. ... has already made new friends and has met many pupils in his form which can only be beneficial for when he begins in September. Thank you to everyone involved, he's had a brilliant time!

Appendix – Staff feedback

- Really enjoyable for the days I was in, it's nice to see the new year 7s before they come in for real in September
- The students enjoyed being able to have a look around "big" school. Literacy and maths were hard to support as there was a big range of abilities - some children in tears because they were struggling and found it overwhelming.
- I thought it was extremely well organised, well thought out and planned, thank you for being slowed to be part of it.
- It would be very helpful to work with children you are going to be timetabled with in the new school year. I think this may be difficult to organise. It would also be helpful as a TA to work with the same group to give you time to build a relationship especially with children with specific needs. A big ask I know. Otherwise everything was brilliant
- I think this should be something we do annually. Possibly split practical sessions in to different days as some students struggle with 5 lessons in the classroom. I personally think its been organised extremely well and I have enjoyed meeting the children joining us in September. Loved being part of it

- I think that the children who have attended Summer School will have the advantage of feeling less anxious and more confident in September.
- Great week!
- It would have been nice if some of the teachers pd 1 had introduced TAs. Also some teachers fully used TA but with some there was little interaction or acknowledgment of us being there.
- Thoroughly enjoyed working with staff I wouldn't normally work with. Camaraderie was awesome. Such good fun !!
- I am so pleased to have been involved with summer school. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the kids and feel the whole experience for them was extremely beneficial.
- Great effort from all but James and Hannah are amazing, made my two days here amazing and they should be very proud of the achievement, success and engagement from all.
- Just a huge thank you. Your hard work is greatly appreciated by both staff and the students!

Financial Breakdown

Overall Totals	
Total Potential Income	£ 38,880.00
Total Expenditure	£ 28,696.40
Surplus	£ 10,183.60

Expenditure Breakdown

Overall Totals	
Total staff Expenditure	£ 18,648.85
Total Resource Expenditure	£ 10,047.55
Surplus	£ 28,696.40

Main purchases included

- 16 ipads to use throughout the activities and as part of our celebration event
- Catering for the students
- Additional Cleaning
- Rewards