

Record and Evaluation

(this is produced after every event we run)

Record of Event:

School: Sherborne Girls
School Contact: Rowan MacNeary
Date: 5 November 2013
Event: Conference
Student Yr. Group: Lower Sixth Form (96 students)
Adviser-Coaches: Chris Ford Gay Mallam Louisa Stafford
Couples: Ruth & Sean Luther Sue & Tony Gadsdon
 Lynne & Kane Hardy

Evaluation:

Number of Evaluation Forms Returned: 77
(Some students did not have pens so paired up to complete the forms)

Ratings:

Excellent:	15	19%
Very good:	41	53%
Good:	16	21%
Average	5	6%
Poor:		

Excellent, very good and good totalled: 72 = 94% *amazing but quite normal*

Evaluation examples

What discoveries or surprises have you experienced today?

- At first I was not looking forward to it, because I thought it was going to be more like teaching you how a good marriage is – but I loved that we asked the questions and that we could ask anything.
- That the couples are so open and love to share their experiences. I think this is a perfect way to learn more about marriage.
- I did not expect it to have such a positive impact on me.
- No matter how compatible you are, you have to work at a relationship! Both couples met so young and knew they wanted to spend the rest of their lives together because they never wanted to be apart.

- I thought that old couples had nothing to talk about, however I was wrong. I found that they truly loved each other.
- Both couples said that they loved each other more now than they did at the beginning.
- How much fun the couples have even after 40 years!
- The commitment the couples have to work at relationships and understand difficulties, and also the love/joy you can get from it.
- How faithful and in love the couples still are. How after 40 years their sex lives are still so good.
- I didn't realise that marriage can stay so strong for such a long time. I didn't realise how different the relationship can be once children are born.
- How every couple has to find their own ways to get through problems.
- That marriage isn't always easy. You have to compromise in order to have a successful relationship.
- Discovered impact of sex. Discovered importance of trust and faithfulness in longer relationships.
- That people wait to have sex until after marriage.
- I found both couples views and lifestyles very interesting.
- Religion can be the centre of relationships. They didn't have sex before marriage.(x2) Marriage can last healthily.
- I have learned first-hand what marriage is like.
- I was surprised at how open and happy to answer our questions they were.(x 5)
- That despite arguments you can still have a happy marriage.
- I've discovered that marriage can never be boring, anything but! I understand more about the trust between a married couple and how they learn to build a stronger relationship.
- That marriage can be so happy and loving.
- Marriage is completely different for each couple.
- The need to work at a marriage – not as easy as we think.
- That if you have the right person, you don't have to work at it not being boring, it just isn't.
- The idea that babies are so important in a relationship.
- That talking to each other is key.
- I've discovered that marriage isn't always easy but it is worth it in the end.
- That not all marriages end in divorce.
- Marriage is a beautiful thing.

Were there any disappointments?

- No, very interesting and informative.
- No, not at all – the couples were lovely.
- Maybe a younger couple would be more relevant to us. It would be good to contrast between a younger and an older couple. (x 4)
- Marriage seems like a struggle. (x 2)
- Marriage isn't easy. (x 2)
- They didn't have (or say they had) any problems or regrets which isn't very realistic for most people. (x 2)
- The couples were quite similar. (x 2)

- Slightly awkward.
- (The rest of the students answered 'No' to this question)

What difference might today's session make to you?

- It's made me realise how important marriage is and how amazing it can be. I now can see how much it can benefit you and it's a lovely thing to have.
- My views on marriage are a lot more positive. I didn't know what marriage was like because my parents aren't together, so I've never witnessed a marriage.
- I have more hope in marriage and believe that although the idea of being with one person for the rest of your life is daunting, love carries on and it doesn't get boring. Marriage grows with age.
- Has informed me on all 'secrets' of marriage – eliminated any ideas about relationships created from watching Hollywood films!
- A different, happier outlook on marriage as a whole.
- It has opened my eyes to some aspects of marriage I wouldn't have discovered from films/stories/my parents.
- Made me realise that marriage is entirely subjective and there are many different but equally happy ways of being married – gives me more freedom to do my own thing.
- Shows me that marriage and meeting your soulmate won't be an easy fairytale.
- It has made me more aware of the difficulties and the strengths of marriage.
- They showed me that marriage is very different from just having a relationship.
- That it is very important that you communicate and know your partner before deciding to marry them.
- Knowing more about a successful relationship, I might think about marriage in the future.
- I will look at marriage more open mindedly, it doesn't matter if you have hard times together, you just need to work through them.
- I have learned that you don't have to be similar people.
- I feel like – with so many divorces nowadays, not all relationships are like this, and happy marriages do exist!
- You have to work on your marriage, it doesn't just happen.
- I see marriage in a different light!
- Appreciate idea of marriage more. It's something to aim for.
- Learned a lot about marriage and sustaining a relationship.
- I will be more open-minded about marriage. If a relationship goes wrong – work on it and fight for it if you think it's worth it.
- It will make me really consider what it means to be married.
- To have more faith in marriage – it's encouraging.
- Think more seriously about marriage – so much bad media about marriage these days, good to know it works.
- Less naïve outlook – better/more realistic perception – good tips.
- Every argument doesn't mean divorce.
- Importance of communication.
- You need to always care about your other half before you.

What questions/issues do you feel that you still face?

- How do you know that the person is the right one? (x 9)
- How to actually know when you're ready and if you want to get married.
- Will it be a regret having sex so young?
- Whether I am up for the commitment.
- Balance of career/marriage/children – in particular for women.
- How you manage time with your partner, your interests and your work?
- Impact of broken homes and surrounding couples.
- Impact of divorce on children's relationships.
- Arguments – how to overcome them.
- Whether or not marriage is a good thing and required for a healthy relationship.
- The fact that when you get married you spend the rest of your lives together.
- Formulating relationships. How big issues are got over by couples.
- Whether living together before is good or bad.
- Trust issues. (x2)
- That I am going to be alone forever. (x 2)
- Right age to have a child?
- Whether or not to marry.
- When you feel bored of each other, what will you do? (x 3)
- Adultery.
- I think the usual fears and hopes of marriage still remain, but despite learning a lot today, I feel a lot of it is up to personal experience.
- What other people think of my partner, and not being scared to talk.
- Not all of my worries have been dispelled, but I feel better.
- I think we asked them a lot of different questions and it gave me a better view of marriage.

(The rest of the students answered 'None' or did not comment)

Other comments:

- This is an excellent programme and I am very glad to have had the experience.
- It was really fun and interesting and I learned a lot!
- The couples were very inspiring and showed us how amazing marriage can be.
- All lovely people and all good speakers. Very enjoyable, thought provoking and interesting.
- The couples were really nice and the whole thing was really informative and a great idea. Thank you.
- Great afternoon which was really interesting.
- Learned a lot about relationships today.
- I wish we had met all three couples.(x 4)
- Younger/newly married couples would be interesting. (x 5)
- This was so good/so fun – thank you so much. (x 3)
- I didn't really feel that this was particularly relevant; also there was too strong an emphasis on marriage, and consequently felt pressuring and old-fashioned.
