**Focus Group Interview**

**Date: 26/06/2022**

**Signature of researcher: JL**

**Participants: Grade 11A**

1. Explain your initial reasons for wanting to join the Kearsney College Choir.

Participant 1: I am on a **music scholarship so I joined the choir** because of that. But I think I would have still joined the choir even if I wasn’t on a scholarship.

Participant 2: I joined the choir because I **sought a new experience and learn a new skill**.

Participant 3: In grade eight **I saw the choir perform and I thought to myself that I always wanted to be a part of it** and the **music-producing** kind of thing.

Participant 4: I was in grade six when I **saw the choir performing for the first time** and since then I thought I would join the choir.

Participant 5: I liked music since a very young age. **Since grade two I have been singing in choirs, so I just wanted to carry on with that**.

1. Describe your most enjoyable experiences since joining the choir.

Participant 1: **100% tours**. You have the **most fun during a tour**.

Participant 2: For me, it is when we **all sing on stage** we are **all equals** and I thoroughly enjoy that.

Participant 3: For me, it is about **making new friends**.

1. What are some of the benefits of singing in a choir for you?

Participant 1: It originates from the whole idea of a **team workout**. **You have to do what you have to do to keep the team going.** You have to be as efficient as the guys standing next to you and **you are all seen as performers and not as individuals**.

Participant 2: I think it is also something to do with **responsibility**. **You are responsible to know and learn your own work and people can then hold you responsible to perform on the standard that you are musical**.

Participant 3: It is **hard work and dedication**.

1. What are some of the disadvantages of singing in a choir?

Everybody: It is **time-consuming**.

Participant 1: It **makes you tired and stressed.** When we were **in exams, we were busy doing choir and that just adds to the stress**.

1. Do you think singing in a choir can bring diverse cultures together, and if so how, and if not, why do you think that is?

Participant 1: Because **we sing a lot of songs and African music, I have learned to understand the Zulu culture better than before I was in the choir**. Now that we are touring Austria, I think we get to understand Austrian and German cultures.

Participant 2: **We do all kinds of music in the choir.** We don’t just learn music, **we learn the music for meaning** and that is **where the whole idea of learning about different cultures comes into the choir**. We share different stories of different cultures as well.

Participant 3: In this group alone, **we have got black, colored, white, and Indian people all in the same place so that just all adds to the diversity of the choir**.

1. Could you explain what you value most of being a choir member of the Kearsney College Choir? Elaborate.

Participant 1: Definitely **the brotherhood** would be the biggest thing.

Participant 2: It is **the friendships**. Nobody else would understand how much **we actually work together.** If we have t**o get through any progress we have to work** together and if we do that **we are much stronger together**.

Participant 3: It does **teach you some music theory**. It **allows you to have a passion for music** and you **gain the ability to learn**. Coming from a background with no musical experience does help you gain some aspects of it but I think it is mainly **the brotherhood** that **makes it valuable**.

1. Do the members of the Kearsney College Choir share a unique brotherhood (separate from the rest of the school)? Elaborate.

Participant 1: I think because of the hierarchy in the school, the seniors do not interact as much with the grade eights, but in the choir, **you spend so much time with the juniors and you start understanding them better.** Personally, if I wasn’t in the choir I would have not been talking to any of the juniors that I am talking to right now.

Participant 2: It is not that you are mates with the juniors, but **you are a bit closer now**. You **have more respect for that junior**.

1. What do your friends outside of choir think of you participating in the school choir? Do they tease you, or do they support your choice to participate in the choir?

Participant 1: Whenever we go to a choir practice **they think that it is so tough**. **Whenever we perform, I have a few friends that tell me that it was amazing and that the performance was really good**. **They just assume that we are wasting so much time**.

Participant 2: When you put in a lot of time like giving up your Friday afternoons, **everyone seems to judge you** because of that, but **when you perform and show the work, everyone supports you by being there in the choir**.

Participant 3: There are **some first-team rugby players that really don’t mind**. If **the whole school come and watches the choir they don’t really mind**.

1. What motivates you to continuously participate in choral singing at Kearsney College?

Participant 1: Honestly speaking, it is **the upcoming tour**.

Participant 2: It is **the performances**, **I just love going on a stage**.