

Sixth Form College performance and funding briefing

June 2014

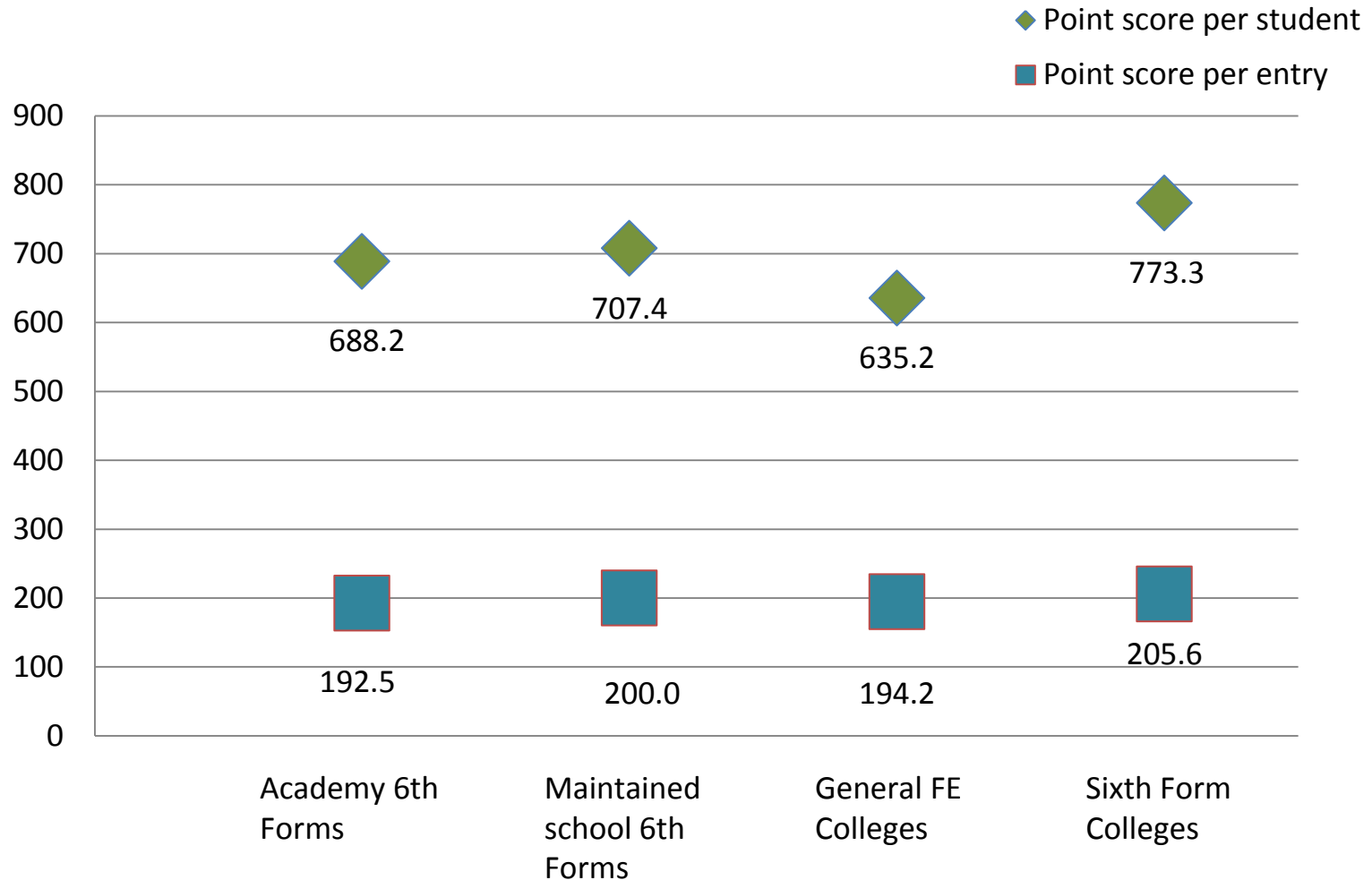
Headline figures



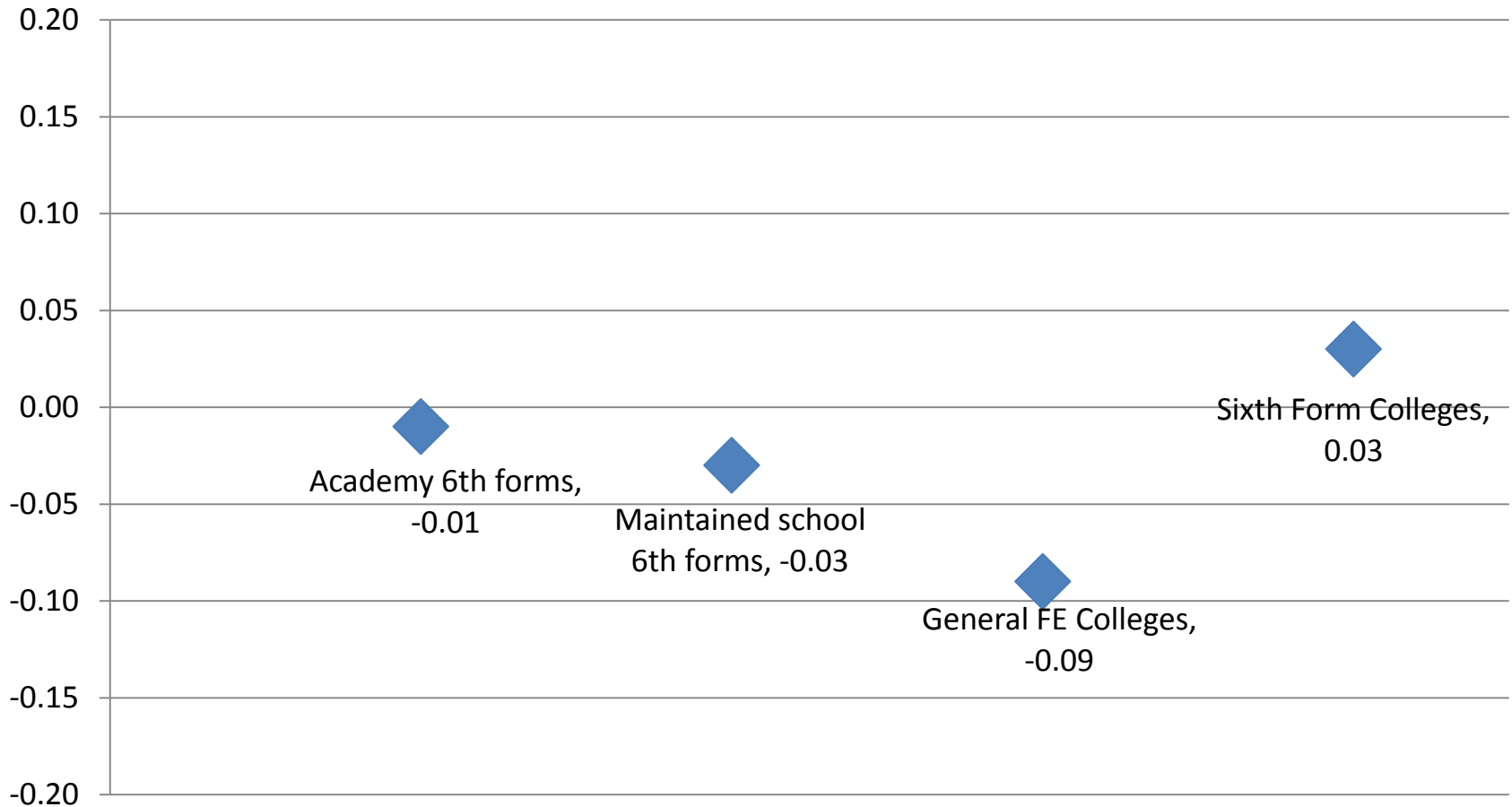
- ◆ **93** colleges educating **158,000** 16-18 year olds
- ◆ **89%** of learning is at Level 3
- ◆ SFCs account for **20%** of all A level entries in England
- ◆ **89%** of colleges are graded as good or outstanding by Ofsted
- ◆ **11.4%** of students FSM eligible, compared to 10.8% (schools) 8.2% (academies)

1. Sixth Form Colleges are highly effective and highly efficient

Average point score per academic student/entry by provider type



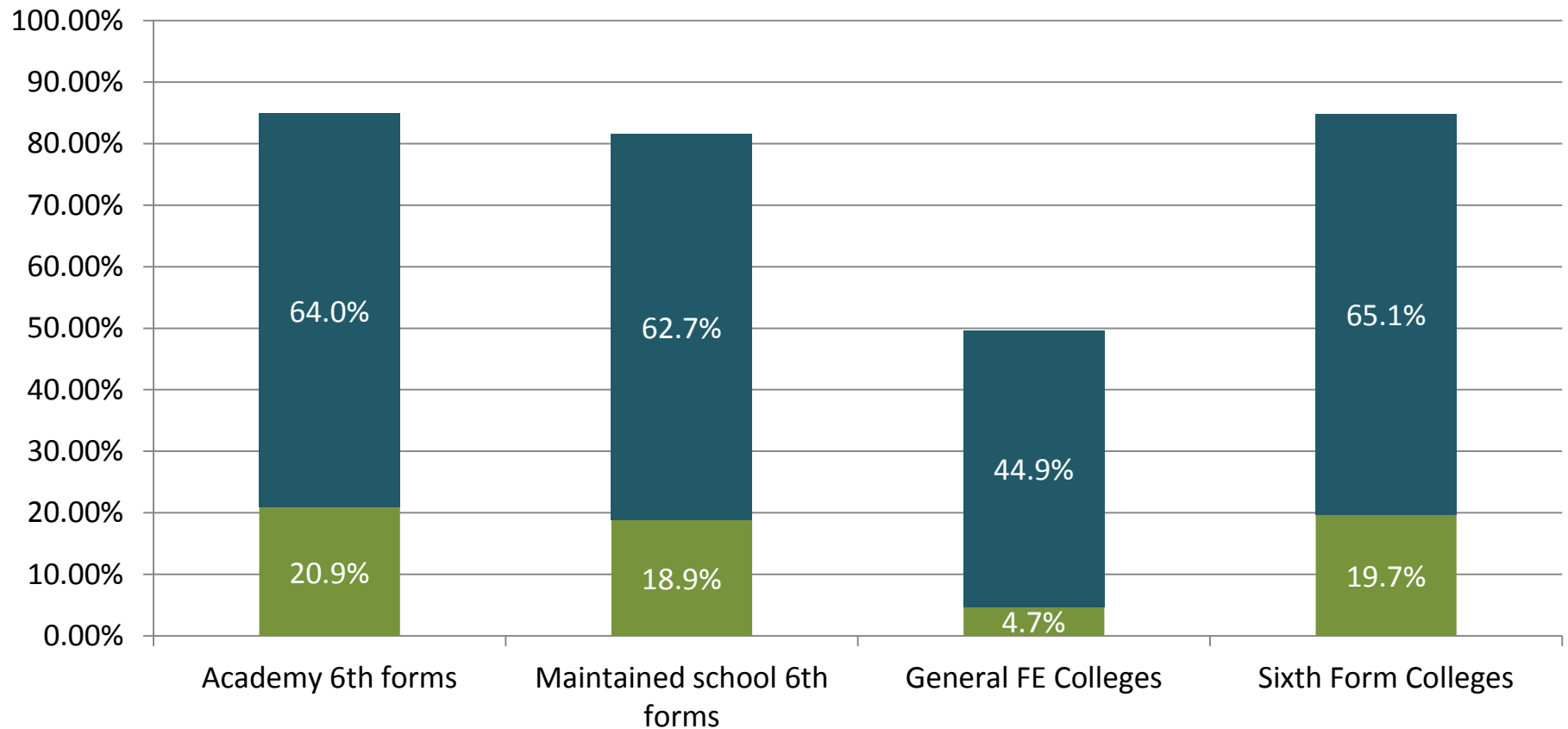
Average A level value added score by provider type



Students progressing to UK higher education institutions



- Progression to UK HEIs
- Progression to top third UK HEIs



Based on analysis by London Economics of non-selective state providers in England

Summary



- ◆ SFCs outperform all other provider types
- ◆ They do so with more disadvantaged intake than schools and academies
- ◆ And they offer far greater value for money - cost to the Exchequer:
 - Academy sixth forms: £30.53 per point
 - School sixth forms: £27.82 per point
 - Sixth Form Colleges: £21.59 per point

2. Sixth Form Colleges are facing serious funding challenges

SFCs have been hit hardest by funding cuts



- ◆ **2011:** Change to enrichment funding – average 10% cut

- ◆ **2012:** Change to funding formula – average 6% cut

- ◆ **2013:** Change to 18 year old funding – average 1.2% cut

...all before inflation, changes to employer national insurance and pension contributions etc. etc.

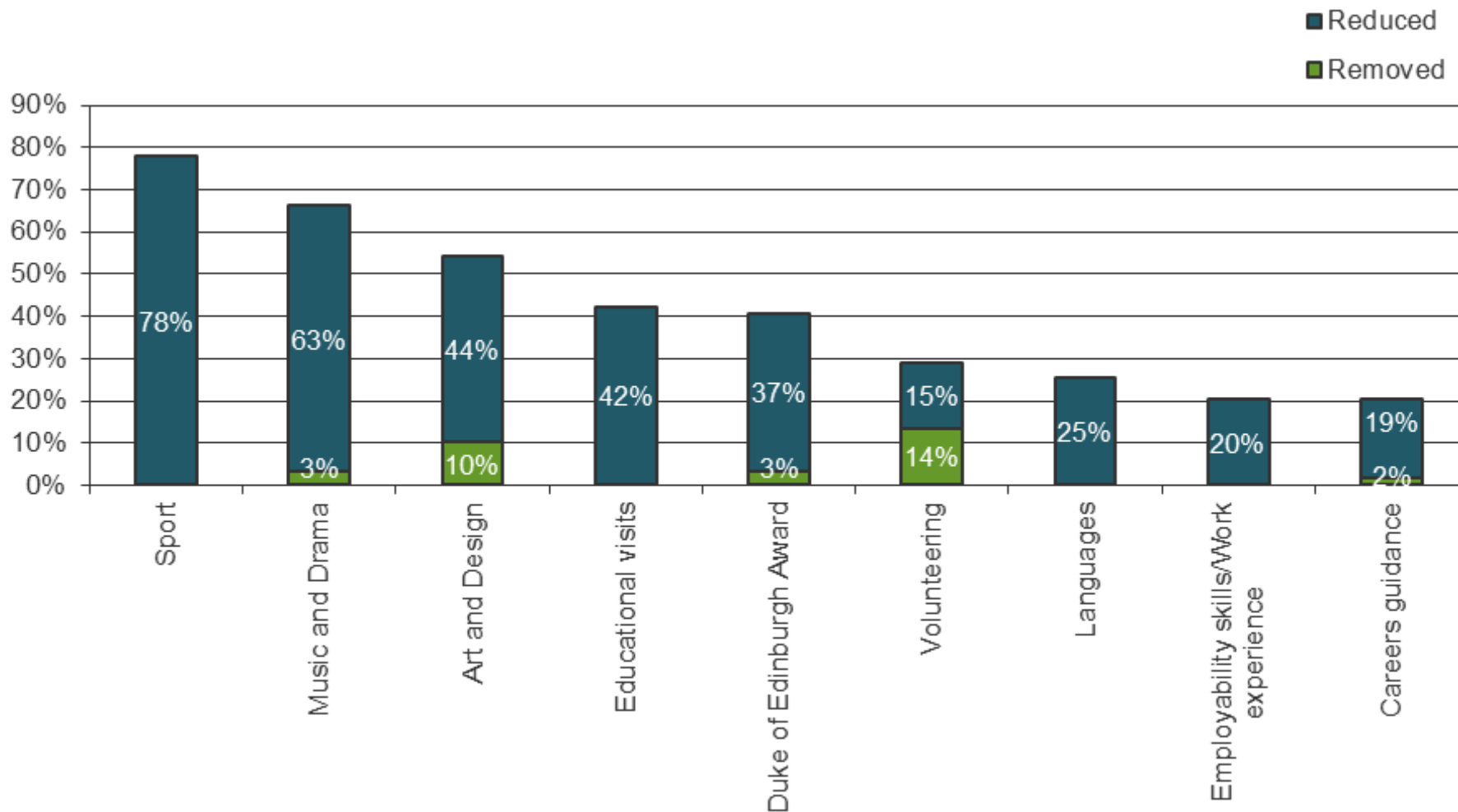
Funding Impact Survey



- ◆ **68%** of colleges have dropped courses
 - 38% have cut courses in modern foreign languages
 - 22% have cut STEM courses
- ◆ **71%** of colleges have removed or reduced enrichment activities
- ◆ The overall student experience and curriculum offer is narrowing in many Sixth Form Colleges

Enrichment activities removed or reduced by Sixth Form Colleges as a result of the funding cuts.

Base: 59



Views from the sector



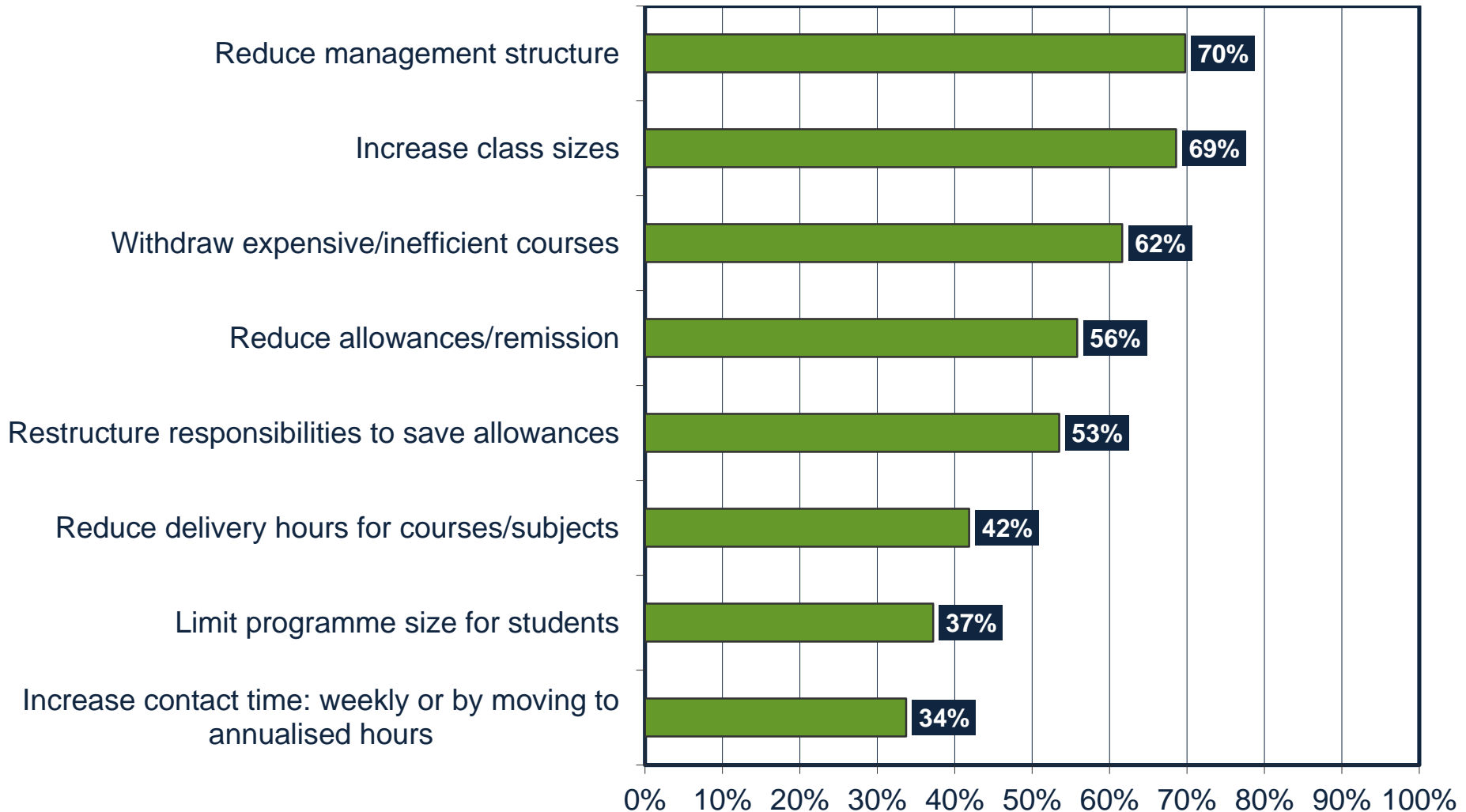
“We are becoming an exam factory...we are funded to teach and little else”

“A poorer quality student experience has impacted on attendance, retention and progression”

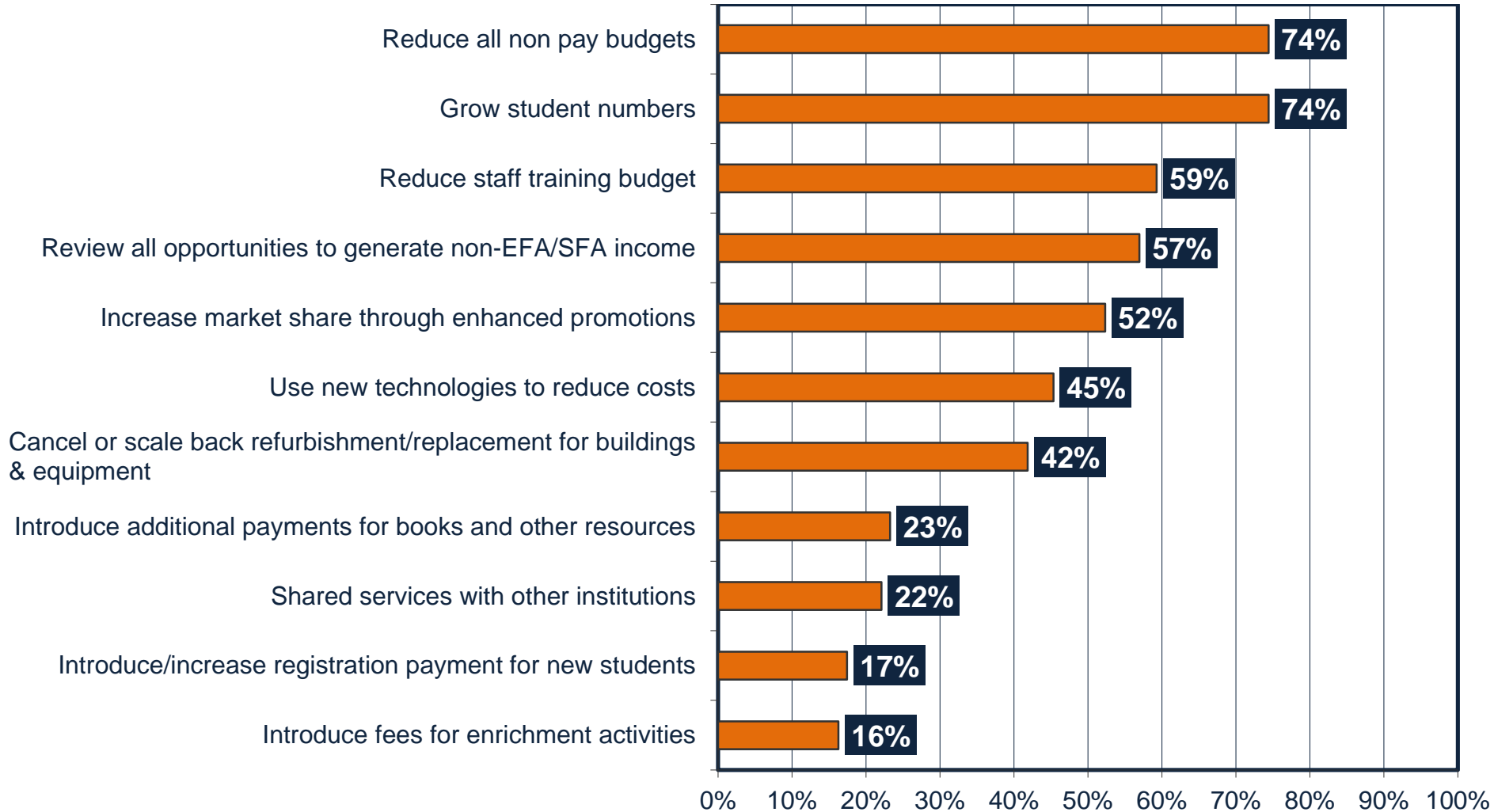
“A narrowed experience has led to some weaker personal statements for HE applications. The development of employability skills has been reduced”

3. Sixth Form Colleges are responding to these funding challenges

Curriculum delivery and teaching staff efficiency



Reducing non pay costs/increasing income



Acting entrepreneurially



Diversifying income:

- ◆ International students
- ◆ Higher education
- ◆ Employer/apprenticeship provision

Partnership working:

- ◆ Sponsoring academies
- ◆ Turning around failing schools

4. The sector has now reached the tipping point

An uncertain future



- ◆ Funding cuts (deeper than any other group of providers)
 - ◆ Funding inequalities (*between* key stages and *within* 16-19)
 - ◆ Proliferation of sixth form providers established on more favourable terms
 - ◆ The end of protection funding
- ...will see some SFCs close and others forced to offer an impoverished curriculum

There is another way



- ◆ Move Sixth Form Colleges from the margins of policy to the mainstream
- ◆ Use the most effective and efficient sector to drive up standards across all stages of education
- ◆ Invest in the sector that is the best vehicle for realising your policy objectives: raising standards, improving progression and increasing social mobility

What is needed



Sixth Form Colleges only need to be treated fairly. As they are far more efficient than school and academy sixth forms, they do not require exactly the same level of funding. What they are asking the Government:

- ◆ Do not make a fourth funding cut in four years
- ◆ Introduce a VAT rebate for SFCs
- ◆ Conduct an activity based review of 16-19 funding

For more information:

James Kewin

Deputy Chief Executive

Sixth Form Colleges' Association

0207 664 3108

james.kewin@sixthformcolleges.org