

Whole School Council Minutes– Wednesday 23rd March

All student reps present along with Miss Jarocki and Mr Brinkley.

1. Apologies

Dr Hunt

2. Matter arising from the previous meeting.

None.

3. What could we do to improve the situation with timetables (too many students are losing them and asking for replacements)? What could we do to help that is not a mobile phone?

Lots of options were discussed regarding timetables. The idea liked the most was the option of a smaller laminated timetable, which if lost students would have to pay for to be replaced (ordered through pay360).

Other options that were also considered:

- Homework diaries or planners, the school has moved away from paper planners to use an online system now.
- Sanctions for consistent offenders: alongside equipment check, also check timetables.
- Save an online PDF copy or take a screen shot which could be checked before school.
- If pupils have a locker, they could keep them inside their locker door.
- Students could have a folder to keep them safe.
- Generic X and Y timetable in form rooms on tutor boards. This would be difficult for year 7 and 8 as they are not as straight forward as Year 10 and 11 timetabling.

4. What areas do you feel we need to focus on that are not on the curriculum? These could be covered in assembly or other suggestions are welcome.

- Students said that they liked the Current Affairs quiz during form time as it keeps them up to date with things going on. They said that when something 'big' happens it would be nice to be informed about it during a tutor time or assembly. KB said we can ask the departments more knowledgeable to share their expertise on it.
- Students also asked for ideas such as: RSHE, Sex Education, Finances, Health and fitness, LGBTQ+ rights, Mental Health. All of these will be focused on in the next academic year as Mrs Adams is putting together a new curriculum for it and will be getting outside speakers in.
- Body Image workshop for boys like the one for girls. The one for girls was run by South Norfolk School partnership specifically for girls. It will be investigated if the same can be done for boys.
- Students also suggested they would like more local trips and for them to be made more accessible. Mr Brinkley explained that if anyone felt they could not go on the trip because of finances, if they feel comfortable talking to the member of staff, the school can help. This will be made clearer on trip letters in future.

5. Suggestions from year council meetings:

- 5.1 Students wanted an update on mask wearing. It was explained that there is not one yet, but whilst we are still wearing them, and the numbers are rising, we are still protecting students and staff as many other schools have had to return to remote learning for some year groups. Students also asked about mask recycling boxes. There is a cost to buy the boxes to use for recycling and there is a worry other items will be placed in them other than masks. KB to look into this.
- 5.2 The canteen was discussed regarding pricing. Unfortunately, due to inflation, there will be an increase in pricing. Meal deals are still a good option and need to be advertised more. Also, queue jumping is an issue. Mr Brinkley said to either report it when it happens or after if you are too worried and they will deal with it. Members of staff are on duty in the canteen at lunch.
- 5.3 Yes, to more bins. KJ has emailed about getting some.
- 5.4 Bus 371 is still very crowded and will be passed on to Mr Somers to explore this further.
- 5.5 School uniform: black trousers instead of grey as they are easier to find. This will be passed to Governors as they have the deciding decision on this.
- 5.6 Students would like to have more lunchtime clubs. This was discussed and students were told to approach staff for a specific club that they would like. They were reminded that there are a selection of clubs already going on in school: PE, creative writing, Bedrock etc.
- 5.7 Students asked about the possibility of having staggered lunches, Mr Brinkley said this may not be possible, but he will talk to Mr Somers about it.
- 5.8 Students asked if the school shop could be open more. As the school is now cashless, it makes opening the shop harder. A new system of paying needs to be created.
- 5.9 Phones are becoming an issue. Students wondered if the old system could be returned (handing them in to the office in the morning). Mr Brinkley said that this is something being looked at.

6. Do you have any suggestions/concerns regarding Diss and the surrounding villages?

- Students discussed litter in various places. Students were advised to check the local council website and they can report things through there. Local litter picks in Diss would be possible in the summer if the council is loaning out the equipment.
- Bus via Palgrave. Mr Brinkley explained that it depends on how far away you live from the school; you can apply for transport on the Suffolk website.
- Students think it would be a clever idea to have a zebra crossing where Skelton Road meets Friends Road and a safer crossing on Heywood Road. Both passed to the local council.
- Students reported that the park in Banham has needles on the ground and drug users using it. Mr Brinkley and Miss Jarocki advised that they can report it to the police on the website and they will deal with it.

7. Is there any specific support that you would like for exams/coursework?

- Students like the idea of having end of topic summary sheets with key equations on. Mr Brinkley said if you ask staff, they will happily create something.
- Students also said they would like less supply of non-specialists in core subjects. Mr Brinkley said it is down to who is available on the day. They are trying to tackle the classes that are repeatedly impacted to produce a solution.

- Students like the idea of revision guides but would like some guidance on best practice for using them. Miss O'Neill is running an assembly next week. Each person is different with revision, so options can be given and then students can decide how to do it best suited to them.

8. AOB

None