

Whole School Council Minutes – Tuesday 21st June

The first half of the meeting students had a visit from Julia Fairbrother at SNYAB – they discussed the local area and offered a variety of ideas regarding their local community of things they would like to see. Julia will follow up these and visit the students again in the next academic year.

All reps from each year groups attended.

Staff attended: Miss Jarocki and Miss Read

1. Apologies

GL, MSJC, JD, MC and Dr Hunt.

2. Matter arising from the previous meeting.

PE hoodies response from Mr Kemp: There is now a thicker and warmer top on the uniform website to replace the current long-sleeved top for everyone which they can purchase this as well. Hoodies are not allowed in rugby, so we do not want to ask parents to buy two tops.

Summer school uniform: The cost of having an additional uniform for the summer term is costly for parents, specifically when the hotter weather is so infrequent. Wearing PE shorts and a normal school top is better for financial reasons.

Make sure this gets fed back to form groups.

3. Suggestions from year council meetings

- Students said they would like more water filling stations. It was advised that these were expensive and that they have their whole lunch and break time to fill them up – if they stagger filling them up rather than waiting until the end of lunch that is better. There is also water available in the canteen.
- Students would like to see more fruit options in the canteen and would like to know where the canned drinks went – Miss Jarocki will contact the canteen.
- To prevent people walking on the grass, students would like to suggest getting a bigger sign or fence – Miss Jarocki will pass this on to the site team.
- With us being a cashless school, can a new system be put in place to organise fundraising events. With the cost of living rising additionally, places like the school shop are beneficial too as the equipment is cheaper than supermarkets. Students suggested either having cash for just fundraising events and the shop or having a card they can use for those things too. Passed on to Mrs Hawkes.
- Students said that the Snack shack queue is not monitored enough; can something be done to help with this? Could teachers in the canteen also cover the snack shack?
- Year 8 asked for a homework timetable. School Council discussed this and said logistically it would not work with split teachers for lessons etc.
- Students also asked for coverage for topics 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.
- Students said they would like more recycling opportunities in school. Students discussed how unfortunately, people do not use them correctly and then the recycled materials get contaminated and cannot be sent off.

- Students discussed the locked toilets during lesson times. After the explanation, they understood why they were locked due to assorted reasons and decided break and lunch time was the correct time to use the toilets and that if someone was desperate or in need, the inclusive ones are not locked.
- Students discussed the uses of positives and negatives. There are sanctions for negatives: what about rewards for positives? Students would like to see more praise for the positives.

Year 10 Revision suggestions:

- Students like the idea of having end of topic summary sheets with key equations on. Miss Jarocki said if you ask staff, they will happily create something.
- Students also said they would like less supply of non-specialists in core subjects. 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. There will be assemblies on this in the future. Each person is different with revision, so options can be given and then students can decide how to do it best suited to them.
- Revision sessions will start for Year 10 in the next academic year.

4. School Council

- School council minutes are not being read out in all forms. School Council members need to make sure this is being done when the forms have the minutes to ensure that students know what School Council is achieving. This will also be passed on to HOYs to feedback to their tutor teams. School Council suggested reading out the previous minutes before asking the next round of questions.
- Members of the School Council are not using the Google Classroom to communicate after asking for one.
- Students also asked about raising awareness of different topics in assemblies. This was a great idea and we discussed how students would need to take responsibility for it and do. It was also discussed how this could help with what school council is achieving and explaining why they cannot do certain things.
- Charity fundraising was discussed by the students. Students agreed that it might be more of a year group thing instead of School Council.

5. Local Issues

- Students discussed issues with bus 371 and bus 2 - these have been passed to DS to explore.
- Students discussed litter in various places and broken equipment in parks etc. Students were advised to check the local council website as they can report things through there. Local litter picks also occur in Diss as SNYAB informed pupils.
- Students had a concern about members of the public carrying knives. Miss Jarocki advised that they can report it to the police on their website and it can be processed there. Students thought it would be a clever idea to see if the police would come in and talk about Knife crime – Miss Jarocki to investigate this.

6. AOB

- Students asked if there was a possibility of having drama leaders to help with organisation of a school show if it was something that would happen in the future. This will be passed on to Miss Bishop.