

Whole School Council: 8/12/22

1. Minutes from last meeting

- N/A

2. Rewards and Positives

- Items such as chocolate / sweets / assemblies / certificates / phone calls home are well received for small incentives (subject and classroom related).
- A key item discussed was free time or the option to leave early. It was discussed that leaving early from site would not be acceptable for legal and safety reasons, but to break and lunch can be discussed. Skipping to the front of the lunch queue was also discussed as a reward but this is too difficult to monitor.
- Pupils were especially keen to have money on lunch cards / gift cards. A relevant point raised was that not everyone uses their lunch card so gift cards, such as Amazon, would be appreciated.
 - **In light of this, SLT have bought in 'The Positive Shop' as a reward for positives earned by pupils. More information about this will be coming out soon. Staff will appreciate pupils' feedback (via School Council) on this.**
- This would then mean that a certain threshold of positives for rewards would need to be established. An increase in the reasons that you can get positives on Go4Schools would also be beneficial– there are many more reasons available for getting negatives.
 - **A threshold is going to be discussed to establish consistency.**
- KS4 raised that positive are less meaningful in Y10 and 11 but the above notions would increase motivation.
- A school reward trip or day at the end of the year was also discussed, and this is explored more in item 5. Mobile phones were also discussed and it was suggested that on these rewards days pupils could use their phones to take photos (such as with Y11 leavers).
- There needs to be more consistency amongst teachers about using 2 warnings before a negative/consequence.
- Pupils noted that negatives have become less meaningful as it doesn't stop people misbehaving. Perhaps when a negative is given, this could have its own repercussion: timed owed, etc.

3. School council: sub-committees

- Most pupils thought this was a good idea and some were not interested but it was highlighted that these pupils do not need to partake in it. There would also be a range of roles (active and passive) so any pupils could join.
- It was raised that someone needs to monitor the activities to ensure they happen and Miss Read outlined the proposal for the 2023-2024 tutor team:
 - **Head Pupil (x2)** – organising events and teams, Whole School Council, representatives for the school, Heads of the committees
 - **Deputy Head Pupil (x2)** – organising Duty Teams, charity events and Whole School Council, Deputy Heads of the committees
 - **Senior Prefects (x5)** – Duty team leaders, overseeing teams at parent's evenings, should oversee a committee
 - **Subject Captains** – support subject specific activities throughout the year, lunch clubs, revision/ catch-up sessions
- Pupils agreed that it would increase the sense of community and give the prefects (and pupils who would like to do more) a purpose.
- Proposed sub-committees are:

- Environment: courtyard area, allotment
- Charity
- Wellbeing
- Diversity: eg. LGBTQ+ group
- Community

4. Toilets

- Generally, pupils would like the toilets unlocked.
- Common issues have been reported to the site team and pupils are reminded that anything broken/damaged needs to be reported to the office. Pupils did not feel comfortable with all gender-neutral toilets, as there are already so many issues with them as they are.
- Pupils are concerned that as they are currently locked during lessons, they are not always unlocked in a timely fashion at the start and end of the day, and breaktime – could Mobile Patrol do this at the start and end of their designated period? Or more teachers have a toilet key so they can be unlocked quickly.
- Additional supervision of toilets to prevent abuse of facilities was not deemed necessary.
 - **In light of this, and the ongoing issues with the misuse of toilets, the external doors to the toilets have been removed. This means pupils still cannot go to the toilets during lessons (as a general rule) but they can go in between lessons. This should also increase pupils' feeling of safety, as there is visible access to the toilets now, and decrease misbehaviour and misuse.**

5. Taking back the culture.

- A reward day/afternoon was a popular suggestion to reward those who are consistently well behaved. This would also allow other arrangements to be made so the pupils who are not partaking can be kept somewhere else.
- Positive reinforcement for 'good' students was emphasised as helpful - teachers diverting attention away from negative behaviour and focusing on those modelling good behaviour.
- General feeling was detentions could be used more effectively than just giving negatives, as negatives are not a deterrent. Pupils acknowledged that there are often empty threats and that they system needs to be followed through. Another common suggestion was that teachers take pupils to detentions period 4: they never go and mess around at lunch again.
- Tutors should be going through positives on a weekly basis with tutor groups.
- It was highlighted that teachers (mainly cover) shouldn't keep whole class behind for one student's actions.
 - **This has been forwarded to cover supervisors.**
- Pupils mainly noted that a consistently misbehaving pupil is being kept in the lesson and they often aren't removed or when they do, they come back and behave the same.
 - **SLT would like to reassure pupils that every department has a referral grid (rather than waiting for mobile patrol) and HODs should ensure all members of their department use this when necessary.**

6. AOB

- Can all sports be available to all students eg. girls play tennis and rugby as well as boys?
 - **PE has extended the Girl's curriculum to include football this year as requested. They only have a finite amount of time and limited space and need to consider preparation for GCSE activities. So, if the girls wished to play rugby, they would have to lose another activity. PE do run termly Sports Councils and we will get the Sports Team to go around again and ask about what activities they want included. Girls' rugby is offered as a**

lunchtime activity and attendance is very low so the department finds it hard to see how it would be popular as a timetabled activity.

- Queue management – more staff monitoring in the canteen.
 - **Staff on duty will assist more in the canteen.**
- Pupils would like more awareness on who to talk to and where to go in cases of sexual abuse:
 - **Miss O'Neil has ensured that all posters directing pupils to support are in Form rooms.**
- Pupils wondered about if the sanitary product box could be bought back and made more accessible:
 - **Miss Narkiewicz stated that the Red Box Project ended when the government agreed to provide funding for period products to all schools. Period products are in the female toilets in Uplands House for 6th Form and the period products for Year 7-11 are kept in Medical again now, and because of risks of them being wasted/misused, we have been unable to make them available in toilets.**
- Uniform: request for skirts and shorts.
 - **Discussion on uniform changes is being postponed until the new Headteacher starts in the Autumn Term**
- Lunchtime films are a good idea and have been well received by KS3.