

Whole School Council Minutes – Wednesday 8th December

1. Apologies

Charlotte (Y8), Mr Brinkley and Dr Hunt

2. Matter arising from the previous meeting.

None

3. Year 7 responses to the first term:

On the whole students are enjoying it and think it is much better than primary school, they like the teachers and the lessons are fun!

4. Can students offer any ideas as to how we reduce the level of vandalism in the toilets and other communal areas of the school?

The students discussed a range of ideas suggested by each year council and which would work and which would not. It was agreed that Ms Pittman would take the suggestions to SLT. The most popular ideas were:

- Having a toilet passes / recording on a central spreadsheet - staff may be able to see who is doing the vandalism, and acts as a deterrent.
- More staff (mobile patrol) popping in during the day to check them.
- A system where students could contact staff anonymously – a box at reception perhaps; could help with ‘no snitching’ culture. VP looking in to an anonymous email too.
- Students thought it would also be a good idea to raise awareness of how much things cost to students to show how much money is spent on things / how much money schools have coming in?

5. Suggestions from year council meetings

- Students discussed a variety of items to do with PE. Mr Kemp was emailed and provided this response to each question:
 - Can girls do the same sports as boys and vice versa? All curriculum maps now have a blank invasion block (8-10 lessons) so pupils can liaise with their teacher to discuss what activities they may want to do in this block.
 - In regards to the locked changing room and concerns over phones being in bags now, Mr Kemp said pupils could hand phones in at the start of the lesson. The issue with locking the rooms is that they do not always have male and female staff and pupils leave/return to lessons at different times; locking them could mean waiting outside in rain/cold for longer.
 - Students asked for a warmer kit for winter. There is now a thicker and warmer top on the uniform website to replace the current long-sleeved top for girls- boys are free to purchase this as well. Hoodies are not allowed in rugby, so we do not want to ask parents to buy two tops.
- The canteen prices were discussed as well as queue jumping in the canteen. Students said despite the posters being put up since the last meeting they still were not aware of ‘meal deals’. Miss Pittman said there are members of staff on duty at all lunchtimes to avoid queue jumping in the canteen. Students suggested it happened in the outside queues: Miss Pittman will speak to duty members of staff. Miss Jarocki

emailed the canteen about all of the issues raised (prices, food quality and how eco-friendly the canteen was).

They responded:

- When the weekly bulletin is sent out it mentions which menu it is and students can look on the website. They are making slight tweaks to the menus as they have been on for a long time. They are also struggling with delivery due to supply issues.
 - The pricing unfortunately is set by Aspens costing standards and the price of all the raw materials have gone by minimum of 15- 20% overall hence the prices have been increased.
 - Most of the cutlery is compostable. Regarding food waste, they do not have much food waste so it is not an issue.
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- Students have asked for a shelter, more benches and bins. The prices of shelters were discussed and students understood how lucky they were with the amount of shelters they already had. Benches and bins has been passed on to the site team. In addition, they reported that the bike shelter was damaged; this has been reported and will be looked in to.
 - Year 8 and 10 would like to have a separate space at break and lunch. Unfortunately, it is not possible currently due to weather, extra spaces will be opened in summer.
 - Students discussed buses and complained about the public bus however, the school cannot deal with that bus since it is the County Council's responsibility.
 - Students asked if they could view the negatives and positives on the APP like their parents can. Unfortunately, this is something that cannot be done on the student version but they should be being told in class. Sims is an external package and the school does not have much say in it. Additionally, students said that negatives are used inconsistently across the school. Miss Pittman will discuss this with SLT.
 - Students expressed concerns over supply teachers and the behaviour in those lessons. This cannot be helped currently due to Covid and the school is trying to get subject specialist staff to help teach topic and improve behaviour.
 - Students would like to wear more jewellery. This is not possible due to nature of lessons such as: food technology and DT.
 - The one-way system was discussed and how people have been ignoring it. Miss Pittman said that this will be tackled in the new year.
 - Library stock: can new books be purchased / have a list to suggest books to get like there used to be? Miss Jarocki has emailed Ms Thompson; she is welcoming book suggestions so she can order them in.
 - Phones are being used around the school site during break times and lunchtimes. The original system will be returned post Covid; students are encouraged to report phones when seen.
 - Students would prefer to be in sets as mixed ability settings cause issues. Miss Pittman explained that it can happen in core subjects but in option subjects it is not possible.
 - Students asked if they could wear coats when windows are open, and it is cold. Miss Pittman will speak to Dr Hunt.
 - Students also asked if there could be more opportunities for recycling masks around the school. It will be looked in to.

6. For many years the school has had a 'head boy' and a 'head girl', do you have any suggestions for a new title such as 'head student' etc.?

Pupils are happy to have the choice of Head Boy and Head Girl. They felt that if students were asked the preference at interview then it could be decided then.

Possibilities for names:

- a. Head Student – with other supporting roles
- b. Head Student: two roles for inclusivity and feels more welcome
- c. Head Pupil/ Senior/ Student Leader/Student Minister

7. AOB

- Students asked if they could go straight to form rooms in mornings. However, with staff in briefings / supply staff being in there are many unattended students in form rooms and is not suitable, not possible.
- Ventilation in changing rooms and gyms was discussed and again passed on to PE.