

## Whole School Council Minutes – Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June – meeting held in the library.

**Staff Present:** Mr Brinkley and Miss Jarocki

Representatives from all year groups were present.

### **1. Apologies**

Joseph Molden

### **2. Matter arising from the previous meeting.**

No matters arising.

### **3. Suggestions from year council meetings**

- Year 7 students asked to have lines painted on the playground to mark a football pitch. This has been passed to Mr Young to see if it can be done over the summer.
- Students expressed concerns about classrooms needing painting etc. Mr Brinkley explained that the school has successfully won a bid to replace windows so some of the decorating will not happen until after these are fitted. They also raised concerns about students using masks to saw into chairs – this will be looked into.
- Year 8 were worried about bike safety for students cycling to school. Mr Widdeson has already implemented a 3 strike policy and Mr Brinkley said he would remind staff about duty's and to report any bike problems. Students need to report things as and when they happen for it to get resolved.
- Students have asked for a shelter: one is going to be built over the summer of the senior playground.
- Mental Health was discussed as a group on what could be done to support students. It was agreed that a support group would not work successfully as they felt people would not feel comfortable with it. Instead it was agreed more awareness on it would be better.
- Similarly to Mental Health, students discussed having a support group for the LGBTQ+ community at Diss. Again, students said it probably wouldn't be used, but more awareness on it would be better and this was going to be built in to form time.
- Students have asked for more bins and benches to be placed on the field. Passed to Mr Young.
- Year 10 asked about revision and if revision sessions could run. Covid depending these will start next year.
- Year 10 students would like to see PE being more gender inclusive. This will be passed to Mr Kemp.
- The canteen prices were discussed. Students were not aware of 'meal deals'. Miss Jarocki will speak to the canteen about advertising this so students can see it clearly.

### **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.
- Members of the School Council aren't using the Google Classroom to communicate after asking for one. Having a School Council email group was discussed and will be set up.

- 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 post Covid restrictions.
- Charity fundraising was discussed by the students. Mr Brinkley said that next year Miss Narkiewicz will be overseeing charity events and it could be liaised with her.

## **5. Local Issues**

- Students complained about the amount of dog poo in Diss and surrounding villages. Students were directed to report these on their council website via the form on there.
- Students would like to get more involved in the local area again e.g. litter picks, charity events, being visible members of the community. Litter picks will go ahead once Covid allows. Students were asked to come up with specific things they would like to do and get back to School Council.
- Students expressed concerns over people around Diss at night time and antisocial behaviour around town e.g. riding bikes unsafely, homophobic and racist comments being shouted at other students. It was advised that students need to report things via the Norfolk police website when it happens.

## **6. During Covid, each year group has been given a different area to use. Would you like to have something similar to this moving forward?**

- Student's decided that post Covid they would like to be able to mix on the field but have separate areas off of the field for their year groups.

## **7. AOB**

- Students said that they have like coming in in their PE kit as it means they get to have more lesson time doing PE. They have asked if it can remain post Covid as it also removes the uncomfortableness of getting changed in front of people.
- Students also asked if, once the restrictions are lifted on masks, if it could be optional for them to continue wearing them.
- Student's also wanted to mention that they were pleased with the schools response to Covid and how it made them feel safe. They also quite like the one way system too.
- Girls would like to have the option of wearing skirts.
- A set date for wearing PE in the summer when it is hot was discussed. Mr Brinkley said that a set date cannot be confirmed due to the weather and it may need to move or even be used in September. Students agreed and understood why it gets reviewed.
- Gender misrepresentation was discussed and students asked for more inclusive phrasing instead of 'boy', 'girl', 'young man' etc.