



MEETING OF THE WHOLE SCHOOL COUNCIL (All Form Representatives)

10th January 2020



Introduction and Welcome

Thanks to all students attending the meeting. All years were well represented.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the Previous Meeting. Taken as read and agreed with the following points raised.

- Suggestions for improving activity based work in the classroom and updating the content in PSHCEE have been passed on to Heads of Faculty and Heads of Department.
- The doors in the middle of the 70s and 80s corridors are necessary to control the volume of students moving from lesson to lesson. Members of staff will help to regulate the flow at the end of the corridors. The policy for use of the doors will continue to be reviewed at future meetings.
- Toilets – All toilets need to be stocked with soap, tissues and paper towels. All doors must be secure and dryers working. Toilets must be easily accessed for students and could air fresheners please be installed.



School Values

School Council went through the values of the school including tolerance and the 4 Cs (Cooperation, Courtesy, Commitment and Contribution), minimum expectations and the anti bullying/equal opportunities code. This was agreed, with a short conversation about how to get these key messages across and encourage everybody to promote them.

Catering

Students were impressed with the presentation of the food and the cleanliness of the restaurant. The queuing has improved and certain items were really popular. The following comments were raised:

- The overall standard of the food is great.
- The queues are much better.
- The canteen is clean.
- The staff are welcoming.
- Students would like the prices to be clearer.
- They would like to bring back the patties.
- The paninies are too expensive for the size.
- They feel that portion sizes are too small.
- They would like to see more vegetarian and vegan options.
- Innovate suggest a student feedback box with slips to complete.
- The Sixth Form Cafe would like a more varied choice of hot and cold food.
- Some items were felt to be too expensive.



School Uniform

Mr Owen felt that it would be timely for the whole school to review the school uniform policy and in order to do this he would like to hear what the students think about the school uniform and how it could be improved. He added that agreeing upon a school uniform can be complicated with cost implications for families. It is important to remember the practicalities associated with producing a school uniform policy and to be mindful and respectful of different opinions. Ultimately it will be for the governors to make the final decision.

Mr Thompson outlined why we have school uniform. Equal opportunities generate a sense of community and pride within the community. Uniform signifies being in the learner role and there can be practical advantages such as being easily identified on school trips. Mr Owen recognised that there are differences in the uniform for boys and girls and was thinking about how the uniform could be simplified to reduce the differences. Students discussed the topic of school uniform in their year groups. The year reps fed-back the following comments:



- The differences between boys and girls uniform can seem unfair and it would be good if there was one uniform agreed for everybody.
- Equality over ties – can girls wear ties?
- Students should be able to wear tracksuits and trainers because they are comfortable and easy to regulate.
- Make up, accessories and piercings allow pupils to express individuality.
- Can there be more flexibility for the uniform in the summer term?

The points raised above will be discussed in tutor time so that the year reps can discuss the matter further at the next school council minutes.

Any Other Business

- Can gold ties be based on a fixed grade rather than an individual target grade. This was a feeling generated at a recent rewards assembly.
- Can there be more efficient sharing of school equipment, particularly in lessons so that everybody has equal access to books, stationery and other equipment.
- Can academic mentoring be brought back, with optional revision sessions for different subjects.
- Could we offer a British Sign Language course as a GCSE?
- Could the ICT suite be open at lunchtime for students to complete work.
- The seagulls in the playground are proving to be a real nuisance. Can we promote the anti litter policy and be strict about sanctions to those who drop litter.
- Can the amount of travel time from the end of break to Period 3 be reviewed to enable students to get to lessons on time. Maybe with the sounding of an earlier bell.
- Can Arabic be offered as a GCSE/A Level like other community languages.

Thank you to everybody for attending the meeting.

Mr Owen and the leadership team wanted to thank all the students for such a positive and productive start to the term and wish everybody and their families a happy new year.

*Thank
you!*

