



Mr Thompson would like to thank all of the Student Council Year Representatives for attending the Student Council meeting. A very good turnout of students from across all Years. Thank you also to our chef's representative for attending.

Latest Update from Mr Thompson

Despite the lack of playground space because of the new building work, the atmosphere in the playgrounds and on the corridors is very positive, and this is helping to provide an ethos which is supporting students who will soon be sitting public examinations.

Work on the MUGA sports ground has started. We talked about the importance of maintaining this atmosphere so that everybody can enjoy their free time productively and safely. We need to encourage each other to follow the playground behaviour code. The lunchtime activities have helped to improve lunchtimes and the sixth form activity leaders have been excellent. The School Council would like to thank the activity leaders, and Mr Aourarh and Ms Ronketti who organize the activities. There is less litter around the school, but the seagulls are still a nuisance in the playground, so we must continue to dispose of our litter sensibly. Well done to everyone who has helped to make this happen.

Queueing at lunchtime was still an issue for some students, and we are still looking for ways of improving this.

Unfortunately, there is evidence of a small minority of people misusing the toilets, for example some students use the toilet area for vaping. Everyone needs to know and understand that it is illegal for anybody under 18 to vape, in addition vaping is addictive and harmful to health. There has also been some graffiti and vandalism. So that we can increase the supervision of toilets across the school, the toilets next to room 31 and 11 will be closed from 23rd March. Toilet areas can be places where bullying can take place. Please, please, please if you see anything suspicious or concerning, in the toilet areas, report it. It is about making the school environment, including the toilet areas, fit for purpose with a safe and pleasant atmosphere.

Wheelchair users around school

A number of students who use wheelchairs and walkers to move around the school shared their experience of what it is like to be at Winchmore.

One student said:

Sometimes you feel worth less than other people when you are disabled. This is what other people's actions make me feel.

How would you feel if you were limited due to a disability?

Unfortunately, the reality is many people do not acknowledge people with disabilities. People should be allowed to exist for who they are. People with disabilities have the same rights and needs as everyone else. We must make sure that expectations for people with disabilities are high, and match those of the majority of students. At the moment the expectations are STILL TOO LOW!!!

People shouldn't place limitations on me because they believe I cannot do certain things. I know I can do anything and I have proven that time and time again. I hope everybody is hearing my message

Another wheelchair user in Year 7, read out his thoughts:

Hello, my name is Andy and as you can see I am disabled. I am privileged to be here at Winchmore, with many ups and downs. Some of them are when I'm in a crowd and some students don't cooperate and move the red poles at lunchtimes for me. This is a huge obstacle as my wheelchair is very big. Others will help and move them out of the way. So please try to help next time. Thank you to all the students for supporting me through my experience in Year 7.





All the students applauded what had been said. We are now all more aware of what it's like at Winchmore for students with disabilities. Mr Thompson thanked everybody who shared their thoughts. Please make sure this is shared in all tutor groups.



Litter

Litter is becoming a problem again. Students requested more bins which need to be emptied more regularly. Sixth Form students asked about the possibility of a greater variety of recycling bins for different types of waste.

Lunches

Students said that the queues are too long on a Friday (fish and chip day) and some are being marked in as late to Period 5. Some students commented that there was no food left when they get to the front of the queue on some days. The representative from the restaurant explained that there had been problems with food deliveries, but the hot meal was always available. She said she would report back to chef that sometime the veggie option runs out. Students need to let the office know if they have a problem getting food on the day it happens so they can inform the chef. It was suggested that we have different days for chicken/chips and fish? Maybe that would relieve the pressure on Fridays, but would lead to longer queues on other days.



Locked Doors in 60s, 70s and 80s Corridors

Students asked if they could be opened. There are too many students trying to get up and down the stairs between lessons. This would need to be discussed with HOFs. Maybe one set of stairs going up and one set of stairs going down? This will get better when Year 11 and 13 go on study leave in May, and when the new sixth form block is up and running. It is important that everybody knows that the doors were installed for health and safety reasons and to ensure that the stairs opposite the Sports Hall playground were being used to maximum effect.

Any Other Business

- Students are happy with the intervention classes on offer now.
- Year 11 are raising money from Prom, more details will follow.
- Can there be more digital clocks in exam hall/rooms? And can there be different clocks for extra time, so students don't get confused.
- Quality of supply teachers
- Make more use of CCTV

Thank you!

Thank you to all students who attended the meeting.

These issues will be discussed by the leadership team and your Head of Year will be informed of the response.