

School Council Minutes Thursday 7th October 2021



Meeting commenced: 3.10pm
Present: Mr Holt, Mr Sykes (Governor)
51 students attended the meeting:
Year 7 – 16
Year 8 – 14
Year 9 – 7
Year 10 – 9
Year 11 – 4
Year 12 - 1

1. School Council Objectives

Isabelle Goto (Year 12) spoke passionately to the group about her time in School Council which stretched back to Year 7. She explained the idea behind the School Council for the benefit of our new Year 7 and Year 8 attendees – unfortunately, COVID has meant that Year 8s were unable to attend a full SC meeting last year.

As far as possible the agenda for meetings should be set by the pupils. It is expected that staff should play nothing more than a supporting role and that it is the pupils who should be proactive in leading change and driving improvement at Wellington School. The Council has a fabulous opportunity to influence the way in which school works and all pupils should be certain that their voice and opinions will be listened to.

Isabelle explained that the School Council is a forum for improvement and she highlighted many visible examples of things the School Council has achieved and campaigned for in recent years. These included tangible changes to the school site such as picnic benches and covered areas, as well as the chance to influence school culture by citing the school values and discussions with the kitchen staff over menu choices at lunchtimes. Isabelle spoke with particular passion about the removal of single-use plastics in school and mentioned the Eco-Council, of which she is also a member. Isabelle also explained that the School Council become involved in wider political campaigns and organise the annual Make Your Mark vote and attend the Trafford Youth Cabinet conference annually.

2. Student Voice at Wellington

The message that students at Wellington are listened to and are able to affect change was demonstrated with the following presentations:

- **The Halo Hair Code** has been adopted by Wellington and a presentation by Stephanos and Esme (Year 8) was shared with students to explain the historical and cultural issues associated with Black and Afro-Caribbean hair. Our adoption of the Halo Code is an illustration that our value of Fairness means NOT treating everyone the same. A similar presentation will be shared in ALL tutor groups later this week.
- **The Gender Equality Council** were represented by Jessica, Jessica and Isobel (Year 10) who outlined their campaign to get all members of the school community to use appropriate language and behave in an acceptable manner towards all represented groups at Wellington. They clarified language and definitions around gender identity and explained where they held their meetings.

Everyone is welcome to join the GEC who meet in the Vale Hall on Thursday lunchtimes.

Your voice can also be heard at Wellington at the two following groups. Again, everyone is welcome:

- Eco-Committee who meet every Thursday lunchtime in Room 37
- LBTQ+ Group who meet every Thursday after school in room 19

3. Applying for a role with the Executive Committee

The School Council will be led and managed by an Executive Committee of up to 10 pupils. Their job will be to listen and report to their year group, to manage projects and to liaise with staff. Every student at Wellington School is welcome to apply for a role with the Executive Committee.

Those wishing to apply should write a letter which states why they believe they are a suitable candidate. Pupils will need the following qualities:

- Creativity
- Team working
- Organisation
- Commitment and loyalty
- Communication

Letters of application should be with Mr Holt by Friday 15th October.

4. Charity Work 2021-2022

Our annual sponsored walk will be the main focus of our charity efforts once again this year. Some discussion was given to nominating a local charitable cause. Council Reps will speak to their tutor groups for ideas and then feed back to the Executive Committee. A short-list will be voted upon at the next full Council meeting. Some nominations from this meeting included:

- St Ann's Hospice
- Local Food Banks
- Ronald McDonald House Charities
- 3 Dads Walking
- Children's Adventure Farm Trust

5. A.O.B

Students had some time to share the ideas for change and improvement which had been raised in their tutor groups. These ideas, which ranged from tweaks to the Wellyfest programme to

outrage that the Slushie machine isn't working in the dining hall, will be collated by the Executive Committee who will use them to put together the next School Council agenda.

Next full School Council meeting: Thursday 2nd December

Meeting closed at 4.00pm