

School Council Minutes Tuesday 1st February 2022



Meeting commenced: 3.20pm

Present: Mr Holt, Mr Clements (School 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. ClassCharts Apps

Students discussed the use of the Student and Parent ClassCharts apps. The overwhelming majority of students surveyed stated that they check the student app daily for updates about homework and positive behaviour points. Every student checks the app at least several times per week. The opinion is that students no longer need a paper school planner but most would still like a school diary which can be used as and when they wish and without direction from teachers.

Every student surveyed stated that their parents have downloaded their version of the app and most suggested that parents check it regularly. Many students felt that the apps encourage conversations about what is going on in school between them and their parents. Students do not want parents to have the ability to directly message teaching staff via the app.

Positives about the app:

- Tracking homework and being able to download worksheets and tasks. Much preferred to MS Teams.
- Tracking positive and negative points and seeing the reason why these have been issued
- Being able to DM teachers
- Announcements are 'brilliant'

Frustrations with the app:

- Homework being set by teachers but not uploaded onto ClassCharts
- Teachers do not always respond to DMs – it was explained to students that there is no expectation that staff always respond directly to DMs but it is there as a back-up method of communication should they wish to use it.

Requests:

- Notifications before homework is due
- Ability to DM all teachers, not just students' class teachers

- Ability to report incorrect negative referrals
- All school emails also to be sent out via CC Announcements

2. Sponsored Walk

Ideas for maximising funds raised during the sponsored walk included:

- Ice cream vans on site – school takes a cut of the profits
- Lots of drinks for sale alongside the usual cakes
- Being able to pay to have the following Monday off school!!
- Raffle prizes – tickets for sale on the day
- Wristbands and badges for sale

3. School Uniform

Much discussion at the meeting was dedicated towards our school uniform. While there were some requests for more flexibility around the wearing of jewellery, coloured finger nails, hair accessories etc, the overwhelming majority of students stated that they like our current school uniform a lot. Students like wearing a tie (only 4 out of 51 voted to get rid of it) and are open to the idea of wearing a clip-on version. Students like the colour of our uniform and expressed a real sense of pride in it – suggesting it is the smartest of all local schools. Students like our school blazer (again, only 4 out of 51 would like to remove the blazer from our uniform).

However, the idea of a change to the uniform or uniform regulations in the summer was one which was well received by almost all students (46 out of 51 would like to see a summer uniform of some sort). Suggestions which were made and well supported included:

- A 'more relaxed' uniform after the Easter holidays.
- No blazer in the summer
- A school polo shirt and /or hoodie with badge in the summer months
- Open collar with no tie during the summer term (shirt or blouse)
- A large number of students were adamant that they would like to be able to wear shorts all year round, not just in the summer. Two boys stated that having to wear long trousers was the worst thing about leaving primary school!

Observations and requests were also made around the school PE kit:

- Unlike the main uniform, students do not feel that the PE kit is gender neutral
- Skort is too short
- PE socks are old fashioned and need to be changed
- The girls fleece is not at all warm enough
- Leggings / joggers with school badge to be allowed

4. Dining Hall

Requests for theme days have been received by the Dining Hall since the last School Council meeting. A 'Nando's' day and a 'McDonalds' day are planned – keep an eye on the screens in the Dining Hall for details.

5. COVID Reflections

Students are extremely positive about being back in school 'full-time' and are largely looking forward to the removal of mask wearing.

Discussion around what students feel they have missed out on during the pandemic centred largely on extra-curricular activities. Most students see overnight visits, and particularly the

chance to travel abroad, as a rite of passage which has been missing for the past couple of years. Students are hopeful these opportunities will return soon.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and the cancellation of competitive school sport was mentioned by several students and others feel they have missed out on activities like school discos and musical performances.

Meeting closed at 4.25pm

Next full School Council meeting: Thursday 24th March