

School Council Minutes Tuesday 7th February 2023



Meeting commenced: 3.10pm

Present: Mr Holt

36 students attended the meeting:

Year 7 – 12

Year 8 – 14

Year 9 – 2 (clash with DoE workshop)

Year 10 – 6

Year 11 – 2

1. Sponsored Walk

Papyrus has been chosen by the School Council as the charity for this year's sponsored walk. Executive Committee members explained the value of their work to the group and outlined how money raised would be spent. Two videos were shown which can be shared in tutor groups.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dKU1OLrvOn4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dyNuiOz4j98>

Students were keen to share ideas on how to maximise funds raised. The Executive Committee had concerns that most students do not like events where a single item of uniform can be swapped for another and so participation is relatively low. As a result, this Friday will be a full non-uniform day to raise money for the charity.

Everyone is also urged to bring cakes for the cake sale on the day of the walk itself. This often raises around £1000.

2. Outdoor dining pod

The food outlet beside the Sports Hall (nicknamed the 'Snack Shack' by students) is finally open! Feedback and observations from students were as follows:

- + Queue-time is good. Not too long!
- + Really convenient for students playing on the astro
- + Is helping to reduce queue in the Dining Hall but not as much as had been hoped by some
- + Good that it is not restricted to a single year group
- Variety of food available does not match the menu and is largely made up of the unhealthiest options (sausage rolls, paninis etc.)
- Pasta pots would be most welcome
- Not used at break time – could it be opened to Years 8 & 9 in the same way the Dining Hall is open to Years 10 & 11?

Having seen the Snack shack in action, all students would love to see another one located closer to the Vale building and would like to see its capacity maximised.

3. Trafford Youth Cabinet

The Executive Committee represented The School at the annual Youth Cabinet meeting in Sale before Christmas.

Maiko Fairbrother and Emily Girdlestone (pictured below delivering a presentation at the conference) explained how the group had attended workshops on sustainable living, fast fashion, mental well-being and knife-crime. They also had the opportunity to speak to local politicians and police officers, and worked as a group to create their own political party and manifesto. Jasper Welton explained that their manifesto had focussed on free and safer public transport for young people and a reduction in the voting age to 16.



4. A.O.B

Students raised a variety of points which had come from discussions within tutor groups. A summary is as follows:

- ClassCharts acts as a digital planner and is used by all students and the vast majority of parents. As such, the paper planner is redundant and a pain to carry around. Students would welcome a slimmed down academic diary which would have the added benefit of costing the school far less to provide
- Students believe tackling current affairs is essential as part of the tutor programme but do not feel as though BBC Newsround is an appropriate source of information for their age group. Many stated that they had watched Newsround since Year 2 at primary school and feel as though it delivers a slimmed down and unrealistic portrayal of world events. Students would prefer to be faced with the gritty realities of current affairs. The BBCs 'explainer' videos produced by Ros Atkins were suggested as being more likely to stimulate engaging conversation and challenge opinions.

5. Chocolate raffle

The chocolate raffle went down as well as always – why not come to the next meeting to be in with a chance?

Next full School Council meeting: Thursday 23rd March

Meeting closed at 4.00pm