



School Council Minutes

Tuesday 19th March

2024

Meeting commenced: 3.00pm
Present: Mr Holt, Mrs Vince (Governor)
34 students attended the meeting:
Year 7 – 10
Year 8 – 11
Year 9 – 4
Year 10 – 4
Year 11 – 5

1. Student Voice at Wellington

A discussion took place about the power of student voice at Wellington. In particular, how students respond to questions they might face about their education and school. Students are aware that during school inspections, many of them may be selected to share their views about the school with visitors such as inspectors.

Students discussed many of the questions from the current Ofsted student questionnaire and decided how they would answer if they were approached by a visitor. To make the exercise more challenging, students worked in small groups and had to reach a consensus before sharing their answers with the rest of the School Council.

The potential responses to all questions were as follows:

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Don't Know
- Disagree
- Strongly Agree

Students were only allowed to use 'Don't Know' once to encourage them to justify their opinions.

Discussion of the following statements took up the vast majority of the meeting:

- a. I enjoy school
- b. Teachers help me to do my best
- c. My teachers give me work that challenges me
- d. I enjoy learning at Wellington
- e. Teachers listen to what I have to say in lessons
- f. There is an adult at school I can talk to if something is worrying me
- g. The behaviour of other pupils around school is good
- h. I feel safe when I am at school

- i. My school encourages me to look after my mental and emotional health
- j. I take part in school activities outside of lessons
- k. My school encourages me to be independent and take on responsibilities
- l. My school encourages me to respect people from other backgrounds and to treat everyone equally
- m. My school provides me with information about my next steps
- n. I would recommend this school to a friend moving to the area

Many students observed that it is easy to jump to a negative perspective without giving a question full thought, when in reality, most aspects of school life are very positive. Students found that any negative opinions were tempered by wider discussion as they were made to think more deeply about the implications of a snap judgement.

Students also noted that it can be difficult to interpret the nature of a question and as such, give an accurate answer. For instance, some students could not think of ways in which they are encouraged to be independent and responsible while others reeled off long lists of things such as managing a timetable and homework, attendance and punctuality to lessons, contribution to clubs and teams as being evidence of this. It is also worth noting that three students answered 'strongly disagree' to statement 'j' even though they were representing their tutor group at an after-school activity!!

2. Wellyfest Suggestions

At the request of several students, everyone was asked for suggestions as to how to create "the best Wellyfest ever" at the end of this school year. Students worked together and came up with the following ideas:

- Insania Mania needs to stay!
- Student poll as to which teachers should be sponged (raise more money?)
- Adsheed Hall to be open showing a movie on biggest screen
- Either make Wellyfest the whole day or half a day – no lessons on the day
- More inflatables on the astro
- Let students pay to be goalie in 'beat the keeper'
- 3rd ice cream van to reduce queues!
- Open Food Tech so students can cook
- A helter-skelter please!
- Street food stalls rather than Dining Hall open
- Water gun area (weather dependent!)

3. Chocolate raffle!

Six lucky members left with bags of chocolate. Everyone is welcome to attend School Council meetings so come along and it could be you next time!

Next full meeting: Thursday 9th May

Meeting closed at 4.05pm