

Minutes of the School Council Meeting Thursday 8th October 2020

1. Positives about the start of the new academic year- what has gone well/could be done better?

- Chess club has been a real success, so much so that they would like some new boards to be purchased. **ACTION: Principal will liaise with Mr England to purchase some new boards**
- They appreciate the early warning bell to help them socially distance from the adults.
- They think that when catching the bus, students from all year groups mix and so would like some sort of system. **ACTION: Not possible to segregate groups on buses other than follow government guidance of sitting oldest at back working through to youngest at the front.**
- They would like some picnic tables to sit on outside. **ACTION: Principal will look to purchaser more picnic tables for all areas**
- When it rains they get soaked as they don't have a big space for them all to go. **ACTION: Two large shelters (similar to the one in the Y9 zone have been on order since July and will be erected over Half-Term.**
- They want basketball hoops in their area. **ACTION: Principal will investigate possible purchase and erection of unused hoop in the Y8 area**
- They would like to use computer rooms at lunchtimes. **ACTION: It is not possible for students to use Academy computers outside of lesson/supervised times.**
- They think it is unfair that girls are allowed to have their shirts untucked but boys aren't. **ACTION: It was agreed last summer that ALL students should have their shirts tucked-in at all times**
- The wooden stools in room 36 are really uncomfortable. **ACTION: New stools with supportive backs, were ordered over 4-weeks ago, based on concerns raised by the Y10 students. These stools are due to arrive at half-term and will replace the present stools.**
- They would like non-school uniform because they don't wash blazers and ties very often but they would wash their own clothes more often. **ACTION: Government/Science advice tells us that the coronavirus is not spread by clothing; blazers, ties, etc, should be washed as normal.**
- They would really like to listen to music in period 6. **ACTION: Private and silent study is recognised and recommended by science as one of the most effective ways of learning. Period 6 follows the scientific guidance.**
- The bin at the opening of the Year 10 keeps falling over so they would like that to be sorted out. **ACTION: The Site Manager is working on a solution to this issue.**
- Year 10 would really like to change the PE fleeces for burgundy hoodies because they are ugly and warm. They think they would like something like the Sports Leader hoodies. **ACTION: The PE Department, Senior Leadership Team and Governors can discuss this suggestion**
- They appreciate the teachers being more relaxed. **ACTION: The Principal will always forward any student feedback to the teachers. It is good to read that students are recognising just how very hard the staff are working at keeping the 'mood' and 'environment' of the Academy positive and supportive.**

Ideas for other activities for wet break/lunchtimes- there may be a small budget for this.

Year 7:

- Games in the classrooms – speak with Head of Year and we might be able to bring in games and/or source them from other areas
- Access to computers – see above
- More chess boards at lunch and break – see above

Year 8:

- Games Room – see above

Year 9:

- To be allowed to have phones in a certain classroom at break and lunch. The Academy rule on phones will not change.
- Use the whiteboard for games (bring in your own board markers). Students cannot 'play' with the Academy's teaching resources because of the risk of damage and its impact on teaching and learning.
- Quiz room – speak with Head of Year
- Bring in DVD's to watch movies during break and lunch. Students cannot 'play' with the Academy's teaching resources because of the risk of damage and its impact on teaching and learning.

Year 10:

- Room 35 as a dry room – speak with Head of Year
- Bins in the sports hall to help keep it clean - ACTION: The Site Manager is working on a solution to this issue.

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Year 11:

- Shelter in top playground – See above, but not necessary since Y11 have the Drama Hall

AOB

Year 8:

- Time capsule of our time during the pandemic – speak with Head of Year

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Year 9:

- Unhappy with their toilets - only 4 available so could they all be unisex to reduce the queues? Possible but this idea was not previously supported by students. Please discuss and gain a consensus across the Year group
- Year 9 bike shed needs coverage – sadly, not possible due to the vandalism in the village
- Would like to do house competitions in year bubbles - This will be discussed by the Senior Leadership Team
- Would like for each year group to be able to use the canteen one week at a time – The Senior Leadership Team is working hard on how this might be managed. We are trialling Y11 at Break and Y7 at Lunchtime after half-term and will look at how this might be 'rolled-out' following this trial period.

Year 10:

- Students feel that they should not have to have a teacher take them to Technology or the Sports Hall as they do not have to cross bubbles with any other year groups – A requirement of the Academy's Risk Assessment
- Would like to be able to wear a blazer on top of PE kit if they are cold – this is allowed and possible (?)

Year 11:

- Desperately want to be able to use mobile phones – No change, in regard to the use of phones on the Academy site, is being considered.
- Having serious trouble with people not listening to the prefects and actually receiving some grief from other Year 11 students. As a result, they are not showing up for their shifts – speak with Head of Year.
- We would like to learn about domestic violence in PD, like the signs and ways in which to deal with it and we would also like to focus more on mental health - This will be discussed by the Senior Leadership Team

Any of the points raised in the meeting that are not included in this feedback are either not negotiable or being considered at this time.

Thank you

Mr M. Cammack