

School Council Minutes

9th May 2019

Attendance:

Y7: Matthew Penney

Y8: Marissa Heron, Matthew Randall

Y9: Max Haggerty, Phoebe Allen

Y12: Maisy Hicks, Dannan White

Heads of School Council: Matthew Ward, Maddy Pietrzkiwicz

School Council Co-Ordinator – Miss Scriven

Absence:

Year 10 & 11 Reps. Due to exam season

Matters Arising & Feedback from Year Council Meetings:

ATL and Credits The use of the Attitude to Learning and Credits is felt to be inconsistent between teachers and varies per year. Therefore, the council wonder if we as a school can reaffirm the rules for scoring ATLs and the giving out of Credits.	<i>Mr Calloway will remind staff at the start of the year and raise the issue at the Pastoral forum with Year teams in July</i>
Log Books Students feel that log books aren't helping them enough, and that they're quite easy to lose. The Council would like to know if log pages could be put into the diary or if logs could be converted into an email format between students and teachers or if the new Microsoft Teams could be used.	<i>On the whole log books are managed well. A log books only affect a small minority of students they will not go in the diary as the vast majority of students won't use them. This would be a waste of paper and adds to the cost of diaries significantly.</i>
Toilets Students asked if soap or paper towels could be restocked more frequently. Some doors don't easily lock either. Students wanted to know if toilet cleaning and repairs could be prioritised.	The site team have let us know that soap and paper towel holders are checked every morning, and they will always replace them again if someone came to tell us they are empty. The toilets are also cleaned everyday but due to cuts we no longer have anyone checking and cleaning then like Gina used to throughout the day. We try our best to keep on top of broken or difficult locks .

School Improvements

School Uniform

Male students would like the Summer Uniform to be changed so boys are allowed to wear shorts, as female students can wear skirts without tights in summer while boys must wear trousers. Some students also wanted to know if black trainers could be added to the uniform code.

The school's governing body decide on uniform and it is felt that as there is a summer uniform policy already in place, the wearing of shorts for boys is not currently an option.

Black trainers will not be part of the school uniform.

Reward trips

The Council discussed whether reward trips could be replaced with end of year celebration trips or events in school, if these were cheaper then they would be accessible for the majority of students, and there wouldn't be any disagreement about having to pay for a 'reward'.

Reward trips have not been run for several years for a variety of reasons which has been outlined by Mr Lavis in previous minutes

Homework

- Students noted the variation in quantity of homework between subjects and would like the amount to be equal between subjects.
- Homework timetables aren't followed by some teachers. This means students don't have enough time between particularly large projects.
- Students also would like the rules on the amount of homework a teacher can give a week, and the deadline they can set, be reviewed.
- Students would like teachers to be more consistent with deadlines and extensions.
- Holiday homework's shouldn't be set.

Mr Nicholson has let the council know that the homework policy for Yr7 and 8 is under review and the aim is for the setting of homework to not be so rigid in future. Further details will follow in September

Larger Homework Projects

- Projects can be wasteful and take up a considerable amount of student's home time. They would therefore like more recognition for their work, or reassessment of the projects set.
- Parents often help with projects which makes them unfair on those who don't have help.
- Students would like an academic and creative option for all projects (excluding 'creative' subjects).

Canteen Prices

- Council would like to know why prices have risen.
- Students believe prices between tills are inconsistent.
- Finger print scanners don't always work, students would like to know how to fix this.
- Unhealthy food has been noted as cheaper than healthy food in the canteen.

We have no control over pricing. The canteen is a privately run organisation. Inflation is a fact of life.

Tills should not be inconsistent as they are all on the same system! Miss Scriven will ask the canteen manager to attend another meeting in the new academic year

<p>Exchanges</p> <p>Students would like to know why French and German exchanges have been cancelled recently, especially at a time when greater understanding between nationalities is increasingly more important.</p>	<p>Mr Alborough explained that they were forced to have a sabbatical for both exchanges due to staffing issues. The French exchange is running again this year and has already been launched and we are hopeful that the German one will be launched in September. We are also working on a new Spanish exchange. It takes a huge time commitment from staff to run these trips and it was with a heavy heart that we couldn't do them this year. To my knowledge we are one of only two schools in Dorset still running exchanges and we are working hard to maintain that.</p>
<p>Environment</p> <p>Instead of printing out non-essential work sheets, could they be projected on the white board and copied into books to save paper, ink and energy. Students would like to promote the use of reusable bottles and metal/ paper straws.</p> <p>Increased use of litter picking detentions and perhaps in tutor sessions to help improve consideration for the environment.</p>	<p><i>A few of our 6th formers are setting up an Eco group. More information will follow shortly</i></p>
<p>Extra-Curricular Activities</p> <p>A suggestion was made that that sixth formers run clubs such as a Book Club or Language Clubs.</p> <p>An application form should be made for students to apply to create a club (much like creating societies at university).</p>	<p><i>The sixth form council reps will raise this with the sixth form committee</i></p>