

## Sixth Form Council Minutes

### 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

#### Attendance

Lily Vass (Chair)	Bissie Shupo	Nandini Bindal	Alexandria Carter
Emily Lodge (Secretary)	Grace Ogundijo-Akinfenwa	Anugraha Tom	Similoluwa Adewale
Dr Palmer	Anoushka Kumar	Aliyyah Gbadamosi	Hannah King
Mrs Ellen	Abinaja Ilangovan	Madeleine Hawley	Rosey Allen
	Sophia Aung	Anoushka Baluja	Emily Olley
	Annabel Sweeney	Soumya Agrawal	Kiran Suhail
	Chidinma Oge	Emily Waddle	

#### **Matters from previous meeting**

- It was raised that many Year 12s and 13 students found it difficult to engage with house events due to them often taking place during Wednesday lunchtimes – therefore often clashing with PE getting ready/ leaving the school for PE.
- Point of Action: Following Lily and Emily raising this issue with the House Officials, once a house events time table has been established, they will work to reduce this Wednesday-PE clash.

#### **Sixth Form Teaching and Learning**

##### **Textbooks**

- It was raised that some students did not have their textbooks on creating the agenda. During the meeting it was clear that this issue has mostly been resolved, with the majority of students having now received their subject textbooks.
- Point of Action: Representatives to feedback and remind their form peers to communicate with their relevant subject teachers if they are still missing textbooks.
- It was raised that students found carrying multiple textbooks difficult. It was suggested that these students could talk to their friends and organise sharing textbooks across their day: Student A bring subject textbook and uses it in their lesson and then allows Student B to use the same textbook when Student B then has their lesson.
- It was also suggested that more subjects could get online textbooks made available for students to combat the difficulty of carrying many of them on one day. Mrs Ellen and Dr Palmer explain that this may not be possible as online access versions are particularly expensive compared to physical textbooks. It was also explained that for certain subjects, online versions are not available. One suggestion was that students could buy e-book versions of their textbooks if they wished as they are typically available at a cheaper price.
- Point of Action: Representative to feedback these suggestions.
- Regarding subjects which do have online textbooks, some maths students commented about not being able to use their laptops/ tablets/ phones to access these textbooks instead of bringing the physical forms in. Dr Palmer stressed that for some teachers there is fear of students using their devices for alternative purposes – distracting the student from engaging with the lesson at hand. He stressed the importance of students meeting the trust and expectations of teachers if they are able to use their laptops/ tablets/ phones in lessons.
- Point of Action: Lily and Emily to discuss this matter with Mrs Lockwood to see if maths students could be allowed to use their laptops/ tablets/ phones to access the online textbooks.  
Representatives to feedback to forms.

##### **Study Periods**

- It was raised that students would like access to a spreadsheet showing which rooms are available during each period of the day so that students who want to study in a 'free room' are able to. Dr

Palmer expressed that as the first few weeks have pass testing the timetable, he will look into emailing around a spreadsheet timetabling the 'free rooms' for available for students.

- Point of Action: Representatives to feedback to forms.

#### **Lateness to Lessons**

- It was raised that some students were not sure what was classed as 'late'. Mrs Ellen clarified that arriving after 8:45am was late to school. While lateness to lessons is not the same as being late in the morning, significant and/ or repeated lateness to lessons would be something that may need looking into for students who fall into this category. Students were reminded that both themselves and staff members might take a minute or two longer than normal getting to their next lessons when using the one-way systems currently in place around the school.
- Point of Action: Representatives to feedback to forms.

#### **Staff Absences**

- It was raised that a few classes have had staff absences without being informed (such as via email) or had not been set any form of cover work. There was misunderstanding where some students thought that Mr Lawlor's assembly in previous weeks had implied that any staff absences for Sixth Formers would see a different member of the concerning department covering the absent staff member. Dr Palmer clarified that Mr Lawlor had meant to express that Sixth Form students would take higher priority than younger non-examination year groups in the event of staff absences, not necessarily that a different department member would always be covering a missed lesson. He expressed that this is due to the importance of not missing teaching time for years 12 and 13.
- Some maths students expressed that for one of their lessons where their teacher was absent, they had neither been informed nor received any work to do in their teacher's absence. Dr Palmer clarified that work should have been set, suggesting that this was most likely due to teething issues due to the change in head of department.
- Point of Action: Representatives to feedback to forms.

#### **Noise of the Music Block**

- Students working in or being taught their bubble rooms notably in the Languages Block expressed the difficult of learning when there are year 7 music lessons occurring nearby – noting that the classes were using drumsticks on the tables which is particularly loud for them. Other students said that the volume of the music block was also a cause for concern in other areas of the school – such as in the economics rooms, hall and library. Some of the classes affected have organised having a room change so that they are further away from the year 7 music lessons.
- Mrs Ellen and Dr Palmer stressed to students the need for consideration, sympathy and the importance of retaining tolerance at this time: the music lessons are limited by whats possible currently and it would be hard and unfair for the younger years to only be taught music theory.
- It was suggested that the music department could move louder lessons to the New Dining Room or a different room to reduce volume.
- Point of Action: Sixth Form team to discuss the possibilities of this suggestion.
- It was suggested that sixth formers could be allowed to open windows wider – with the catches removed in their bubble rooms to allow for this – so that the doors could be closed to reduce the volume of music lessons and other louder classes nearby.
- Point of Action: Lily and Emily to talk to Mrs Mulgrew about whether it is possible to remove the window catches to increase ventilation while doors are closed in sixth form bubble rooms.
- Point of Action: Representatives to feedback to forms.

## **Sixth Form Facilities**

### **Keyboard Protector Cleaning**

- There was confusion about who was meant to be cleaning the keyboard protectors in the library/loft after use. Dr Palmer explained that the Mrs Martin explained that she wipes the protectors down when other year groups (outside of Year 12 and 13) had used them or were going to be using them.
- Some students suggested that there should be wipes available so that students could wipe down their own keyboards after use in both the library and the loft. They felt that despite being in a bubble, it was something that would be important to do between students to reduce the risk of spread of infection.
- Point of Action: Lily and Emily to discuss these points with Mrs Martin and to look into having wipes available for sixth formers to use on their keyboard protectors.

### **Chairs in the Common Rooms**

- Due to the coronavirus pandemic, soft furnishings have had to be removed for infection control. Both year groups expressed the need for more seating in both common rooms. Dr Palmer suggested that since the most needed in the hall is 180 chairs, could some be moved into the common rooms to provide more for sixth formers.
- Point of Action: Lily and Emily to talk to Mrs Mulgrew about the possibilities of moving 3 stacks of 6 or 8 chairs from the hall to the common rooms.
- Dr Palmer explained that he is going to be looking into obtaining proper chairs and tables if soft furnishings are not likely to be returned to the common rooms for use. He also suggested maybe that they could look into alternative ways to have soft furnishings – such as some kind of cleaning spray that could be used to promote infection control.
- Point of Action: Representatives to feedback to forms.

### **Getting to Rooms 37 & 38**

- Some students who have lessons in rooms 37 and 38 expressed that they had been told off by science teachers for going round the back of the old sixth form common room to get to these rooms – instead of walking through when there are psychology lessons taking place.
- Dr Palmer and Mrs Ellen expressed that students should aim to avoid walking through the lessons taking place in the common room and go around either side of the building to get to their lessons. They explained that science teachers should be understanding that it is one of the only ways for students to get to their lessons.
- Point of Action: Representatives to feedback to forms.

### **Years 12/13 Bubble Rooms and Year 12 Toilets**

- Issues regarding the number of toilets available for year 12 – there are only three, one of which does not lock at all and one lacks a sanitary bin.
- Point of Action: Lily and Emily to talk to premises to fix issues regarding the toilet locks, and to talk to Mrs Males about acquiring a sanitary bin for the toilet which lacks one.
- It was suggested that year 12's and 13's could use each other's toilets/ bubble rooms.
- Dr Palmer explained that while the sixth form year groups are perceived as a larger bubble, they are still meant to primarily operate in their own year group bubble allocated rooms – i.e. their own bathrooms and classrooms. Small gatherings of both year groups (such as Sixth Form Council meetings, or in upcoming society and club meetings) however are able to operate within the larger sixth form bubble – where social distancing is not required between students.

- Point of Action: Lily and Emily to talk to Mrs Mulgrew about whether toilets could be shared between year groups so long as congregating was avoided, especially at lunch and break.
- Point of Action: Representatives to feedback to forms.

### **Any Other Business**

#### **Moving around to science**

- It was raised that some students had confusion about how they are meant to navigate around the science block area.
- Dr Palmer expressed that his understanding was that students should go down the stairs by the car park, and after their lessons, walk round the back of the science block following the path round to go up the slope to leave.
- Point of Action: Lily and Emily to talk to Mr Rowell about getting an email sent round confirming how students are meant to move around in this area of the school. Representatives to feedback this to forms.

#### **Years 7/8 clumping outside of the school at the end of the day**

- Issues regarding the volume of years 7 and 8 students on the paths and bus stops directly outside of the school. Sixth formers expressed their concerns as it meant that there was no room for any level of social distancing between year groups – and therefore no infection control possible.
- It was suggested that some kind of time staggering could take place at the end of the day to mitigate this issue where year 7's and 8's or sixth formers left 10 minutes earlier to reduce the mixing of year groups directly outside the school gates.
- Point of Action: Dr Palmer to take issues raised to Mr Lawlor to see if staggered timing could be implemented somehow.

#### **Protective Mask Issues**

- Issues regarding mask wearing of younger year students around the school were raised.
- Some students explained that their masks had broken during the day so they went to the main office to ask for a replacement – since they are need on public transport and to move around the school buildings indoors. They expressed that there seemed to be some reluctance from the school to provide masks for students, even if their masks had broken as opposed to being forgotten.
- Dr Palmer and Mrs Ellen reminded students that their reluctance may be due to there being many students across a day doing this.
- Point of Action: Lily and Emily to talk to Mrs Dale about mask wearing and the school providing masks for those who have had theirs broken.
- Point of Action: Representatives to feedback to forms.

### **Further Point of Action:**

The Sixth Form team asks for the representatives to feed back to forms that they and the school are working hard to operate with the current restrictions and that they are as always remain open for any email suggestions that students feel would help to improve the current arrangements in place.