

Student Voice Minutes



Student Voice Meeting
Wednesday 18th November
Via MS Teams

Attendance

Mary-Beth Kogbe –chair
Fleur Smith –secretary
Miss Harrison
Mrs Mulgrew
Plus 26 student representatives (one from each form group)

COVID procedure

Distancing

- A student raised the issue that some teachers not distancing still despite reminders given following the previous student voice meeting
 - Mary Beth has explained to the students this was already brought up at sixth form council and therefore the school was aware of this issue
 - Mrs Mulgrew expressed that if this is specific teachers and ongoing, students should inform their form tutor who can bring this specific issue to more attention
 - Students were informed an email would follow this meeting reminding all teachers again of social distancing policies

Bubbles crossing

- A student raised concerns that bubbles were mixing during lesson change overs. This was especially an issue by the science block where sixth form passed by the younger years who stand in the car park
 - Mary Beth explained that this is difficult to avoid especially in the area outside the science blocks/drama studio, but agreed that sixth form should be sent an email advising them to be careful and sensible around this area as it is somewhere
 - It was also suggested that wearing masks even outside during change overs may make people feel more comfortable with the closer contact between bubbles

Staggered leaving and lunch times

- A student expressed concerns about crowding out of school without masks
 - Mary Beth explained that the school has little control of what is going on outside of school and it is much more up to individuals
 - She also explained that the school have tried to help with this issue following the last meeting using staggered leaving times
 - An email to all students asking them not to hang around the school gates after school was proposed
- Students expressed the problems with one-way system in languages – they were having to walk from the top floor to the ground floor and then back to the first floor in order to follow the one-way system
 - Mary Beth explained that whilst this is difficult it is important to the safety of the school during COVID that this system is respected and followed
- Students expressed that there was a lot of noise as students with earlier finishing times left the school

- Mary Beth explained this was already raised at sixth form council and subsequently an email had been sent to all teachers asking them to remind students who are leaving their classes to remain quiet so not to disturb the continuing lessons

What happens with a positive test?

- A student asked the question of if there is a positive case within the year group, does the entire year have to isolate?
 - Mary Beth explained that this is not necessarily the case, but in some instances an entire year may have to isolate. She went on to explain that when a positive case was brought to the school's attention, Essex track and trace were contacted and they guided the school on who must isolate

Premises and canteen

Printers and libraries

- Students raised their concerns that they did not have access to printers
 - Mary Beth reminded them, as stated in the previous meeting, it is not feasible to give lower school access to the printers as there would be mixing of who touched the printers, meaning more mixing of bubbles
- Students asked if the library rota could be sent around
 - Fleur explained that Mrs Martin had sent this around to all of lower school after the previous meeting however Mrs Martin agreed to send this to the whole school again

Toilets

- Students expressed continued concerns about the year 9 toilets – there were still issues with the locking of one cubicle and flushing mechanism of the other as well as issues raised with the disabled toilet on the first floor of the languages block seemingly being a year 10 toilet despite year 9 only having 2 cubicles between the year and the first floor of languages being a year 9 zone
 - Mary Beth agreed that site time would be informed of the issues with the year 9 toilets on the top floor of languages
 - Mrs Mulgrew agreed that the first-floor disabled toilet should be for year 9 access not year 10
- Year 11 students raised concerns about sixth formers using their toilets – this was especially an issue between periods 3 and 5
 - Mary Beth agreed an email would be sent to sixth form ensuring they know not to do this

Form rooms

- Students raised concerns about not having access to lockers – this was brought up by a form who had their lockers in their form room who asked why it was not possible to use them when they were in a room that they already used
 - Mrs Mulgrew explained this was not possible as not everyone's lockers were in their form rooms and therefore it would be unfair to grant some forms access to their lockers and not others

Canteen

- Students raised the possibility that everything in the canteen could be recyclable
 - It was explained this was a big step but was something the canteen could work towards
- Students asked for more vegan meal options on the menu
 - Mrs Mulgrew explained that they use the catering company's menu however they were asking the company to consider more vegan options on their menus

Leaving items

- Students were concerned about the fact there wasn't anywhere protected to leave their bags when they went into science as they can no longer use the bag racks as they are in a sixth form area
 - Mrs Mulgrew explained the school will look into this as it is an ongoing issue for many years
 - Another student suggested that their year brings plastic bags which they keep on them in order to put over their school bag if it is raining

Uniform

Warmer clothing

- Students raised concerns that as the temperature got colder outside, having the doors and windows open was meaning that they were very cold in lessons
 - Miss Harrison explained to students they would have an assembly regarding warmer uniform later this week
- Students asked if they would wear their own leggings to PE lessons instead of the school ones as the school leggings were quite thin
 - The girls were reminded that they should be wearing school tracksuit bottoms instead of thicker leggings when it was cold outside

Non – uniform days

- Girls asked what they were meant to be wearing on Christmas jumper day
 - They were informed it was uniform and a Christmas jumper

Any other business

Lesson issues

- Students in year 7 asked if the sixth form lessons in their form room could be moved as due to differing lunch times, they didn't have access to their form room
 - Mary Beth acknowledged that this was not ideal for year 7 however informed them there was nowhere else for the sixth form lesson to take place

Student Voice Minutes



Student Voice Meeting
Wednesday 10th February 2021
Via MS Teams

Attendance

Mary-Beth Kogbe –chair
Fleur Smith –secretary
Miss Harrison
Mrs Mulgrew
Plus 26 student representatives (one from each form group)

This meeting did not run as a usual meeting due to the nature of everyone being at home – we had low levels of attendance and many issues raised were highly specific about individuals who were finding online learning more challenging

- Students raised concerns about online testing as they had not received any tests during lockdown and were concerned that on re-entry to school, they would have multiple exams on top of one another
 - Mary – Beth reassured the students that this would not be the case as teachers were all aware that it is challenging returning to school and therefore will be considerate about setting tests
 - Mary – Beth also suggested an email to the teachers would be sensible just reminding them of this
- Students also asked that where possible, lessons could be taught at a slower pace and calls could last the entire lesson, as when set exam questions they often experienced difficulties which were difficult to raise with teachers when the call had been ended
 - Mary – Beth reminded students, especially GCSE students, that they must cover the course and therefore slower paced lessons may be difficult to achieve
 - Mary – Beth also suggested that teachers were emailed to ask them to run calls for the entirety of the lesson
- Students raised concerns that registration for PE was taking too long and therefore they weren't able to maximise their time actually doing sport. They requested that registration for lower school PE was done in the same way as sixth form PE – a message on teams which must be liked to show you have registered
 - Mary – Beth highlighted she had seen this issue herself with her sister in lower school, and said this was an excellent idea
 - Mary – Beth suggested that this was raised with the PE department
- Students felt that there was a lot of homework being set and that this caused issues as they were sat in the same place for a long time
 - Mary – Beth explained to students that some homework is necessary however also suggested that where particular teachers were setting excess homework, the best course of action was to raise this with a form tutor/year leader
- Students felt that some teachers were starting lessons prior to ensuring that everyone had logged online
 - Mary – Beth suggested that since this was peculiar to particular subjects/teachers, this could be raised with form tutors/year leaders, from which this could be raised to the particular departments
- Students asked that during lockdown, they may be able to have exercise time such as was provided in the lockdown between March and July
 - Mary – Beth acknowledged this but explained that during this lockdown, the school day was sticking more tightly to the usual timetable and therefore this would be much more difficult to factor into the day
- Students asked for screen free activities during their lessons as they felt they were spending far too long staring at a screen
 - Mary – Beth explained that this was already an issue SLT were aware of and as a result, they were bringing in a screen free period each week