

Student Voice Minutes

Student Voice Meeting - Wednesday 11th February
Via MS Teams



Attendance

Mary-Beth Kogbe – Chair
Fleur Smith –Secretary
Miss Harrison
Miss Mulgrew
Plus 28 Student Representatives

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.

Student Voice Minutes



Student Voice Meeting - Wednesday 17th March 2021
Via MS Teams

Attendance

Aadya Rao – Chair
Sophie Scott – Secretary
Miss Harrison – joint part way through due to technical difficulties
Plus 23 Student Representatives

Senior Leadership Team

PSHE Feedback

- Mrs Ledwidge requested the students say any improvements they would like to see made to the PSHE curriculum.
 - A year 9 representative raised concerns about the eating disorder section of the year 9 PSHE curriculum, that students felt uncomfortable seeing graphic images and learning about Body Mass Indicators without receiving a 'trigger warning' or parental consent. It was asked that this be removed from the curriculum.
 - Aadya expressed her understanding that sensitive subjects can be damaging for some girls, especially if there is no warning.
 - Aadya agreed to follow up these concerns with Mrs Buckley and Mrs Ledwidge as they are the members of staff involved with the PSHE curriculum, suggesting we remove the graphic images or include a sufficient warning for pupils.
- A year 10 representative praised the RTP sessions from online schooling, saying her classmates appreciated a lesson to catch up on work and requested that this becomes a more frequent occurrence.
 - Aadya understood the importance of having time to catch up on work, especially for examination year groups.
 - Aadya explored further with the representative as to what they would like to see in these revision sessions.
 - The representative stated that unplanned but supervised revision sessions would be ideal, so each girl could tailor the lesson to their own needs.
 - Sophie expressed the importance of using RTP for PSHE, as it can give us valuable life lessons.
 - Aadya agreed to bring it up with the appropriate staff to try to reach a compromise, such as one block of the PSHE rota be used for revision purposes or slotting in a revision week between PSHE topics.

Covid-19 Procedures

Masks

- Sophie reported to the representatives that she has received praise about some teachers wearing masks with clear windows in them from students and that more have already been ordered for the staff.
- A year 9 student raised that some teachers do not adhere to mask guidelines.
 - Aadya assured her that this should not be happening and agreed to raise it with Dr Palmer to remind the staff to wear masks in lessons, especially when close to students, due to the layout of some classrooms. Aadya also reminded students to report to their year leaders, or form tutors, if it is a recurring incident in particular lessons.
- A year 8 representative requested for changes to be made to mask guidelines as wearing masks all day can cause light-headedness and a feeling of suffocation.
 - Aadya suggested that if you feel ill you should report to the school nurse.
 - Sophie suggested changing the type of mask you are using, Aadya added to this by checking the mask is not too tight behind ears.
 - Sophie and Aadya explained the importance of masks and how it is not possible to change the rules.
- A complaint about glasses fogging from masks was raised.
 - Sophie explained that there are ways around this, such as wearing your mask higher, pushing the metal bridge down more or using anti-fogging treatments on the glasses.
- Students were unsure of how long these rules will remain.
 - Aadya and Sophie said it is unclear but will definitely remain for the foreseeable future.
 - Aadya reassured students by reminding them that national guidelines are set to lessen in the near future.

Social distancing

- A year 7 representative raised concerns about teachers not following the one-way system.
 - Sophie asked which corridors this was happening in, the student said predominantly the year 7 corridor.
 - Sophie agreed to bring this up with Dr Palmer.

Premises and Canteen

Students complained about having nowhere to leave their bags or folders in school.

- A year 7 student said that older years took up all the designated bag spaces outside the science block. She expressed her concern for the safety of personal belongings as their bags could not be left in a covered area.
 - Aadya understood the difficulties of sharing spaces with older years as it is normally the case of younger year groups missing out.
 - She suggested leaving bags or folders in lockers.
 - Sophie reminded about the lack of access to lockers currently; this issue was discussed later in the meeting alongside concerns relating to lockers.
 - Sophie suggested, if necessary, to take small valuables into the science lessons and alert the teacher that you feel uncomfortable leaving them unattended, but to not let them distract from lessons.
 - Aadya agreed to bring it up with the site team, to explore the prospect of additional storage areas.
 - A year 9 student suggested the instalment of hooks, either in form rooms or outside the science block.
 - Aadya agreed that this is a good idea and will follow up with sit team. She expressed concerns that this would be a large job due to the number of forms and size of form rooms.
- Students complained about not being able to leave property in form rooms, due to lack of lockers, as it would be disrupted or missing by the end of the day.

Toilets

- A year 7 representative reported that a table which was once in the year 7 toilets is missing. She expressed her classmate's appreciation for this table as it meant they didn't have to put bags on a wet floor.
 - Aadya agreed this would be beneficial to have put back, especially as this specific toilet is so spacious.
 - Aadya and Sophie to discuss with Site Team.
- A year 11 student said that there have been unresolved issues with the year 11 toilets for some time now. Specifically mentioning lack of toilet roll and broken locks (middle-left cubicle).
 - Aadya assured the student that she would pass this on to the site team.
 - The student then went on to add that year 12 students have been using these toilets.
 - Sophie will talk to Dr Palmer to remind Sixth formers of the rules in place for our safety.
 - Sophie added that it is difficult to police and will request that form tutors remind students regularly of this rule.

Security

- Praise about fobs
- Students questioned the necessity of fobs.
 - Sophie explained that they kept the school more secure.
- A representative explained that it was a common occurrence to find a lost fob on the floor, but no way to identify who it belonged to.
 - Aadya suggested a key chain.
 - Students said that they have been told not to do this.
 - Aadya will follow up with a member of staff as to why this rule has been put in place.
 - Miss Harrison reminded students that lanyards are colour coordinated with year groups.
 - Students said some people were not given lanyards.
 - Aadya will look into getting everyone lanyards.
 - Sophie suggested using a printer, by scanning the fob the name of who it belongs to will appear.
 - She added that it requires setting up once.
 - Miss Harrison agreed this could be the first step taken into finding the owner of the fob.
- There was confusion about whether you could use a friend's fob to get into school, if you had forgotten yours.
 - Aadya explained this would not be a problem as long as everyone gets to registration on time.
 - Sophie added that using a fob does not sign a student in.
 - Aadya said if you are ever stuck outside, you can be let in through the main office. She also added that there are lots of teachers outside in the mornings who are happy to help.

Canteen

- A year 7 representative complained about the large number of people in the canteen at once as this did not permit social distancing to be followed.
 - Sophie questioned whether this caused year group bubbles to cross, the student replied sometimes.
 - Aadya explained that the canteen has always been a busy place due to the number of people needing access to it in a set time. Sophie agreed that it is not ideal for social distancing to not be followed, especially when it is with a mixture of year groups.
 - Sophie agreed to look into stricter lunch timings for different year groups to avoid them crossing.
 - Aadya suggested to bring packed lunches where possible to reduce the number of students in the canteen.

Lockers

- A year 7 student wanted some clarification as to when we can expect to have lockers, since lacking them is causing difficulties concerning carrying all the items required for school.
 - Sophie suggested that there are many reasons preventing the use of lockers in these times, such as many students being prevented from social distancing when using them and the risks of leaving food in them should you be asked to isolate for 2 weeks as this is unsanitary.
 - Miss Harrison explained that lockers are not currently in use because they are located outside bubble areas for some students and this is unfair.
- A year 7 student brought attention to the fact that if students left property, such as folders, in their form room that they would end up in lost property on the same day.
 - Aadya agreed to remind teachers that as lockers are not accessible currently, to leave any property in their classrooms.
 - Sophie suggested a designated area be provided for property in the corner of each form room.
 - Miss Harrison approved of this idea.

Library

- Requests for library and printer rota
 - Students praised last term's system and notified Aadya and Sophie that one has been distributed out since the agenda was written.

Waiting Rooms

- A student raised concerns about the staggered school ending times causing problems for those who had to wait for buses, as there are no allocated areas to wait inside.
 - Aadya noted that this might not be feasible to arrange as it is important to keep year groups separate.
 - Sophie suggested to follow this up with Mrs Maslin, in case there is a room available for each year group who needs it during period 5.

Water Fountains

- A year 7 representative was concerned about a leak in the year 7 water fountain as it causes a large area of a busy corridor to be wet and slippery.
 - Aadya agreed to bring this up with the site team.
- It was written in the agenda that there were not enough paper cones for water fountains during the day.
 - Students agreed that this was a regular issue.
 - Aadya agreed to take this up with the site team.

Building Works

- Students requested an update on the building works.
 - Aadya reassured that plans were in place for an update from the Building a Future Senior Prefects.
 - Sophie added that the buildings were on track to open in September.
 - Miss Harrison agreed with this information.

Eco School

- It was suggested that more recycling bins be put in place.
 - Aadya agreed to talk to the Eco CHIPS prefects.
 - Sophie added that this problem had been spoken about a few years ago and it was explained that the school used mixed recycling which was then sorted by an external company.
 - Miss Harrison suggested that Sophie/Aadya check that this is still the case with the site team.
- A year 7 student suggested that kindles be allowed as a way to save paper.

- Other students added that there is no clear rule about this currently as some teachers allow kindles, whereas others don't.
- Sophie raised the point that some modern kindles are closer to tablets which are not allowed.
 - Miss Harrison added that the students turned on airplane mode or another setting which prevented other apps being used.
 - Aadya agreed to follow up on this point with Mr Carter.
 - Sophie assured that a clear rule would be set and told to all teachers when a decision is reached.

Learning and Teaching

- Suggestions about online learning in the agenda were not discussed due to lack of time.
 - Sophie praised the detailed agendas sent in by representatives, meaning she could follow up on these issues, but reminded students it is unlikely we will go back to online schooling so is not a priority,

Any Other Business

New Chair and Secretary

- Aadya and Sophie introduced themselves and asked all representatives to introduce their preferred names and pronouns.
- Sophie introduced a list of expectations the chair and secretary have for the representatives as a reminder.

Board Games

- A year 10 student praised the board games.
 - Sophie asked if any improvements can be made.
 - Everyone was happy with the current array of games.
 - Sophie will pass this on to the PA prefects.
- A year 7 representative alerted that their games were missing.
 - Miss Harrison said they were in the library and would be moved back to 7H's form room.

Forms

- A year 9 student was concerned about students not receiving important forms, such as GCSE option forms, as parents sometimes don't realise they have been sent them.
 - Sophie noted it was important that things like GCSE options go to the students, as they are old enough to decide their subjects for themselves.
 - Aadya agreed and will try and get this changed.
- A year 9 student wished to send an anonymous form around to get honest opinions from students concerning lockdown.
 - Sophie raised concerns about anonymity allowing rude comments to be made about staff and students without consequence.
 - Miss Harrison said if one were to be sent out, this would be the Chair and Secretary's responsibility, not a representative.
 - Aadya urged students to use Student Voice as an opportunity to be honest about school.

Registration

- A student complained about being made to do maths in form time, as this is supposed to be time for relaxation.
 - Aadya and Sophie understood this and will notify form tutors that unnecessary work is not appropriate for form time, as this can stress out students.