

Sixth Form Council Minutes - 17th March 2021

Attendance

Sophie Aung (Chair)

Lily Vass (Former Chair)

Aliyyah Gbadamosi (Secretary)

Emily Lodge (Former Secretary)

16 Student Representatives

Dr Palmer

Mrs Ellen

Matters from previous meeting

- It was discussed that the main issue with remote learning was the lack of discussion, as well as a clear distinction between assignments and further reading.
- In regards to societies/clinics- It has been requested that clinics for Chemistry and Maths be reintroduced if possible, however if not, it is understandable as Year 11/13 are priorities. As well as this, thanks and appreciation to those who facilitated and assisted in keeping societies running.

On-Site School

COVID Testing

- It was noted that matters concerning the COVID testing in school is no longer relevant as we have begun home testing. In regards to home testing this should be done every Wednesday and Sunday as follows, and this does not have to be done at a particular time in the day.
- Point of Action: Representatives to feedback the mentioned points to their forms.

Room Availability

- Ms Hopkins has said she would place some sort of time table of the room availability on teams.
- The hall should be available for use by Monday for Year 12's and 13's.
- In response to the inconvenience of working in the common during lunch, which is often quite loud, Dr Palmer suggested that Year 13's and 12's could use Year 12/13 bubble rooms when available.
- Point of Action: Possible Enquiry to Ms Hurley on whether there are any free labs available for use and representatives to feedback the mentioned points to their forms.

Leaving School

- It was explained that fobs do not work before 8 because the expectation is that people remain in certain areas before 8 so as not to disrupt the cleaners. However if faced with this issue Sixth Form are able to go through the dining room to either common room via the outside and the library is also available for the Sixth form from 7:30.
- In regards to leaving school it has been noted that the rule is that everyday we must remain in school from 8:40 to 12:35, therefore if you have free periods from that time you are free to leave unless there is a commitment e.g Physical Education, Rolling Tutor Period etc.
- Following the queries on whether we were permitted to leave and come back if you were to have a study period in the middle of the school day, there is some flexibility here on occasion and going across the road briefly is fine. However the basic rule is that students should be working in school rather than in town. If anyone has a particular need to leave and come back they should discuss this with their Year Leader.
- Point of Action: Representatives to feedback the mentioned points to their forms.

Year 12 Mocks

- It was explained that mocks are definitely going ahead, but the dates had yet to be finally pinned down but it will be before the May half term. Dr Palmer hopes to get a letter out regarding this by Friday.
- It was noted that the mocks will entail standard exam questions but the grades awarded will take into account the difficulties surrounding remote school.
- For those who requested an earlier start to class revision, it has been advised that you ask your teachers.
- Additionally Dr Palmer is not unaware of the, hopefully minor, possibility of a student having to self-isolate or somebody testing positive- in this case mocks will likely be done remotely.
- Point of Action: Representatives to feedback the mentioned points to their forms.

Year 13 End of Unit tests

- The Year 13 representatives expressed that they accept no one has a lot of information as of now.
- It has been noted that most teachers are aiming to do tests by modules and Heads of Department have been requested to ensure that the same information is given to all classes.
- The Year 13 representatives also requested, if possible, that staff check through the questions to make certain of the topics that the exams will cover (Physics and Maths in particular).
- Point of Action: Representatives to feedback the mentioned points to their forms.

Other Business

- The Trench is gone but there is still a fence blocking. One of the bike racks has been moved to the front of the school. Hopefully fence will be removed by next week.
- WiFi and connection in the common room and many other areas is not great, the Chair and Secretary of the Sixth Form council are to go to Mr Cable about this.
- The Chair and secretary of Sixth Form council are to also ask Mrs Mulgrew about soft furnishings.

Sixth Form Council Minutes - 28th April 2021

Attendance

Sophie Aung (Chair) Emily Lodge (Former Secretary)
Aliyyah Gbadamosi (Secretary)
Plus 10 Student Representatives
Dr Palmer

Matters from previous meeting

- Sophia and Aliyyah explained Ms Hurley's response to the question of using free labs as quiet study rooms; she did not see that this would be practical. However, it was acknowledged that use of the library for revision was possible.
- Email regarding WiFi from Mr Cable to be resent in due time.

Sixth Form Teaching and Learning

Emails

- It was noted that the issue regarding the BMAT and UCAT emails was a mishap.
- Dr Palmer agreed it would be ideal that most emails should be distributed and will consider the possibility of Dr Hiner collating all opportunities for a given week in one email rather than loads of separate emails.
- Point of Action: Representatives to feedback the mentioned points to their forms.

Rooms

- It was highlighted that for Year 13s there is a lack of clarity in terms of room changes, a request was made that room changes could be documented on the Year 13 teams.
- It was also mentioned that Language rooms should be available for Year 12s, including L5 during lunch.
- In terms of location for the Year 12 mocks, they are to be in the Hall. L7 for speaking exams, and smaller rooms for those with access arrangements. Details regarding whether masks will have to be worn will not be confirmed till the 17th May. But it is likely to be an option to remove masks during exams.
- Details surrounding location and time of the ALIS exams will be released in due time.
- Point of Action: Representatives to feedback the mentioned points to their forms.

PSHE and RTP

- It was noted that Mrs Buckley is working on reviewing some aspects of PSHE in response to feedback received.

- It was also raised that Mrs Hiatt would be returning in late June to take back control of PSHE, and once she had returned she is to be asked about her plans regarding reviewing the student finance syllabus.
- Point of Action: Representatives to feedback the mentioned points to their forms and request any desired topics to be inserted into the syllabus.

Homework

- Concern was raised that homework was being set that was not necessarily relevant to topics in the Year 12 mocks. This may be as a result of teachers wanting to make progress with the syllabus. However if massive concern is raised as a result of this individual is asked to talk to Mrs Hopkins with details of specific subjects with particularly time consuming volume of homework.
- In terms of clarity on the setting of homework- Dr Palmer, Mrs Hopkins and Ms Ellen will mention this to staff.
- It has been noted that most subjects prior to the Year 12 mocks will have one week of revision.
- Point of Action: Representatives to feedback the mentioned points to their forms.

Safeguarding Matter

- Dr Palmer spoke of the importance of having discussions on the issues which have recently been the subject of much public discussion. Miss Harrison had been due to speak on this matter but was unable to attend.
- Point of Action: Representatives to feedback in forms that the school is open to discussion in terms of what can be taught in PSHE in terms of recasting people's social behaviours and equipping students to respond to, for example, the inappropriate behaviour which has been the subject of discussion since the death of Sarah Everard). Representatives did mention self-defence but it is important to remember that we must not simply load more responsibility for their safety onto women.

Sixth Form Facilities

Water Dispenser and Chairs

- It was mentioned that as there are no more GCSE drama exams, the water dispenser is free for use, however if not available for use in the future, Year 12's are free to use the water dispenser in Year 13 new common room.
- Dr Palmer explained that soft furnishing may come back after half term as a result of COVID restrictions relaxing and once Year 13's depart, lessons will no longer be in Year 12 common room.
- Point of Action: In regards to the lack of chairs in Year 12 common room, Dr Palmer is to ask premises team to move chairs from hall to common room

Other Business

- In terms of dropping subjects it was confirmed that it is usual for all 4 subjects to be continued until examination results are received but that there would be some flexibility on this in this year.
- It was mentioned that If there was a newsletter on Year 12 teams students wouldn't read it
- Concern raised about computers in the Loft, Sixth Form Council Chair and Secretary are to check with IT staff and request box of mice.
- In regards of Year 13 essay feedback and when it will be received, Dr Palmer is to talk to Mrs Cross and to ask for some clarity as to when essays, will be given back.
- In terms of Year 12 waiting for their tests back, students are advised to address this with individual staff, as to when essays will be marked. If there is a longer-term pattern of delayed feedback this can be addressed by speaking individually to Mrs Hopkins or Dr Palmer.