

Sixth Form Council Minutes

25th November 2021

Attendance

Sophia Aung (Chair)	Mrs Ellen	Plus 13 Student Representatives
Aliyyah Gbadamosi (Secretary)	Mrs Hiatt	
Dr Palmer	Mrs Cross	

Matters from previous meeting

- Outcomes from matters relating to vegetarian food options, Mindset Mondays and RTP. These were fed back – each is under regular review but no immediate changes are foreseen. RTP in particular

Sixth Form Teaching and Learning

Year 13 Mocks:

- Some students had asked about the possibility of moving Y13 mocks to the next week. It was noted that exams aren't in place to make anyone's lives difficult and there is plenty of time over holidays to revise as well as celebrate Christmas. It was also noted that there is always a tension between time in lessons and time in exams and that (particularly in the light of the second round of mocks) we need to get the exams done and move on.
- In regards to interview and exam clashes, students should be assured they will be worked around.
- Placement of second mocks will be done with students' best interests at heart so as to enable the best use of the time available to them.
- Guidance on the content of summer exams is due to be released in February and until that time teachers must continue to assume that they need to cover the whole course. This obviously means that workload is still high.
- Students should request adjustments to deadlines or negotiate (within reason) the times when work is to be submitted; communication is important, all staff hugely empathise with the students situation.
- Point of Action: Representatives to feedback mentioned points to their forms.

Free First Periods:

- In regards to the missing of free first periods, in order to come in later than the school's opening time, it was noted that the rules are in place for safeguarding and also to assure assemblies and time with form is not missed out on; students should maintain good attendance
- Point of Action: Feedback to forms that no change to the expectations here is foreseen.

Teaching:

- It was noted that students like the use of booklets that correspond with the PowerPoints, which is being used in certain subjects including in Biology, Geography and Computer science
- It was noted that teachers are always thinking about improving the effectiveness and adaptability of their teaching style in order to benefit students and that sixth form students should continue to utilise sixth form council to talk about our main priority-education.
- Point of Action: Representatives to feedback the mentioned points to their forms; ideally the next SFC agenda will have more points about celebrating and reflecting on good practice in terms of teaching and learning.

Sixth Form Facilities

Microwave

- It was noted that a new microwave will be purchased in due course.
- Point of Action: Representatives to feedback the mentioned points to their forms.

Main Canteen

- It was noted that the canteens are often busy, however there will be an alternative sixth form food space in the coming month.
- Sixth Form are permitted to come to the Main canteen if food runs out in the Sixth Form canteen.
- Point of Action: Sophia and Aliyyah to feed back to Mrs Mulgrew

Other Business

- Request to reduce the number of Chemistry practicals. Mrs Hiett noted that practicals are important and will continue, as all are relevant in some way to the course.
- PE Kit. Lockers are not immediately feasible as there is nowhere at present to put them. Suggestion made to use old library shelves as a means to hold PE stuff to be discussed.
- First Aid training as a PE Option. First aid training is theoretically possible perhaps not for PE in particular as it is not really physical exercise and there would be other complications. If a group of students wish to undergo first aid training staff are happy to explore the possibility.
- Joint CCHS and Kegs things are complex as a result of timetable clashes but some initiatives are under discussion. A joint drama club has already started.

Sixth Form Council Minutes - 27th January 2022

Attendance

Dr Palmer	Sophie Dulake (Chair)	Plus 10 student Representatives
Mrs Ellen	Ivet Lobo (secretary)	
Mrs Hiett		
Miss Pocock		

Sixth Form Teaching and Learning

Diversifying the curriculum

- Miss Pocock provided an overview of curriculum updates in English, Geography, History and RS and the work which is taking place on diversifying the curriculum. Student Voice/ Sixth Form Council representatives are encouraged to share and discuss this information in their respective form groups and provide feedback (suggestions, improvements) in two weeks' time as it is to be discussed in the upcoming curriculum audit.
- Furthermore, it was noted that the library collections are under constant review so as to ensure that books representative of a wide variety of perspectives and backgrounds are stocked.

Guided subject/teacher supervised study periods.

- It was mentioned that guided subject sessions were highly beneficial in the past and that staff will continue to supply such sessions for subjects such as chemistry, biology, maths, etc. However, it was noted that such sessions cannot be provided for all subjects as not all individuals will be able to attend the session due to the difference in study period timings.
- A range of extra support will be on offer to Year 13 students in the run up to examinations and students are encouraged to attend these sessions regularly, especially those who will most benefit from them.

Lack of PowerPoints or notes in some lessons

- Students expressed their concern regarding the lack of Power Point Presentations/ notes to refer to after lessons. It was noted that a) there are many different ways in which

presentations may be used and b) teachers are always thinking about improving the effectiveness and adaptability of their teaching style in order to benefit students and thus feedback was appreciated.

- It was mentioned that not all lessons require power-points and that students are encouraged to take notes during such sessions for future reference. However, content heavy power-points should be uploaded to Teams and/or otherwise made available so as to free up time during lessons for content comprehension.

Concerns about finishing content in time for A levels.

- It was noted that any uncertainty was in part due to the lack of clarity over arrangements for summer examinations and the fact that staff are awaiting the detail from the examination boards as to exactly what will be assessed in the summer.
- It was clarified that certain aspects of courses need more emphasis and more time allocated to them. However, students were reassured that all necessary content will be covered in time.

The email from Dr Palmer with essay competitions was helpful.

- It was mentioned that students were grateful for the email. Dr Palmer expressed his gratitude towards the positive feedback and encouraged students to make the most of available opportunities.

Sixth Form Facilities

Computers in the loft

- Suggestions that whilst some computers and the printer could be kept in the loft, most of them could be removed (as many do not work) and replaced with desks.
- Recommendations were made for the computers to be replaced by chromebooks and the internet connection be boosted.
- It was concluded that the situation in terms of which computers are working and which are not would be assessed and necessary changes would be discussed with the IT team.

Library quietness

- Requests that younger years maintain a quieter noise level in the morning before school and at break.
- It was suggested that Student Voice be encouraged to discuss this issue at their next meeting but also noted that the library is for all to use and that encouraging younger students to use it is part of Mrs Martin's role.
- It was noted that there is a hope that more staff supervision may soon be possible in the old library at certain times.

S2 heater

- It was noted that the heater was removed due being used irresponsibly such as being left on after school thus wasting electricity. It was concluded that this situation will be reviewed by Mrs Dawson and further updates will be provided.

Milk in the kitchen fridge

- Concerns were raised about the uncleaned milk spillage in the kitchen fridge which highlighted issues on hygiene. Similar concerns were raised regarding the cleanliness of the Sixth Form Common room.
- Suggestions were made that cleaning supplies such as paper towels be positioned in the common room and kitchen as to encourage students to clean up after themselves. It was noted that some supplies are already available in the cupboard near the common room.

More advertisement that the quiet room exists.

- It was mentioned that the quiet room wasn't known to everyone who may occasionally need it and therefore needs to be better advertised. It was noted that the quiet room is a place for time out and support purposes and not to be used as a study area or for "hanging out".

Costa

- Concerns were raised about the lack of heating in the Costa which caused uncomfortable conditions for the person who works there. The meeting applauded the sensitivity displayed however, mentioned that the people working there have the capability of taking care of themselves as they are sensible adults.
- In regards to the introduction of Chai Lattes and Frappacinos , it was noted that matters would be further discussed with Mrs Mulgrew.
- Suggestions were made for discount on hot drink prices through the use of reusable cups to encourage more sustainable practices. The meeting seconded this suggestion and encouraged students to bring their own reusable cups. Reusable cups are also available for purchase. The amount of discount offered for a customer who brings their own cup is to be investigated.
- The need for artwork in the Costa was mentioned and students are encouraged to contribute ideas.

New Library

- Concerns were raised about the quiet boxes being used by year 12 students thus preventing year 13s from utilizing the new facility. Suggestions were made to create a booking system. However, it was felt that this would be overly complex and wearisome to enforce. Students are encouraged to arrive early if they need to use the facility as productivity needs to be promoted to both years.
- Suggestions were made for a silent study space exclusively for year 13s. It was felt by staff that Year 12s needed to study as much as Year 13s and that exclusive spaces per year group were not the way forward.

Canteen

- Concerns were raised regarding the length of the queues during break and lunch, requests were made for the Sixth Form House canteen to be open at break. Request were also made for the availability of 2 tills in the Costa (separate one for coffee) to prevent the amount of time spent on standing in queues .
- Concerns were also raised about the lack of vegetarian/vegan alternatives, as well as having more protein in the current ones.
- It was concluded that these concerns would be further discussed with Mrs Mulgrew.

Any Other business

- Concerns were raised regarding the Year 7s as it was felt that they could be quieter in their dismissal to lunch as they often disturb lessons. The meeting encouraged this to be discussed with the head of Year 7 Mrs Lewis.
- It was noted that student have been facing difficulties catching trains due to their late dismissal. The staff are encouraged to keep this in mind while dismissing students and thus let the students leave on time.
- Requests were made for a timetable of available sports clubs. Students were reassured that the timetable will be made available after discussing with Mrs Madle.
- Concerns were raised regarding the waste produced due to the provision of multiple items of wooden cutlery (spoon, fork and knife). It was concluded that the cutlery will be placed at the front of the counter within individual pots to allow the user to pick the cutlery suitable to them.