

## **Sixth Form Council Minutes**

**29<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

### **Attendance**

Dr Palmer	Sophie Dulake (chair)	Mahnoor Dewan (13RTH)
Mrs. Hiett	Ivet Lobo (secretary)	Abi Nutman (13SCM)
Mrs. Connolly	Isabella Alder (12JPO)	Jessica Chu (13FSE)
Mr. Selby	Diya Patel (12JVI)	Florence Cope (13FSE)
	Bethany Da Costa (12DMI)	Mariella Jasper (13VCA)
	Danielle Actille (12AGO)	Victoria Abbott (13JDI)
	Kim Bannister Southgate (12AWO)	Riley Thorpe (13RTH)
		Elizabeth Keyworth Munns (13JBR)

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

#### **1. Speed of lessons.**

- Suggestions were made for teachers to teach at a slower pace or to set optional pre-reading to introduce a topic. This concern was mainly among year 12 students and it was noted that this could be due to the transition from year 11 to sixth form.
- Teachers are advised to ask for feedback from their students regarding the pace of their teaching and if possible, pre-reading to be set.
- Students are encouraged to open discussions with their teachers if any such concerns arise.

#### **2. Focusing on the course.**

- Queries were raised over whether some instances in which teachers were not focused on the course were necessary.
- In many cases, content deviating from the specific narrow requirements of the course will prove useful to gain a deeper understanding of the topic. However, teachers are advised to clarify which information is necessary to the course.

#### **3. Exam practice.**

- Requests were made by students (mostly year 12) studying essay-based subjects including English and Psychology to be provided with additional exam practice questions and have more set out essay structures.
- It was noted that exam practice might not be necessary so early in the year as at this stage covering content is the key priority.
- Furthermore, students are encouraged to communicate with their teachers regarding any queries or suggestions and teachers will obviously provide clarity on the expected structure of the exam questions at appropriate times.

#### **4. Rolling Tutor Period.**

- Queries were raised over the value of simply filling in booklets and some groups expressed concern about missing curriculum lessons.
- Students were reassured that any lessons replaced by RTP would not be "missed" as the content would be taught in the following lesson and teachers would adapt their planning to ensure no issues arose.
- It was noted that all RTP lessons are interactive and students and staff should engage in discussions rather than simply filling in booklets. It was also noted that this comment referred to one instance and is not part of a pattern
- It was noted that the recent disruption in the timing of certain RTP sessions (and the placing of two RTP sessions on consecutive days) was due to national events. However, RTP will now carry on as usual.

#### **5. Catching up on missing lessons.**

- Suggestions were made for lessons to be recorded as this would be preferable over using another student's notes to catch up on lessons.
- It was noted that this will depend on the individual teacher and cannot be made mandatory; some lessons and some activities lend themselves better to being recorded..

#### **6. Concerns over NEA and Homework deadlines.**

- It was noted that certain NEAs such as Geography, History and English have been spaced out to accommodate students with multiple NEAs.
- Suggestions were made for homework to be accessible on teams. Students are encouraged to communicate such specific needs to their class teacher

#### **7. Sixth Form Council and Teaching and Learning:**

- a. Dr Palmer asked that representatives consider how we may better use Sixth Form Council to support good and excellent practice in teaching and learning. Many small concerns over, for example, communicating deadlines or suchlike can be dealt with in discussion with class teachers. It would be ideal if representatives could help their forms see SFC as a forum for sharing positive feedback and celebrating good ideas as well as for raising issues of concern.

#### Other:

#### **8. Regarding UCAS support for year 12.**

- Year 12 students are encouraged to focus on their A levels as they will have ample time to deal with UCAS later in Year 12. They should be confident that excellent support will be available to them at the appropriate time. Furthermore, it was noted that teachers are currently occupied with Year 13 UCAS applications and it is necessary to prioritise these.

- However, Year 12 students are encouraged to explore the UCAS hub as it is a good source of information for careers, courses, etc. Mrs Hopkins looks forward to working with them soon.

#### **9. Lack of quiet areas to study.**

- This related to noise in the old library and during Year 7 library lessons in the new library. Supervising staff in the old library have been asked to enforce silence. A temporary arrangement has now been made as regards the new library. The librarians are also now enforcing quiet in the new library at lunchtimes.

#### **10. Lockers.**

- Suggestions were made for sixth-form students to have lockers. It was noted that we do not currently have the space to site lockers for the sixth form. However, students in need of lockers due to medical reasons will be provided with one.

#### **11. WiFi.**

- Concerns were raised over the poor WiFi quality in the library, as time for supervised study sessions was wasted loading documents, etc. Suggestions were made for supervised study periods to take place elsewhere.
- A delay in the delivery of Wifi equipment was noted – the school’s suppliers cited a global shortage of equipment. However Mr Cable is now working hard to get this sorted.

#### **12. Issues with old library computers.**

- Students are suggested to post a sticky note on the computer screen highlighting the issue. Mrs Connolly has liaised with Mr Cable on this.
- Furthermore, students are reminded not to unplug computers to charge their devices as additional charging ports are available and unnecessary meddling could damage the equipment.