

Sixth Form Council Minutes

Date: Thursday 23rd March 2023

Attendance

- Dr Palmer
- Mrs Conolly
- Mrs Hiett

- Emily Yarham (Chair) Plus 8 Student Representatives
- Rebecca Boyejo (Secretary)

- Noveeni Jayasoma
- Nour Abdelrahman
- Morounfolu Osilaja
- Mariella Jasper
- Danielle Actille
- Amal Khalid
- Florence Cope
- Elizabeth Keyworth Munns

Sixth Form Teaching and Learning:

- 1. Improving PowerPoints
- It was discussed that PowerPoints in some departments (mentioned Biology) include a lot of pictures and though this may be useful in the lesson, when students go back to revise content text included on the PowerPoints are not that useful for revising content.
- The staff mentioned that the format of the PowerPoint was dependent on what the teacher wanted to do with it and the purpose that it held for the lesson. It was concluded that just including some textbook pages for reference will be quite useful for when students go back and revise. The key point is that powerpoints should not normally just contain material from the textbook – there is little point in projecting vast chunks of text. However teachers should always be clear about the purpose of the powerpoint and the format in which they expect the students to make notes or annotations. Electronic or paper copies should be made available to the students.

- The staff also mentioned that teachers are not totally responsible for supplying all revision resources for students, therefore, students should also look for other materials to help their revision. The school library has huge resources and these are too often untapped by students.

- 2. Teacher Assessed Data
 - Some students were concerned about the information used to determine TA data and whether tasks completed later in the term were taken into account. Staff agreed that the evidence base should be as wide as possible but also noted that entering and analysing TA data was necessarily a lengthy process and it wasn't possible to cram the whole process into the last week or ten days of term.

 - Staff also said that an average of results across different tasks is taken when deciding TA data. Examinations such as end of Year 12 examinations will carry a little more weight in influencing UCAS grades.

 - The extent to which TA Data was based simply on work completed in that term was also discussed or whether tasks completed late the previous term were also considered. Dr Palmer mentioned that this point will be discussed with Mr Selby.

- 3. Amount of Homework being set during mocks.
 - It was discussed that students would like the amount of homework set to decrease as Year 12 examinations come closer. The council discussed that the amount of homework being set during mock examinations should prepare you for those exams as a consolidation of knowledge. Staff also mentioned that a number of lessons (and the corresponding homework) would normally be devoted to revision in the immediate run up to the examinations. Students were encouraged to continue to discuss their workload with their teachers.

- 4. Year 13 March test papers
 - Some disquiet was expressed about some apparent confusion over which material was to be assessed in some subjects in the Year 13 March test papers

and it was suggested that a paper set in one paper included material that one class had not yet fully covered. Dr Palmer undertook to look into this.

- Another issue with the Year 13 test papers was that some staff had apparently not been fully aware of the supervised rest breaks in place for certain students. Again, staff noted this and undertook to investigate.

- 5. Testing

- Students asked for more regular short answer tests instead of staff relying so much on major assessments. This will be discussed with Mr Selby but it was noted that weekly tests would be relatively time consuming both in the production and in the lesson time necessary. However they are undoubtedly very useful; Mrs Busby and Mrs Saw were noted as using them very well and success in them did much to build student self confidence in advance of bigger examinations.

- Catch Up Revision Session

- The Catch-up revision sessions for maths and science were said to be useful to students in helping them revise.

Other:

- Catering

- It was suggested by the students to bring back the Sixth Form Café at break time to reduce extensive queues. This will be looked into but different arrangements will be in place during the examinations and after Y13 have finished as smaller numbers of students will be on site.
- Also mentioned that the portion sizes of food are sometimes small. It was concluded that staff were aware of the issue and aim to deliver reasonable portions in the future. This will be raised again with Mrs Mulgrew.

- Sixth Form Study Spaces

- It was brought up by students that several computers in the Sixth Form study areas do not work. It was again noted that students should put post it notes on the computers that do not work and let Mrs Conolly (for the old library) and Mrs Hiett (for the Loft) know.
- It was discussed that some Music software is not available on the computers. This will be mentioned to Mrs Mulgrew and due to the small number proportion of music students, staff will aim to get the software on two computers in the library.
- Another issue that was discussed was that Year 7 students take up the computers during break when they are not doing work and it was suggested that Year 7s could be moved to the booths in the library creating more space for students doing work on the computers.

- Textbooks

- Some concern over Physics textbooks was raised. This will be discussed with Mrs Kurian.

- Lockers

- Sixth form students wanted lockers and Dr Palmer mentioned that there are unused laptop lockers. He will discuss this with Mrs Mulgrew to find where keys are, so they are available for use. However we do not have space to provide large lockers or many lockers.

- Wi-Fi

- The Wi-Fi in the Bancroft and Cadbury building was said to be quite poor; Mr Cable is working on improving this.