

Sixth Form Council Minutes

23rd September 2020

Attendance

Lily Vass (Chair)	Bissie Shupo	Nandini Bindal	Alexandria Carter
Emily Lodge (Secretary)	Grace Ogundijo-Akinfenwa	Anugraha Tom	Similoluwa Adewale
Dr Palmer	Anoushka Kumar	Aliyyah Gbadamosi	Hannah King
Mrs Ellen	Abinaja Ilangovan	Madeleine Hawley	Rosey Allen
	Sophia Aung	Anoushka Baluja	Emily Olley
	Annabel Sweeney	Soumya Agrawal	Kiran Suhail
	Chidinma Oge	Emily Waddle	

Matters from previous meeting

- It was raised that many Year 12s and 13 students found it difficult to engage with house events due to them often taking place during Wednesday lunchtimes – therefore often clashing with PE getting ready/ leaving the school for PE.
- Point of Action: Following Lily and Emily raising this issue with the House Officials, once a house events time table has been established, they will work to reduce this Wednesday-PE clash.

Sixth Form Teaching and Learning

Textbooks

- It was raised that some students did not have their textbooks on creating the agenda. During the meeting it was clear that this issue has mostly been resolved, with the majority of students having now received their subject textbooks.
- Point of Action: Representatives to feedback and remind their form peers to communicate with their relevant subject teachers if they are still missing textbooks.
- It was raised that students found carrying multiple textbooks difficult. It was suggested that these students could talk to their friends and organise sharing textbooks across their day: Student A bring subject textbook and uses it in their lesson and then allows Student B to use the same textbook when Student B then has their lesson.
- It was also suggested that more subjects could get online textbooks made available for students to combat the difficulty of carrying many of them on one day. Mrs Ellen and Dr Palmer explain that this may not be possible as online access versions are particularly expensive compared to physical textbooks. It was also explained that for certain subjects, online versions are not available. One suggestion was that students could buy e-book versions of their textbooks if they wished as they are typically available at a cheaper price.
- Point of Action: Representative to feedback these suggestions.
- Regarding subjects which do have online textbooks, some maths students commented about not being able to use their laptops/ tablets/ phones to access these textbooks instead of bringing the physical forms in. Dr Palmer stressed that for some teachers there is fear of students using their devices for alternative purposes – distracting the student from engaging with the lesson at hand. He stressed the importance of students meeting the trust and expectations of teachers if they are able to use their laptops/ tablets/ phones in lessons.
- Point of Action: Lily and Emily to discuss this matter with Mrs Lockwood to see if maths students could be allowed to use their laptops/ tablets/ phones to access the online textbooks. Representatives to feedback to forms.

Study Periods

- It was raised that students would like access to a spreadsheet showing which rooms are available during each period of the day so that students who want to study in a 'free room' are able to. Dr Palmer expressed that as the first few weeks have pass testing the timetable,

he will look into emailing around a spreadsheet timetabling the 'free rooms' for available for students.

- Point of Action: Representatives to feedback to forms.

Lateness to Lessons

- It was raised that some students were not sure what was classed as 'late'. Mrs Ellen clarified that arriving after 8:45am was late to school. While lateness to lessons is not the same as being late in the morning, significant and/ or repeated lateness to lessons would be something that may need looking into for students who fall into this category. Students were reminded that both themselves and staff members might take a minute or two longer than normal getting to their next lessons when using the one-way systems currently in place around the school.
- Point of Action: Representatives to feedback to forms.

Staff Absences

- It was raised that a few classes have had staff absences without being informed (such as via email) or had not been set any form of cover work. There was misunderstanding where some students thought that Mr Lawlor's assembly in previous weeks had implied that any staff absences for Sixth Formers would see a different member of the concerning department covering the absent staff member. Dr Palmer clarified that Mr Lawlor had meant to express that Sixth Form students would take higher priority than younger non-examination year groups in the event of staff absences, not necessarily that a different department member would always be covering a missed lesson. He expressed that this is due to the importance of not missing teaching time for years 12 and 13.
- Some maths students expressed that for one of their lessons where their teacher was absent, they had neither been informed nor received any work to do in their teacher's absence. Dr Palmer clarified that work should have been set, suggesting that this was most likely due to teething issues due to the change in head of department.
- Point of Action: Representatives to feedback to forms.

Noise of the Music Block

- Students working in or being taught their bubble rooms notably in the Languages Block expressed the difficulty of learning when there are year 7 music lessons occurring nearby – noting that the classes were using drumsticks on the tables which is particularly loud for them. Other students said that the volume of the music block was also a cause for concern in other areas of the school – such as in the economics rooms, hall and library. Some of the classes affected have organised having a room change so that they are further away from the year 7 music lessons.
- Mrs Ellen and Dr Palmer stressed to students the need for consideration, sympathy and the importance of retaining tolerance at this time: the music lessons are limited by what's possible currently and it would be hard and unfair for the younger years to only be taught music theory.
- It was suggested that the music department could move louder lessons to the New Dining Room or a different room to reduce volume.
- Point of Action: Sixth Form team to discuss the possibilities of this suggestion.
- It was suggested that sixth formers could be allowed to open windows wider – with the catches removed in their bubble rooms to allow for this – so that the doors could be closed to reduce the volume of music lessons and other louder classes nearby.
- Point of Action: Lily and Emily to talk to Mrs Mulgrew about whether it is possible to remove the window catches to increase ventilation while doors are closed in sixth form bubble rooms.
- Point of Action: Representatives to feedback to forms.