

Sixth Form Council Minutes - 9th February 2023 - Curriculum-related sections only

Attendance

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| ○ <u>Dr. Palmer</u> | <u>Emily Yarham (Chair)</u> |
| ○ <u>Mrs. Hiett</u> | <u>Rebecca Boyejo (Secretary)</u> |
| ○ <u>Mrs. Conolly</u> | plus 9 student representatives |

1. RTP

It was discussed in the meeting that repetition should be stopped regarding the topics covered during RTP, it was also requested that age related topics be addressed as well. It wasn't specified if content was aimed at a younger audience or older audience and so the council concluded that age related RTPs will aim to be more tailored to age.

There was also a discussion about the repeating of topics last year but to a lesser level of depth. We agreed that repetition is quite important for topics such as drug use/mental health, therefore, some repetition is necessary, but to add some variety it was proposed that Mrs. Buckley should come to the next meeting to discuss this matter further.

Joy to RTP

- Some students have asked for more 'joy' in RTP. To elaborate, electives not just surrounding topics to do with adulthood/academics etc... however, after a discussion of the RTP electives, activities such as singing, knitting and Spanish etc seemed to satisfy the 'joy' sector and it was agreed that the electives that are not as joyous are quite important too.

2. Homework

- Students requested that homework should be spaced out more appropriately in order to decrease an irregular workload. The council discussed this and staff noted that a fixed timetable to set homework will be quite impractical. It was mentioned that most teachers give at least a week to complete the homework set, so student time management should also come into play.
- The topic of setting overnight homework was also discussed; it was noted that this should depend on the amount of homework set and the time of day you must complete the homework by as overnight homework is sometimes hard to avoid given the constraints of the timetable.
- Lastly it was mentioned that student communication is also fundamental in assisting teachers to choose which deadlines work best whilst also being in a reasonable time frame. Students should remember that staff are always open to discussion about what is reasonable in terms of deadlines.

3. Content Coverage

- It was mentioned that in some subjects Year 13s revised Year 12 content for the first few weeks of Year 13 and some students were worried that this would delay them in finishing the course on time by Easter. Staff reassured the council that teachers were all experienced in this and that staff would normally at this time of year produce some form of timeline which offered reassurance to students.

4. Intervention/revision sessions

- Students praised the efficiencies of the interventions/revision sessions and that good exam skills were covered in these sessions.
- The sessions of Year 13 students going into Year 12 lessons were also praised and appreciated.
- To improve however, students suggested that more 1-1 speaking practice in French would be quite useful. It was mentioned that 1-1 speaking arrangement can be made between the students.
- The students praised the German department for their 1-1 speaking practice with the help of the German assistant. To offer more French speaking practice, it was proposed that Year 13 students should mention this to their teachers or students could set up French Speaking sessions over Teams. Dr Palmer is going to talk to Mrs. Cross to further discuss this matter.

5. PowerPoints on Teams

- Students wish for teachers consistently to put PowerPoints on Teams before the lesson. This has repeatedly been discussed at SFC and if it is still not happening students should a) ask their teachers to do this and b) talk to their YL if this does not work.
- It was also mentioned that some teachers may go a bit quickly when covering the content, it was concluded that this issue should be communicated to teachers to fix this.
- Regarding PowerPoints, it was again agreed that it wasn't optimal use of lesson time to just passively copy down the information. The PowerPoints of (amongst others) Mr. Rowell and Mr. Thompson were praised at putting down the basic pointers/outlines of the topic but saying additional information to maintain the engagement of the class. Dr Palmer will talk to Mr Selby regarding reiterating to all staff the need to be clear with students what purpose the PowerPoint is serving.

6. Topic Tests

- Students would like to keep topic tests in certain subjects for revision purposes. However some departments are reluctant to allow this as they use tests from year to year. This is not necessarily straightforward but will be discussed with Mrs Cross and Mr Selby..

7. Mock Examinations

- Students believed they could not keep or photograph their mock examination papers, but were relieved to know that this is not the case.
- In Physics however students have not and so it was advised to talk to Mrs. Cross about the matter.

8. Lesson structure

- It was discussed in the meeting that some lessons should perhaps be more varied. It was suggested that Mr Selby be invited to the next SFC meeting to discuss this in more detail.