

School Council Minutes
19.05.06 1.00pm New Meeting Room

Present – Josh Stronach, Shaun Mathias, Jack Lewis, Adam Smith, Joe Harmandian Hadley, Andrew Scourse, Jessica Young, Jake Butler, Amber Sims, Nathaniel Huggins, Patti Middlehurst

Matters arising.

Andy, the site manager had responded to some of the issues raised by the last minutes.

Rubbish Bin - the rubbish bin for outside the five-aside pitch was ordered and is now in place.

Water fountain – They are still experiencing problems with the water pressure in the water fountain. Andy to be reminded. Tom Calley to see Andy if he is having problems reaching it as it can be moved.

Damaged blinds. – Andy is in the process of getting quotes for replacements damaged blinds in the foundation area.

Website contributions – Alison has put a folder in the pupils area on the network for 5Purples Magazine. Pupils are requested to put work in there if they wish it to go into a magazine and on the website. The Sixth Form will be doing things with it.

Helping out with other classes. Mr Gregory is very in favour of this and has recognised the good work done by several pupils already. He has asked Mrs Moreton to organise it a little more formally, mainly with Year 10 and 11 pupils and a few individuals from KS3. They will help with either classes or individuals.

The question regarding expensive equipment. Mr Gregory has confirmed that the rule is that expensive equipment such as mobile phones should be handed into the office where there is always someone there to ensure it is secure. MP3 players can be handed into tutors. Bob reported that in response to their requests at there will be a designated place for people to use MP3's, play music and use gameboys from September.

Tuck Shop – A tuck shop project is going ahead after half term. Some of the pupils are involved.

School Stationary – Mr Gregory said that we are unable to offer this and that there should be basic supplies available from teachers for emergencies. The pupils reported that often these supplies are used up.

Action – Remind Andy to look at Water pressure problem. Room to assigned for September for MP3's etc. Pupils to put work in the Website folder. Pupils to hand in mobile phones to keep them safe. Tom Calley to tell Andy if he has problems reaching the fountain.

New Business

New Building.

Bob asked the School Council for their opinion of the new building. They all were very positive about it. They thought it was really good, fantastic new facilities. The only issues that were raised were that they were a little concerned that there were no fire exits they could see in the Food Technology and DT rooms. And that they would like more equipment in the Food Tech room. The group went around the area at the end of the meeting, pointing out what they really liked. In general, they very much approved of the lots of room, the look of the place and the new facilities.

Premises

Adam reported that there are still problems with the automatic doors. The issue is with the closer mechanism. If you try to go through when it is coming closed, it just keeps closing, which they believe is quite dangerous.

There is no sign on the new disabled toilet door in the new section. They feel it should have a sign.

The pupils like the water cooler in reception. Josh was wondering if they could have one in the ASD area.

Mr Ellison's Class would like a lock on their outside door. At the moment there is nothing to stop people going in and it is accessible to the road. They feel a bit uncomfortable that their bags are so accessible, and all the things in their classroom.

Clocks were also requested for all classrooms – especially the new ones. With the equipment in there it is easy to miss the bell ringing if it is in use.

Action – Inform SMT and then ask Andy if these requests are possible (signs, clocks, lock for the music room), and for a response on the doors.

ICT

Bob reported in response to the usual requests for upgraded machines that he had good news. A lot of new computers had been ordered, and as they came in, Adrian was gradually replacing machines all over the school. He also reported that there a plan to have a mobile laptop hub for the new area to make teaching more flexible.

An interactive whiteboard was requested for James' room.

Some of the computers need a new mouse – they are sticky and difficult to use.

Bob showed some of the new web cam technology and it was suggested that maybe the next school council we try filming a little so that we can show everyone what we do in the council.

They would really like someone to look at the problem that they had with headphones for the computers to see if there are some suitably robust ones that can be purchased. There is hardly any left now and haven't been for some time and the students feel they are missing out on a big part of their work.

Action- Pass requests to SMT for Whiteboard for James, And for Adrian to look at the mouse situation. Ask Terry about headphones. Organise someone to film the next school council meeting.

Curriculum

They asked if there could be more subjects or options. For example Yr 10 &11 don't get to do geography. Ms Pitts happened to come in at that point and said she was going to be doing a presentation to the staff on that subject and they were going to be looking into what else they could offer.

Some people who don't get a chance to play football would like there to be a choice. At the moment the 5-aside is dominated by the KS4-5 boys. Others would like some opportunity to play.

Action:- Ask SMT about different curriculum options

Miscellaneous

The pupils would like to ask if shorts would be allowable this summer. They understand that it would have to be sensible shorts, but they would like to know for the hot weather, as the heat is very distracting

It was suggested that maybe the Kitchen could have 'special' days every now and then where perhaps they would have something a bit different like milkshakes, or a focus on juices, or other things.

Shaun wanted to ask if they could use the new bike locks at the front of the new building as some people would like to ride to school.

Action – Ask SMT about shorts, 'special' food days and use of the bike locks

Bob closed the meeting by saying that at the last meeting of term we would review what we had done and have a few refreshments in recognition for their hard work.

Meeting ended 1.45

Next Meeting 7th July 2006