



School Council minutes – 27 May 2021

MINUTES

Attendees

Chairs of School Council	Eve Bailey Oscar Folwell Claudia Barrington	
Year		
7	Alisa Zhigolli	Reub Obeney
8	Lois Silvester	Harry Gilbank
9	Anya Seifert	Aidan Lucas
10	Milla Sweett-Heals	Holly Morgan
11	Tegan Smith	Charlie Marsh
Sixth Form Reps	George Murphy	Molly Green
	Lauren Jones	
Environment		Will Gilbank
SNAG representative	Isabelle Ramsay	
BLISS representatives	Maddie Gilbank	Frankie Gilder
Fusion Representatives	Emia Smith	Charlie Rowelle

Absent

Oscar Folwell
George Murphy
Frankie Gilder
Aidan Lucas

In attendance:

Dr Ingate
Ms Hewlett

Principal
Minute-taker

Eve Bailey welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

Year group feedback

Year 7

- Why do we need to get changed from our PE kit back in to school uniform especially P5? With the lockdown easing we are now applying the school rules. This is the expected practice and is similar in other local schools.
- How do we get to know about lunchtime and after school club? Information will be available on school website, Sports Hall notice board, Birchwood News and in future on electronic displays.
- Separate sport and social areas has been good but it is exactly the same every day and there is no opportunity to mix with other students.

Year 8

A meeting has not been arranged as yet – no feedback.

Year 9

New bike shed is great but there is no shelter to keep the bikes dry. Can this be looked into.
Social area working well.
Exit from C block still problematic.

Timings at break and lunchtime – break time was thought to be too long and lunch time not long enough when you spend a lot of time queueing for food. Late to lessons after break and lunch.

With lunchtime clubs restarting the lunchtime is not long enough to enjoy the club and eat etc.

Year 10

- Air con, better opening windows in B Block.
- Wind turbine / windsocks / solar panel – looking at new technology and grants for funding.
- Concerns over the waiting time for food from the café at lunch time and being late for lessons.
- Looking into giving the Year 10 boys all of the hard court to play football.

Sixth form

- Discuss suitable student dress / wearing tights etc at next Sixth Form council meeting.
- Sixth form outside space for the boys has worked well and will keep in place.

Environmental focus

As yet a meeting has not taken place, but Will Gilbank to contact Miss Crossley and Miss Long to arrange one before the end of the summer term. Investigate what alternative source of energy produces the most.

SNAG Update

As yet a meeting has not taken place with Mr Kadlec. Quality of food is excellent need to address waiting times. Future BBQ's will be organized differently to ensure that all students are able to buy food. 2 Year groups at a time with tickets.

BLISS Update

Met Wednesday 26 May – new Bliss teacher leader to be appointed. Planning to use assembly time to recruit more students. Bliss' main role is to use feedback from students to resolve issues, e.g. homework.

Fusion/Ocean

Fusion is a group that has been set up to celebrate diversity and show support for all students. The group met on Tuesday 25 May and plan to promote and campaign in the school next half term.

As a response to the death of Sarah Everard recently and the "Everyone's Invited" campaign, the Ocean group has been set up at Birchwood to support girls and boys who don't feel safe in any environment. There are plans to re-educate and to make students (through PSHE), teachers and governors more aware about sexism in schools.

Student School Evaluation Exercise

The second part of the meeting focused on School Council's perceptions of what Birchwood does well / what we need to improve and what were the positives from Covid that we need to keep in place.

Things we are proud of at Birchwood:

- Accepting and welcoming all students
- ABC Ethos
- The support we get from our teachers – very approachable
- The relationships and support we get from each other

- How the school aims to keep us physically and mentally healthy / quality of the food in the café
- Equality and diversity – the open way that school deals with issues around LGBT+ Racism and Misogyny
- Careers Guidance / Options at GCSE & Sixth Form
- Listening to students views and taking on board their comments
- The way the school adapted during Covid
- The curriculum and options available
- Extra-curricular (now back on) +Revision lessons

Things we could do better:

- A few students affect the learning of others
- Again, a minority not following Uniform rules
- Greater environmental awareness – recycling and green energy
- Teachers who come round and help us while we are working (getting better now)
- More work in PSHE / Citizenship on equality
- Review of Achievement points / House Points
- Some classrooms a bit 'tired' – Computers not working in some classes

Post Pandemic Keeps:

- Remote lessons for revision lessons
- School day works well – keep 30/30 or 25/35min for break & lunch.
- One-way systems – keep these – they work well
- Recreation and social spaces – keep these
- Increased cleaning and hygiene awareness
- Lower general viral spread – lower absence for students and staff
- More balanced GCSE and A-Level assessment rather than just base things on an exam (this will be determined by the DfE)