



School Council minutes –25 April 2022

MINUTES

Attendees

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Chairs of School Council | Eve Bailey | |
| Year | | |
| 7 | Emily Plant | Thomas Hubbard |
| 8 | Megan Allin | Edward Wilcox |
| 9 | Aimee Suttle | Harry Gilbank |
| 10 | Molly Range | Kieran Mok |
| 11 | Sydney Godden | Milla Sweett-Heals |
| Sixth Form Reps | George Murphy | Lauren Jones |
| Environment | | Will Gilbank |
| SNAG representative | Isabelle Ramsay | |
| BLISS representatives | Maddie Gilbank | Frankie Gilder |
| Fusion Representatives | Emia Smith | Charlie Rowelle |

Absent

Thomas Hubbard
Aimee Suttle
Molly Range
Sydney Godden
Will Gilbank
Maddie Gilbank
Frankie Gilder
Charlie Rowelle

In attendance:

Dr Ingate Principal
Ms Hewlett (Minute-taker)

Dr Ingate opened the meeting and explained that the group was smaller than usual with all of the Sixth Form representatives preparing for exams. He also clarified that the school was closed early before the Easter break due to staff absences.

Year group feedback

No feedback as year council meetings have been arranged to discuss any issues. Dr Ingate will liaise with the Heads of Years to arrange these meetings before the May half term break (by Friday 27 May).

Year 11 students are frustrated with the last-minute English mock exam which had been conducted today, and that it would have been better not to have rushed through some topics and given more time to develop skills to answer the real exams.

Birchwood is in a relatively good position as we run the GCSE study over a three-year period compared to other local schools and we have not had to send Year groups to online learning in the last 6 months. Dr Ingate reassured the Year 11 students that there will be a further timetable issued to Year 11 students when they are on study leave which will provide

a support package with revision sessions and teachers will be available to help students when required.

Further investment will be taking place over the coming months to improve toilets, new computers, reducing the carbon footprint in school and also the development of the social and recreational spaces. Please can you raise this at your council meeting and record suggestions that students would like to see.

Fusion

Meeting is taking place tomorrow to discuss how to introduce Fusion into PSHCE lessons.

SNAG

Dr Ingate to help Isabelle by arranging a meeting with Mr Kadlec.

AOB

Please record any suggestions for improving the social and recreational areas and keep a note of any concerns that are raised to share at the next school council meeting.

Evaluation of assessment and reporting

Mr Gilbank asked the council a series of questions to gauge their understanding of the assessment and reporting process as it stands now. This was then discussed further within the group. They were also given a short task to support their views and understanding.

Questions:

1. What is the purpose of assessment?

Answers

- a. Assessment in lessons will show how much you've learnt.
- b. Show where we are in our learning
- c. Show weakness and strengths
- d. Will show the teachers where they may not have taught a topic well as the assessment will show the number of students who haven't answered questions correctly.
- e. GCSE mock exams shows overall understanding.

2. Is assessment important?

Answers

- a. If you are a confident student who works hard continually assessment may not be necessary.

3. Preferred way of assessment

Answers

- a. Controlled assessments
- b. Monthly written assessments
- c. Plenty of notice to enable students to be prepared
- d. Multiple choice
- e. Assessment to allow for critical thinking rather than memorizing and regurgitating facts.
- f. Same sort of assessments

5. Do you trust the assessment results that you are given?

Answers

- a. Marking is subjective and teachers mark differently depending on the subject.
- b. Some inaccuracy in marking and recording, more consistency in Faculties required.
- c. Don't know how to interpret a Mark Scheme – not helpful.

The assessment task was handed out to the council.

1. Which way do you prefer to be informed of the data from the assessments – data drops or interims?

Answers

Data drops don't reflect what is going on in the classroom especially if you don't do well in a test. It does not show how a teacher thinks of your effort / work.

Data drop gives no room for interpretation – teachers could think too highly or lowly of a student.

Interim gives more specific focus and direction.

2. Parents' Evening – face to face or online

Answer

Unanimously, all preferred face to face as it is more personal and there is an opportunity for students to receive feedback.

Year 7 students – not all students could book online appointments due to the sheer number.

Should the school designate appointments to catch all students in a year group.

3. Do you read your interims?

Yes, but students should be made aware when they are available.

Parents have to log on and not all do this.

Data terminology

Forecast grade = what grade you will achieve at the end of the year

ATL (attitude to learning) = useful, most parents most pleased to hear about

Current working grade = the grade you are at now

Target grade = grade to aspire to

4. Are the above useful?

Yes, but target grade is problematic.

Target grades are based on SAT's grades in Year 6. Hard to understand how your ability to spell or work out a maths question relates to your target grade in Drama or Art.

Target grades add additional pressure to achieve and can be demoralizing if you do not achieve your target grade especially in a subject you struggle with.

Stickers on the front of your book with your target grade is not motivational.

Possibly rename target grade to aspirational grade (where you want to be).

Currently Year 7 & 8 are not aware of their target grades to remove any pressure or anxiety.

5. When would you like to know your target grades?

Year 9

6. Is there anything else you would like to see on the interim reports?

No

7. Are they easy to access?

Yes

6. How often do you want your interims? Currently there are 2 data drops, 1 interim and 1 Parents' evening.

Answers

Possibly 1 interim at the end of every term.