



School Council Minutes – Tuesday 24 January 2023

Venue: Staff Workroom 2pm

Attendees

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Chairs of School Council | Sixth Form Leadership Team Principal Student Tabitha Gray Deputy Principal Students Finlay Gregory Scarlett Gray Assistant Principal Students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ameila Darke - Equality • Nyah Warner - Environment • Amelia Dean - Wellbeing • Harvey Parrish – Events • Ellie Gibson – Ocean Rep | |
| | | |
| Year | | |
| 7 | Lilyah Godden | Ralph Simpson |
| 8 | Olivia Caswell-Lay | Leo Ballam |
| 9 | Megan Allin | Edward Wilcock |
| 10 | Aimee Suttle | Charlie Rowelle |
| 11 | Naeema Khan | Daniel Howe |
| Fusion | | |
| Sixth Form Reps | See above | |

Absentees

| | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Amelia Dean | Olivia Caswell-Lay |
| Harvey Parrish | Leo Ballam |
| Ellie Gibson | Megan Allin |

Year Council feedback

Year 7

- Improvement to social recreation area – broken football goal – [could this be fixed?](#)
- Social recreation area next academic (Year 8) - benches to be provided to be able to sit and socialise – [improving the Year 8 hard court is a key development point.](#)
- Home learning – generally lots of homework - Bedrock there is too much home learning set whilst very little home learning is set in Science. Sometimes home learning is set with very short due dates.

- When there is no teachers on duty outside the Year 7 toilets, older students using them sometimes for vaping. Action: It is important that we are made of aware of any incidences and an increase in presence is required. A new toilet block will be opened by the end of February. [Duty Staff will be reminded.](#)
- Some girls would like to have the opportunity to play rugby – it was suggested that they contact Miss LaLonge to discuss the possibility of joining her rugby group.

Year 8

No Year 8 reps present.

Year 9

- The new non-school uniform days not successful. Students unhappy about the colour themed day – this was a recreated theme across other year groups – Sixth Form students said that non-uniform day can be seen as 'judgment day' with some students unable to afford fashionable clothes. Action: To alternate Charity days with non-uniform and then thematic with uniform – students happy with this compromise.

Year 10

- HW generally lots - continued irregularities with the setting of home learning in some subjects. Work set with a short lead time to be completed.
- Double classes are not great. Double Maths you're allowed to walk about in between the lessons but not in English. The double lessons tends to generate more home learning too.

Year 11

- Students would like clarification on the jewellery policy.
- Year 11 HW – lots – some are finding it stressful but the exams are not far away.
- Sixth Form and FE College advice very good

Year 12

- Good mixing between Year 12 and Year 13 in the Sixth form common areas.
- Better timetabling for next year; better spread of lessons across the week and fewer twilights if possible.

Year 13

- Mock exams went smoothly, invigilators commented on their good behaviour.
- Lots of work taking place within the Ocean group.
- Planning a Women's International day.

School priorities 2022/2023

Reaching the halfway point in the academic year and Dr Ingate's main priorities are:-

- Ensuring that we have good quality teaching at Birchwood. Ensure that work is marked, lesson observations are conducted and more challenging lessons.
- Important to appoint a new Principal. The school council may be asked to be involved in the interview process as it is important to have a student voice.
- Continue to improve facilities.

Ocean update

- Recent workshop discussing the gender inequalities and discussions re the news and Andrew Tate.
- There is an International Women's day on Thursday 8 March 2023 where Sixth formers will be wearing an item of purple clothing. There will also be a Fair with different female themed stalls.
- Ocean is a Sixth form led group whose mission is to raise awareness of gender inequality with plans to include other year groups as "river reps" in the future.
- Following the initial launch of Ocean it has been suggested by the school council reps that Ocean revisit form groups to increase awareness and conduct group discussions.
- Mrs Barnard asked the Ocean team to provide an article to go in the next edition of the Birchwood news regarding the International Women's day and the background.

Fusion update

- LGBT history month – each February a variety of events will be taking place.
- Money raised on non-school uniform days – how is it being used / where is it going? Students and parents would like to know. [Dr Ingate to discuss with Mr Harlow.](#)

Environmental update

- Reducing the school energy bills is key. The new boiler has helped reduce the costs by heating the school in zones. The solar panels on the sports hall roof are now working efficiently and again saving money.
- The school needs to continue to focus on energy efficiency and conservation. Only one meeting has been held with the Environmental group led by Miss Crossley and Mr Bowman this academic year. [Dr Ingate to chase. Any students interested in joining the group please message Nyah Warner.](#)
- Students also need to do their bit to reduce their carbon footprint by changing their travel plans either by walking or cycling to school if this is a viable option. This could be awarded with a "green reward".
- Any environmental news or plans to be forwarded to Mrs Barnard.