



School Council Thursday 5th May Minutes

Meeting commenced: 3.10pm
Present: Mrs Lavin, Mr Holt
31 students attended the meeting.
Year 7 – 8
Year 8 – 8
Year 9 – 6
Year 10 – 6
Year 11 – 3

1. New School Motto

Following suggestions from students, staff and Governors, five potential school mottoes were displayed and discussed. These were then voted on in a secret ballot. The results are as follows with the number of votes shown in brackets:

- Excellence in Everything (0)
- Achieving Excellence Together (6)
- Creating the Future (16)
- Empowering and Inspiring (4)
- Learning to Change Lives (5)

2. Homework

After several pupil forums in different year groups, it has become apparent that attitudes towards homework vary between students, subjects and year groups. We want homework to be meaningful and to add to student's experience of school and not detract from it. As a result, a review of the School's homework policy is being undertaken. This discussion took up the majority of the meeting and all School Council members present were very keen to have their say!

The results of the questions which were posed to students can be seen below:

Homework at Wellington – May 2016

Is homework useful? Does it help us learn?

No, because we want to have fun and do other stuff too! Why do we always get extra?!? This is way too much!

Not really because it's stuff we've already learnt so what's the point?

Sometimes you enjoy the homework and that's what you remember. The homework that is boring and unenjoyable so you don't remember that stuff

	<p>No because we're just going over stuff we did in class so we're not learning anything new, also we get punished for not understanding the homework even though it shows we did not understand in the lesson</p> <p>No – I think student don't focus on the homework, they just do it and get it out of the way or that they simply don't want to do homework at all and take the sanctions</p> <p>Not really because it puts on unnecessary stress on pupils and some people are really late completing it</p> <p>Yes as it helps you if you are stuck in lessons to understand and if you have been messing around in class you will have another lesson</p> <p>In Geography the homework grids are not relevant</p> <p>Specific homework can help find and targets weaker areas</p>
<p>Which type of homework is most enjoyable?</p>	<p>Art – because we get to do something we want to do rather than having things like filling sheets out</p> <p>Art because we get to make our own stuff and it's generally fun</p> <p>Creative homework, writing stories. Doing video or pictures</p> <p>Active; creative homework; when we don't do the same thing over and over again; when we do minimum writing</p> <p>Projects – they allow teachers to see how much we've learnt, while keeping it in a fun way by letting us create something of our choice</p> <p>I think the homework that is the most enjoyable is the artistic homework like tech and art</p> <p>History depends on personal view</p> <p>Project work</p>
<p>What do we think about the amount of homework we receive?</p>	<p>I get 4 homeworks on a Tuesday and if I have something on I don't have time to do it. Also some teacher set homework when we're not meant to have it</p> <p>It's really unnecessary because I have to go to the LRC at break and lunch just to do my homework so I can spend time with friends and family</p> <p>Ridiculous because we have no other time to do active / fun things. We should have 1 a day. We can't talk to friends or go out with the family</p> <p>Too much especially when it's due the next day. When we get older we get more homework which is okay but it is hard with the pressure we get for exams so when we have an exam, it's hard to do homework when we're trying to revise for exams</p> <p>You can get up to 4 – 5 pieces a day, which is entirely too much, and then most of it's due the very next day so you're running around and managing a lot of tasks simultaneously</p>

	<p>Good but some teachers set homework on Mymaths due for the next day and when teachers set it on the wrong day for the day you are supposed to get it!</p> <p>Only give homework when it's needed, don't give when unnecessary</p> <p>There should be a cap on the amount which one teacher can set</p>
<p>Are there any alternatives to homework?</p>	<p>Instead of DEAR do drop everything and homework. At the end of P5 (half an hour before lesson ends) we can do homework</p> <p>One project due every two weeks. One homework a night due in one or two days</p> <p>Study sessions: where students are picked to go to extra help depending on their attitude in lessons/ grades to certain subjects</p> <p>Extra time on the school day to go over any topics they are unsure of</p> <p>Homework should have a type of alternating system (1 day homework, next day none etc) so students have a break and a slightly longer deadline so it can get done. Also deadlines should be the next time homework is set so students can get a pattern.</p> <p>Extra hours in school; extra curricular activities</p> <p>Small revision sheets; finish work; no REP; no PSHE; no Music, possibly Art homework – not needed</p> <p>Expand GCSEPod to lower years or a new / different version for lower years to just watch a video</p>
<p>How could we change our approach to homework at Wellington?</p>	<p>Make it more enjoyable. More projects instead of homework or homework like collages for art. H/w menu for English, History – get rid of MyMaths homework.</p> <p>Think about the fun not boring parts. Imagine not talking to family or friends for 2 – 3 hours. We must not have to hand in homework for the very next day.</p> <p>Firstly, make projects more common and varied (eg. do a science experiment at home then record it. Make an animated conversation in languages; make a game in Scratch for ICT etc) Next, homework deadlines should be longer so students can make time for homework, family / social time and revision</p> <p>Not set it as often!! (like once or twice a week)</p> <p>If you put too much pressure on children they'll be put off doing so be more relaxed about homework</p> <p>More apparent rewards</p>

3. Mrs Lavin's chocolate raffle

There were 6 lucky chocolate winners... as if **YOU** needed any more encouragement to attend next time!

Next full School Council meeting: Tuesday 21st June

Meeting closed at 4.15pm