

School Council Minutes Tuesday 30th January 2024



Meeting commenced: 3.05pm
Present: Mr Holt, K. Myers (Governor)
36 students attended the meeting:
Year 7 – 7
Year 8 – 9
Year 9 – 10
Year 10 – 7
Year 11 – 3

1. Automatic Door Locking System

There was much discussion about the automatic door locking system which has been operational this term. It was explained to students that the system is there primarily for safety purposes and students were accepting of this. The following points were made by students:

- Locking the main entrance to Vale at lunchtime is good for students who attend clubs as the corridors are much quieter than they once were. Students felt the system works best in the Vale as locking the main entrance deters people from entering but those who need to get into the building can still do so via another entrance
- Getting to clubs in the Alterman is problematic if you are a few minutes late.
- A quick-release 'green button' would be useful inside Alterman so that students can let themselves out without having to disturb a teacher
- Requests to change the locking time around school from 3.15pm to 4.00pm. This would be in line with the LRC – some students said they do not stay in school as long as they previously did because of this
- Year 11s expressed concerns that it would make attending (after school) extra lessons more difficult in the run-up to exams
- Sixth formers in particular would like access to a pass card. Some have been unable to get back to private study in the evenings having left Moss to speak with teachers in other areas of school.
- Request that sixth form has a bank of cards which can be lent to students who are staying late to work.

2. IT Feedback

Mr Holt explained a little about how the school's IT budget is spent and outlined the additional hardware (PCs, digital screens, laptops etc.) and software (Unifrog, ClassCharts etc.) which are available to students to enhance their learning experience.

Students unanimously appreciate the CleverTouch screens which are now in almost all classrooms. Students stated that lessons are better with them as they can see clearly from all areas of the classroom and teachers can teach with the lights on! Students also feel that more teachers are using the interactive features of the screens a lot more than with the old whiteboards. Many teachers ask students to demonstrate ideas and answers by using the screens. This wasn't done very often with the old boards.

The general opinion was that students enjoy using the IT rooms (21, 40, 41) however, lessons in these rooms are often a little shorter due to time transferring from their classroom and then logging on. It can be frustrating if a PC has been tampered with.

Students enjoy using laptops and iPads within their own classroom. Where these are used often (Business Studies, English), set routines mean that students are able to maximise the time and usefulness with the devices.

There was a feeling that iPads are great for research and creative subjects (Media, Art) but for the production of work (presentations, assignments), laptops are far more useful.

3. Chocolate raffle!

The chocolate raffle went down as well as always – why not come to the next meeting to be in with a chance?

Next full School Council meeting: Tuesday 19th March

Meeting closed at 4.00pm