

School council Meeting 15th November 2019

Present: Anna 7L, Tyrrell 7S, Reggie Yr8, Princess 9A, Albie 9S, Abdul 9/10E, Ryley 10/11G, Harry 10/11J, Macha 10/11L, Jerome 10/11M, Khadijah & Joshua 12L, Isabel 12V, Mohamed 13K, Alan 13/14Ch, Emmanuel 13/14Co, Davion 14A

Mike

Apologies: Janiah 8R – attending swimming.

The minutes from the last meeting were accepted and actions addressed & explained.

The group then went onto to discuss the meaning of values, what the school values are and how, as council members, the young people can model these to their fellow peers.

The discussion provoked much thought and verbal suggestion which was pleasing.

Mike asked all members to use class assembly or a reading time to pass on the values, thoughts and suggestions from the meeting to their fellow class members.

Action: **Mike** will distribute the slides regarding values to all classes to prompt council members when presenting to their classes.

Council members spoke then about their class suggestions:

Khadijah and Joshua – 12L have suggested a number of clubs for lunchtimes, especially. Guitar, debating, language and mindful colouring clubs. Bikes for the playground and bike maintenance. Covering in the playground to prevent overheating on hot days and to keep dry on wet days.

Mike said that the clubs are good suggestions but rely heavily on staff supervision so can be tricky to initiate but he will keep it mind. **Nick and Mike** are working towards the bikes for the playground and will keep the Council updated when they hear more news.

Jerome – 10/11M are keen to take part in more trips, they suggest more clubs too such as boxing, basketball and rowing. A homework club was also suggested. Enterprise lessons should also only be double lessons to create greater productivity.

They also asked about residential trips for KS4.

Mike Thanked Jerome for the club suggestions and explained that we are trying to establish the rowing club when Isabel, the rowing coach is in every second Tuesday.

Residential trips are costly and funding will have to be applied for, for this kind of special activity.

Princess – Asked for more Ketchup for the chips, more fruit, as dessert and veg at lunch time. More exercise equipment and things to do in the playground.

A great suggestion of more children in the school to play with, a girl's football club and it was noted that there are lots of broken dis-functioning laptops in school.

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Mike can suggest the fruit to the caterers, exercise machines are very expensive and the ones we have are in good condition. **Mike** is looking into the playground activity issue with other members of staff. There is already a girl's club on Monday's where they played football last time. SLT and Ali are considering the laptop problem and unfortunately getting more children in school will make it really crowded.

Harry – 10/11J are keen on improved software on the laptops, new headphones and an outdoor table tennis. A school garden with trees and plants for them to tend to.

Mike The headphones and software can be explored quickly, the outdoor table tennis is tricky in terms of playground space and we already have the roof top garden – to which **Harry** replied that the groups don't visit it regularly enough and can't access it independently.

Ryley – 10/11G thinks all classes should have the menu's up in class, there are not always both options available when his class come to eat. The football should be more user friendly with bigger goals.

Mike suggested topping up the food portions with the salad available but understands the concerns. The menu can come to all classes. The goals we can look into and **Mike** will help to try to organise football in a better way on the pitch.

Reggie – Yr8 would like bigger portions at lunch, more playground games organised by staff, have better rewards for 100% attendance and some better PE equipment.

Mike can pass the concerns about portion size on but also noted that a lot of food gets wasted and thrown away. **Mike** will raise the playground games with staff. He can also raise the 100% attendance suggestion with SLT. We have lots of PE equipment in school, if the class can be specific **Mike** can look into it.

Albie – 9S have asked if the burgers can have a choice of cheese with them, taller football goals, orange juice not just water at lunch and they are keen for more drawing opportunities as part of reward time.

Mike is not sure about the cheese but can ask, he is sure that if reward time is given by a member of staff pupils can choose to draw and classrooms should have resources for this.

Davion – 14A are keen for more pizza, bigger lunch portions, more football against other schools, dance and basketball club. They are also keen for the warm-room to be back.

Mike said we can initiate the warm/ movement room, clubs are a good suggestion but we need to staff them which can be tricky and Raph is trying hard to organise football against other schools.

Isabel – 12V are keen for more music activities but would like to see scooters banned as they are too fast and pupils are not behaving when using them. Again they also think lunch is too small.

Mike said that we have stopped scooters on Fridays because of safety and he and Kevin will encourage staff in the playground to be vigilant around the use of them.

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Macha – 10/11L are keen to see Arabic and painting clubs. They are also keen for more outings and playground equipment such as slides, a roundabout and swings.

Mike thanked her for the suggestions and mentioned that is Art and Craft after school club where they sometimes paint. The playground equipment is very expensive and we will lose lots of space. There is a Christmas outing and Business links day coming up soon.

Mohamed – 13K are keen for a whole school “Animal” day, with masks, animal sports like running and jumping and possibly city farm bringing in animals to pet.

Food is still on the agenda too, they would like to eat in the main dining room where there is more food.

Mike – thanked them for the Animal Day suggestion and will keep it in mind. He said that 6th form eat separately as this was something requested by pupils a few years ago.

Emmanuel – 13/14Co mentioned the locks on the toilet doors are not always working properly and the toilets are messy at times. They mentioned fund-raising and also talked about eating in the main dining room.

Mike said he will mention the locks and toilets to Alan but he is very busy so keeping toilets clean everywhere, all day is tough. Fund-raising idea is a good one.

AOB – Mike suggested the pupils of Highshore design their own School Council badge and the Council will vote for the best one at the next meeting.

Kathy will then put it into production in the Enterprise department.

The school values will be revisited again.

All members of the school council spoke up confidently for their form group's suggestions and opinions – **Mike** thanked everyone for their valuable contributions and for taking such an active part in what was another productive School council meeting.