

Secondary School Council Minutes

Date	13.9.22 and 16.9.22
Chairperson	H. Schroepfer
Attendees	Mrs Natalie Hewitt-Zarb, Miss Carey, Mrs Kirke-Laird, Ritesh, Cameron, Miles, Jacob, Chloe, Mark, Harley, Connor, Adam and Ethan, Aden, Vikas
Apologies/ absent	Mr J. Payne and Molly absent 13.9.22.
Discussion Point 1	Councillors invited to feedback any requests that may inform a bid to Friends of Laleham Gap Charity Ethan: Air conditioning in all classrooms Miles: More gaming consoles, a secondary slide. Adam: An enclosed adult-sized play area and/or exercise trail with play and fitness equipment. Expanding existing facilities and custom-made to fit the shape. Change grass to play area surface to reduce mud and allow use all-year round. Less fencing so more spacious playground. Miles: Supporting children overseas in developing countries. HS reminded the Council of the grass roots project in Venezuela that LGS has supported for malnourished children. This has also received support from UNICEF providing a Doctor to assess the children. Natalie shared that the Friends of Laleham Gap Charity have invested in Silent Disco equipment for the school but have not yet seen requests or designs for outdoor play equipment. <u>Ritesh: Trips to local clubs and experiences to bond form groups and give pupils links to community. This was supported by everyone present.</u> HS reminded the Council that Mr Payne had suggested Special Interest afternoons and asked if they remembered the Sign-Up after-school trips? HS asked if the pupils were in favour of form, year or vertical sign-up trips? Mark: Do them all. Sometimes it works to bond over an interest or subject. Ethan supported this point with the example of History GCSE. Mark: We need to learn Life Skills outside of school. Wellbeing days and activities inside and outside of school benefit us most. Natalie: How do you feel about mixing Primary and Secondary? All the pupils responded in favour and celebrated the chance to go to Soft Play together. Adam requests visiting the Aqua Park by Sandwich. Life Skill trips like shopping for all year groups was also requested.
Action by	Ritesh to email Mr Payne for follow-up meeting with Wellbeing Team.
Point 2	10HS: Pupils want to have the option of Phoenix OR Main School at lunchtimes. Chloe supported Mark's concern and said the current Year 10 pupils are split between wanting MORE or LESS time over in the Phoenix building. Chloe suggested having special interest materials such as drawing or sewing could help address the restless pupils. Mark suggested a 'quiet area' and more games. HS explained Miss Saunders had already identified such a need and was suggesting games, jigsaws and lego. It was agreed a Phoenix equivalent of the Workshop with a variety of resources would be ideal.
Action by	HS passed details to Mr Parkin
Discussion Point 3	Elections After a lengthy discussion about why we practise democratic voting for individuals as opposed to whole-school party politics, the following suggestions were made for this academic year:

	HS suggested that the Council could approach Mr Ralph to consider reinstating the Debate Club for global and party political issues. Adam: Each House (staff and pupils) vote for their House and Vice House Leader/Captain rather than just the staff. Mark: Prime Minister's Questions for those that lead areas of the school e.g. Mr Milton, the Wellbeing Team. It was agreed that those making decisions on a day-to day basis about the pupils' experience should regularly consult the pupils they represent. HS suggested a termly 'PM Questions' or SLT Lobby where it could be a first to sign up system for a formal and respectful Q&A session. Polling station for House Leader Elections: Every person can vote for one candidate in their House. Year 7-10 councillors voted for their year group in secret ballots during L4L lessons. Secondary Elections commence Monday 3rd October.
Action by	Mark to email SLT with proposal
Point 4	Japanese Culture and Community Day Thursday 20th October Miss Short and Miss Rogers are supporting with researching themed workshop ideas. Aden has created a Sonic quiz. Jacob is collaborating with Mr Ainsworth for a Gaming Tournament. Ms Schroepfer has planned optional workshops as opposed to everyone following the same timetable. A range of disciplines and interests have been incorporated. Staff and pupils are invited to wear red and white with the option of flag face paint too.
Action by	HS speaking to specialist staff and contacts outside of school to finalise activities. Meeting with Sayoko in Canterbury Wednesday 28th September.
Follow-up meeting with Natalie, Mrs Kirke-Laird and Miss Carey Friday 1:45	Vikas raised questions about the relevance and impact of the House System last academic year. Present: Cameron, Vikas, Connor, Molly, Adam, Aden, Ritesh, Mrs Schroepfer. Mrs Kirke-Laird thanked the pupils for inviting Primary staff to collaborate about Rewards and the House System. In Primary, Mrs K-L organises the election of two pupils from each class (voted for by the class) and staff vote for Yr6 House Captains and Yr5 Vice Captains. Natalie organises the Sticker Prizes. Adam explained that he has suggested House Leaders in Secondary being elected by everyone in that House (rather than just staff). Primary staff also suggested Yr11 House Leaders supporting Primary events, workshops and competitions in Primary to build on whole-school peer relationships. Mr Fairbrother is now responsible for running the Reward Shop. The Council agree pupils could benefit from the in-house Work Experience and Enterprise skills required to support him.* Molly: In addition to the Reward Shop, rewards for high participation in House Competitions would encourage pupils e.g. a trip or extra time doing something fun. Connor said Competitions should promote and celebrate Teamwork and a Positive Attitude not just winning.

	Year 11 House Captains/Leaders should collaborate with specialist staff to organise Creative, Sport and Teamwork House Competitions. The Council agreed the Leaders should be elected for, and promote, Rights Respecting qualities. Ritesh suggested more pupil-led/peer-led events. Peer Education Workshops: Connor shared his BTEC experiences and said the key was to make them short and memorable. Cameron explained that pupils need to feel a bond with the adult or student teacher for respect and learning to follow. The Council agreed they, and especially the Year 11 Leaders, should spend some time socialising with Primary pupils during their break times. Molly suggested Peer Workshops would help with a range of topics for a range of pupils e.g. Anger Management, Mental Health.
Action by	*Council to email Mr Fairbrother about Year 11 House Leaders supporting the stocking and running of the Reward Shop. After Elections, the Secondary Council will organise times to play with Primary pupils during breaktimes. Year 11s will facilitate First Aid Peer Education Workshops this Autumn. (HS/AC)
Ongoing / Last Term:	Survey letter to be drafted with Miss Wainwright and Miss Rogers to cover Cycling and Swimming. House system and House Captains (Follow up to points raised by VM) – To be discussed with Mrs K-L and Mr Parkin next week when they are both available. Mrs K-L hopes to visit Friday 1:45pm Reward/Enrichment Experiences – end of year dance (MM); trips/experiences abroad as a reward for pupils respecting rights of others (AG).
AOB	Mrs Reeves: where would Secondary pupils like the new outdoor Football Table to go in Secondary?