

School Council Meeting Minutes: 19.10.2009

Present: Fiona Cram, Ryan Croft, Andrew Lorimer, Natasha Marjoram, Lauren Hought, Conn O'Neill, Luke Walley

Not Present: Daisy Vaughan, Alex Smith, Ben Bateson

Apologies: Felicity Woodhouse, Hannah Bourdon (Y11 Work Experience)

Agenda:

- **Sustainability:** Ideas for a circular memo to all staff were put forward, it was agreed that the memo would include suggestions on how to reduce the energy consumption of the school. The memo will ask staff; not to open windows when the radiators are on in a room; not to leave lights on when their room is not in use (e.g. breaks and lunchtimes); to speak to pupils about energy saving when an issue is raised. **Action:** Conn and Luke will draft a letter and present it to RJ for approval.

Other ideas linked to sustainability were to have a meter that recorded how much energy was used by individual departments this could be recorded centrally. One suggestion was that departments compete to reduce their energy consumption the most throughout the academic year. It was also suggested that in order to improve education on energy saving, the Friday week B extended tutorial could be used as an opportunity for staff to give a one off lesson on the topic possibly during an 'Eco week' when recycling and other environmentally friendly activities would be promoted within school.

- **Suggestions Box:** The reps from KS3 supported the idea of a suggestions box where students could offer ideas directly to the council; this could be situated within the KS3 hub. There were no council members present from KS4 but the idea will be put to them in the next meeting. **Action:** P16 students will liaise with the KS3 year leaders to find out their willingness for this to be implemented.
- **School Lift:** Andrew told the council that he had received a comment from a member of staff for using the lift in the new building whilst accompanying a friend who used crutches. Andrew suggested that there be signs that clearly labelled that the lifts were out of bounds at all times, even in situations like his. **Action:** P16 students will liaise with RJ over this matter.
- **Meetings:** We have decided as a body that meetings once a month are too infrequent and have agreed to meet once a fortnight on a Monday Week B at 12.05pm in P2. **Action:** As we will now be meeting regularly, the dates of meetings given in the previous minutes are to be dismissed. If the meeting has been cancelled for any reason, Conn or Luke will inform you via either e-mail or your tutor group pigeon hole. We discussed where we would like to hold our meetings and decided that P2 was an adequate

location. After some deliberation, the council decided that it would not be effective to have a council room as action is unlikely to be taken without Conn or Luke being present and as they both have busy schedules they can only meet once a fortnight.

Stamps: As stamps are the way of rewarding students for work and commitment under the Positive Behaviour system, the council decided that it would be a good idea to give each main school member a stamp for their attendance at each meeting. **Action:** Conn spoke to RJ and this was agreed, all members present received a stamp.

The council discussed the use of stamps by staff to reward them and it was brought to the council's attention that certain members of staff fail to give an equal number of staff to their counterparts in the same department who teach a similar class. As is bound to happen, teachers use the PB system differently to one another, however, the council felt that there should be a more universal allocation of stamps. The first step towards fairer 'stamping', it was agreed was to centrally analyse how many stamps were given per half term per department and per teacher. IGS already operates a stamp audit each half term but to the council's knowledge, this information is only stored within a department. **Action:** Working with RJ, the council would like the figures of stamps per teacher/department to be made available to the council (possibly labelled as just Teacher A etc. if this was deemed more appropriate) so that a standard memo could be sent to staff who stamped too little (or too much!).

- **Tutor Rep Meetings:** The council would like to see greater synchronisation of meetings between year groups. Each year group should have it's meetings on a regular basis, in the council's opinion, this would ideally be once a cycle. It was acknowledged that year leaders have a busy schedule and this is why tutor rep meetings do not always happen as frequently as desired. Conn suggested that P16 students chair the meetings in order to free up time for the year leaders and reinforce the idea of it being a student body. **Action:** Conn and Luke will talk to P16 students seeking volunteers before presenting the idea to year leaders. (n.b. the council do not believe that this is necessary in KS4 as the students are old enough to chair their own meetings, however, as no KS4 members were present, this will be discussed in the next meeting).
- **Sixth Form Council Link:** As the P16 council has now been elected; it is the belief of the P16 council members that there should be a link from the two councils, just as tutor reps sit on the council. All other members agreed to the motion. **Action:** Luke will speak to the P16 council and suggest that up to two of their members sit on our council meetings in order to present the views of the sixth form.

Meeting closed at 12.50pm.

Date of next meeting: Monday 9th November 2009