

SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 17TH SEPT 2014

**Present: JGS,GRN, Mrs Donaldson, CHE
Samuel Cooper, Cheyenne Contois,
Kieron Hogg, Phoebe Murdoch,
Shannon Smith, James Watson,
Lydia Zioupos, Leon Westcott,
Senior Prefect Team,
Oscar Bell, Karrie Mead**

1. Introductions

All of the Year reps and staff present introduced themselves. The Council Reps were reminded that the method of giving feedback to their year groups is as follows; Reps should bring ideas from the Year Council to the main School Council, they should act upon any advice and then speak at the next Year Council meeting to inform them of any decisions or actions, each form rep should then talk to their individual form groups.

This method worked well last year when it was trialled and we would ask all Year groups to adopt it this year.

Year 7 reps will be selected soon and will attend the next meeting.

2. Matters Arising from last meeting

Since our last meeting the decision has been made to award the school the money to build a new sports hall-this is fantastic news. Work began on Sept 15th and will mean some small changes to the cage areas and fire drill but all pupils will be kept informed.

3. Charities for 2014-2015

Year 10-still in discussion with Mrs Stanley and Year group about which charity to support this year

Year 9-will support the SEED charity this year in February and Student Leaders will organise events on the Non-uniform day

Year 11-not made the final decision yet but will probably be a charity close to the heart of the year group (Autism/Cancer/MS/Help for Heroes)

Year 8-will do Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes

We discussed the fact that the Council might like to support a couple of whole school charities-we agreed that we would do collections for the Swindon Women's Refuge after Christmas (this would involve each year group having a specific type of item to donate) and the Highworth Christmas Tree display.

Each year group will have a topic and each tutor group will be responsible for making one decoration for the tree based upon their topic-this will generate 35 decorations-members of the School Council will then go to St Michael's to decorate our tree with the rest of the community.

4. Year issues

Year 8

a) concerns were raised about not being able to bring bags into the dining room at Lunchtime-reps were reminded that this is because of overcrowding.

b) pupils were concerned that they couldn't access their lockers during lunchtime-reps were reminded that pupils do have the first five minutes of lunch to access their lockers and that pupils might need to be reminded about this-they can access the DT block via West One

Year 9

- a) Asked for the basket ball hoop to be fixed-Mrs Donaldson will speak to the Caretaking team
- b) Asked about timing rota for the cage as more pupils using it- reminded that this is a short term issue and school is open at lunchtime(dining room and Hall) now too so pupils have other places to go (field will be kept open as long as possible)

Year 10

- a) Asked about having different colour polo shirts for the upper and lower school-Mr Saunders said that reps should go back and ask their year groups, if there is enough interest we can discuss it

Year 11

- a) Concerned that the outside roof was dripping onto the benches when it rained last week-Mrs Donaldson to take a look with the Caretakers
- b) Concerns raised about inconsistent marking from teachers- we are always reviewing our practice and marking effectively is always our aim

Sports Ambassadors

- a) Could the rooms in the new sports hall be named in memory of Mr Townend and Mr Thomas? We have decided that it would be better to have a lasting memorial to Mr Townend from both the school and his tutor group-Mrs Green will discuss this with 10S and the English Faculty (there is a display,football shirt and commemorative plate in school for Mr Thomas). Both teachers are also remembered each year during Year 11 Prize giving when Awards are given in their memory.
- b) Could the grass be cut more regularly? Mrs Donaldson to check but it is cut regularly.