

**Minutes for the Whole School Council meeting held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 11:15  
in the conference centre.**

**Staff Present:** Dr Hunt, Mr Brinkley and Miss Jarocki

Representatives from all year groups were present

**1. Apologies**

Deborah Sarson

2. The format of the school council meeting was explained to the new councillors.

**3. Suggestions to help year 7 pupils when joining Diss High School**

- Although they receive maps these are confusing to read as the rooms are not in order and they aren't familiar with the layout of the school. It was suggested to improve the quality of the school maps for the future year 7s.
- It was suggested that Prefects could be made known to the year 7's so they feel happier asking them where to go, discussed prefects potentially going into an assembly to introduce themselves.
- A left hand system suggested and it was discussed that it may not be successful due to classrooms on the left hand side: students leaving lessons would be caught in the rush. Also, lining up outside classrooms, while waiting to enter the rooms blocks the corridor: possibly talking to staff about encouraging students to enter straight away even without a teacher present. This would depend on the lesson (e.g. not possible for science).

**4. Suggestions from year council meetings**

- Students asked if they could have more card top up machines to avoid queues at break and lunch. This was discussed and due to the cost of more machines and installation it was suggested to encourage students to be more creative with the time they use to top up their card: rather than at break/lunch time, go before/after school when there isn't a queue.
- Younger students said that students from older year groups are cutting in the queues at lunch. Head boy and girl to discuss whether the canteen is part of the prefect duty, if so to make sure that prefects are going there.
- The food price in the canteen have increased but there is no change in quality of food and the size of portions have decreased. This will be relayed back to the canteen suppliers with regards to the quality of the food, however not much can be done about the price due to national inflation
- A request was made for more benches, specifically on the tennis courts. It was discussed that they would need to be secured to the ground and that it would be looked at to see if it is possible.
- The male students would like to see the boys changing rooms updated like the girls changing rooms. A possible renovation was discussed.

## **5. Boomerang**

- The teething issues with Boomerang were discussed and it was explained that some of the issues have been fixed.
- Some students/teachers are unable to use the program fully, so it was suggested that perhaps there is a lesson delivered during form time or ICT on how to use it.
- Students without Microsoft office are unable to open attachments at home, advice PDF files instead, or possibility to licence Microsoft Office 365 to students while in school and to see ICT technicians for help with this.

## **6. Small timetables**

- Mostly students liked the size of the new timetables. Some suggested that they are hard to read, a larger timetable is available if students would prefer that.
- It was explained that the office could reprint timetables if they needed them.
- Students also said they would prefer if they were laminated. It was explained that it was not plausible to laminate all of the timetables this year.

## **7. Charity events**

- A possible house mascot run through an obstacle course, this could contribute to the house cup, Thomas to speak to Mr Kemp about this.

## **8. Local Issues**

- Concerns about abandoned areas in Diss attracting the wrong crowds, specifically mentioned was the abandoned school opposite Aldi. Miss Jarocki to discuss with Diss town council.
- Discussed the police patrolling Diss; they're there to reassure people that there is a presence.
- Students suggesting a footpath or traffic calming near the Heywood Squash club. Miss Jarocki to discuss with Diss town Council

## **9. AOB**

Complaints about buses;

- Bus drivers not knowing their routes (bus 5 in particular).
- Road closures and works not being notified to bus drivers.
- Students getting on buses they shouldn't and taking up seats, perhaps reminding bus companies to ensure their drivers scan cards.

Mr Brinkley to speak to the bus company about the issues.

Hair and Beauty vocational centre:

- Hair and makeup course stopped in some years: this is because there's not enough people to run the course. Considering other options for the centre.

Fairness of year groups:

- Consistency with positives and negatives for all students from all teachers was discussed, it was mentioned that students who always work hard are not recognised as much as those who misbehave then do work hard every now and then. Teachers to be informed about this feeling.