

Minutes from School Council Meeting held on 20th October 2020

Pupils in attendance –KKa CHa, KSa, CLa, IHo, ELR, JJe, DSm, RiaLe, JHa

Staff in attendance – BBa, JHa

Agenda (actions in red)

Welcome – Can I take this opportunity to thank Ria Le for her determination to re-join the School Council after a period of suspension. Whatever happens in School, the opportunity to be reinstated will always remain once appropriate modelling has been demonstrated. Everyone is entitled to make mistakes; the importance is to recognise and make changes.

Secondly, I am delighted to introduce JJ and DSm; our new year 7 recruits. They conducted themselves phenomenally well; I am so proud of how they used their voice and how well they have settled into school life!!

Outstanding actions from 21st January 2020

Assembly Feedback

Ambassadors would like more videos, continued interaction between staff and pupils; occasionally modified

This was taken into consideration following the meeting in January; due to Covid-19 pupils are now in bubbles meaning 3 assembly slots take place on a Friday. Although this is incredibly time consuming for the person delivering the assembly, ambassadors feedback was positive. They can clearly see that the assemblies are now age appropriate and there is more video content.

KKa said the assemblies were purposeful, to understand what was happening around the School is helpful and allows for a full understanding of the School community

RLe made reference to the assembly Mr Cross delivered around ‘testicular cancer’ and how to check yourself. RLe and KSa said this was embarrassing but they felt it was important to share such messages. The boys spoke about the embarrassment during the assembly and how some boys were hiding their faces in their snood. JHa said that he had to feel a balloon, within the balloon were some lumps. I asked him why he was searching for lumps; he stated that lumps in the testicle could indicate cancer. He was surprised how hard it was to identify every lump. A huge thank you to Mr Cross for putting this assembly together.

Action – The pupils would like more informative assemblies; breast cancer awareness could be another.

Covid- 19: Risk Assessment (RA)– reset and recovery

A discussion was had on pod life and how the RA has developed/changed

KKa, CHa, IHo, JJ, DSm, RL all attended ‘pod life’ at various times from 15th June 2020. They had been worried/apprehensive prior to their return.

KKa, “The first day I attended, I felt overwhelmed. I was not sure if I could manage the 4 weeks, everything was different and my worry about contracting the virus was real. Over the

next few days, I started to relax. I had the best time ever and I was able to feel prepared for the return in September.”

RLe, “It was nice to work across all age groups, in my group was RO, WB and SOC. I had not worked with these pupils; I was surprised how well RO did at all of the practical subjects. He was amazing and he was not the person I thought he was. Hand washing and wearing snoods was different and overtime it became the norm. The curriculum was fun; we were outside as much as possible. I remember building dens outside in the rain; I did not mind getting wet.”

CHa, “I felt I was not able to breathe when I first wore the snood, this did make me panic but I did calm myself overtime. I am now used to wearing a snood and I feel safe.”

BBa spoke to ambassadors about staff’s feelings. Before pupils attended, staff had attended to run through hand washing, getting on the snoods etc, Staff were scared of contracting the virus and were also concerned about being in the same room as other staff let alone pupils. Wearing the visor was a problem for staff at first, it felt alien to us all. Some staff were suffering headaches which overtime reduced.

Ambassadors who attended pod life spoke about the change to the RA, being able to remove your snood when at your desk (providing you are more than a metre away from a person) is much more comfortable. They did enjoy wearing their own clothes for the first half term; they said it made them feel relaxed at a time when this was much needed.

Action - RLe and JHa believe the class has relaxed the hand washing slightly and would like staff to remind all of the pupils in their class of the importance of washing hands up to 6 times a day. I did ask RLe to share this with Miss Millerchip but RLe explained that the majority of time Miss Millerchip was not in base. BB to share with all staff who work in the base.

RLe is completing an assembly about pod life.

Year 7’s

Dsm and JJ said they thoroughly enjoy Elmwood School. BB said to both boys, I can never tell you that our school will be the right school for you as you need to experience it. DSm spoke about being out of school for almost 2 years and spoke about awful experiences at his previous School. RLew demonstrated compassion and empathy as she acknowledged his previous negative experiences and shared her story. DSm was mature, he said “Bev, I can share with other pupils that this school will be different; I feel this school is right for me and understands my needs and experiences.”

Attendance

BB explained attendance codes and how using an X when absent due to covid-19 symptoms does not impact on attendance, it keeps the whole community safe and allows a pupil and their family to get a test and return once negative. JHa spoke about medical appointments and he was proud to announce that his voice changed how medical appointments such as CAMHS can take place in school time without impacting on attendance.

Behaviour reward system

Year 7’s this year are using the emotion wheel and not the behaviour reward system; year 7 ambassadors explained how the emotion wheel works; other ambassadors explained how the reward system works. This is a brave move by Mr Hawkes as behaviour in school is good.

AOB

CHa and KKa want to use the pathways community room, BB spoke with Mrs Francis who shared that they have a time slot; **they just need to ask Miss Pow and utilise their time slot.**

KKa was concerned about the behaviour by some of the pupils in his class. One pupil who is usually silver or gold is now getting no points in some lessons. He did acknowledge there may be some outside influences. CHa confirmed the behaviours have deteriorated. BB explained that SLT are monitoring and will discuss.

RL and JH were particularly concerned about the year 9's. There has been a lot of disruption and some pupils are reacting aggressively towards staff. They believe behaviours have deteriorated since moving into transition base. BB explained that 9's have been discussed and an intervention will soon commence.

KS shared that her base has been particularly unsettled and she has voiced that a handful of pupils are causing quite a disruption.

On a positive, JH was proud not to have lost 1 behaviour point this term. This led to a conversation of how disappointed he may be if one behaviour point is lost. He needs to think now of how he will manage this disappointment.

This was a short and purposeful meeting; School Ambassadors are essential and they need to understand how important they are to the development of Elmwood.

A very proud leader.

Beverley Bailey

Family Welfare Officer