# Minutes from School Council Meeting Tuesday 29th January

Pupils in attendance – CHa, KKa, MHa, KSa, CLa, RiLe, RicLe, HNi, LDi, CWa, SCl,

Apologies - BCu

Staff in attendance – BBa, JHa

**Agenda (actions in red)**

**Welcome** – Bev welcomed pupils to their 2nd School Council meeting since September 2018. School Council utilised the new School cabin which was a little cold however they conducted themselves well and understood that the heating had only just been turned on. MHa joined the School Council for the first time; his behaviour has been excellent of late which is why he was asked to join the School Council.

**Review of** previous meeting 22nd October 2019

New staff update – Previously not all pupils knew who Chris young was; all Council across the year group now know him by face. School council mentioned Matt Penrice as he has recently started with us; a discussion of who Mr Penrice is took place. A mini Mr Damms’ was how he was described. They all know him and they had a lot of positives to speak about.

Leadership within Council – Although Mr Cross and Ms Lloyd have not modelled the ‘showing around of visitors’ there is leadership taking place. LDi currently supporting in DT with Year 8’s; this is going well; JHu in Year 8 has responded particularly well to LDi. KSa, KKa, CHa, CBe, SCl, HNi still interested in showing visitors around (Mr Cross and Ms Lloyd).

Toilets – Still the odd day when urine has been detected but it has lessened.

School uniform poster/brochure – Council discussed the pictures; they were in favour of the non-named items. Mr Cross to share with Dawn to share with new parents.

MISP – LDi wanted to bring MISP in to manage exam stress. Kerry and Charlotte have now introduced MISP during Friday afternoon activities; this was discussed during the Council meeting. I am aware LDi has chosen this for his activity 08.02.19 and so too has another year 11 pupil

Radios – Asked Council if the radios have now improved (whether staff are turning them down) Year 7 Council members felt the radios were still too loud – BBa to speak to staff at briefing to remind to turn down radios during lesson time.

Charities – Chosen charity through whole School vote was Birmingham Children’s Hospital. The latest amount raised is £42.30. A huge thank you to BCu in particular. Car washing is now on hold until the weather improves.

Today’s agenda

CURRICULUM

British Values – Council previously struggled to confidently answer questions around British Values. Bev sent a scheme of work to the PSHE co-ordinator (Mr Wood). Mr Hinsley, Mr Wood and Yr 11 staff have delivered work on British Values, Yr 10 have not had any additional teaching although Cla was able to speak confidently about voting, discussion, reflecting and being open and honest – BBa to pick this up at a later date and check retention.

SRE – BBa is currently looking at our SRE curriculum as this is set to change in September 2019. Parents/carers/pupils and staff were asked to take part in a research project run by Walsall Council. All staff and pupils who were in attendance completed their questionnaires, some parents completed questions. The results have been forwarded to me from the School Nursing Team. The results are being looked at by a working group which involves experts within the field. Elmwood School are part of the working group; the SEND department are looking at producing a video with the help of some Yr 9 pupils from Elmwood and other Schools. The female members of the Council have said that they were not comfortable during some of their previous SRE lessons and they felt it would be better to have separate lessons which involved grouping the girls together. BBa and JHa explained that Samantha Brown (CASH Nurse) can speak to anyone separately if they have specific questions. BBa to give update re dates for video.

Teaching and Learning Policy – Ms Lloyd asked School Council:

**Do you have evidence of if pupils feel their voice informs planning, monitoring and evaluation?** SCle definitely feels her voice informs planning; Mr Penrice asked each of the pupils their interests, the following week he based their theme lesson on their chosen interest. Even though lessons were still teacher led, pupils were able to bring their own element to the lesson such as in geography when pupils were able to choose a continent/and pupils of their choice. RiaLe was able to say that Mr Hinsley has already noticed that his explaining through a demonstration before Maths may have been too long; he has already reduced the time of the demonstration. Mr Bowen also adapts his lessons to match interest of pupils.

**Do pupils feel they are listened to?** SCl, CLa, HNi all felt they are listened to as their coursework feedback is specific to them. LDi was able to say how staff listen and support.

**Do they have a say in how their learning is organised?** HNi feels he has structure built in to his learning. This is helping him to understand the next steps and is adapted to suit his style of working.

**Something to consider** - RiaLew and MHa feel that Maths is too easy. RiaLew says that she has already spoken with her teacher. She did say that she has covered this work previously at her primary School. Without having their staff members here it is not clear whether it is an advance from previous work in primary School or if she genuinely operating at the incorrect level. **-** Ms Lloyd/Mr Cross are currently doing lesson observations. Mrs Francis to also be made aware as the curriculum lead in Maths.

Science – KS3 recently completed work in Science on recycling and the effect of plastic on the Oceans before Christmas; pupils came up with some ideas. They wanted to start a plastic bottle recycling scheme.

**Mrs Whittlestone asked School council to discuss where we could site some recycling bin?** Council agreed that it would be beneficial to have a recycling bin in each base. They also feel that the recycling bins could be made in DT. Would recycle bins be provided? Bev to speak to Mrs Whittlestone, Mr Francis and Mr Whittaker

Operation Encompass – Elmwood School have now signed up to operation encompass; Mr Cross is alerted if there has been a domestic violence incident at a pupil’s home. Please can I make it clear that he is not informed of the details. This just allows the safeguarding team to check on the pupil and give the opportunity to talk if need be. We do have specific domestic abuse workers who we can call on if need be to offer counselling. This is provided through operation encompass. All Schools in Walsall have been encouraged to sign up. BBa, JHa and LCr have all had training regards this.

Autism Working Group (AWG) – BBa shared with Council that she is now part of the AWG; Jo Barnard from CAMHS and Liz Wassell will be coming into School on the 27th February to gather the views of pupils with Autism. Barriers from past, fears for the future plus successes will form part of the questions to the focus group. Volunteers for the group so far HNi, CHa, CWa, SCl

AOB –

Assembly – LDi wanted to know when assemblies will commence; Mr Cross has already arranged an assembly for pathways 8th February 2019 with the School Nurse (Alison Payne) other assemblies will be split, 1st key stage 3, and then key stage 4. All Council discussed the benefits of this; Mr Cross can adapt delivery dependent upon age. This applies to visitors also. The example used was SRE and how it is delivered differently dependent upon age.

Noise – RiaLew still feels that ear defenders are required for some pupils in School. Mr Bullock’s class have been listening to music on the front screen which has supported them.

Food Doods – Pupils would like to have fruit in School – To speak to Lynn to enquire if it is a government run scheme as they have done this in primary School.

Date of next meeting –

Thank you all for attending and for your continued commitment.