

Trust Student Council meeting notes – 24th November at 4.30 p.m. via Teams

Summary of actions from the meeting

| Actions | By who? |
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| Councillors to think of questions they would like to ask all students across the Trust. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillors to discuss with their Student Councils and Student Leadership Co-ordinators. • Submit any questions to Mrs Yelland by 3rd December. |
| Councillors to discuss ideas for hosting one of the Student Conferences | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillors to discuss with their Student Councils and Student Leadership Co-ordinators. • Complete and submit bidding form to Mrs Yelland by Friday, 10th December. • Voting to take place on 11th January 2022 during the Teams meeting. |

Summary of main points made in each question

| Question | Answer |
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| If you listed the top three things that were concerning you most at the moment, would climate change be one of them? Add up the proportion of students who said yes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary schools agreed that it was in their top three. • Secondary schools disagreed, and whilst this is an important issue to them, they are concerned with other items such as Covid, mental health, exams, mocks, lost learning time. |
| Litter and plastic in the environment has been picked up on at COP26. What part could students play in preventing littering? How is this done well in your school? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most schools suggested more bins (and recycling bins) around the school site and lids. • Reducing packaging on food from the canteen. • Students becoming litter pickers and earning merits/HPs. • Sixth form students having a paid litter pick duty. • Litter monitors. • Consequences for students caught dropping litter. |
| Which is the most important internet safety rule? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not sharing personal information. • Playing age appropriate games. • Do not arrange to meet a stranger. • Do not disclose your second name. • Keeping social media accounts private and parents having access to them. • Complex passwords. |
| What teaching methods (pre and post pandemic) should be kept for the future? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowing students to come to school in PE kit on days they have PE lessons. • Access to home learning and online learning. |
| What we could do to include all students in activities (such as sports) during break and lunchtimes, so they are not on their own? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More lunchtime clubs as some students find it difficult to attend afterschool clubs (Liskeard). • Re-introduce inter-house competitions (Looe and Saltash). • Turn the quad at Liskeard to a communal area for all year groups. • Dobwalls have introduced a 'buddy stop'. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landulph have ‘sports leaders’ and ‘ambassadors’. • More non-sporting clubs e.g. chess (Looe). • Bring back activities such as library quizzes (Saltash). |
| <p>Last year, the Everyone’s Invited survey in the UK found that there were lots of things that children were uncomfortable about but didn’t tell anyone. We would like to create an anonymous reporting tool online, how could we encourage students to use it?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree that the survey would be a good idea. • Students would like the option to add their name so that concerns can be followed up and a physical drop box for anyone who doesn’t have access to the internet. • Happy for issues raised on the survey to be discussed in the same school. • Suggestions of teachers being available for 10 minutes earlier at the start of the day so students can talk to them in a quieter setting. • Dobwalls have a ‘worry monster’ in each class where they can write down their concerns and add it to the monster. This they felt was the best solution for their school. |

Present:

Mr Buckley, CEO
Mrs Yelland, PA to the CEO
Mrs Pipe, Headteacher at Dobwalls
Mrs Gallie, Teacher at Saltash
Mr Saberton, Teacher at Looe

Alexia (Liskeard), Lolo (Trewidland), Lowena (Trewidland), Fleur (Landulph), Bertie (Liskeard), Isobella (Dobwalls), Caitlin (Looe), Toby (Dobwalls), Christopher (Saltash), Jacob (Saltash), Brooke (Looe), Lowenna (Dobwalls), Mylee (Landulph), Aaron (Saltash), Summa (Saltash).

Apologies:

Mrs Ball, Headteacher at Landulph
Anastasia (Saltash), Jayden (Saltash), Bluebell (Saltash), Charlie (Saltash), Amy (Saltash) and Leon (Saltash).

Meeting started at 16.31.

Outline of meeting

Mr Buckley welcomed everybody to the meeting and introduced himself.

Notes from previous meetings

Mr Buckley explained that all notes from these meetings are circulated and published on the SMART Trust website. If anyone thought that the notes were incorrect, to contact Mrs Yelland with the suggested amendment to update them.

Rules of these meetings

Mr Buckley stated the rules as follows:

- If you wish to speak, click on the ‘raise hand’ icon and wait for the Chair of the meeting to invite you to speak.

- Always keep your microphone on mute and camera turned off unless the Chair of the meeting invites you to speak.
- When you have been invited to speak, unmute your microphone and if you wish to (we would advise you to if you can) turn your camera on. When you have finished speaking turn your camera and microphone off again.
- If you don't have a microphone that works, you can type your answers into the 'Chat'. If you don't have chat either you can send an email to Rachel.Yelland@smart-trust.net or your co-ordinator.

Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves and reported to the group how many peers they had had the opportunity to survey before this meeting. It ranged from whole school surveys to every tutor group to one school not having had the opportunity to ask the questions.

Public meeting

Mr Buckley explained that these meetings always focus on positive comments, positive suggestions, and positive solutions. If a councillor wishes to share a problem or something that is concerning them, this must be taken straight to their teacher. Names cannot be shared as this is a public meeting. If there is something that a student would like to ask, please do so and it can be answered during the meeting or added to the agenda of an upcoming meeting.

Student Conferences

Mr Buckley explained that the last three meetings this year will be 'student conferences' and we are asking the councils to submit bids to this group to host one of them. The deadline for bids is 10th December and this group will vote on the bids at the next meeting on 11th January. Please discuss this with your Student Leadership Co-ordinator and your school student councils.

Questions for this meeting

Mr Buckley explained that he would read out the questions and if a student would like to offer feedback to raise their hand and wait to be invited to speak. He asked for the students to give their peer's opinion, followed by their own.

1. If you listed the top three things that were concerning you most at the moment, would climate change be one of them? Add up the proportion of students who said yes.

Bertie advised 10 of the 35 School Councillors surveyed at Liskeard voted that this was in their top 3 and he would also agree with this.

Isabella reported nearly all her class at Dobwalls agreed it would be in their top 3 and she would also agree with this.

Brooke explained that the majority of Looe students wouldn't put it in their top 3 and she would also agree with this.

Lowenna advised that 8 of her class in Dobwalls would put it in their top 3 and she would agree with this.

Mylee reported at Landulph, 12 out of 14 in the year 5 and 6 class would put it in their top 3 (she would also agree with this) and 22 out of 35 in the year 2, 3 and 4 class would list it in their top 3.

Alexia asked her tutor group in Liskeard and the majority voted it would be just out of the top three, however, she would disagree with this.

Mr Saberton and Mrs Gallie advised there were large debates in their respective schools and wanted to explain that though Climate Change is very high on students' agendas, currently, they have other concerns/priorities in the short term such as mocks, grades, gaps in their learning, mental health and Covid.

Summa advised that from the responses collected in Saltash, only 7 listed it in their top 3 from Year 7 compared to 46 in Year 8.

Mr Buckley noted that it will be interesting to discuss the bids in the next meeting to see what students would like to base their conference theme on.

Alexia agreed with the comments made by Mr Saberton and Mrs Gallie.

Mr Buckley also noted that it was interesting pattern that the secondary schools would place it lower than the top three compared to the primary schools.

2. Litter and plastic in the environment has been picked up on at COP26. What part could students play in preventing littering? How is this done well in your school?

Bertie reported that Liskeard's council suggested creating a group of volunteer students to litter pick during breaks in exchange for earning merits and house points. He also advised that they suggested 'reducing plastic from the source', and Liskeard had done this well with school meals where containers are now cardboard.

Jacob at Saltash advised that they believe the school is doing their part, but the students need to take more responsibility in putting their rubbish in the bin. They suggested having a litter monitor in each tutor group to help with this.

Alexia advised that her tutor group picked up on the fact the school didn't have many bins and they would like to have more bins around the site to help with this.

Toby's group at Dobwalls suggested adding lids to the school's bins as sometimes litter blows out of them.

Summa echoed Jacob's previous comments and her group suggested introducing consequences for students caught dropping litter, for example, having to litter pick after school.

Caitlin reported that her group in Looe didn't think there were enough bins in the school and the bins available are in 'odd' areas around the school, making them difficult to locate (especially for students new to the school), resulting in students keeping rubbish in their blazers or putting it where they want.

Lowenna's group at Dobwalls suggested having a litter picking rota for KS3 students.

Isobella's group at Dobwalls suggested doing a daily litter pick around Dobwalls and she would agree with this.

Aaron advised that his year proposed a paid litter picking duty for sixth form students, this would then take away the need for teachers to do it. He also believes disposable packaging from the canteen needs to be reduced.

Mr Buckley explained that it was highlighted in COP26 due to people littering in naturally beautiful places where there aren't normally litter bins.

He asked are there any things that happen in your school that would change people's minds/habits about littering outside of school?

Bertie suggested that people need some sort of motive or inspiration to change habits e.g. a celebrity leading a campaign.

Lowenna advised that at Dobwalls, Mr Jones litter picks with students outside of school.

Fleur's class also suggested banning plastic 'snacks' (in lunch boxes), talking about it more regularly so it is on people's minds, have more bins on the school site, students could become bin monitors to keep them clean and tidy and finally, empty the bins more frequently.

Isobella believes that if we start taking action in school, people will start to change their habits outside of school.

3. Which is the most important internet safety rule?

Bertie reported that Liskeard's school council's most important rule was not to share any personal details online.

Isobella agreed with the above and they also believe using the age appropriate guide for games was also important.

Fleur advised that for Landulph (years 2-6) their most important safety rule was to not arrange to meet a stranger.

Summa reported Saltash's most important was the same as Liskeard's.

Lowenna's class advised not to disclose your second name online as this can be used to search for family members on social media.

Aaron added for Saltash keeping social media accounts set to private and ensuring parents can check who is following their child's social media account/s.

Alexia's tutor group voted for keeping passwords and usernames private/use complex passwords so they cannot be guessed.

Mr Buckley thanked everybody for their answers and remarked the question seemed to spark a good debate in all schools but clearly the most popular was to protect personal information.

4. What teaching methods (pre and post pandemic) should be kept for the future?

Bertie advised Liskeard reported that online learning should be kept as well as learning at home. Home learning as you don't need to worry about forgetting anything and online learning as all the resources are there on the computer. Reading and practical lessons help students understand the information further.

Caitlin advised Looe would like to bring back coming to school in PE kits on days where there was PE and/or dance.

Alexia reported her tutor group liked staying in the same rooms for all lessons. They liked it with some lessons, though not all.

Bertie countered that his tutor group don't favour staying in the same classroom and prefer moving around. The classroom environment also matches the learning of the subject.

Summa advised that Saltash would also like to bring back coming to school in PE kits on days where there is a PE lesson as they believe it saves time, meaning they can spend more time doing the lesson. Summa added they would like more practical/interactive learning (post pandemic).

Isabella agreed with Summa's comment above regarding PE lessons.

5. What we could do to include all students in activities (such as sports) during break and lunchtimes, so they are not on their own?

Alexia commented that this has recently been discussed in Liskeard's school council meeting. Students would prefer lunchtime clubs to afterschool clubs as many students already have things to do after school. It was also suggested to advertise these clubs well.

Bertie added that some students find it difficult to get home if they attend an afterschool club and the student council also suggested making the school's 'quad' a communal area for all year groups rather than a single year zone.

Isabella explained that Dobwalls have 'the buddy stop' and students can sit there if they haven't got anyone to play with and then someone can come over and ask them to play. This is new and has been recently implemented.

Fleur explained Landulph school have 'ambassadors' who ensure that no student is left on their own during breaktimes. She explained to apply for this role, students need to write a persuasive letter to their class teacher explaining why they would make a good ambassador. The class then have an election.

Mylee added Landulph have sports leaders who arrange sporting activities for the children.

Summa explained that Saltash would like to see the return of inter-tutor competitions as it's a fun competition and is inclusive.

Aaron also added Saltash would like to bring back activities such as library quizzes. But to do so, breaktimes would need to be aligned across all year groups (they are currently staggered due to Covid).

Brooke advised that Looe would like to see more non-sporting activities and clubs, for example chess club and more inter-house competitions.

6. Last year, the Everyone's Invited survey in the UK found that there were lots of things that children were uncomfortable about but didn't tell anyone. We would like to create an anonymous reporting tool online, how could we encourage students to use it?

Alexia advised the student council thought the students would benefit from it as some don't like to ask to speak to a teacher outside the classroom as other students pick up that something may be wrong.

Caitlin reported that Looe would like serious problems to get followed up afterwards, and an opportunity to discuss topics raised between peers.

Mr Buckley explained that some schools preferred to debate issues raised in other school settings to minimise the risk of the student being identified. Mr Buckley asked how Caitlin felt about this.

Caitlin believed it would be worth the risk and preferred to discuss the issues raised by a student at their own school as this may also benefit other students.

Summa's group suggested advertising the reporting tool through posters around the school, ensure it is also discussed in tutor time when it is launched as well as afterwards. They also suggested having a 'drop box' for paper responses in case some students do not have internet access.

Bertie further suggested having an option to have more private/open conversations with a teacher in a different area, rather than waiting outside a classroom, which can cause embarrassment.

Isobella explained that Dobwalls have a class 'worry monster' where students can add their worries to the monster, the teacher goes through these and talks to the student about their concerns.

Aaron added that having teachers available 10 minutes before tutor time would be beneficial so students could talk to them before other students arrived.

Mr Buckley noted that Mr Saberton reported that question 6 was the most debated in Looe with plenty of views on the subject. He added that they thought it was important to have the option of adding your name as they were worried things may not get followed up.

Mr Buckley thanked all of the councillors for the time taken to collect all of the responses and reiterated that if they have any questions they would like to pose, send these on to their Co-ordinator as soon as possible who will send them to Rachel.

Student badges

These have been distributed amongst the schools and Mr Buckley advised students to speak to their Co-ordinator if they are yet to receive one.

Chairing the next meeting

Mr Buckley asked students to stay on the call if they would like to chair the next meeting.

AOB

Mr Buckley asked if there were any other matters to raise.

Bertie advised that the student council at Liskeard wished to debate uniform and discuss whether some rules could be amended e.g. students can wear either white or black socks.

Mr Buckley agreed that a question regarding uniform will be added to the next agenda.

Aaron and Bertie stayed on the call to discuss the opportunity of chairing the next meeting.

Meeting finished at 17.25.