

Notes from half term meeting of the SMART Student Council 09/07/2018 at Dobwalls Primary School

Student Council members present

Edward, Katja, Mia, Fionntan, Jerlin, Sophia, Evie, Poppy, Harry, Jasmine, India, Kaja, Cora, Milly, Oliver, Amy, Rebecca, Kekessa, Eden, Milli and Eric.

Adult facilitators – Mr Buckley, CEO SMART Multi Academy Trust and Mrs Yelland, PA to Mr Buckley to record notes from the meeting.



Focus for this meeting: To design two guides – What is leadership? What is the MAT Student Council?

Introductions

Mr Buckley summarises the successes the MAT Student Council have achieved this year. He explained that the MAT is the only one he has come across that has a student leadership scheme in

schools that has been completely designed and run by the students. Eight other MATs in the area are now interested in learning more about our leadership ladders scheme. Mr Buckley has also been invited to talk to the National College about it.

Session 1 – Key tasks for today

Mr Buckley explained that because of the great work the MAT Student Council have done this year, the first task is to ensure that the newly elected Student Councillors do not have to start from scratch again in September. Landulph and Trewidland explain that they have elected a member each to stay on the Council again next year to keep continuity.

Mr Buckley asks the group to design two 'guides' by the end of today, these could be a text guide, a short video or a picture board:

1. What our MAT Student Council is about, how it works and why it is so important.
2. What is leadership, how you become a good leader and how you can gain a badge.

These guides will be available for the next Student Councillors, all students, teachers, Headteachers and Mr Buckley will share them with local MATs as well as the National College if they would like more information.

The students voted which guide they would like to work on.

Session 2 – Update on Student Leadership Scheme

Landulph:

Mr Buckley recently attended an assembly at Landulph and asked the students if they all knew what the leadership scheme was and what traits a good leader had. It was clear from this assembly that the leadership scheme had gone beyond the Student Council and it was embedded across the school with engagement from the students and teachers.

Dobwalls:

Many students are now completing tasks to gain their level 1 badge. These are students in both the Student Council and outside of it. (Mr Buckley was approached during the day by a student from Dobwalls who told him all about the tasks he was currently working on).

Trewidland:

The leadership scheme has been fully implemented and is working well. Because of the size of the school, the students are struggling to find three tasks for applicants who don't yet have a badge to complete. Some of these are very young and it is understandable they may be finding it hard. The group for next year can help develop level 2 as perhaps everyone who has developed level 1 leadership now has a badge.

Looe:

Have launched the scheme with the Student Council and eight students have now been awarded a level 1 badge.

Saltash:

There has been no Student Council meeting since before the last MAT Student Council meeting in May. The Council have spoken to all student tutor reps but no-one wants to take on the responsibility. The Council have been meeting to discuss the new Behaviour Policy that has just been implemented. Voting for the next Student Council members will occur in September.

Action – Mr Buckley to liaise with Mr Bond to discuss the idea of having an additional Student Council meeting focussing on the Leadership Scheme.

Liskeard (*not present today due to Challenge week, Mr Buckley provided an update*):

Mrs Birkbeck is now back in charge of the Student Council. Currently there are 30 students going through level 1 of the scheme and have used the Duke of Edinburgh award as evidence. This is progressing well and students are positive about it.

Key messages from the last meeting:

Mr Buckley reminded the young leaders about the content they covered last time and the three stages of leadership they had found most effective F E D.

Future – you need to have someone in your team (or yourself) that can imagine the future. At the beginning of this year, students could imagine fellow students wearing the level 1 badges even though no scheme existed at the time. The three future visions that students voted on last session were:

1. Student led clubs that attract 5 or more students once a week for 5 or more weeks.
2. A student You Tube Channel or Document Store that explains the leadership ladder and how the scheme the children have devised works.
3. Student led media or newspapers.

Engage – you cannot deliver the future on your own, you need to take people with you on the journey and be engaged with the vision.

Deliver – make it happen. This includes action plans, setting deadlines, keeping people of the job etc.

Mr Buckley used the Leadership Scheme at Landulph as an example. Students saw what the future looked like, engaged staff and students and delivered the scheme which is now embedded and working.

Session 3 – Begin work on the guides

The students break in to mixed groups and decide which guide to begin working on. *See attachments, some students also filmed clips for a video.*

Session 4 – Lesson observations

The broke into groups, each one guided by a student leader from Landulph. The groups of students went to visit all the classroom in the school led by their Dobwalls representative.

Session 5 – Conclusion

Mr Buckley explained that the ideas collected from today's meeting will be used to form part of the guides for the newly appointed MAT Student Council in September. He again thanked all the students for their hard work.

Action – students who wish any further work to be included in the guides for September, need to submit it to Mr Buckley or Mrs Yelland via their teacher before the end of this term.