

Notes from half term meeting of the SMART Student Council 04/12/2018 at Liskeard School & Community College

Student Council members present

Shyla, Emily, George, Izaak, Ruby, Fionntan, Rebecca, Jamie, Clare, Megan, Matthew, Poppy, Callum, Isaac, Eva, Olly, Isabelle and Ruth.

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



Session 1 – What makes a good leader?

Mr Buckley talks through the SECRET framework with the council representatives. Each council is provided with a copy to take back to their own Student Council meetings. Mr Buckley also explains that another model for leadership is the 3 Ps model:

- Personal – leading yourself
- Private – working with people in confidential meetings
- Public – leading people through public presence and presentation

Mr Buckley informs the representatives that the leadership ladder is used for staff as well as students and all staff are expected to be at least level 1 leaders. Middle Leaders are at level

5 on the ladder, Senior Leaders are at level 6, Heads are level 7 and Mr Buckley is level 8. The ladder finishes at 9 so all staff have room to progress.

Mr Buckley explains that good leadership starts at level 1 and that everyone needs that basic skill. Good leaders ensure that the foundations of their team are strong as they invest in the people within their team. The analogy of a pyramid of cards is used to show the most important layer is level 1 then level 2 etc. so all good leaders need to look after and coach every level.

Level 1 Leadership

All schools now have level 1 up and running except Liskeard and Saltash. The aim is for all schools to have this in place by February. Mr Buckley checked all teams know how the badges are awarded and are ready to relaunch the scheme in their schools. All confirmed they were ready for this step and would aim to get their student councils through this process first.

Task 1 – The hot seat

Mr Buckley introduces task 1. The students organise themselves in to mixed school groups. The person in the hot seat has to describe in 10 seconds why leadership is important. Each group then shares their thoughts with the wider group. This is followed by a discussion about how others in the team made you feel during the task. The group pointed to the person who they felt had cared for them most and helped them most. The central role for coaching is debated. All leaders were asked what single thing they would do to coach and improve every member of the team. What advice would you give them in private?

Session 2 – Classroom visits

The concept of 'Ethos' is explained and discussed. The central role of ethos in level 2 leadership is explained. Students are taken around the school by the Liskeard representatives to visit classrooms but on this occasions are asked to look out for what they believe the ethos is

Other than comments about the large size of the school and the range of classes taking place, students commented that the lessons they visited were interesting and 'fun'. In terms of the ethos there was a discussion about how much difference there was between the way that teachers worked. Looe students felt there was much more similarity between the way different subjects worked at their school. They were less 'different'. This was just an observation rather than it being a good or bad thing.

Session 3 – Level 2

Mr Buckley explains that level 2 is about ethos. What ethos should the MAT Student Council have? When they put together a team of their own as a level 2 leader, they will need to decide what ethos they want their team to have.

Mr Buckley has taken all of the advice of the meetings last year and what students thought should be in the level 2 qualification. The proposal is that to complete a level 2 task, the

applicant needs to have a team sizeable enough to be a challenge but not so large it is difficult to manage. He reiterates that you need decide what your ethos is and make it happen as well as challenge anything that does not fit in with the ethos. Mr Buckley quotes General Morrison's phrase -

“The standards you walk past are the standards you accept”

General David Morrison on the subject of the treatment of women in the Australian army.

The representatives agree that all members of the team should have completed at least one level 1 leadership task so that as a level 2 leader, you can rely on your team to get the work done.

Mr Buckley explains that trust, respect and the cabinet principle are really important at this level. Discussions that take place in your team should not be discussed outside the meeting. All leaders in school use this – it can be disclosed what was agreed but not single out who said what.

Level 2 form discussion

The following points were voted and agreed by the MAT Student Council regarding the level 2 leadership form and level 2 leadership in general:

- Remove anonymous comments
- Two tasks for level 2 badge to be completed rather than 3
- If the leader completes one large task, bring this to the MAT Student Council to review if one task completed is sufficient evidence
- You can work on a task for the level above whilst completing tasks for your current level (e.g. work on your level 2 task in advance whilst working on level 1 tasks but you can not be awarded a level 2 until you have achieved level 1, you can store your level 2 evidence then use it when you have your level 1).
- Anyone who has a badge for that level can set another student a task at that level (e.g. level 1 leader can set a level 1 task for another student)
- A teacher can also set a task
- Team size for level 2 – 4 members plus the leader (the student applying for level 2)
- When setting your team, a level 1 task the leader to also assign themselves a level 1 task to demonstrate they are sustaining level 1 leadership and are working at least as hard as everyone else.
- When assigning level 1 tasks to your team, they should be different ones for each student (unless in exceptional circumstances)
- The team should be providing a service to others (e.g. a shop, club, display, performance, fundraising etc.)
- Two witness and the person who set the task to sign the form
- A time lapse of between one and two weeks should happen between completing level 1 and starting level 2
- Tasks can be completed in parallel to each other (e.g. all 3 level 1 tasks at the same time)
- The same task cannot be used for evidence at the next level
- Students who were awarded badges by last year's Student Councils to keep them unless they break a rule

- Timescale for completion of level 2 tasks set at between 4 and 6 weeks
- Add a column for meeting dates on the level 2 leadership form to check progress of the tasks set
- Level 2 forms to be assessed by a student who holds a level 2 badge
- Teachers can award passes until each school has two students with a level 2 badge and they can then assess the evidence
- Teachers can help students achieve level 2 by providing support to help train them
- Minimum age – none. To be based on ability of the student rather than age
- If a student who has a badge breaks a rule, it will be decided at a MAT Student Council meeting whether they should either:
 - * Have a formal warning
 - * Move down a level
 - * Strike them off and start again at level 1

Looking ahead to the next meeting

Mr Buckley advises that the aim for the next meeting is to come up with our ethos and if possible the Student Councils could try a level 2 between now and the next meeting.

Next meeting to be held on 1st February at Trewidland.