

Trust Student Council meeting notes – 20th October at 4.30 p.m. via Teams

Present:

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

Student Councillors present:

Adem (Saltash), Bluebell (Saltash), Jayden (Saltash), Tilliee (Looe), Ray (Looe), Noah (Dobwalls), Ariel (Dobwalls), Gypsy (Saltash), Isabella (Landulph), Maggie (Dobwalls), Holly (Saltash), Jake (Saltash) and Sarina (Landulph).

Apologies:

Mr Lovell, Headteacher at Trewidland.
Eloise and Lolo from Trewidland.

Meeting started at 16.32.

Outline of meeting

Mr Buckley welcomed everybody to the meeting and congratulated the councillors on their new role. He explained that the Trust is made up of six schools who all work together within South East Cornwall. This platform is used to gain student's opinions on important topics as well as providing the representatives with valuable leadership opportunities.

Mr Buckley explained that six meetings take place during the year (one each half term). The first three take place online, followed by three face to face conferences – hosted by one of the schools.

Mr Buckley noted that each Managing Director of the top 100 companies in the UK all were involved in student leadership opportunities like this one during their time at school so we are aware that we have some of the very best of our future leaders on this call.

Notes from previous meetings

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

Mr Buckley advised that the meeting notes are circulated to the Headteachers, Local Governing Committees and the Trustees.

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, or you are uncomfortable with speaking, 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

Everybody on the call introduced themselves.

Meeting Chair

Mr Buckley explained that in this meeting, he is the Chair and is the person who reads out the questions and invites people to speak. Mr Buckley invited the students to stay on the call after the meeting if they would like to Chair the next meeting.

What is a 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.

Mr Buckley asked the following two questions:

1. What advice would you give to someone next year who wanted to go through elections and become a Councillor like you have?

- Maggie advised that if you are powerful and strong and not afraid to speak up you can be a councillor.
- Noah believed that you need to be brave.
- Adem advised that you need confidence and honesty.

2. Which of the pieces of advice you just heard was the best in your view? Can you remember who said it first?

- Jake agreed with Adam – that you need to be honest and confident if you want to make a positive change within your school.

Mr Buckley thanked them for demonstrating how to answer the questions and advised that it is a difficult but valuable skill to master – giving your opinion and that of your peers.

What does it mean to be a representative?

Mr Buckley explained that before each of the future meetings, a set of questions will be circulated to the councillors, around 2 weeks before the meeting. These will be from various people such as, Governors, Headteachers and the councillors themselves. The councillors will then need to put these questions to their peers (as many as possible) and gather their feedback to report to this group at the meeting. When the Chair asks for the answers to the question, the councillor must first say what most of the group thought and then say what they thought.

Student Conference

Mr Buckley summarised that the next two meetings (23rd November and 26th January) will be held on Teams and then the meetings in March, May and July will take place all day at one of the six schools. It will be organised and led by the host school's Student Council.

Can you suggest anything you would like to spend a day discussing with pupils from all six schools?

Bluebell suggested a conference with an environmental theme. Ariel also agreed with this.

Mr Saberton noted in the chat that Looe students had suggested a wellbeing theme, and/or the arts as a driver for wellbeing.

Mr Buckley asked the councillors to consider some suggestions to bring to the next meeting on **23rd November**.

Mr Buckley thanked everybody for attending and speaking, recognising that it is a difficult but valuable skill to master.

Meeting closed at 17.01.

Mr Buckley and Mrs Yelland remained on the call with Adem who would like to Chair the next meeting.