

Trust Student Council Conference notes – 28th March at 10.00 a.m. hosted by Looe Community Academy

Summary of actions from the meeting

Actions	By who?
Submit any questions you would like to ask students across the Trust to Rachel Yelland through your Student Leadership Co-ordinator.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trust Student Councillors and Student Leadership Co-ords

Staff Present:

Mr Buckley, CEO

Mrs Yelland, PA to the CEO

Mr Saberton, Teacher at Looe

Student Councillors present:

Achilleas, Alfie, Michael, George, Oliver and Riley from Looe.

Harry, Imogen, Allana and Evie from Liskeard.

Jake, Holly, Bluebell and Jayden from Saltash.

Ariel, Noah, Coco-Rose and Maggie from Dobwalls.

Lolo and Eloise from Trewidland.

Bella, Sarina, Erica and Bailey from Landulph.

Mr Saberton took the register and warmly welcomed everyone to Looe Community Academy.

In the first section of the day the agenda for the conference was explained. Student Councillors had selected Wellbeing as the theme as it is a topic that is discussed at every Student Council meeting. They had asked the following questions:

- What can we do to drive the concept of wellbeing?
- What can we do to make people feel better about themselves?

The councillors had seen a particular video regarding 'five ways to wellbeing' and had used this as a foundation to build their conference. Delegates watched the video clip.

In summary the video explained the five ways to wellbeing are:

- **Connect** – connect with those around you and spend meaningful time with them each day. Invest time in building these connections.
- **Be active** – look for ways to be active each day and most importantly, discover a physical activity you enjoy. It causes changes in the brain and can positively affect our mood.
- **Take notice** – be present in the here and now and pay attention to the world around you. Notice changes and savour the moment.
- **Keep learning** – learning new skills and information, especially on topics that interest you. Also rediscover old interests. It boosts self-esteem and confidence.
- **Give** – small acts of kindness for others e.g. time, patience or a smile. Do something nice for a friend or a stranger. Sign up to volunteering or donate to charity. Giving back provides self-satisfaction and linking to the wider community is rewarding and creates connections.

The conference aim is for students to come across all of these throughout the day and to give them ideas to consider when they return to their school.

The delegates then split into three groups with two Looe Councillors leading and created name badges, introduced themselves and came up with a scale of how they were feeling today.

The students were then given a tour of the school, led by the Looe Councillors. Upon their return they had a break.

The group then headed to the Sports Hall where they were put through their paces completing a circuit and basketball shootout with Mrs Riley.

The students returned, tired and triumphant and ready for lunch.

Student Questions

Mr Buckley thanked the hosts for such a well thought out programme and gave an overview of the questions and why we ask them.

Mr Buckley explained that sometimes Student Voice is misunderstood. The idea is to be democratic and provide your own answer/opinion as well as that of the people you represent.

Mr Buckley confirmed that the answers are circulated to the Headteachers, Governors and Trustees. He reiterated that they are all genuinely interested in what the students have to say, and this is taken into consideration when decisions and policy are made.

Mr Buckley advised that research shows that students have to learn on average 15 new words a day to help their school career be successful. The schools have created 'Knowledge Organisers' to help achieve this.

1. Please can you give examples of when KOs work really well and how teachers use them well.

Liskeard reported that in Ethics, the teacher highlights the word in the Knowledge Organiser after they have used it and explained it's meaning. Liskeard also explained that they are used to help with revision before tests as they summarise key areas and terms.

Dobwalls advised that they use them as a checklist e.g. in science to ensure they have all the correct equipment. Dobwalls also explained that they are stuck in the front of their books for easy reference.

Liskeard believe that they are too hard to find on the website and that Knowledge Organisers aren't widely used by students.

Trewidland advised that they have 'word of the week' where they have to look up the definitions and this helps with handwriting. A Trewidland student also explained that they read a lot at home and ask their parents if they don't understand a word. If they can't help, the more the student comes across the word in different contexts, the more they understand it's meaning.

Mr Buckley asked if there were any new ideas?

- Liskeard suggested having ring binders with key terms out on the tables in lessons.
- Dobwalls suggested a checklist to check students are using the words frequently.
- Saltash explained that in MfL there is a 'subway map' where it shows the word in English, followed by French and German which is really useful.
- Saltash Sixth Forms students explained that Knowledge Organisers were their main source of revision in Year 11 to help prepare for their GCSEs.
- Mr Saberton explained that for his subject, he has broken them down into a lesson's worth of words to make it manageable.

- Saltash found ‘do it nows’ useful. They were given 5 words and had to use them in a sentence to help learn the context. They thought this upped the level of their writing.

2. One of the things KOs is supposed to do is help you learn all the key words and use them confidently, has this happened?

Mr Buckley summarised that they don’t seem to be embedded and will take on board the suggestions. He also suggested ‘Parent Ambush’ – parents are given a list of words to talk to their children about outside of school. The students thought this could work but the words would have to be around the subject they had been taught that day. Therefore, tie it into the timetable.

The following comments were made by the delegates:

- Trewidland think it is good to learn new words outside of school too.
- Dobwalls – ‘word of the week’ – try and get it into their work in the classroom. They also have to define, draw, find synonyms and antonyms and use the word in a sentence.
- Dobwalls – ‘fastest finger first’ – look for the word in text and say the definition.
- Liskeard – publicise their ‘words of the week’ more.

Mr Buckley thanked the group for their input and advised that now how many words they need to learn to be successful, if they find something that works well please inform their teacher and ask for it to be passed on to Rachel Yelland.

Mr Buckley reiterated that the CEOs in the top companies all had a leadership role at school. If you enjoy this, please take pride in it, and pursue your role beyond the Student Council.

The delegates ended the conference with a visit to the Music classroom to learn a piece of music to perform as a group in 20 minutes!

