

Trust Student Council meeting notes – 1st November at 4.30 p.m. via Teams

Executive Summary

- **Actions**
 - **All Councillors to send in any suggestions for our 6 questions (if for the first meeting, by 15th November, if for the following meeting, by 4th January).**
 - **Mrs Yelland to circulate the 6 questions at least two weeks before.**
 - **All Councillors to collect the opinions of as many children as they can.**

- **Key Decisions**
 - **Joe and Olivia will Chair in December, Bertie and Harry in January.**

Present:

Mr Buckley, CEO
Mrs Yelland, PA to the CEO
Mr Lovell, Headteacher at Trewidland
Mrs Pipe, Headteacher at Dobwalls
Mr Evans, Head of Sixth Form at Saltash
Mr Saberton, Teacher and Head of Year at Looe
Mr Downes, Teacher and Head of Year at Liskeard
Miss Spence, Curriculum Lead at Landulph

Student Councillors present:

Arthur (Dobwalls), Bertie (Liskeard), Erin (Saltash), Faith (Liskeard), Fleur (Saltash), Harriet (Landulph), Harry (Liskeard), Isla (Liskeard), Jack (Looe), James (Looe), Joe (Saltash), Luna (Trewidland), Maia (Looe), Malachi (Liskeard), Megan (Landulph), Neythen (Trewidland), Olivia (Liskeard), Orlando (Landulph), Ruby (Landulph), Yasmin (Dobwalls).

Meeting started at 16.30.

Outline of meeting

Mr Buckley welcomed everybody to the meeting and congratulated the councillors on their new role. He advised that the Trust is made up of six schools in South East Cornwall.

Rules of these meetings

Mr Buckley stated the rules as follows:

- Cameras can be on, but please ensure your background is blurred, or that there is no one else in the camera view.
- 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 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 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.

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. The notes from this meeting will be circulated in due course through the Student Leadership Co-ordinators.

Mr Buckley advised that representatives can also add any comments/questions in the chat function. These will be captured by Mrs Yelland.

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 talk. Mr Buckley invited the students to stay on the call after the meeting if they would like to Chair the next meeting.

9 out of 10 of the top performing companies in the UK are run by executives who had held a student leadership position in school and our Trust wants to ensure we provide you with as many opportunities as possible throughout the year.

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, it must be taken to the Student Leadership Coordinator to be raised through the appropriate route at school.

Mr Buckley also explained that we focus on items where we can make positive change. Over the past few years there have been lots of decisions made by our student councils that have shaped the way we all work in the Trust. For example, the Trust's logo was designed by student councillors.

Mr Buckley asked the councillors to raise their hands to check their understanding of the meeting so far and to demonstrate that it can be used as a voting function.

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?

- Malachi – if they have run a campaign or demonstrated leadership use these as examples during their election process.
- Joe – be yourself.
- Bertie – consider what you want to discuss, what you want to bring across and what you can bring to the conversation.
- Yasmin – just go for it!
- Jack – be honest and try to say something that you don't believe.
- Luna – try your best and recognise if you make mistakes.
- Neythen – say what you want to say and try not to copy others.
- Faith – ensure your voice is heard – be in the conversation. Be involved!

Mr Buckley explained that there is a common theme in all leadership training. This is the skill and technique to build on something that someone else has said. It involves being a good listener as well as a good speaker.

Mr Buckley asked the councillors to consider the previous comments and think about which you agreed with and then build on the original statement. For example, "I really agreed with Luna to try your best and recognise when you make mistakes..." and then add your comment.

- Bertie – agreed with the comment about being honest with yourself and voicing your own opinion, not copying others.
- Luna – agreed with Faith about speaking out and being heard, to express yourself and ensure your opinion is heard.
- Harriet – agreed with Luna, to try and not copy others.

What does it mean to be a representative?

Mr Buckley explained that we are in a representative democracy. Meaning that we are here not only to represent ourselves but also others in your school. When speaking in future meetings, you will need to explain whether the opinion you are giving is yours or others. For example, "my class said their favourite colour is green, but mine is red". To be properly representative, you would provide the opinion of who you are representing first, followed by your own.

Mr Buckley advised that the questions you will be asking your fellow students will be circulated at least 2 weeks in advance of the next meeting. You, your council, and Student Leadership Coordinator will then need to plan how to ask as many students as possible and collate all the opinions in readiness for the meeting. The questions will come from Trustees, Governors, Headteachers and yourselves. There will be six questions.

When feeding back, Mr Buckley asked that the councillors state an approximate number of students who gave that opinion. For example, a class, a tutor group, a year group.

Mr Buckley recognised that sometimes it is difficult to ask large groups as things can happen which gives you less time to do this. Please don't worry if this happens, just be honest when you are in the meeting and give your personal opinion.

Can you explain what representative means?

Malachi – it means that you are giving the opinions of others. It's about having a select group of people representing everybody as not everybody can be invited to the meetings.

Joe – someone who is selected to state the opinions of others in a meeting or other public event.

Mr Buckley thanked the councillors and confirmed that these were excellent summaries and clearly explained.

Student Conference

Mr Buckley summarised that the next two meetings (6th December and 25th 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.

Mr Buckley asked the councillors to bring suggestions for conference themes to the next meeting on 6th December.

Mr Buckley also asked the councillors to email Mrs Yelland any questions they would like to ask all students in the Trust. Please discuss these in your local council meetings and with your Student Leadership Coordinator.

Mr Buckley thanked everybody for attending and representing their school.

Main meeting closed at 17.03.

Four students (Bertie, Harry, Joe and Olivia) stayed on the call with Mr Buckley and Mrs Yelland to volunteer chairing future meetings. Joe and Olivia will Chair in December, Bertie and Harry in January.

Meeting closed at 17.10.