

Trust Student Council Meeting notes - 4th December at 4:30pm via Teams

Executive summary

Actions

- Reps to submit theme/ question ideas to Mrs Askar by 7th January 2025 (caskar@smart-trust.net)
- Mrs Askar to circulate questions by 9th January 2025
- All councillors to collect the opinions of as many children as possible before the meeting which is on 3rd February at 10am.

Key Decisions

- Harry and Alfie to chair the next meeting.

Present:

Mr Buckley, CEO

Mrs Pipe, Headteacher a Dobwalls

Mr Downs, Teacher and Head of Year at Liskeard

Mrs Spence, Curriculum Lead at Landulph

Mrs Askar, PA to CEO

Hayley, Student Voice Coordinator at Saltash

Student Councillors present:

Achillieas (Looe), Alfie (Looe), Brandon (Looe), Charlie (Saltash), Ele (Landulph), Eseld (Dobwalls), Gabriel (Looe), Harry (Liskeard), Isabelle, Josiah (Saltash), Maci (Liskeard), Malachi (Liskeard), Mila (Dobwalls), Owen (Liskeard), Peter (Liskeard), Violet (Liskeard).

Meeting started at 16:30

Outline of meeting

Mr Buckley welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Claire Askar who is his new PA, who will be taking notes throughout the meeting. Mr Buckley explained that Violet will be chairing the meeting and thanked her for volunteering.

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'. Harry (Liskeard) kindly offered to monitor the chat for the meeting. If you don't have chat, you can send an email to caskar@smart-trust.net or your co-ordinator.

Public meetings

Mr Buckley advised that because these are public meetings, they focus on the positive items. It doesn't mean that we do not want to hear of any issues you may be experiencing, please do share them with your Student Leadership co-ordinator or another teacher in school.

Mr Buckley reassured the student councillors that we are interested in all their opinions as highly respected representatives of the school and pupils. But we also want to know what other pupils think as well. Sometimes other pupil's opinions will differ from your own, and delivering the differing opinions is all part of being a representative.

Notes from previous meetings

Mr Buckley advised that the notes from the last meeting are on the website and asked the councillors to review them and if there are any amendments, please send these to Mrs Askar.

Mr Buckley then handed over to violet to Chair the meeting.

Part 1- The Pupil Survey

Question 1:

"In the student survey last year, you wanted improvements to toilets.

We asked for your help in design and then invested money to redo the toilets in Looe Community Academy in the summer. We now have some money to do Saltash this summer and the other schools after this.

Can you give us guidance on what works and what doesn't so we can spend this money as wisely as possible to get what you want.

- I would be happiest using a toilet if it...
- I might avoid using a toilet if it..."

Violet asked if anyone had any suggestions for the toilets in their schools.

School	Feedback/suggestion
Dobwalls	Would like better locks so it feels more secure. We would also like more powerful hand dryers as the current ones aren't good.
Dobwalls	Would like the gaps around the doors to be less so people can't see through.
Saltash	Asked 8-10 people of mixed genders. All genders agreed that more toilet roll is needed. The girls would like more sanitary products on offer.

Looe	Finds that large groups go into the toilets and some groups eat lunch in there, which makes it difficult for people wanting to use the facilities. Violet asked how this could be resolved and Alfie suggested a stronger teacher presence around the toilets during break time.
Looe	More toilets are needed. We only have 6 in the main building and sometimes we aren't allowed to use these due to exams and during lunch. This causes Queues at the other toilets.

Violet thanked everyone for their input and moved on to the next question.

Question 2:

“The largest student survey in the world was done in the UK last year. It found that students wanted more chances to be involved in leadership. Can you think of ways we could achieve this in our schools?”

Violet also asked if the student councillors had anything that worked well in their schools in terms of encouraging leadership.

School	Feedback/suggestion
Looe	Would like more ways to speak to teachers about leadership. He believes that more group and team building projects would help
Looe	After speaking with council and the music year 1 class, they have suggested that small groups could be responsible for larger departments. They could help with a range of responsibilities like setting up equipment, maintenance etc. This could be student lead with teacher supervision.
Dobwalls	What works well in our school is that everyone has a leadership group, and everyone feels like a leader in a way. This works well.
Looe	Having a say in what changes could be made. Students could vote.

Question 3:

“Excellent lessons make you think more deeply and sometimes you think about them for hours afterwards. Can you share with us the best examples so far this year and how we could make sure more pupils experience them.”

School	Feedback/suggestion
Dobwalls	Its good when teachers teach things that are current. As an example, in geography we were learning about neighbouring countries while the euros were on. The teacher tied this into the lesson, and everyone enjoyed keeping track of the scores. It made it more fun. My class also said they like doing graffiti art, making their own tags and stencils whilst learning about things that can be seen in the world. Practical lessons make learning more fun.
Looe	Our history teacher teaches in different ways. Watching videos, writing things down etc. this varied way of teaching helps as people have different learning styles. It also makes it more interesting and enjoyable.
Looe	Schools should encourage teachers to have different lesson formats. Sometimes maybe using the computer room. Building on what Gabriel was saying, this will really help with the different learning styles. Some people are more visual learners. We would like school wide encouragement to diversify teaching styles.
Liskeard	We just want lessons to be more memorable and fun.

Looe	I asked my friends and tutor group, and we would like more science practicals. Practical are preferred to normal lessons as they are more engaging. Everything is explained thoroughly, and we learn more than when we are sat at a desk. We would also like the opportunity to use our own creativity in art lessons. Have a free lesson to create anything you want. We could do this on a certain topic but would like more freedom to be creative.
Saltash	Classes should be silent. Mrs Watson does this well. Some of the lesson is silent and there are other parts of the lesson when students can contribute. Mrs Watson makes sure each student has the opportunity to offer their opinion. It would be good to have a balance like this in other lessons.
Dobwalls	In year 6 we have mental health champions which has helped people in class to open up more and share how they are feeling. I feel it has improved how we are as a class.

Violet then asked if anyone else had any other suggestions or experience with mental health and people being able to open up more.

School	Feedback/suggestion
Dobwalls	We do "one decision" which has lots about mental health. There are also other safety issues covered including how and when to call 999 and looking after both physical and mental health.

Violet then asked the student council about music lessons and how they can be improved.

School	Feedback/suggestion
Looe	Our music teacher is great, optimistic and engaging. We do tend to have our lessons mostly sat down with writing and listening to some music. I would like more practical lessons with instruments. I think a baseline test would be a great idea, so the teacher knows what you understand. The class could then be split into groups based on understanding so the teacher can give more help where it's needed.
Dobwalls	When we do our music lessons there is a lot of PowerPoint. Before we used to learn about music no one knew, but now that its music that we know it makes the lessons a treat and its more engaging. We have only had 3 music lessons so far, which is a shame, as they are good. If we had more, it would be a treat that we look forward to.
Dobwalls	We haven't done many music lessons yet and we would like more.

Violet thanked everyone for their answers and handed over to Mr Buckley who thanked Violet for chairing the meeting. Mr Buckley commented on what a fantastic job Violet had done she included all the students and encouraged them. A round of applause was given. Mr Buckley gave a well done to Eseld, Alfie and Achillieas for building on the thoughts of others.

Next meeting

Mr Buckley asked if there were any questions which we could ask pupils for our next meeting. Mr Buckley liked the idea from Violet of focusing on a single subject to suggest improvements, and we will pick another subject to talk about at the next meeting.

Charlie suggested asking about food quality and affordability. Mr Buckley added to this by suggesting that we open it up to general lunch time arrangements at different schools and how they could be

improved. Achilleas also added that we could ask about how they deal with the queues and where they queue.

Mr Buckley asked the students to submit any ideas for questions to their coordinators but confirmed that we would look at lunch time arrangements and looking into specific subjects.

Mr Buckley also wanted to discuss the Liskeard Student Leadership project and will invite them to present at our next meeting so we can see the fantastic work they have been doing.

Volunteers to chair the next meeting.

Harry and Alfie have volunteered to chair at our next meeting on 3rd February at 10am

Meeting Closed at 17:16