

Trust Student Council Meeting Minutes- 6th October 2025 at 16:30 via Teams

Summary of proposals made

- **Suggestion from two secondaries that students could be further involved in choosing the books on the school reading lists**
- **Suggestion from Saltash that on one day a week, the reading topic should be summaries of world news and events**
- **Suggestion of further rewards to be used for reading**
- **Suggestions for topics for student conferencing this year are**
 - **Use of RESET rooms and effectiveness of behaviour systems including rewards**
 - **Access to toilets and if our investment in them has worked**

Actions:

- **Please all read the minutes and inform Mrs Askar if any changes are needed.**

Present:

Mr Buckley, CEO

Mrs Pipe, Headteacher and Student Voice Coordinator at Dobwalls and Trewidland

Ms Hawker, Deputy Head, Curriculum Lead & Student Voice Coordinator at Landulph

Ms Ryall, Head of Geography & Student Voice Coordinator at Saltash

Mrs Askar, PA to CEO

Student Attendees:

Looe: Alfie

Landulph: Isaac, Logan, Penny, Sima

Saltash: Caden, Emily, Joe, Faye

Dobwalls: Tarryn, Ava

Trewidland: (Represented by Mrs Pipe)

Liskeard: Peter, Olivia, Isla, Harry

Meeting started at 16:30

Welcome

Mr Buckley welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated all the student councillors for being nominated as this year's representatives for their schools. Mr Buckley went through the rules for using Microsoft teams correctly and each student took it in turns to unmute, turn on their camera and introduce themselves to the group. Once introductions were completed, we learnt what it means to chair a meeting, and the students were advised to stay in the meeting at the end if they wished to volunteer to chair the next meeting. It was advised that these meetings are to share ideas and best practice with a focus on positive comments and suggestions. All concerns should be reported to a teacher at school.

Mr Buckley asked the Student Council what advice they would give to someone next year who wanted to be elected to the student council?

Looe: If they have the desire to get out of their comfort zones and explore more options then the student council is for them. It's a great place to discover new skills and meet new people they wouldn't have had the opportunity to meet in their own school.

Saltash: Everyone thinks that the student council is us sitting in fancy rooms talking formally about formal things, but it is much more fun than that.

Mr Buckley then advised what it means to be a representative. Asking for other people's views on a specific topic and then coming to these meetings to report the opinions of your peers as well as your own opinions.

For our first meeting we asked for feedback on reading in each school and we asked for those who had gathered the opinions of their peers to start off the discussion.

Liskeard: On Mondays, Tuesdays and one other day we do reading. The whole of my year agrees that being forced to read in school stops them from reading outside of school as it's off-putting. This could be improved by either reducing the amount of reading time or improving the book choices in school.

Mr Buckley: Are there any groups of students who we need to be doing more for in terms of reading?

Liskeard: There are systems in place for those who struggle with reading, and I don't think there is a need for anything else.

Mr Buckley: That's great that you are aware of systems within your school which you aren't involved in.

Looe: Teachers in our school help us by encouraging the use of rulers. This helps keep us focussed on the books. The teachers always tell us how important reading is, and this encourages students to read outside of school.

Mr Buckley then asked the students to share their own opinions on reading in their schools.

Saltash: I think reading is very important and reward systems work better than punishment systems. When I was in Year 7, we got badges for the number of words read and that helped students get into reading.

Saltash: We read every morning for 30 minutes, but I think it could be improved by having a democratic vote on which book to read.

Saltash: I enjoy reading non-fiction books as it broadens my horizons. It would be good to have a better balance of fiction and non-fiction to appeal to everyone. I also think it would be good to have a day where we read the news, so students are aware of what's going on in the world.

Mr Buckley said that these were great examples with some great opinions. Going forward a target was set for each councillor to offer at least one opinion in each meeting. It was explained that these opinions will be passed on the headteachers, governors and trustees who have the power to improve things in schools.

Mr Buckley ran through the dates of the events for the student council throughout the year which are as follows:

- 26th November- Student council Teams meeting at 4:30pm
- 2nd February- Student council Teams meeting, 10am, classroom to classroom
- 31st March- Student council Teams meeting, 10am, classroom to classroom
- 21st May- Student Council Conference 10am until 1pm, host school to be confirmed.
- 14th July- Student Leadership Awards Ceremony- 10am until 1pm, host school to be confirmed.

The students were advised to inform us ASAP if any of these dates clash with other exciting events the students have planned for the year so we can look at changing the dates.

Mr Buckley asked the students if there was a specific topic we should explore at the student conference in May?

Looe: I would like us to look at behaviour and the reset system. At the moment students get 3 warnings and then they go to reset for 3 lessons we could look how this is working.

Mr Buckley: Brilliant, if we run a conference on this then we can look at data and talk to students who have experienced being in reset.

Saltash: I would like to look at toilet usage during school hours.

Looe: I feel there is sometime unfair toilet usage during lessons, and we find that sometimes corridors are locked at break times which means there are less toilets to use.

Mr Buckley: After investing half a million into the toilets at Saltash this would be a good topic to receive feedback on.

Mr Buckley asked for any students who wanted to volunteer to chair the next meeting to stay on the call. The student council were thanked for their time and congratulated once more before leaving the meeting.

Alfie, Joe and Caden will be chairing the next meeting with Faye and Olivia chairing the first classroom to classroom meeting in February.

Meeting Closed at 17:16

