Notes from March half term meeting of the SMART Student Council
30/03/2017 at Trewidland Primary and Pre-School.

Student Council members present

Role	Looe	Trewidand	Liskeard	Dobwalls	Saltash.net	Landulph
Organiser 1	Morgan		James			
Organiser 2	Mia		Sam			
SC1	Jack	Margaret		Poppy	Sky	Olivia
SC2		Ruby		Toby	Ben (x3!)	Henry
SC3		Sheree		Evan	Mackenzie	Evie
SC4		Milly		Charlotte	Ashleigh	
SC5		Harry		Sierra		

Mia organised the warm up activity with all the student councillors. We then split into groups of 5 and 6 mixing up all the schools.

Feedback from the last meeting.

1. 41 of the 47 recommendations made by the student council have now been adopted by the Trust Board which is excellent news.
2. The website that we planned last session is now live at www.smart-trust.net

Focus for this meeting

How do we make our student council outstanding?
How does the student council connect with the Trust Board and Governors?
What skills do you need as a Student Councillor?
How can we tell excellent Student Councillors from less excellent ones?

Session 1 – Student Council recommendation is that we mirror the trust board but they have 9 directors. Can we make it work with just 4 and the chair?

Students considered how the council works and what jobs there should be

1. Student councillors who look after all the schools working together
   - competitions against schools
   - Fundraising for a school in another country
   - Joint sports day
   - Website and news stories
   - Sponsored activities where all schools work to raise money for the same charity.
   - Linking with the **Community** Director. So called the **Community** Student Governors.

2. Student councillors who look after learning and the teaching
   - Girls contact Rugby across the schools
   - A joint residential activity for all the primary children in the smaller schools who are too small to run a residential by themselves.
   - Shared planning across schools to ease the workload of teachers. All schools use the same curriculum and training so they share ideas.
   - Linking with the CSA Director and the HR director. Student Governors focussed on **Opportunities** to learn for teachers and children.

3. Student councillors who look after the money and how it is spent
   - Funding year areas in each school like a year 6 area for after SATS
   - Making sure each school specialises in one subject so they can have really great resources that the other schools can use
   - If children borrow something like stationary or equipment they should have to hand over something of their own like a shoe in return so they always give it back
   - Playground toys from one primary should swap to another primary each term. The same swapping should be done in primaries and secondaries for sharing library books.
   - Linking with the Finance Director and Audit Director. Student Governors focussed on **Resources.**

4. Student councillors who look after the environment and making it feel safe and good to learn in
   - Prize for litter picking
   - School council working together to achieve a goal
   - Sponsored clean up
   - Specialise in growing food
   - Linking with the Premises and H&S Director as well as the Safeguarding Director. Student Councillors focussed on the **Environment** of their schools.

In brief, every student council member will have a CORE job. Unanimous agreement on this model.

- **C**ommunity
- **O**pportunity
- **R**esources

- **E**nvironment

Session 2 after break – The Trust Board and Governors have to do a 'Skills Audit' to make sure the right people are doing the right job. What are the top skills the students need?

Lots of different views about the skills needed

Group 1 thought each role needed different skills and they made a table to look at this

Skills	Community	Opportunity	Resources	Environment
1st Most important	Get involved	Be organised	Resilience	Imagine
2nd	Build Teams	Plan- do - review	Find solutions	Take creative risks
3rd	Persuade	Identify issues	Make links	Get involved
4th	Manage emotions	Imagine	Set challenges	Take responsibility
5th	Reach conclusions	Explore questions	Persuade	Identify issues

Group 2 thought that all the skills are needed to be a good councillor so you need to train to get better in every skill whichever role you choose

Group 3 placed the skills they thought were needed onto pieces of paper and debated which ones were the most important. There were lots of different views.

Group 4 thought that it would be the same skills for all the jobs. They mentioned imagination, organisation, getting involved, finding solutions, asking good questions, taking responsibility and building teams.

Session 3 the school tour. Every group spent 5 minutes in each classroom.

Feedback comments we mainly from the secondary students and included "they are all so cute!", "it is such a friendly school", "The are all lovely but so little", "My brother got a shock to see me!", "The doors are amazing", "I really like it here", "We didn't have a play area that was so good when I went to primary school". "I found it really easy to learn maths using these (counting blocks)– we should still use them"

Session 4 - After lunch the final session focussed on badges for Student Council

- Agreement by all that they should be colour coded. Red at the lowest level then Orange, Yellow etc.
- Agreement that student council should decide when you 'step up' a level or 'level up'.
- It should be done by ranking. The best people should go up.
- Everyone should have badges with the right colour
- Should be 4 symbols of badge – one for each of the CORE

We ended by thinking about some of the designs that could be used for the badges.

Looking through all the designs there were four types suggested

1. A large letter C, O, R or E surrounded by designs
2. A symbol that made you think of Environment for example but without saying it – like a tree for example
3. The SMART Logo with additional writing on it
4. Ones for the different schools so showing their logos too.

Most common proposals

Other ideas that were shared

- Daily lunchtime learning clubs for each subject
- Making tests more interesting and enjoyable
- Different methods of learning
- Different ways to revise
- 1 hour of training a week for teachers
- Support the elderly in the community
- Meeting more often as a council
- Regular school council meetings

- More activities with different schools
- Suggestion box for SMART
- Finding ways of making more children know what SMART is
- Tutor discussions more often
- Summer fete, raffles, PTA to get a budget for student council
- Composting and recycling
- Languages day

Photos from the day