

## Notes from half term meeting of the SMART Student Council 28/03/2019 at Trewidland

### Student Council members present

Fionntan, Danny, Edward, Katie, Ollie, Finlay, Poppy, Eva, Rebecca, Megan, Clare, Margaret, Matthew, Jacob, Callum, Amy and India

Adult facilitators – Mr Buckley, CEO SMART Multi Academy Trust and Mrs Yelland, PA to Mr Buckley to record notes from the meeting.



### Session 1 – Welcome

Mr Buckley welcomes the students to the meeting and as it is such a sunny day, the meeting is moved outside. Mr Buckley explains that the MAT Student Council have learnt a lot this year about leadership and its importance. However, there are two things that need working on and these will be the focus of today's meeting:

- Design a Handbook about the MAT Student Council.
- Each student to form a plan on how they will achieve level 2 leadership by the end of the year.

Mr Buckley informs the students that their voices and opinions are really important as well as student leadership. The skill of leadership is a valuable skill to learn at school because leaders make change happen so these skills are not only useful for them personally now but also allows them the confidence to apply for jobs in the future with the potential to go straight in to leadership positions. With leadership, prosperity follows so to nurture leaders in the South West is also beneficial for their local area and the economy more widely.

Mr Buckley reports that the Student Leadership Scheme has made considerable progress in the schools in the MAT over the past two years and a booklet produced by the MAT Student Council will help all students understand the process and the MAT Student Council's aims.

The booklet produced will be sent to Headteachers, Local Governing Committees as well as colleagues such as our recent visitors from Australia who were keen on the work we have

been doing. After today's meeting, the first draft will be produced for the next meeting for discussion.

For the second task, each student will personally plan what they are going to do to achieve level 2. Each student will be asked for an update at the next meeting in May and their peers will provide feedback and advise, with the aim of presenting their finished project by the last meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> July.

The students are asked to reflect on these tasks for today and asked to explain these to the Trewidland Student Councillors who have now joined the meeting.

*Mr Buckley asks the students what do leaders portray?*

The students believe they portray they are very confident and aspire to achieve more.

Mr Buckley tells the story of Deborah Searle who rowed the Atlantic Rowing Challenge on her own after her husband was forced to retire after suffering severe anxiety. She has since been awarded an MBE and MVO.

Mr Buckley asks the students to think of leaders who they would aspire to be. Answers included:

- Bill Gates
- Ghandi
- Steve Irwin
- Students' Parents
- Steve Jobs
- The Queen

Mr Buckley shares that he has always been inspired by Tim Brighouse. He also explains to the students that making change happen is hard work but if you are confident in public speaking it will inspire others in the audience. For example, the MAT training day, 91 members of staff from across all of the schools presented and some for the very first time. 95% of people from the day were inspired by an idea that they had heard from the presenters.

Students from Saltash and Landulph arrived for the meeting and the students were asked to explain to them what makes a good leader and share their examples of inspirational leaders.

Students commented on how belief and passion were so important in leadership. People believe in your vision so you have to paint it well.

## **Session 2 – Booklet ideas**

Mr Buckley and the students explained to Saltash and Landulph students about the booklet that will be produced by the MAT Student Council. The students suggest sections for the booklet:

- Leadership values for levels 1 and 2
- What happens in a meeting
- How you make changes happen – examples

- Importance of leadership and passion
- Benefits of leadership
- Advice on becoming a leader
- Aims and goals of what we have achieved

The students volunteer to take a lead on each section and make groups to brainstorm ideas for their sections for an hour. The students then meet back in the hall to share their ideas.

The group agree the following:

- Have a flyer containing a summary of information as well as a booklet containing more details.
- The booklet will be for both primary and secondary schools.
- Ensure that the booklet and flyer use colour and illustrations to make them appealing and inspiring.

The group also agree the following sections for the booklet:

- Contents
- Introduction to leadership
- Why you should take on the role of leadership and the benefits (to you and also society)
- Values
- Include copies of the leadership forms and examples of what you can do to gain the badge

It is also agreed that if there is a lot of information given in text, key points in the text should be highlighted or taken out as quotes elsewhere in the booklet.

Mr Buckley asks if we need a separate booklet for the school student councils? The group agree not to and that the representatives at this meeting should feedback to their school councils.

The group also agree to add the 'MAT Student Council Policy' to the website so that the teachers and student councillors can access this policy. This will be drafted for the website by Mrs Yelland and Mr Buckley.

### **Session 3 – Level 2 leaders**

The aim of this session is for each of the students to have an idea of what they can do to achieve a level 2 leadership badge at the last meeting of the year at Dobwalls on 5<sup>th</sup> July.

Mr Buckley recaps on the decisions of the council that a level 2 leader is someone that can motivate a group – getting a group together to help them achieve a goal they could not do on their own. An example of poor leadership in this setting would be that the people in the team you are leading are not pulling their weight and you end up doing it all on your own and you do not challenge them for not completing their tasks.

The group agreed that as there are not yet many students with the new leadership badges, their groups can be made up of students that have not yet gained a level 1 badge and to gain a level 2 badge they can help their groups gain level 1.

Mr Buckley provides examples of projects that are happening in some of the schools at the moment to give the students ideas:

- Class lead learners – students who are struggling go to another student in the class rather than the teacher. The students could run a team of lead learners as a level 2 project.
- School shop – two of the schools are setting up school shops that will be run by the student council, someone who runs a rota of 3 level 1 leaders could use this to gain their level 2 leadership badge.
- Litter picking – lead a team of litter pickers at lunch times so that 3 of them gain their level 1 leadership badge.
- Organise a charity event using a team of at least three others who earn their level 1 leadership badge by doing tasks they have set them.

The students take 15 minutes to think of their plan and then discuss with the group and Mr Buckley.

The students then broke for lunch until 1.00 p.m.

#### **Session 4 – School observations and summing up**

Small groups went to observe classes in the school whilst the other teams shared their ideas for level 2.

Final summing up, all individuals presented their current ideas for level 2 and were asked questions to clarify who their team would be and how they would ensure all the team played a substantial role that would allow them to achieve a level 1 badge.

**Next meeting to be held on 24<sup>th</sup> May at Saltash.net.**