

Trust Student Council meeting notes from 'practice run on 7th December at 4.30 p.m. via Teams

Present:

Mr Buckley, CEO

Mrs Yelland, PA to the CEO

Mrs Ball, Headteacher at Landulph

Mr Lovell, Headteacher at Trewidland

Mrs Pipe, Acting Headteacher at Dobwalls

Mrs Gallie, Teacher at Saltash (had to leave at 4.40)

Mrs Hallworth, Head of Languages at Looe

Mrs Stoneham, Head of Drama at Liskeard

Taylor (Dobwalls), Ashton (Saltash), Evie (Looe), Leon (Looe), Christopher (Saltash), Jack (Saltash), Harry (Saltash), Maddison (Saltash), Ben (Saltash), Poppy (Trewidland), Lowena (Trewidland), Amy (Saltash), Charlie (Saltash), Jayden (Dobwalls), Kieran (Looe), Lilliana (Landulph), Zane (Saltash), Lola (Landulph), Kalan (Dobwalls)

Meeting started at 16.31.

Outline and Introduction

Mr Buckley introduced himself and outlined the plan for these meetings. He explained as a starting point and for this test meeting, he had opted for no cameras and microphones on mute unless invited to speak. As these meetings develop throughout the year, these conditions can be reviewed.

Mr Buckley explained that nobody will ever be put 'on the spot' to speak if they don't feel confident in doing so. Students can raise their hand if they wish to say something.

Mr Buckley invited the students to try using the 'hand up' function. Christopher was the first volunteer, and Mr Buckley asked him to unmute his mic and speak. Christopher was then asked to put his hand down once finished.

Mr Buckley explained that the Trust Student Council is made up of representatives from the six schools within the Trust working together.

There are two main reasons why we have needed a strong Student Council since the Trust started.

1. The world needs great leaders and it is important for us to help students to develop their leadership skills
2. Schools are designed to prepare students for their future so it is essential that we listen to the voices of students and take their views into consideration.

In our usual, full day meetings we normally do leadership training in the morning then students share their own ideas and the views of others on various topics following on from asking their peers at their own school. Mr Buckley noted this is difficult at the moment to do the leadership training due to COVID restrictions because it is harder to lead groups.

The aim of these online sessions is to get back to being able to hear opinions and views. We are trying a new idea of using 'Teams' and having a representative from each bubble in the school for this. Thank you for being part of this experiment and we hope it goes well.

Rules

Mr Buckley advised there were two rules. Namely,

1. each attendee needs to have a permission slip signed by a parent/carer and
2. everyone is on mute unless they raise their hand and then the Chair invites them to speak. After speaking they lower their hand and mute their mic again.

Mr Buckley explained that there is a 'how to guide' stored in the files area of this group but a copy would be circulated after the meeting.

Questions we will be asking in our first meeting on 15th December

Mr Buckley advised that on 15th December, the following questions will be discussed as a starting point. For future meetings, the group will be asked for questions that they are interested in. Mr Buckley wished to share them now so that the students can try to gather opinions over the next week from their bubbles. However, Mr Buckley acknowledged there was a quick turnaround, so if the students only came to the meeting with their own opinion, not to worry on this occasion.

Q1 – Do you feel safe?

Q2 – Could we improve this?

Q3 – Who does teaching in Covid 19 best? What are they doing?

Q4 – Who does distance learning best? What are they doing?

Q5 – When we come out of Covid, which measures should we remove 1st, 2nd and 3rd?

Q6 – What do we keep to 'Build back better'?

These questions are in the 'how to guide' that will be circulated after the meeting.

Mr Buckley shared a leadership rule we will be following strictly in these meetings.

Be positive in public - In any public meeting like this one, you can only discuss positive suggestions and positive comments. We ask for the best examples rather than the worst problems.

If students have a negative view on anything that was concerning them, they should take this directly to a teacher at their school.

What do we mean by leadership?

As a result of being nominated to represent a bubble, Mr Buckley explained the students are now in a leadership position and are providing leadership for all students within the bubble.

Mr Buckley reported that so far, the Trust Student Council has had 61 recommendations put into policy since formation. Mr Buckley shared the SECRET Skills of outstanding leadership:

The SECRET of outstanding leadership

S elf-Managers	Leaders are reliable - organised, resilient and calm. They don't give up easily
E ffective Participators	Leaders make changes happen – they stand up for what they believe in and what others believe in
C reative Thinkers	Leaders start with Why – they think deeply to solve problems creatively and help others imagine their vision
R eflective Learners	Leaders Plan, Do and Review – they seek feedback and listen to keep learning and improving
E nquirers	Leaders are knowledgeable and fair – their curiosity and open mindedness lets them see both sides
T eam Workers	Leaders coach others and build teams – they create positive teams in which everyone grows

He explained it is important to note that a recent survey found that of the top 100 companies in the UK, over 90% of the CEOs had held a leadership position at school.

In previous years, the Student Council had; designed the SMART Trust website; designed a leadership scheme with badges and certificates [and were responsible for designing the logo of the Trust].

One opportunity that can be used towards gaining a leadership badge this year is to Chair one of these meetings.

Mr Buckley then asks the group to unmute and introduce themselves one by one.

Mr Buckley also explained that all schools are represented and Liskeard will be joining soon but their Student Co-ordinator has only recently taken up the post.

Mr Buckley invited the group to ask any questions about the scheme.

Christopher – Will all meetings be online?

Mr Buckley – advised the aim is to return to face to face as soon as possible. He explained in previous years, one meeting is held in each school (6 meetings a year), giving the students an opportunity to visit each school. As there are more representatives this year, a rota will need to be drawn up by the schools as it is designed for a maximum of 30 students.

Lilliana – How many meetings will there be?

Mr Buckley answered that it would be the same, after next week's meeting, there would be 4 more throughout the rest of the year.

Ashton – How long has the scheme been running?

Mr Buckley explained that it had been running since the Trust formed and 6 meetings a year are normally held. That leadership team have introduced leadership schemes in the schools, for example, there is now a Student Council in each school, leadership opportunities have been created too. Meetings stopped in March due to lockdown.

Mr Buckley expressed that he was pleased to have the group back together again to hear their opinions.

Mr Buckley asked that if anyone wanted to stay on the call to ask questions in a smaller setting he would stay on the line. He asked the group to consider whether they would like to volunteer to Chair a future meeting and to let him know on 15th December. Volunteers can stay on after the next meeting and Mr Buckley will provide some training.

Meeting concluded at 17.02.