

School Council Tuesday 26th January Minutes



Meeting commenced: 3.10pm
Present: Mrs Lavin, Mr Holt
42 students attended the meeting.
Year 7 – 14
Year 8 – 10
Year 9 – 7
Year 10 – 8
Year 11 – 3

1. The objective of this School Council meeting was to consult with students to ascertain their ideas regarding the following key aspects of what represents Wellington School:

- **Strengths of the School**
- **School Values**

Once defined, students were asked to identify key words and terms which may be included in some or all of the following:

- **Mission Statement**
- **Motto**
- **Aims of the School**

This would, in turn, lead to discussion as to whether there is a need to rebrand our school uniform and badge.

The consultation followed the same pattern as the one which involved all Wellington staff in September of last year

2. Strengths

Mr Holt shared the results of staff views as to the strengths of Wellington School:

- Ethos
- Caring staff who go extra mile
- Standards / expectations
- Behaviour
- Routines
- Pastoral system
- Reputation
- Extra-curricular
- Student achievement

Students ranked these in order of how strongly they agreed with them. The cumulative results of the top 4 were as follows:

- a. Caring staff who go the extra mile**

- b. Pastoral system
- c. Student achievement
- d. Extra-curricular provision

3. Values

A list of values was shared with students. The first 5 in red are the School's existing values. The next 11 in blue were suggested by staff. The remaining values in bold black type were suggested by students at the meeting.

- Mutual respect
- Responsibility
- Discipline
- Care for the individual
- High achievement
- Equality
- Community
- Fairness
- Inclusiveness / inclusivity
- Acceptance
- Tolerance
- Diversity
- Achievement for all
- Opportunities for all
- Citizenship
- Privacy
- Leadership
- Honesty
- Individuality
- Freedom
- Loyalty
- Resilience
- Success
- Independence
- Pride
- Understanding
-

Students then ranked their preferences / favourite values from the full list. The top 10, in no particular order, were as follows:

- Equality
- Honesty
- Community
- Loyalty
- Fairness
- Opportunity for all
- Respect
- Achievement for all
- Tolerance
- Acceptance

4. Aims

Students were asked to read the 6 aims which have been suggested by staff:

To ...

- create happy and successful young people
- enable our students to be the best they can be
- develop 'character' in our students
- fulfil the academic potential of ALL our students
- instil the skills and attributes to live and work in tomorrow's global society
- instil the values and morals to contribute to society / our community (concept of social justice)

Students also suggested some of their own, most of which revolved around promoting **self-confidence** and providing **guidance** for all young people. Students were asked to choose their 3 favourite aims. These are written out below.

1. **Create happy and successful young people**
2. **Instil the skills and attributes to live and work in tomorrow's global society**
3. **Enable our students to be the best they can be**

4. Students suggested words which might be incorporated into a new Mission Statement or Motto. Most students thought that the two things could and should be the same. 40 out of 42 students present thought the School should change its current motto of 'Excellence in Everything'

Words as follows:

- Flourish
- Aspiration
- Happiness
- Aspire
- Inspire
- Character
- Achieve
- Determination
- Guidance
- Inspiration
- Confidence
- Progression
- Individuality

Some suggestions for a motto / mission statement were:

- Focus and Flourish
- Aspiration in All
- Learn, Excel and be Happy
- Excel and Aspire
- We are One
- Inspiring the Next Generation
- Equality for All
- Let their minds flourish
- Happiness in education
- The best for each individual
- Happiness for all!
- Inspire to aspire
- Character in wonderland
- Freedom with guidance

As time was running out, it was necessary to postpone the discussion about uniform and the badge until next meeting. An initial show of hands indicated that most students are happy with the uniform but would welcome a change of badge.

5. **Mrs Lavin's chocolate raffle**

There were 6 lucky chocolate winners... as if **YOU** needed any more encouragement to attend next time!

Next full School Council meeting: Thursday 17th March

Meeting closed at 4.15pm