

School Council Thursday 4th October Minutes



Meeting commenced: 3.10pm

Present: Mr Holt

62 students attended the meeting.

Year 7 – 22

Year 8 – 14

Year 9 – 11

Year 10 – 7

Year 11 – 8

1. Review of School Council 2015-16

Kaitlin Kemp and Aaron Mellish (Year 11) addressed the Council and described the format that the Council adopted during the last academic year. It was explained that the School Council met regularly to achieve its objectives and that it had some real successes:

- An in-depth review of the homework policy by School Council had resulted in changes to the way in which homework is used at Key Stage 3
- An in-depth review of the School's values and mission statement had been conducted and these have been changed as a result
- Consultation with staff from Chartwells caterers had taken place during the year and resulted in changes which include more 'theme weeks'
- School Council organised and managed the Make Your Mark campaign
- School Council decided upon the placement of digital signage and seating around the school site
- Requests for a new bike shed at the rear of school have been met (although not yet constructed)
- Attendance at the Trafford Youth Cabinet at The Life Centre, Sale
- The Executive Committee took part in the Speaker's School Council Competition by raising the profile of mental health issues in young people. This included several students visiting the Trafford Youth Parliament and speaking in front of Council leaders.

2. School Council Objectives

Mr Holt explained the idea behind the School Council. As far as possible the agenda should be set by the pupils. It is expected that staff should play nothing more than a supporting role and that it is the pupils who should be proactive in leading change and driving improvement at Wellington School. The Council has a fabulous opportunity to influence the way in which school works and all pupils should be certain that their voice and opinions will be listened to.

3. Make Your Mark

The Executive Committee have been organising a whole-school vote which is connected to the national Make Your Mark initiative.

Results were shared with students. In all 930 Wellington students voted and ballots were counted by the Executive Committee. Once again, Wellington School returned more votes than any other Trafford school.

The results for Wellington School are:

1. **A curriculum to prepare us for life (230 votes)**
2. **Make public transport better and cheaper (151 votes)**
3. **Stop cuts to the NHS (132 votes)**
4. **Tackling racism and religious discrimination, particularly against people who are Muslim or Jewish (96 votes)**
5. **Votes for all 16 year olds (94 votes)**
6. **Mental Health services for young people need improving (73 votes)**
7. **First Aid training for all young people (62 votes)**
8. **Raise awareness of Body Image issues (38 votes)**
9. **Raise awareness of Sexual Harassment in schools (32 votes)**
10. **Fund Youth Services, don't cut them (22 votes)**

These will be added to the national vote and the winning issue will be debated in the House of Commons by MYPs and MPs.

The result will be shared in Tutor time and on the digital display screens when the national vote has been counted and verified.

4. Applying for a role with the Executive Committee

The School Council will be led and managed by an Executive Committee of up to 10 pupils. Their job will be to listen and report to their year group, to manage projects and to liaise with staff. Every student at Wellington School is welcome to apply for a role with the Executive Committee.

Those wishing to apply should write a letter which states why they believe they are a suitable candidate. Pupils will need the following qualities:

- Creativity
- Team working
- Organisation
- Commitment and loyalty
- Communication

Letters of application should be with Mr Holt by Friday 14th October.

Next full School Council meeting: Thursday 1st December

Meeting closed at 4.15pm