

Chailey School Council

Meeting Minutes

18th June 2021

Present: Elodie Woodbridge-Cox (7Di), George Walker (7Wd), Millie Firth (8Di), Scarlett Walker (8Wd), Gilmour Loader (9Di), Timon Gamon-Weston (9As), Jack Hills (10GI), Mrs Key, Mr Dudgeon
Apologies: Jessica Morley (10Di)?
Next meeting: Next year

1. Welcome (and role of the Council)

- Mr Dudgeon welcomed councilors to the meeting, and thanked them for volunteering to represent their year groups
- The role of the school council is an important one, and the school (and Mrs Key) does listen carefully to the views and ideas of students, and tries to implement them wherever possible and appropriate

2. Main matters raised from year councils

- Safety in school – it was pleasing to hear that year councilors generally felt very safe in school and that they felt they could trust any staff in school to talk to if a problem arose; we would also carefully consider any further issues that might arise – *Mrs Key also reported that some schools had introduced ‘silent (no-talking) corridors’ to further increase safety – we weren’t going to do that here. However when asked, councilors did raise that, although the vast majority of Chailey students moved very sensibly around corridors, there were sometimes incidents of pushing/shoving, name-calling, poor language – addressing this would be a priority with students and staff next year.*
- Summer uniform – could there be shorts for summer uniform? Possibly polo shirts? – *Mrs Key happy to put shorts and potentially polo shirts on a summer uniform, but hadn’t yet found a consistent uniform supplier for shorts; would need to be approved by governors as well - group of students councilors and HK agreed to meet with uniform company (‘Sussex Uniforms’) to discuss possibilities*
- Canteen and water – queues have been slow, and water fountains slow to fill bottles – *Mrs Key explained that slow fountains were due to low water pressure on the school site, but that were more (about 6?) fountains in school – will look at water barrels on lower playground again during lunch (and installation of outdoor tap in long run), and info via PowerPoint to students about where fountains are (not all know). Lunch queues have been slow, particularly for Year 7, because of issues with online payment system (not the school’s) – should be better now. An additional outdoor catering point is due to be established on the top playground next year, and an additional canopy for outdoor eating is due to be installed (but it costs – the one outside the canteen cost the school an additional £50,000)*
- Spaces in school – an update and some ideas? *The ‘old’ site will be grassed, as will the mud piles, once it is demolished – it will probably be for student use, but will also need to be available for parking as well. Good idea for plants (non/low-pollen) around school and also for some possible planting of trees for shade. Amphitheatre space (towards east wing of building) may be developed as an outdoor performance space. Also good idea for some wall art to brighten corridors – Mr Deacon and Mrs Key have started some work on such ideas; potential for student murals perhaps in future – plant group to work with Mrs Key on this (Millie, George, Gilmour)*
- Environmental issues – bus engines on when parked for half an hour towards end of school day. *Mrs Key has constantly been in communication with bus companies about this – Scarlett to draft a letter to the bus companies about the need to have engines off when waiting at the end of the school day. HK also to meet with catering company about waste, and we need to look again at reinstating green recycling bins effectively.*

- Sports and Clubs – could there be more, including sporting? *They need to be in year group bubbles for the time-being, and staff cannot be forced to organize and run them, particularly if they are worried about safety. There are sporting clubs, LGBT+, STEM, choir and orchestra, auditions, Dragon’s Egg (KS3 girls’ tech) – a September programme will hopefully be fuller. A horticulture/gardening club was requested - Mr Dudgeon offered to set that up in September.*

3. AOB

None further raised.

Mr Dudgeon thanked the reps for their sensible and mature contribution, and looked forward to their next meeting.

