

Chailey School Council

Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2021

Present: Jessica (11Di), Harry (11GI), Will (10GI), Gilmour (10 Di), Loretta (9Fi), Joey (9Fi), Helena (8Di), Jasper (7GI), Esme (7GI), Mrs Key, Mr Dudgeon
Apologies: Absent – Clara (8GI)
Next meeting: February 2022

1. Welcome back

- Mr Dudgeon welcomed councilors, and congratulated them on their volunteering to be school councillors and subsequent election

2. Safeguarding

- Mr Dudgeon explained that council meetings would also have a standing item on the agenda that would be an opportunity to raise general issues of safety in the school for students. Were there any that the students wished to raise this time?
- Main stairwell – beginning and end of break – younger students – could be worried about the crowding there – see *item 3 on agenda*.
- Gender-neutral toilets – were suggested, perhaps one of the sets of girls' toilets or maybe the ones in the Maths block; however, some councilors preferred single gender toilets – *Mrs Key to consider this – the Maths block toilets are to be refurbished to be cubicles like the others*

3. Issues/proposals raised from Year Councils

- Spaces at lunch/break, ball games, access to gym equipment – *Mrs Key explained that the field was likely to be out of use very soon (too wet) and that we had already begun to look at the use of spaces for after half-term – lower playground likely to be for ball games; will look at how fitness room is to be used; more picnic benches have been ordered for social/community spaces; school has put in for planning permission (which goes slowly) for a canopy shelter for top playground (£26,000) and we will try to fund-raise for another to go elsewhere*
- One-way system – lots of discussion on this - *Mrs Key explained that we are aware that we could modify this and are looking at possibilities (e.g. Tech corridor) but also safety (e.g. stairs) – remember what the English corridor was like when two-way in the old block. **Action:** Councillors Loretta Strom and Joey Birchall to survey the corridors today and return with suggestions to add to the overall considerations about modifications to the one-way system*
- Uniform – councilors raised their thoughts on PE kit and blazers – *Mrs Key showed councilors the potential new PE kit and perhaps even uniform for students; shorts now very likely to be brought in as an option after Easter – we have now got a uniform supplier for this; PE kit on PE days likely to now be permanent; sticking with blazers though as useful for carrying key objects, smart and warm in school; continuing to consult with students, staff and governors*
- School trips and clubs – councilors asked when these could really get going again, and what could be down for those who had missed out in Years 10 and 11 in particular? *Mr Dudgeon explained the absence of these during Covid lockdown and precautions has frustrated everyone – these opportunities we view as really important for young people at Chailey. We are putting back in place what we had before wherever we can, and getting clubs, old and new, up and running where possible. Mrs Key explained that county were still advising no trips abroad (Ms Morrow had been keen to organise Cologne trip), but we would do our very best to get Camp running for Year 9 this year and Prom for Year 11.*
- Canteen (e.g. at break?), queues – councilors also expressed concern about lack of recycling - *Mrs Key explained the new 'snack shack' had been installed tin top playground, but we were still waiting for the catering company to provide staffing – when ready, this would improve queue speed. We will also look at the rota for year groups into the canteen (Year 10 will be first during their exam week). Monday is likely to be a vegetarian/vegan day (considering globally we need to reduce consumption of meat) and, once Covid concerns ease, we will exert further pressure on catering company for an improved salad bar. Will look again at recycling and bins, but this needs to be a whole-school push with students supporting it as well. **Action:** Councillors Jasper Leaney and Esme Millfleet to prepare a letter to the catering company about the need for the 'snack shack' to be staffed to reduce queuing and frustration at lunchtime*

4. AOB

None raised. Mr Dudgeon thanked the councilors for their sensible and mature contribution, and looked forward to their next meeting.