

School Council induction session and meeting – Wednesday 25 September 2019

Minutes drafted by Archie and collated by Mr Snowdon.

- 1) Reps introduced themselves at the start. We have 19 reps. Every rep received their School Council badge, which is to be worn every day. House Captains (the Y8 reps) also signed their contracts which commit them to the responsibilities involved in being a House Captain.
- 2) Mrs Witherow, the CEO of the Tyne Community Learning Trust, introduced herself and explained a few things about the Trust. Mrs Brown, the OMS Chair of Governors, introduced herself and talked about the role played by the governors and why School Council is important as a voice for pupils.
- 3) We reviewed how the elections for School Council went this year. It was a very positive experience and ran smoothly. The one change we agreed for next year is to have all voting done in silence to avoid any conferring.
- 4) We went through an overview of School Council which covers things like the responsibilities that reps have. We also agreed the dates for all the 2019-20 meetings and reps put the details in their diaries. Reps took both these documents – the overview and the list of dates - away.
- 5) Three pupils – two from Eco Group and one from School Council (Beth) – will be presenting some ideas to reps from other local schools on the Pupil Voice Presentations Day. This is next Wednesday (2 October) at 9.30am here at OMS. They will be talking about eco-friendly things we will be doing at OMS this year.
- 6) It was announced that all reps will be attending a meeting with a county councillor for our area, Karen Quinn, on Monday 14 October, 11.30am-midday. This will be a chance to raise any community issues that might affect children in the school. It is part of Local Democracy Week.
- 7) There will be a launch event for the Tyne Community Learning Trust on Thursday 24 October. Four reps are needed from the School Council of each school in the Trust. Our reps will be Esther (Y5), William (Y6), Tom (Y7) and Owen (Y8).
- 8) Archie and Owen will take responsibility for reporting back to the Headteacher following meetings and making suggestions based on what School Council has discussed. In February there will be a governors meeting where three of the House Captains (to be decided) discuss school issues with the governors.
- 9) We took volunteers for roles. Emma and Jasmine (both Y5) will be responsible for the School Council display board. Alex and Anna (both Y7) will do the minutes in future meetings. School tours for visitors will be done by House Captains: Saxons in autumn, Normans in spring and Romans in summer.
- 10) The Y7/8 feedback assemblies in January and June will be prepared and delivered by Beth and Oliver. The Y5/6 feedback assemblies will be done by Chloe, Ewan, Olivia and William in January and by Esther, Harry and Isaac in June. These involve informing everyone about School Council and what we have been discussing.

- 11) Mrs Hansom and Mrs Hope visited the meeting and listened to, and recorded, suggestions for possible changes to lunchtime menus and arrangements. Some of these may be taken on board by the kitchen staff.
- 12) We discussed the draft School Council action plan for 2019-20 and agreed it with a couple of changes.
- 13) A number of points in the fundraising section of the action plan were discussed briefly, with some suggestions being made. Y7 and Y8 reps will run activities and stalls for Children in need. Y5 reps will sell poppies for Remembrance Sunday. Y6 reps will talk to their head of year about possible fundraising for Tynedale Hospice and also helping with school fundraising events.
- 14) A number of issues were raised which we will return to in the next School Council meeting (Tuesday 15 October, lesson one). Specific issues: getting new footballs/basketballs for break and lunchtimes, getting ball racks, possible new yard/play equipment, location of the water fountain, a concern about a number of the taps in the toilet areas, having new signs on classroom doors, bushcraft skills in KS3, arrangements for storing phones in school, and the house points and reward systems.
- 15) Y5 reps will create a suggestions box for the Y5 central area and Y6 reps will do the same for the Y6 central area. This is so pupils can anonymously make suggestions for discussion at meetings.
- 16) Reps jotted down key things to feed back in Year Group assemblies. They are responsible for speaking to their head of year about this.