



POWER Meeting Minutes: Tuesday 27th March – Open Floor

- Huge well done and thank you to the POWER Reps who are representing their tutor groups.
- Wednesday's council event was an open forum. This allowed students to talk about ideas and concerns that had not been raised at previous meetings.
- There is a suggestion box at reception so if any students have further suggestions please put them in the box.
- There is also a notice board on the main stairs by reception and this will be monitored and updated by our notice board reps.
- **POWER REPS:** please ensure you discuss this with your tutor groups and send any further ideas/suggestions to Miss Slinger or Miss Whittington.

Below is a list of questions which were collated from tutor groups suggestions/feedback. These were all discussed during the POWER meeting.

1. Please can there be more water fountains.

The school is aware of issues of them not working. We are working with the site team to make sure they are repaired. It is also important to ensure that students are not damaging them by not blocking them up. We can look at where we can put more water fountains but it is also reliant on where the water pipes are around the school and how easy it is to access them.

Additional information regarding the water fountains over in PE was brought up as the water pressure has caused the water fountains themselves to become risen due to minor flooding.

2. Can we start school slightly earlier and finish earlier (by 15 minutes) in order to help some of us pick up younger siblings as well as get on the bus.

It is unlikely that we will start school earlier. If anything we are more likely to start later and finish later as evidence that has come out has pointed towards school starting and finishing later. Carshalton Boys finishes earlier than most other schools in the local area. Most schools in the area finish at 3pm or 3:15pm.

3. Can there be a swapping system for school coats. Once we have outgrown the coat and it is in good condition, can we return it and swap for a larger size.

This can be looked into at the school shop.

4. Can we have a say in the new water bottles and aqua packs. The aqua packs have an unusual taste to them

This feedback will go back to Dave.

5. I have received my option form for GCSEs. Can languages not be optional for everyone?

No. We have to have a certain percentage of students that do a language. Mr Sadler said at the options evening that we use our professional judgement as educational experts to offer the broader spectrum to certain groups of students. Each student has an individual pathway to give them the best options for when they get to Year 11 and leave school. Taking a language at GCSE is very important however not accessible for some students. This may change over time. Languages never look bad towards employers. Languages, humanities, English and maths are known as facilitated subjects. They open up more A Levels and higher courses.

6. Are we allowed to have vending machines?

We could have vending machines but they would only be filled with what is in the school now. It would be filled with snacks and sandwiches that you could already purchase from refuel. As a school we are not allowed to sell other products such as fizzy drinks, sweets, chocolate etc. This would help reduce the queue at refuel. We would need to look to see if we could get vending machines that work by scanning your finger because we work on a cashless system.

7. Are we allowed to choose more than 2 optional GCSEs as well as have a language as an option.

The options change year on year. If you choose too many you will lose the amount of time you will get. If you speak to students that are currently studying their GCSE by the time they reach year 11, the amount of time they have for their subjects isn't enough. This is why we limit the number of GCSE so you have enough time to cover the content of the course by the time you get to your exams. If you take more, then it means you have less lesson time for each subject and you would have to do more work at home to cover the course.

8. Can we plant some trees outside the maths block?

There is building work going on behind the maths block where the school is building 3 new classrooms. This will mean all maths will be taught in the block as currently some classes are being taught in the English block. The new classrooms are due to be finished in summer. We can look and see if we can get some trees planted but we need to look at space and where they could go.

9. Can there be more events at school such as battle of the bands.

We can look at more cross curricular events. We have a lot of clubs at the moment but we need feedback from the students on what sort of events they want to see happen. In the past we have had talent shows of sorts but there needs to be the interest in order to make it viable.

10. Can there be more inter-tutor competitions in order to raise more achievement points.

Mr Avery is conducting a survey at the moment on non-curricular events (things that occur in PE and other clubs such as chess). We need feedback from the students.

11. Can the food in the café be made cheaper.

This has been discussed with Dave. As a school, the food we serve is already cheaper than anywhere else. Our café is non-profit organisation. The school makes no profit on any food and drink. Any money made pays for the chef's and café staff who work there. This means that it doesn't impact the budget we have received for the school. We are constantly reviewing prices to make sure they are cost effective. This means they are the best price for you but also means we don't take money from the school to pay for the café.

Additional comments regarding the food deteriorating over the years has been brought up which has been fed back to Dave and the team. Any comments regarding food need to be emailed to Mr Avery, Miss Slinger and Miss Whittington so they can be fed back.

12. Can there be more extracurricular activities such as a swimming club.

If there enough students that want to do a particular activity, then we can look at running the club. We need feedback on what sort of clubs. A swimming club is slightly harder as we would have to hire a pool and also do it first thing in the mornings or in the evenings. With clubs are not possible what we would do is direct students to local clubs in the area that do offer it to help train them.

13. Can there be more bins in the corridor.

We will speak to the site team regarding this. Litter occurs when students leave things around and we need other students to challenge students who do this. The bins are not always full. We know that first thing in the morning there can be litter as foxes and birds pick the litter out of the bins however this is not the case for inside the school building. We will look into having more bins placed in the corridors.

14. Can we help with some of the PSHCE lessons. We understand from other meetings that we have lessons on life skills but it is not covering what we want to know such as 'how do you set up a bank account'.

We took this on board from the last meeting. Mr Farr is leading on this and is currently doing a review on this. It has been given to the school governors as well as the feedback from the last meeting.

15. Are we allowed to have a student well-being team?

We have this already in year 7. Mr Avery oversees student well-being and can look into creating a student well-being team. This can be looked into be set up for after Easter. If anyone is interested being part of this team, please contact Mr Avery.

16. What is the rule about mobile phones. Some teachers allow them out at break and lunch while others say they need to be off.

Clarification of the school policy on phones. We allow you to bring phones to school, there is not an overall ban. The rule is you do not need your phone out during the school day. Students do not need to check it to see what the time is during lesson. Any student that does this during the lesson could result in the phone being confiscated. Students also do not need to check messages during lesson time. However, phones may be checked during break and lunch to quickly check if there has been a call from home we will not confiscate it straight away. The phone should not be out for any length of time as the idea is that you are conversing with the people around you. Clarification regarding phones is being sorted with the senior leadership team. Some teachers may allow you to use your phones during lessons to listen to music but that is up to the teacher's discretion. At the end of the lesson, phone and earphones must be put away.

17. We would like some more equipment at break and lunch such as football goals, table tennis for the older years or basketball hoops in the lower playground.

We are reviewing this. With the new build we need to look at the space that we have. The more equipment we put out it will confine the amount of space available.

18. Can there be more facilities for sports be open at break and lunch times?

At break time no. This is because the PE team are either getting ready for their next lessons or are on duty. At lunch time it can only be open for the year group that it is over the road for their lunch break. This is due to not enough staff to cover health and safety.

19. Our workload is very heavy leading up to exams and I'm not able to revise in a way that is appropriate for me. We want to work but what is being set, is not helping me?

This is being reviewed through our schemes of work. We are setting students revision plan to help them with revision. We have looked at how we timetable exams, such as Year 9 and 10 do their exams after Easter in order to help them with decisions and how they focus for the summer term.

A comment that was brought up at the end was in regards to the books for Year 7 – 11. Since the library has been moved, there aren't enough factual books for students to help with revision. This has been taken on board. It has been mentioned that when Year 11s start their exams, the year 10s will start to get the main hall as their space as a study zone and revision space.

Notice board monitors:

- George Tuza – 7R
- Maddox Clarke – 10 P
- Thomas Kimbembe Mafwa – 9P
- Sajjad Danaei - 7C
- Mounir Mechkour– 10M
- Daniel Luvibidila – 7P
- Malachi Lewis – 10S
- George Elliott – 10N