

Margaret House Council Minutes
30th January 2018

Chair: Blair Millar



Agenda Item:	Discussion:
1. School Scarf	When asked about the school scarf the main question asked by the house captain was whether it would be a good idea or would it end up not being worn. Pupils who thought it could work said they would like if the scarf was thick and warm but doesn't have the school logo on it. It was brought up by Blair that the scarf may just end being a waste of time as often the people who wear their own scarves are doing for individuality. Pupils agreed with this but some said it is also as some classrooms are very cold and a scarf makes them feel warmer.
2. House identity & competition	When speaking about house identity, mostly senior pupils were saying that merits were the only way they were able to get points most of the time but merits were really only given out in first and second year and often we didn't actually know what they were being given for. It was also said that if merits were started again that all the teachers would have to be giving them out as it was mentioned that only some teachers would give out merits and some wouldn't bother. One of the senior pupils mentioned that there needs to be more competitions apart from sports day where we can earn points for our house, like battle of the bands to be brought back as it was a fun event where we could fundraise for the school as well have house competition.
3. Mental Health	One of the main things said when talking about how the school teaches pupils about mental health was that we are simply being taught an overview and are taught to be aware that mental health problems exist but not taught how to deal with it, support others or recognise the symptoms of a mental health problem and how we can support ourselves. The things we learn in health and wellbeing was brought up as pupils said that we are only really taught about exam stress and told that we can speak to our pastoral head whenever we need to but it is easier said than done and that there should be some sort of better support system for pupils to come forward as speaking to a pastoral head can be difficult as they are always busy. Many pupils said we are more likely to encounter someone who had mental health problems in our daily lives or school lives than encounter knife crime which is something we seem to learn about a lot. One of the pupils who has attended the meetings for years has said that nothing has happened with our complaints and that they were tired of people complaining about the health and wellbeing classes but nothing being done to sort it. One of the senior pupils mentioned after this that after four years of basically learning the same things over and over again when we do called to love is pointless and they would rather learn about mental health now. A sixth pupil at the meeting said in health and wellbeing this year often they were just doing UCAS applications or being told to study and would rather have some better structure to the lessons and learn about mental health problems. The school counsellor was also brought up, it was said that the waiting list is simply too long for pupils and some sort of other support system needs to be in place.
4. Any Other Business	Health and wellbeing came up again when we asked there was any other business. Pupils were saying that we should be taught about valuable life skills like paying bills, financing, writing a CV etc. Mental health again was brought up with pupils expressing how the wait to see the counsellor was too long but acknowledged that this can't always be helped but also said it is hard to ask pastoral heads for support as they always seem to be busy. Registration was brought up with pupils saying that the 1 to 1 chats weren't happening and they would like two songs to happen again with the themes and the polls on twitter to be brought back. Finally the toilets were brought up with just the point that the sinks were awful- most are boarded up and those that work have something wrong like soap or water. One pupil said that it doesn't look good on the school when there are events and parents are using these toilets.