



Aston Academy

Specialising in Maths & Computing

Principal: Mrs A Saeed BSc (Hons) PGCE
Executive Principal: Mrs R Hibberd BEd (Hons), MA
CEO: Mrs R Scutt BSc (Hons) PGCE

Vice Principals:
Mrs C Wilson BA (Hons) PGCE
Miss C Anyon BA (Hons) PGCE

Aughton Road
Swallownest
Sheffield
S26 4SF

Tel: 0114 2872171
Fax: 0114 2876359

E-Mail: info@astonacademy.org
Web: www.astonacademy.org



16 November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Feedback to Parents/Carers – Student Council Half Term 1

This letter contains information about the recent Student Council Meeting and how we are working with our students to action change in our Academy in response to the points raised by them and their “voices”.

Here are the key points:

- Each Tutor Group recently voted in and nominated 2 student representatives to become Student Council members
- These representatives met with a key person in their Year Teams to share the views of their Tutor Group through an Agenda. Their views and responses were, in turn, fed back to me to collate.
- Below are the points they raised and how we, as adults, are responding

1. The Personal Development Pledge was very well received, particularly by Year 7 students, who gave such feedback as “It helps you be the best that you can be” and “really good idea, it helps people do things in and out of school”

In response: we have created a bespoke Personal Development Pledge page on Google Classroom so that students can record their evidence towards demonstrating our Core Values. We’ve also asked them for ideas on prizes to incentivise maximum participation. (The Personal Development Pledge may be found within the first dozen pages of the Student Planner, and is clearly proving popular with many.) Students need to accept the invitation sent by Google Classroom to join the appropriate Pledge Classroom.

2. Toilets - There will be closer monitoring of the students who are repeatedly going to the toilets as a form of work avoidance - this has been noted and raised by the student council as a concern along with some other associated concerns.

In response: we have made sure there is a member of staff on duty on our main Toilet corridor AT ALL TIMES, to help guarantee that all students make the correct use of this space; leaving it respectfully for the next user. Any damage/wear and tear is instantly reported and dealt with as soon as humanly possible.

3. There was a general request for cleaner and better-functioning toilets/toilet cubicles. Students reported that, from time to time, the locks become weak or damaged and that there are occasional issues with cleanliness & associated resources.

In response: we have tasked our Site Team with fitting missing locks. We also have a reactive cleaner in school who constantly cleans public areas and is proactive in response to issues such as depleting soap dispensers or toilet roll.

4. Lunchtime arrangements: students would like to see more seating and better variety on menus – especially to include more vegetarian or themed options. Students who buy their food in Hall 2 (Years 7 & 9) would like access to the 3 big screens for watching something relaxing/entertaining whilst dining. Some students also wanted to be able to check their balance without having to queue to do so. Some students mentioned



All adults in school have a responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children

that there is some pushing in during lining up, waiting to be served, which can become frustrating, especially on chip days.

In response: we can assure you that more seating has been arranged in Gym 2 and that we will ensure some screen time in Hall 2. Students are now able to watch suitable content on the screens in Hall 2 whilst dining. We have asked duty staff to be extra alert; consistently sending offenders to the back of the queue

Lunchtime nutrition - Mrs. Saeed has met with the local authority lunch coordinators to share the feedback from our students. They have collectively decided on some actions to improve the lunchtime offer. The changes which will be coming soon are: Meal of day offered in both Halls, signposting food for vegetarian, vegan and Halal options, greater healthier options including more variety of Quorn items and better marketing of the meal of the day. Other areas to explore are environmentally friendlier packaging of food, reducing the queues, allowing students to top up and check their accounts and providing and more spaces for lunchtime.

Mrs. Saeed has also met with the following members of the Student Council to feedback on the actions which are underway: Gabriel R, Issy C, Alfie H, Mia H, Dom D, Alasdair C, Matilda A and Charlotte C.

5. Students mentioned that they'd like more lockers to be available.

In response: we have completed an audit and established the number of lockers we have at Aston Academy. Our CEO is open to the idea of purchasing more, but we have to audit the numbers required. We will ask our wonderful Student Council to help us ascertain associated numbers, and act accordingly.

6. Students have identified that they'd like there to be a continuous First Aid service in school.

In response: I have reassured them that this actually is in place already. Occasionally, if a First Aider takes a lunch break or has to be absent from the First Aid Room temporarily, student perception may be that a First Aider isn't available. We have ensured that in these cases, there will be a clear note on the door; indicating the near location of a second First Aider.

Mrs. Saeed and I would like to thank our wonderful Student Council reps for their attendance at meetings and for representing their Tutor Group so maturely. It has been a privilege to hear them express views and see them participating in activating positive change.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to let you know that the Humanities Faculty is opening a Reading Room for students at break and lunchtimes. We wanted to make this a homely, comfortable and relaxing environment and so are just putting a plea out for any no longer wanted cushions or bean bags for this space. If you have any such unwanted items going spare, please would you consider asking your child to drop your gratefully received contribution off at Student Reception – with our huge thanks.

With my warmest wishes,

Yours faithfully,



Ms. A.H Booker
Personal Development Lead