



S5 Pupil Forum Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and prayer

Mr Marshall welcomed everyone to the meeting. The meeting opened with a prayer.

2. Our Learning and Teaching

The pupils carried out a survey to support the school's new 'Learning and Teaching Strategy'. This will be collated with other Year Groups and added to the teacher response. The Pupil Forum then worked in groups to look at 'What is Excellent Learning & Teaching?'. This response will be collated by Mr Fuchs.

Mr Marshall asked pupils how they have settled in S5. It was agreed by most that the jump from National 5 to Higher was more challenging than they had expected. The pupils acknowledged the level of support that they are receiving from their teachers in the form of materials and additional teaching staff.

3. Our Health and Wellbeing

Some pupils, but not all, had carried out the Health and Wellbeing exercise with their Pastoral Teacher. Mr Marshall explained why this tracking was important. Pupils have been asked to encourage pupils to complete this exercise as soon as they can. Mr Marshall will follow this up with Pastoral Staff.

Pupils explained that there had been a focus on Mental Health and Wellbeing in PSHE as well as talks from agencies such as RAMH. Mr Marshall informed pupils of the Mental Health First Aid resource and how to access staff who are fully trained. Pupils agreed this is an excellent level of support.

Pupils also stated that PSHE lessons had focussed on issues such as alcohol and substance misuse and knife crime. Pupils stated that although the topics are similar to previous years they can see that there has been progression; there is now more detail and more adult language being used.

4. Our Relationships

Pupils stated that they felt that they had better relationships with teachers this year; one reason was given that they see them more often than in previous years. Pupils felt comfortable going to departments and asking for extra help; the majority of pupils at the meeting had utilised this support previously.

Some pupils discussed their concern about changing of Pastoral Staff each year and how this could make building relationships with their Pastoral Support Teacher more difficult. Mr Marshall explained that this was due to several external factors but reassured pupils of the consistency across the Pastoral Support Team and that the every pupil is fully supported by Pastoral Staff and the Year Head.

7. Our School and Community

All pupils were in agreement that the ethos in the school is a positive one and that St Ninian's is an excellent place to learn. Pupils felt that the high standards of cleanliness and decoration helped to add to the positive learning environment. The pupil forum asked if the bathrooms could be refreshed as some of the cubicle doors did not lock. Mr Marshall will follow this up.

Pupils gave a mixed response in terms of ICT use in the school. Pupils agreed that ICT is far more accessible than in previous years but it can be over used in some subjects and not used enough in others. Pupils highlighted departments that they felt utilised ICT effectively. Mr Marshall will pass this information to the school ICT Coordinator.

8. Our successes and achievements

Mr Marshall wanted to thank all pupils who took part in the 5K Race at the Kelpies in memory of Niamh on Friday 8th November. So far over £1700 had been raised for the chosen charity; the members of the pupil forum will pass on Mr Marshall's thanks.

Mr Marshall thanked pupils for their help at recent events such as the S4 Information Evening; he asked that the pupil forum consider helping at other upcoming events. Mr Marshall asked pupils to check school calendar and speak to him regarding consent forms.

All pupils felt that their success and achievements had been properly celebrated over the years; Mr Marshall urged the pupils to continue to keep him up to date with any out of school achievements.

9. AOCB

Pupils asked if more focus on work related skills (such as CV building and interview skills) could be built into PSHE at the end of S4 / beginning of S5. Mr Marshall will follow this up.

Pupils stated that they found it difficult to stay on task for an entire double period; they stated that they found it easier to concentrate if they get a quick two minute break in between periods. The pupils would remain in class but take a break from the task that they are working on. Mr Marshall said that he would consider this and speak to other members of staff for advice.