

**Headteacher’s Question Time – Year 7**

**Tuesday 6th February 2018**

**1.15pm-1.55pm - G10**

**Panel: Mrs Götschel, Mr Pearce, Mrs Peniket, Mrs Rolf, Mrs Verma**

**Mr Pearce welcomed the students and thanked them for attending the session. The students directed their questions to the panel:-**

**Olivia Malenoir-Rollins 7D - Has the Headteacher ever shouted at a student, because she seems too nice?**

**Mrs Götschel**: it is not productive to shout at a student as this does not work and therefore is not productive. If a student is in trouble it is better to have a conversation to explain why they are in trouble and it is not good to shout at them. I only shout to alert students when the situation could be dangerous.

**Parwana Razawie 7G - Why is the sixth form boys and girls when the lower school is girls only?**

**Mrs Verma**: Lordswood Girls’ School is for years 7 – 11. The sixth form offers places to boys and girls because the boys’ school does not have a sixth form. The number of boys has increased which allows us to obtain additional funding and we can then offer a wider range of subjects to the students. However, from Easter the sixth form students will be based in the new building so the main school will be for girls only.

**Erin Norman 7L - I know our school is very supportive of many charities especially the UCC in Ghana. I am proud to be part of such a supportive and caring school but I noticed that sometimes there is food left over at the end of lunchtime which is thrown away. Could we donate this to a local charity for homeless people to reduce the waste?**

**Mrs Götschel**: I think that this is an excellent suggestion. When teaching citizenship we discussed becoming involved in a project to help with homelessness. The amount of food available at lunchtimes has to be balanced as some students go in late and we have to make sure that there is enough food for all to eat, but at the same time, waste is kept to a minimum. There are also food hygiene standards to be taken into consideration as hot food has to be kept at a certain temperature. However, some of the pre-packaged food may be able to be donated. Shelter could be contacted to see if they know of any food kitchens locally.

Erin said that at the end of the day on a Friday food is reduced and if it is not sold then it is put into a bin, including sealed drinks and packs of sandwiches.

**Mrs Gotschel:** we need to look into this. The best before date means that the food is still OK to use after this date. The Co-op are selling food that are past best before dates cheaply as this is still safe to eat, but we cannot use food that exceeds the use by date. There are environmental health regulations that we have to adhere to but if you do know of any churches or mosques that do this then please let Mrs Riley know.

**Molly Gillett 7G - Could we have recycling bins around school for plastic bottles?**

**Mrs Rolf**: recycling bins were used in the past when we had an Eco team on the School Council. Mrs Riley has asked Birmingham City Council about the process for obtaining recycling bins for plastic bottles. We do have recycling bins for cardboard but they are not always used correctly. If we do have a recycling bin for plastic bottles then we would have to monitor this carefully to make sure they are used correctly. There is a machine in the canteen which can be used for recycling plastic bottles during lunch and break-time.

**Haya Vardag 7L - What are the best and worst things about an average day?**

**Mrs Götschel**: What I enjoy most is when I teach students in class. The worst thing is when I have to have a conversation with students because they have done something wrong and also the frustration with the delayed completion of the new sixth form centre.

**Esha Dhillon 7S - My friend has two teachers for Maths and I have one. I have two teachers for English and my friend has one, why is this?**

**Mrs Verma**: It does depend on who your teachers are and which days they work. Some teachers are part-time and someone else would need to teach you on those days when the teacher is not at work. Sometimes your teacher may be teaching other year groups. I try to arrange for students to have the same teacher but sometimes it is unavoidable when juggling 50 rooms, timetable groups and teacher timetables.

**Harjas Sian 7W - How do you think the school will develop over time?**

**Mrs Götschel**: there will definitely be a larger sixth form and the new building will be future proof so there is room for additional students. I hope that the school continues to be successful as we are in the top 4% nationally. Lordswood students have a reputation for being very good students because the school is so successful.

We will be celebrating Lordswood’s sixtieth anniversary this year with a range of events for family and students to attend. Please let me know of any ideas that you have for events which can be included in the celebrations.

**Kate Bishop 7W - How does the school handle bullying and loss?**

**Mrs Peniket**: anyone with issues that they are upset about should discuss them with me,

Mrs Baxter or your review tutor. If it is an on-going issue with other students then staff will take statements and discuss openly how we can move forward.

With regard to loss, parents sometimes contact me or I contact them to discuss bereavement counselling to support students. It is best if students can remain in lessons during this time so that they can be amongst their friends. Bereavement support cards are available to give to parents and teachers so that the student does not have to speak if they do not want to. Students are also given leave cards and I let teachers know when these have been issued.

**Dua Iqbal 7S - Which teacher has worked at the school the longest?**

**Mrs Götschel**: it was Miss Young but she has retired, so it is now Miss Millward who teaches Spanish and has been at Lordswood for 20 years. I have taught for 35 years and it is my 10th year at Lordswood.

**Emily Town 7W - Do you think that our GCSE target grades being based on our maths and English SATs is a good or bad thing and why?**

**Mrs Verma**: We need this information in order to measure how we are doing. English and Maths elements are useful as they are included in every subject area so are a very good measure.

**Mr Pearce**: the information obtained is 80% accurate. With regard to creative subjects such as drama and arts, baseline tests are carried out. The results of the tests are not set as a limit but they are there as a guide but are not set in stone.

**Aliza Majeed 7W - Why did the cost of the lockers increase so much?**

**Mrs Rolf**: the old lockers on site were poor quality. They cost a great deal to maintain and took the site team a considerable amount of time to constantly repair them. We now have a project management company who will provide and repair the lockers. The cost of hiring the locker for a year is £18. The cost is more expensive, but students will have a much better locker.

**Mrs Götschel**: In the past we did not have lockers and it was the Parents’ Forum and the students at the sessions of Headteacher’s Question Time who asked if we could provide lockers and the School Council raised funds which went towards the cost of these. As we have had these lockers for a few years now and most of them were broken, we needed to buy or lease new lockers. As funding has been cut, the school does not have the money available for the amount of new lockers that are required and therefore the school has no option other than to ask parents to fund these.

**Asharlah Beckford 7S - What happens if, during a lockdown, the person comes into a classroom?**

**Mrs Gotschel:** that should not happen. We are currently dealing with lockdown procedures and it would be highly unlikely for any person to be able to come into a classroom as we have security officers located on the main desk by the entrance doors. The most vulnerable area of the school would be the reception area but we have submitted a bid and if we are successful, we will be using the money to improve security of the school and the reception area.