

**Headteacher’s Question Time – Year 8**

**Tuesday 23rd January 2018 - 1.15pm-1.55pm**

**Panel: Miss Millward, Mrs Götschel, Mr Guppy, Mr Baker, Mrs Rolf, Mrs Verma**

**Miss Millward welcomed the students and they were asked to direct their questions to the panel:-**

**Ruqayya Mahmood 8W**

**Is the school safe enough to detect any unusual activity when students come to school. For example, what happens when someone comes to school carrying a knife? Is there a machine that can show us if someone is bringing illegal materials into school?**

**Mrs Götschel**: We do have a knife wand which we can use to detect if someone is bringing illegal materials into school. We have used this twice. We also have security guards located near the entrance doors. We have now submitted another bid for gates, a new entrance system and CCTV to be installed so that students can feel safe when they are in school.

**Amelia Stanway 8R**

**When will we be able to use the Knightlow Road entrance?**

**Mrs Rolf**: the main entrance to the school will continue to be Lordswood Road as this is safer for students. Knightlow Road is very narrow and we will only use this entrance for deliveries, staff and sixth form students to access school.

**Caelyn Wilbanks 8L**

**What will be in the new gym and will we have new equipment?**

**Mr Guppy**: It is a very exciting time with the new sports hall being built. We will have baseball, badminton, cricket and volleyball facilities and we will also add to the facilities as time goes on. We will lead amazing lessons. Even the storage cupboard is almost two thirds as big as our current gym!

**Anisa Iqbal 8R**

**Why do we have to wear year badges? Could we wear ID badges instead?**

**Mr Baker**: the year badges identify you as a year group as not all staff know who you are and they can identify you by the badge. The sixth form students wear ID badges as it is very difficult to identify them as they may be new to the school and they do not wear a school uniform.

**Tia Hill 8D**

**Would the school consider running sessions where parents can come in and participate in activities?**

**Mrs Götschel**: we have done this in the past during family learning week and parents were involved in cookery and textiles. Tia asked if the parents could perhaps get involved in after school clubs. **Mrs Götschel** said that if there were any specific clubs that the students would like to suggest, then we could consider this.

**Melika Hussain 8S**

**In what ways will you help us choose our career path in Year 9?**

**Mrs Verma**: in year 8 students have received career advice in assemblies and in review tutor groups. All year 8 students completed a careers audit just before Christmas and Mrs Kempthorne is looking at the results. There is a section on the website called ‘careers’ where you will find some interesting information. You can also arrange to speak to Mrs Perry and Mrs Kempthorne if you would like to discuss careers.

**Jasdeep Kaur 8S**

**Where do we go if we are being bullied?**

**Mr Baker**: you can speak to any member of staff or go to GA6 or to Miss McKenzie. If you are scared to go to any of these places because you do not know the staff there, then you can go and speak to any member of staff who is familiar to you.

**Salihah Ajaz 8G**

**Why can’t we use our phones in between lessons and at lunch and break time?**

**Mrs Götschel**: students are not supposed to bring phones into school but we did change this rule so that parents can contact you at the end of the day if they need to. There is no insurance for your phones at school so if they do get lost you are unable to claim for them on school insurance. There is also very little time available during the school day and we prefer you to go to clubs rather than spend time talking on your phone.

**Senudi Loku-Umagiliyaq 8R**

**In very hot or very cold weather, are there maximum and minimum temperatures beyond which we will be sent home?**

**Mrs Rolf**: we do follow guidance from the Health & Safety Executive and there is no maximum temperature; it is left for the school to assess the risk and the Headteacher will then make a decision based on this. There is guidance on minimum temperatures but there is no legal requirement, only that the temperature needs to be kept within the guidance. The temperature is monitored closely by the site team and we try to maintain temperatures within rooms but the school is a very old building and consequently there are different temperatures in classrooms.

**Gursimran Malhi 8D**

**Why are there x and y bands and who decides which students are in them?**

**Mrs Verma**: we decide when you are in year 7 which band you will be put into and this depends on what lessons are taking place at each time. We have to consider teacher availability so that you always have the same teachers and classrooms. We look at your data and we put certain students into the same band. We do not split you up or put you together for any particular reason but it does help me to put the timetable together for the whole school.

**Rehma Zaier 8R**

**Can the school start using the ‘Show My Homework’ app? Some of my friends and my brother use it and I think it would save money because we wouldn’t need planners and it would help parents to be more involved in what is happening in school. The app would also show when we get behaviour points (good or bad) and homework deadlines.**

**Mr Baker**: we did have a look at the app but we use our planners for more than just homework. We communicate with your parents, include reminders, put additional information onto the planner pages such as details about Place2Be and the planner is also useful for reviews and PSHE day.

**Mrs Götschel**: we did try this app at Lordswood Boys’ School but it didn’t work very well and it was costly.

**The students were asked if there were any other questions they would like to raise:-**

**- could we have a website where students can write letters?**

**Miss Millward**: we are getting an app called ‘toot toot’ where students can send a message to the school anonymously if they wish, unless there is an issue which needs to be addressed and the name of the sender can then be revealed. We are taking this app on a 15 month trial basis and it will be going live imminently. I would be very interested in receiving feedback from you all once it goes live.

**Mrs Götschel** : this year is the 60th anniversary of Lordswood Girls’ School and we will be arranging events in the Summer to celebrate. The events will run over a two week period and will include

ex-staff and ex-students. I would like ideas of the type of events that you would like to attend so please let Mrs Riley or me know of any suggestions. A whole school picnic would be really nice, but this will be dependent upon the weather.

Other suggestions for events are a matinee of the school production on Saturday 14th July 2018, a barbecue, sports competitions, cricket match and an Arts exhibition.

**Miss Millward thanked the students for attending the session and for the interesting questions that they had asked.**