

**Headteacher’s Question Time**

**8.55 a.m. Tuesday 9th May 2023 – Headteacher’s Office**

**Mrs Cooney – Headteacher, Mrs Finucane – Assistant Headteacher (Personal Development),**

**Mrs Allport – PA to Headteacher & SLT (note taker)**

**Mrs Cooney welcomed the students to the Headteacher’s Question Time and the students asked the following questions:-**

1. **How do you plan on using the respectful, ready and resilience cards to improve the behaviour of students at Lordswood?**

**Mrs Cooney**: We are currently looking at the categories that we have and reducing the list to focus on these areas. We are currently reviewing our Behaviour policy as part of this. All students have been sent a survey about rewards. Once the survey is completed, rewards will be allocated against the three R’s.

2. **Why did you decide to join hands with King Edward VI and if you could change one thing about your school, what would it be?**

**Mrs Cooney**: The decision to join King Edward VI was made before my appointment at Lordswood. LGS was a single school MAT, which means there was only one school in the Trust. Financially, it meant that there was very little money available to spend on students and teachers. It can also be lonely when you work alone and have no-one to share ideas with. LGS looked at various academies, but King Edward VI was chosen due to the fact that we could retain autonomy, which is exactly what we wanted. Mrs Götschel and the Trustees thought that King Edward VI was a nice, local, organisation and we could benefit by working with them.

3. **What is your aim for this school to be like in the future, what are your aspirations for this school?**

**Mrs Cooney**: I want everyone to enjoy coming to school and I want to remove all the barriers that prevent this.

4. **Why can we not stay in form at break and lunch?**

**Mrs Cooney**: This was introduced due to COVID when all students had to be kept in bubbles. Now that COVID restrictions have been lifted this isn’t required. Eating in a classroom isn’t hygienic. In the canteen there is no carpet so the floor can be wiped down and the tables cleared. Supervision during break times and lunchtimes is required and if the entire school is open we have to supervise the whole building. We just don’t have enough staff to do this safely, so we decided to close the classrooms for eating so that more staff are available to be on duty outside to supervise the students.

5. **During the colder months, the area where the older locker canopy is starts to flood. Could there be measures put in place so that students don't get their feet wet (for example, letting students empty their lockers of phones, coats etc before the flooding gets too bad)?**

**Mrs Cooney**: The flooding in this area was linked to an issue with a blockage in the drain which has been cleared and we believe that the problem is now solved.

6. **Can we have more school trips?**

**Mrs Cooney**: We have the same question raised in each of the Headteacher’s Question Time sessions.

There were over 50 trips arranged before Easter and other trips are planned for over the next term. We have to remember that trips need to have an academic focus as the school has to focus on the students’ education. Teachers get paid to teach. When they organise a trip they do this in addition to their normal day’s work and consent forms, insurance, collecting money, letters to parents and transport all have to be arranged. When teachers are out of school on trips we also have to cover their classes with supply teachers, which are expensive, and students will also miss their lessons. The most important thing for all teachers is teaching high quality lessons.

7. **Are there going to be any more trips or fun activities this year?**

**Mrs Finucane**: We are trying to arrange a ‘something different day’. This will be a fun packed day of various activities that you will be able to choose from.

**Mrs Cooney**: We have to balance the number of trips with the amount we are asking parents to pay.

8. **In what ways do you think the role of a Headteacher is different from the role of a Deputy Head?**

**Mrs Cooney**: mainly, the worry at night! If the Deputy Head is worried, they can talk to their Headteacher who helps them to find a solution. When you are a Headteacher you are expected to have all the answers and to know everything about the school. A Deputy Head will focus on particular areas and the Headteacher has to be aware of everything, including compliance, health and safety, etc.

9. **Would we be able to have student led lunchtime and afterschool clubs?**

**Mrs Cooney**: All student activities have to be supervised by an adult so unless you have a teacher who is willing to supervise the clubs, sadly we can’t allow this.

The student said that there are a lot of students who would like to attend clubs and they have said that they would also be happy to run them.

**Mrs Cooney**: It’s lovely that students are willing to run clubs and I am happy for this to happen but they must be supervised by an adult.

**Mrs Finucane**: Please keep me informed if you need any help with trying to arrange a club.

**Mrs Cooney thanked the students for attending the Headteacher’s Question Time session and for taking the time to submit such interesting questions.**