



**KING EDWARD VI  
LORDSWOOD  
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**

**Headteacher's Question Time – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

**In Attendance: Mrs Cooney: Headteacher  
Mrs Allport: PA to Headteacher & SLT (note taker)  
Mrs Finucane: Assistant Headteacher – Personal Development**

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

- 1. Why can't years 9,10 and 11 students go to the field in the top playground even though the new fences are available?**

**Mrs Cooney:** Now that the field is fenced, safety is not so much of the issue as no-one can now come onto the site. A couple of times people went into the LBS gate and then wandered over to our building but now the field is fenced, it is a completely secure site. We will be able to arrange for you to go into this area during the summer. During the winter months the field is very boggy and we want to protect the grass as much as possible and also to want to ensure that you don't injure yourself when you are on the very wet ground.

- 2. Why do the toilets have to be locked during lesson time?**

**Mrs Cooney:** this is to keep a check on the safety of our students. You should be able to manage for two hours before you need to go to the toilet. Students sometimes arrange to meet in the toilets which impacts upon lesson times and your learning. It can also be intimidating for year 7 students if they go into the toilets and year 11 students are meeting in there and it is important that the toilets do not become a general meeting place for students. Staff monitor the toilets during break times and lunch times to ensure your safety.

- 3.& 5. Why isn't make-up allowed in school?**

**Mrs Cooney:** This is the same principle as having to wear a school uniform. It is about everyone being themselves and not having pressure put on them to wear make-up, as you should be proud to be who you are. We don't want you to be distracted from learning while you are at school and you can wear make-up when you are out of school if you wish.

**Mrs Betty was unable to attend but sent the following response to the question:** All students are essentially in school to learn and wearing make-up will not influence your learning and it could actually be a distraction from learning.

- 4. Is the standards card meant to last us the whole year?**

**Mrs Betty sent the following message:** If you arrive on time and in the correct uniform, the standards card will last a whole year, but if it does get damaged your form teacher can arrange to replace this for you.

6. **Is there a possible way that the school will be able to host useful GCSE revision clubs for year 10 and year 11 students where they can be provided with various different past exam papers to do or be provided with some revision books as not everyone can afford them?**

**Mrs Finucane:** we have a lot of subject revision sessions which are specified on certain dates. The curriculum timetable details the revision sessions for year 11 students and some subjects will also allow year 10 students to attend. There will also be revision taking place in lessons.

**Mrs Cooney:** Mrs Pollard and Mrs Crosby are taking over the library at the moment and there is a lack of academic and revision text books available for students. Mrs Pollard is making a list of what is needed and we will be buying more books. Mrs Baxter runs a homework club in the library every night and you can also use the library after school for revision.

7. **Why did we start using Class Charts this year instead of Edulink?**

**Mrs Cooney:** The main reason for the change is that staff were not awarding students positive behaviour points as creating these in Edulink was very time consuming and because of this, a low number of staff were actually logging into the system. We decided to transfer to Class Charts as it allows staff to easily award positive and negative points and set-up homework on the system.

The students said that homework is regularly being set up on Class Charts and they have logged onto the system and found it to be user friendly.

Mrs Cooney told the students that a letter has been sent to parents advising them how to log onto Class Charts so that they will be able to see what homework has been set for the students.

Parents have said that students were not always showing them their planner which recorded details of any detentions set, but this information is now recorded on Class Charts so that parents are aware.

8. **Even when students are late for a valid reason like traffic (even when they've caught the earlier bus), road accidents, family emergencies or maybe feeling ill in the morning but maybe feeling better after getting to school, would a detention still be issued. And if so why, when in real life reasons like these wouldn't result in a reduction in pay or being fired unless the lateness persisted?**

**Mrs Cooney:** When you leave school if you are late for work you will lose pay and we are preparing you for life after school. The school won an attendance award last year and we are very proud of this. In some organisations if you are 1 minute late you will lose 15 minutes pay. It is about teaching you to be prepared for any issues, for example, if it is raining you will need to leave home earlier than normal because the journey to school will be longer. Some companies give bonuses for punctuality and if you are late 3 times then you won't get your bonus. If you are late 6 times then you will get a final warning and may even lose your job. It is about planning ahead so detentions are given to make you aware of the consequences of being late. Your lateness to school detentions are given during lunchtime. It is only after school detentions that are given for students being continually late for lessons.

9. **Why was the rooming system changed (e.g. the old F6 is now 117)?**  
**Mrs Cooney:** I did explain about the new rooming system changes in assembly at the start of the year. Some of the rooms were previously admin offices. As we changed these rooms into classrooms we needed to change the room numbering. Some rooms were numbered from the stairs and some rooms were numbered from the end of the corridor. People were finding it difficult to find certain rooms because of this. As we had to re-number some rooms we decided to re-number all the rooms. The room numbers now start from the main stairway and then go straight around the corridors.

10. **Are year 8's going on a residential this year?**  
**Mrs Cooney:** Residential trip planning needs to be planned one year in advance. To arrange a trip is not in a teacher's contract and they give up their own time to run trips and it is their goodwill that allows this to happen. There are no residential trips being arranged for you but there are other trips being organised. We also have to consider that we are not putting too much financial pressure onto parents. Mr Fox and Mr Trewin are re-launching the Duke of Edinburgh awards programme this year which will provide students with many opportunities. There will be extra trips arranged for year 10 and these will be launched in assembly in two weeks' time. Year 11 won't be able to go on trips as these normally take place in June and they will be busy with exams at this time.

11. **How were the student values created in regards to student ideals and wishes?**  
**Mrs Cooney:** We did a number of things to gain input regarding the values. We sent out surveys, worked with parents, staff and governors and arranged focus groups with students to help us decide on what the school values should be. We want all students to work hard and do well at school and to also be prepared for life after school. We also want everyone to be nice to each other so we came up with words that are easy to remember and which encompass all of these values.

12. **How does the new changes in school actually improve the students learning?**  
**Mrs Cooney:** We have created new classrooms and a new behaviour system using Class Charts. During Student Voice, students said that they felt that good behaviour was not recognised although they were working hard. They also felt that some students were getting away with being late for lessons and not wearing the proper school uniform. We wanted to make sure that we were getting it right for students who were behaving well and working hard although they were not being awarded positive behaviour points. Class Charts helps teacher to award these to students more easily.

When we interview people for jobs and they teach a lesson as part of the interview process, they often run out of work before the end of the lesson. This is because they plan the lesson as they would normally do at their current school but because students work so hard at Lordswood, they get through the work planned so quickly.

13. **Why do year 11 and year 13 students have an extra three weeks holiday.**  
**Mrs Cooney:** These students finish their education on the last Friday in June after their exams have ended as they are then taken off the school roll.

14. **Can we use some of our praise points to go on trips?**  
**Mrs Cooney:** When there are trips, places will be offered firstly to students who have earned behaviour points. There will be priority booking that can be used for trips in advance.

15. **Why are some year 7 students wearing white badges?**  
**Mrs Cooney:** When year 7 students join KE all the schools in the Trust go to the ceremony and they are all given a white badge. There is not a venue large enough for all the students to attend at the same time as there are almost 2,500 students so the ceremony is split into two separate sessions. Going forward, the next school to join the Trust will join the ceremony online and all students will be given a white welcome badge.
16. **Was the fire drill yesterday a real fire drill?**  
**Mrs Cooney:** The fire alarm was activated in the disabled toilet as someone had left the hot water tap running which resulted in a lot of steam in the room which then set off the alarm.

**Mrs Cooney thanked the students for attending the session and for asking such interesting questions. Some of the changes that are actually made in the school are due to the questions that students have raised during these sessions.**