



**KING EDWARD VI  
LORDSWOOD  
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**

**Headteacher's Question Time  
2.00 p.m. on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023**

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

**Apologies:** Mrs Betty: Deputy Headteacher – Pastoral  
Mrs Betty was unable to attend but provided answers to the questions below.

**Guests:** Ms Huxtable: Chair of the Governing Body  
Ms Frain: Governor

Mrs Cooney welcomed the students to the Headteacher's Question Time and welcomed and introduced Ms Huxtable, Chair of the Governing Body, and Ms Frain, Governor, who were attending the session as guests. The students asked the following questions:-

1. **Why did you replace Citizenship with PSHCE and why do we still have PSHCE days when we have PSHCE lessons?**

**Mrs Cooney:** PSHCE is an abbreviation of Physical, Social, Health, Citizenship, Education. Citizenship was taught as a single lesson previously but students did not have lessons on the other subject areas. This meant that students were missing out on the other subjects. PSHCE is now timetabled as an entire lesson and drop-down days are also arranged. There are some areas of PSHCE that are better delivered by external speakers and this is why we have kept a small number of drop-down days that will focus on the three school values. Respectful Relationships was delivered on the last drop-down day. The Ready for the Future day in February will focus on careers.

2. **Do you think that Lordswood Girls will become a Grammar School?**

**Mrs Cooney:** Lordswood School for Girls will not become a Grammar School as the Government has stated that there will be no additional Grammar Schools going forward. Being a comprehensive school maintains the diversity of the school.

3. **When making school-wide decisions, can students be allowed to voice opinions or vote on the matter seeing as it affects them?**

**Mrs Finucane:** Student Voice is taken very seriously and we do ask students for their views. We asked students about their thoughts on the uniform policy and about the changes we made to the school day timings. It is not possible for us to conduct a survey about everything that requires a decision but the Student Council are your representatives who can provide your views to us.

**Ms Huxtable:** asked if there is a particular thing that students would like to vote on?

**The student** said that they were upset that they were not told about the changes to room numbers as they were getting lost when trying to find out which room they should be in.

**Ms Huxtable** asked the student if the school reps ask the students for if they had any questions that they would like to be asked?

**The student** said that she is the school rep and she always asks the students if they want her to ask any questions on their behalf.

4. **Why does the Christmas holiday start so late this year since last year it started on the 19th but this year it starts 3 days before Christmas on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December?**

**Mrs Cooney:** Lordswood School for Girls subscribes to the Birmingham City Council Schools holiday dates. As we are a Girls' School, many of you will have siblings at another school and so we do this to keep the family holiday dates together.

5. **When will the Class Charts rewards shop open?**

**Mrs Betty:** The shop will be open this term. We wanted to make sure we had purchased what students had asked for and have the appropriate students ready to help us run the shop before we get it going. When you earn positive points, it means you can purchase items from the shop. For example 50 points could buy you a week long queue jump pass for the canteen. Your positive points you have earned will stay the same but your spendable points will decrease when you have bought something. You then need to be ready, resilient and respectful to earn more spendable points.

6. **Will the school in the summer let us use the football pitch at break and lunch if we have football boots?**

**Mrs Cooney:** Students will be unable to use the 4G pitch as there are not enough staff to supervise you safely and additionally, the football pitch also belongs to Lordswood Boys' School too. The fields are now fenced off and when the ground is solid again, by next Summer you will be able to use it. A lunchtime football club could possibly be arranged at this time.

7. **Will Diversity Day become annual?**

**Mrs Finucane:** Diversity Day was arranged in July last year where we celebrated the fact that everyone in school has something unique about them to celebrate. It is one day a year to celebrate our individuality which the students said that they enjoyed.

**Mrs Cooney:** When we have a non-uniform day, cultural wear can also be worn by students if they wish.

8. **Why did the school get rid of reviews?**

**Mrs Cooney:** In order for teachers to meet with students, they had to be given non-contact time and this proved to be costly. In the past, review time was for 5 minutes and you only had a little time to speak to your review tutors. Review time is now 20 minutes every day and this year teachers are in their review rooms every Monday, Wednesday and Friday for 15 minutes prior to the start of the school day to give you time when you need to speak to your review tutors.

9. **If you're trying to make us have less detentions in the years why do we have standard cards?**

**Mrs Betty:** We are not trying to reduce detentions as such but we are trying and succeeding in increasing positive points awarded. Detentions are an integral part of our behaviour policy and are used to support students further in understanding that their actions have consequences ready for the big wide world. We have standards cards to remind students that punctuality is important and so is wearing our uniform correctly. The large majority of students will never have their card signed let alone have a detention.

10. **What happens if you get many negative points and/or detentions?**

**Mrs Betty:** If you get lots of positive points you will get certificates for every 100 points. You will be able to spend them on prizes at the shop, you will get positive phone calls home.

If students get to 5 negative points, they will be placed on report to their form tutor. If this is not successful they will be escalated to head of year and then SLT. If students require parental meetings we will have them. There is a large range of support we offer to students to ensure they understand how to meet the school's values.

11. **With an increasing focus on mental health, what steps is the school taking to prioritise the well-being of students and staff?**

**Mrs Betty:** At school we have a mental health strategy which includes a variety of support for staff and students. We have a designated mental health governor to show the importance of this at Lordswood. Staff are trained in recognising when students need mental health support. We have 15 mental health first aiders, 11 trained safeguarding leads and internal counselling Place2Be on offer to students. We take part in national days to mark mental health awareness to educate and promote. All students receive PSHCE lessons which cover aspects of looking after their own mental health. We have a variety of student leadership roles in school which means students have a voice. Staff can access much of this too but staff also have a dedicated support line that they can call if they need to, along with line managers who they meet with to discuss workload and wellbeing.

**Mrs Cooney:** There are student peer mentors who support other students. Internal counselling is not always right for all students and we have support from Aquarius, Cruse, School Nurses and Forward Thinking. Miss Baxter also runs sessions to support students. Please let Mrs Betty know if you have any connections with charities that offer support to students.

12. **Why do year 11s have to do PSHCE?**

**Mrs Cooney:** We have to make sure that we are following the full National Curriculum. Parents can choose if their daughter receives RSE until two terms before the end of year 11, however year 11s in the Spring and Summer terms are allowed to choose if they attend RSE lessons without their parents' approval so it is important to give them that opportunity.

**Mrs Cooney thanked the Governors and students for taking the time to attend the Headteacher's Question Time session and for asking such interesting questions.**