



**KING EDWARD VI  
LORDSWOOD  
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**

**Headteacher's Question Time  
8.50 a.m. on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024**

**In Attendance:** Mrs Cooney: Headteacher  
Mrs Finucane: Assistant Headteacher – Personal Development  
Mrs Verma: Assistant Headteacher – Curriculum & Assessment (question 1)  
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. When we have our end of year exams, will we have study periods/sessions instead of lessons for that week?**

**Mrs Verma:** This year in your lessons, we have constantly revisited the lesson content to check your understanding of what you have been taught so revision lessons shouldn't be needed. We will continue to teach lessons although some of the lessons may also include revision.

**2. Now that the weather is getting better, is it Ok for the students with packed lunches to have the option of eating outside? I think this will also help with reducing the long lunch lines and create more space in the canteen and allow us to take full advantage of the warmer weather and sunshine.**

**Mrs Cooney:** You cannot eat outside because this may encourage rats to come onto the school site as any crumbs dropped encourages them to come. Also seagulls can attack children while they are eating to try and take their food.

The long term vision is to develop an outside eating area with a floor that we can clean but we don't have the funding for this to happen this year as we don't have enough budget for the floor replacement and installation of a canopy. We are exploring other possible ways of funding but sadly this won't be this year.

**3. How does the school measure and assess student progress beyond traditional exams and tests?**

**Mrs Cooney:** Your teachers constantly assess you during lessons when they walk around the classroom or ask you questions in lessons. They take note of your body language in class by how you sit, move and approach tasks. Low stake assessments recall and checking is undertaken at the beginning of a lesson and also marking your books and tests. Teachers monitor what you can and cannot do and they sometimes adapt your lessons to make sure that you understand the content of what you are being taught. They also mark your books to see how you have approached tasks in lessons.

**4. What aspect of the school values do you think have been implemented the most in our school environment?**

**Mrs Cooney:** All of them. Resilience is the category currently getting the most rewards points. I am most proud of your respectfulness as visitors comment on this all the time and how respectful you are towards each other as there are only a few incidences of bullying around protected characteristics. You are also respectful to the school environment which is kept neat and tidy.

**5. Why can't we have private changing rooms for just one person. Why do we have to have two big changing rooms for the whole class? It's really weird and I understand money but I think that it is still important for our privacy. We are going through puberty and we don't want people to see our bodies because it makes us feel uncomfortable.**

**Mrs Cooney:** We cannot fit in private cubicles in the limited space that we have available as we would need 30 cubicles installed in the small changing room. If in future we build additional sports facilities we can take this into consideration at that time.

**6. Is it bad if you move sets in one of your classes?**

**Mrs Cooney:** Moving up means that you will be challenged more and moving down will mean that you will get bespoke support which will help you. Some of the sets are based on ability and some are based on mixed ability and students may be moved around if they are struggling with anything so that they are provided with more help. At other times you might be moved sets due to friendship issues that are affecting your focus in lessons. You are only moved sets to benefit your education.

**7. What is May Day for?**

**Mrs Cooney:** May Day is a Bank Holiday. Years ago there were no holiday days given so Bank Holidays were introduced to give time off work to spend with you family. May Day has been celebrated for hundreds of years and it is an old Celtic celebration for the change in mid-year, when cold months became warmer months. On May Day people would dance around a maypole which had coloured ribbons attached. There are now a number of bank holidays including Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Early May Bank Holiday, Late May Bank Holiday, Whitsun and August Bank Holiday which are all spaced out throughout the year.

**8. How would you deal with a dispute between colleagues?**

**Mrs Cooney:** Students don't always get along and adults don't always get along either. You can healthily disagree but it is how you deal with the disagreement. We use skills taught us in school to healthily disagree and then compromise and be respectful to each other.

Miss Dodd works in HR and if needed she helps to settle disagreements between colleagues. She listens to both sides and then mediates each side. This is similar to how we deal with students disagreements and we encourage being respectful and kind to each other if we have different opinions. Teachers want to provide the very best for students so we don't have disagreements very often.

**Mrs Cooney thanked the students for attending the Headteacher's Question Time and for the very interesting questions that they have obviously thought about before asking them.**