

Headteacher's Question Time 9.00 a.m. Friday 4th October 2024

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

Mrs Finucane welcomed the students and advised that Mrs Cooney would be joining the meeting online as she was currently out of school. The students asked the following questions:-

1. a) Do you think it would be beneficial if year 11 students were granted unlimited access to the library?

Mrs Cooney: In principle I think that granting unlimited access to the library for year 11 students is a fantastic idea, but practically this would prove difficult as the library can only hold a limited number of students. If we did this it would mean that no other year groups could use the library.

b) Do you think that having a committee of students who would be willing to partake in organising key school events would also be beneficial?

Mrs Cooney: We do have a Prom Committee each year for year 11 students and we would like to extend this committee to include fundraising for a school minibus which will be launched shortly so it would be a good idea for you to get onto the committee now if you are interested in this.

2) How can we move up sets?

Mrs Cooney: not all sets are set by ability as most are mixed ability but for those that are, e.g. in Maths and Science, they will look at the data and review which groups have performed well and what support they need. It isn't just exam/test results that affect settings, we look at students' results and review the comments on the yellow sheet to identify which students work hard, complete their homework and revise for all assessments. If you want to move up a set, the best piece of advice I can give is to make a note during the lesson of any areas that you struggle with and then go home and revise that particular area.

3) Do you think we could go on more trips in year 8?

Mrs Finucane: We have introduced extra trips for year 8 students. Last year there were five major opportunities for year 8 including the Big Bang Science and West Midlands Safari Park trips. There are also opportunities to go to events relating to student committees, such as Arts Ambassadors, Forward Thinking and Building Houses for the future so there are a lot of opportunities available for you.

Mrs Cooney: The more areas that students get involved in within school, then the more opportunities will be available to you, for example the EDI committee went on a conference last year and students also have the opportunity to volunteer at school events.

Mrs Cooney thanked the students for asking such interesting questions as she is always very keen to learn about the areas that the students are particularly interested in.