



**KING EDWARD VI
LORDSWOOD
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**

**Headteacher's Question Time
8. 30 a.m. Friday 6th December 2024**

In Attendance: 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 session. The students asked Mrs Cooney the following questions:-

1. What is your academic philosophy?

Mrs Cooney: There was a very popular programme called 'Friends' when I was young and one of the characters, Joey, could not join in any conversations as he never contributed in lessons when he was at school. If our students can contribute to conversations then we have succeeded in our teaching and learning, for example by sitting around a table having informative discussions or by ending up doing whatever job they have always dreamt of. We want to develop students who love learning so that students don't end up like Joey but have the ability to learn about anything that interests them. It is not just about money, it is about learning how you can teach yourselves and find out the answers to any questions. For example, Mrs Finucane is a Biology teacher but is very well educated and was able to train herself to also be a Computing teacher because she has learnt skills that has resulted in being able to teach herself in other areas.

2. a) Why are we not allowed to go into other forms at wet lunch/breaktimes?

Mrs Cooney: The reason we don't allow this is to keep you safe. If a large number of students are in one room then this could be dangerous. You go to your form room, we know there will be no clashes with the students in your form as the forms are well thought out to ensure that arguments don't happen.

b) In some other schools I know of, they end school early or have half days on one day a week, why do we not have them?

Mrs Cooney: The government expectation is that students have to be in the school building for 32.5 hours each week. To be able to get early leave would mean that you would have to work extra time to make up this number of hours. Students do get half days when we break up for Christmas and Summer holidays though.

3. Could we make our school a little more Eco-friendly?

Mrs Cooney: We are trying to make our school as eco-friendly as possible and we do have an Eco-Committee which is very useful. We had the entire roof changed last year and had extra insulation installed so that the school stays warmer. All lights in the building have been changed to ELD which has reduced the power costs by a third. The Trust is arranging for solar panels to be installed on the roofs of school buildings. Although it is not possible for these to be put onto the roof of the main school, the sixth form building does have solar panels installed. We are also trying to obtain funding to replace the gas boilers with heat exchangers which are more environmentally friendly. Recycling is difficult as we have issues getting the bins emptied. The biggest issue we have is with plastic bottles. We are looking at water dispensers which contain squash. We are going to look at another school who use these so that we don't have single use plastic bottles in school. We also eat more healthily by reducing the number of meat products served in the canteen so once a week we have a 'meat-free day'.to once per week. We also make sure that we don't cook too much food so that wastage is reduced. If you do have any other ideas you would like to suggest, please send them to the Eco Committee. Also you can ask Miss Waraich to include information on the Student Bulletins so that students know how they can apply to join the Committee and how to be more eco-friendly.

4. In cases where a student has to walk from home but has cramps and shows up late by 10 minutes or less, is there a future where the school will exempt them from receiving a detention for their resilience? Especially with how high this school holds resilience, I don't think it is fair for them to get detentions.

Mrs Cooney: I do understand but I also have periods and how would it look if I turned up late or your form teacher didn't turn up to school? We are preparing you for the world of work and if you are repeatedly late for work you could lose your job or a bonus payment. There is medication that you can take for cramps and period pain. For young people under 16 years of age, prescriptions are free of charge and this medication can be prescribed by your doctor. Our rules are that detentions are issued if you are late as this can impact upon your learning and we are helping you to become good citizens which will make you more successful in life by teaching you these values. If this is a result of a medical condition, please encourage parents to contact the school so we can work together to find a solution.

5. What system does this school use and is it helpful to everyone?

Mrs Cooney: The average reading age was previously well below the national average and we are now getting nearer to the national average reading age. Our GCSE results were published yesterday and we are in the top 3% progress score of schools in the entire country which shows that the interventions in place are working but we are always looking at ways we can improve.

6. How many trips do we have in year 9 this year and will we have more?

Mrs Finucane: There are many trips planned for year 9 this year including a ski trip, French trip, end of year reward trip, outdoor activity trip plus there will be opportunities to go on curriculum area events. We are also hoping to arrange DoE events. Students should get involved in as many clubs and committees as possible so that you would get more opportunities for trips.

Mrs Cooney thanked the students for attending the Headteacher's Question Time session and for asking such interesting questions.

