



**KING EDWARD VI
LORDSWOOD
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**

**Headteacher's Question Time
8.40 a.m. Friday 13th March 2026
Headteacher's Office**

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

Mrs Cooney welcomed the students to the Headteacher's Question Time session. The students asked Mrs Cooney the following questions:-

1. Why did you choose to remove some of the drinks and foods from the canteen?

Mrs Cooney: We have an external catering provider, AIP, who provide our catering services and they offer the same menu across all schools in the Trust. When AIP suggested the introduction of Gen Juice, I agreed that our school would trial this as one of the largest issues we have is the number of plastic bottles on the school site which means we have to arrange a litter pick on a daily basis. Additionally, the rubbish collection is now charged by the weight of the rubbish bins collected which is impacted by the number of disposed plastic bottles. The rubbish is then taken to landfill sites which is not good for our efforts of recycling, so we have now moved to using non-plastic bottles.

2. If you could change one thing about this school, what would it be and why?

Mrs Cooney: The first change I would like to make would be to remove the need for a pastoral team. If I could remove all mental health, family and housing issues from our students, then they would be happy and would not need extra support from the pastoral team.

The other thing I would like to change are the toilets and the time students spend queuing to use the toilets in breaktimes. We do have a company coming into school shortly to view the building to see what can be done to improve the toilet situation.

Mrs Cooney asked the students what improvements they would like to see?

- Students suggested having a rota for leaving classrooms so that not everyone leaves at the same time as the corridors are too narrow and become congested.
- Students would like the teachers to come to them in classrooms rather than students having to queue in the narrow corridors.

Mrs Cooney explained that this is not feasible as we do not have sufficient classrooms to be able to do this.

- Students would like to see option blocks removed.
- **Mrs Cooney explained that we could not do this as removing option blocks would mean that we would not be able to timetable subject lessons .**

3. What are your top priorities for improving the school over the next year?

Mrs Cooney: My main priority is the number of students in the sixth form which needs to be larger. Although student numbers have increased over the past two years and we now offer more courses such as maths, sociology, law and criminology, we could still offer all the courses that students would like if we had more students enrolled this would be possible. I believe that the sixth form is the correct medium for students as they still receive pastoral support which most colleges do not offer.

I would also like to make the school building more effective with additional classrooms, a fitness centre, dance studio, upgraded toilets and a lift so that it is accessible and welcoming for all students.

We want to provide the highest quality of education to all our students, but especially to our SEN students. The teaching assistants are currently meeting with all parents of SEN students to ensure that we fully understand the issues that the students have.

4. Why is our school separated from the boys?

Mrs Cooney: Lordswood Boys and Lordswood Girls schools were originally built separately. For a period of time in early 2000, we joined together as a MAT. The schools were very different and the MAT did not work well with only two schools, so both schools joined different larger Trusts, although we do still work very closely together.

5. Why do we use copy books even though the worksheets and content tend to be the same each year. I was wondering why we don't use booklets that already include the content and exercises. Having booklets could help reduce the amount of paper and glue we use, which would be better for the environment. It might also save money in the long run since the materials wouldn't need to be printed and glued into our books as often. it would also be convenient and easy for students to catch up if we missed a lesson?

Mrs Cooney: Some subjects, such as history, already do this. At 'A' level we don't use books but we have folders – a lot of these departments use booklets. It depends on the teacher as most teachers use adaptive teaching. This means that there would be extra sheets which are not included in the booklet, as if students need additional support, extra lessons are often arranged in subjects such as English, Science and Maths. By the time students reach 'A' levels, it is important that you are able to maintain the organisation of the folders as this will be helpful to you when you leave school and having books helps you to learn these skills.

6. In RE, I think it would be a great opportunity for everyone to be able to learn about a wider majority of religions, or just have singular lessons for lesser known religions even if said religion is controversial. I feel that it would give us a wider view on people of different cultures while also giving us a better understanding of the world around us. I also know it would help us as a community to be more accepting of everyone we meet. Would this be possible anytime in the future or considered as a possibility for future lessons?

Mrs Cooney: we do cover most religions throughout years 7,8,9 and in years 10 and 11 we focus on GCSE RE and this requires us to follow a specific specification. There is no national curriculum for RE and Birmingham City Council write the curriculum for our area. As Birmingham is diverse, we have a very broad curriculum.

Mrs Cooney thanked the students for taking the time to attend the Headteacher's Question Time session and said that she is always very happy to hear the students' views.