

# Student Council Feedback



# Item 1-

Following on from the recent G7 summit and this week's COP26 summit where environmental issues are being discussed by our world leaders, what could be done in our own school community to ensure we are all working together to create a more environmentally friendly and sustainable school?

The first item we asked you to contribute to was how the Academy can become more sustainable as due to the pandemic many of the recycling activities had to stop and this subject had not been discussed with students recently. The ideas that have come from students are excellent. The Academy is currently developing an Environment & Sustainability Policy, which will incorporate the suggestions highlighted.

One of the suggestions was to reopen the Vocational Outdoor Learning Environment (VOLE) this was shut last year due to vandalism that took place during the lockdown and the cost to repair. Mr Parsons will be reviewing how we can best use the VOLE going forward and would be very pleased to hear from students what ideas they have in the coming months.

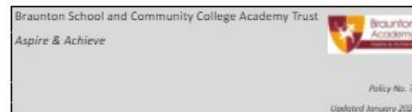
Mr Langmead also looking at the Curriculum in Geography to include a stand alone topic on Climate Change. We know that a large part in fight to mitigate climate change is to directly teach about the impacts of climate change and how we as individuals and communities can mitigate the negative impacts.

# Sustainability Policy and Eco Council

An Eco Council will consist of students from each year group elected by their peers. The Eco Council will aim to meet each half term to discuss ideas and campaigns. Minutes from each meeting are to be recorded by the Eco Council Co-ordinator and ideas fed back to the rest of the Academy and the wider community.

The Eco Council are responsible for

- Monitoring any litter problems in the wider community and address any problems.
- Promoting a litter free environment to other students.
- Reviewing and promoting sustainability throughout the school



## Environment & Sustainability Policy

### 1. Overview

Braunton School & Community College Academy Trust is committed to educating our students about environmental concerns and the importance of living sustainably. The Academy recognises its responsibility to ensure that students have the necessary skills and knowledge to understand environmental concerns, so that they can apply this to their lives and adopt an eco-friendly lifestyle.

The Academy will encourage both students and staff to think about the environment and how their actions will impact upon their local surroundings, as well as the global environment.

Effective use of this policy will ensure students are taught about environmental sustainability, promote an eco-friendly attitude, and ensure that the Academy itself is as sustainable as it can be.

### 2. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to legislation and guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Climate Change Act 2008
- The Ozone-Depleting Substances Regulations 2015
- Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Control of Pollution Act 1974
- Sustainability & Climate Change – A draft strategy for the education & children services systems – November 2021
- DfE (2012) 'Top tips for sustainability in schools'

### 3. Roles and responsibilities

The Finance, Estate & Audit Portfolio group is responsible for:

- Reviewing the environmental and sustainability policy
- Consider environmental impacts where any new buildings or refurbishments are being planned.

**Item 2** - Braunton Member Pioneer for the Co-op attended our meeting. The Co-op's current focus is a Lonely Not Alone campaign, which focuses on tackling loneliness within our local area. Do our students have suggestions on how best to help young people with this issue?

Mr Hulston from the Braunton Member Pioneer for the Co-op attended the meeting and recorded your feedback on your ideas on how to tackle loneliness within our local area. Mr Hulston was very impressed with your ideas and will be taking them back to the group to help create their development plan.

AOB

# The Canteen

Prices visible in canteen

Salad bar in canteen/ near snack shack

More vegetarian hot meals (other than pasta)

More food quantity in the canteen

Pizza twists in packaging- risks of previous handling by other students

Limit on unhealthy food in the canteen

Cartons of water and more drinks selection in the canteen

Fish and pescatarian options in the canteen

Remove highest attendance house first in the canteen

Hot and cold drinks machine

Less cheese on the canteen food

Snack shack open more regularly

# The Canteen - Action Taken

I have spoken to Mrs Piper who oversees the canteen and she has responded by saying.

The items raised will be discussed directly with the Catering Manager and we will ensure there is a more visible price list.

Food User Group meetings which were held on a regular basis to give students a voice, needs to be re-established. Any students who would like to participate, please see Mr Liversedge, who is the lead Governor for this group.

The comment about wanting the Snack Shack open more often is something we can not control at the moment. It should be open every day and this half term we have managed it every day but if we are short of staff in the main canteen we do have to shut the snack shack

# Extra curricular activities at Lunchtime

Netball courts and track to be used at lunchtime  
Activities in the playground  
Chess club every day

## Response

We know how much students enjoy activities at lunch time but they can also be very expensive. Every time we open a new area we have to pay someone to supervise it. We currently do not have the funds to employ another lunchtime duty supervisor to open up the netball courts or the athletics track. Mr Frickleton and the PE department have been very proactive in raising funds that have paid for the climbing walls to be added on the sports hall and science exterior walls. We are proposing more outside equipment to be bought in our new 5 year building plan but this will be dependent on securing additional funding.

It is wonderful how many students regularly access Chess Club. Many of our teaching staff such as Mr England give up their lunchtimes to run clubs which is amazing but they can't do it every day as they do need to use their time at lunch to do some lesson preparation and have a proper break.



# PE related suggestions

Less outdoor PE activities during winter

Cheaper football boots

More consistency on short short rules for girl's PE uniform

More sports tournaments inside school

More basketball in PE

# Response from Mr Frickleton

With only 1 large indoor space (Sports hall) we cannot have 3 classes (90+) students learning in one area and expect the teacher to be able to deliver high quality lessons where the students are highly active, having fun and learning throughout the winter. The dance studio is a good space which we would normally be using frequently during the winter, during covid and the serious lack of ventilation there, we haven't been able to use it as much as we would like too.

# Response from Mr Frickleton

Cheaper football boots - I cannot do anything about the price of football boots. What we can offer is for students and parents to donate their football boots to the reception who can then sell them on as used football boots at a very cheap price. All money received would go into the parent partnership. You can also search for cheap second hand boots on ebay or Facebook marketplace.

More consistency on short short rules for girl's PE uniform - Uniform standards in PE are fantastic at the moment thanks to the organisation and support of all students who deserve credit for looking so smart when in PE. We have tried over the last few years to be as consistent as possible, it's not perfect but we are striving to be. Thankfully we are only seeing a very small minority of students who are still being reminded by the Academy standards of uniform and PE kit. It would really help if all students that choose to wear the very short style of shorts first of all make sure that they are suitable for a school setting and are a sensible length. They could also check with the PE staff before removing the labels too.

# Response from Mr Frickleton

More sports tournaments inside school - If this is referring to house tournaments then I am very open to this. We currently do termly house competitions that we could do half termly if the senior leadership team would support this and give the PE staff time out during period 6 to run these competitions.

More basketball in PE - We have already put more basketball on the PE curriculum this year for some groups. We also have an extra curricular Basketball club on Fridays after school for students to attend. We can also direct any student that is interested towards external Basketball clubs in the community which do take place.

# School uniform comments

School coat

Revise coat policy

PE hoodies

More options of PE shirts (non-collared)

More comfortable school jumpers

More jewellery allowed

Other years allowed to wear blazers- this takes away the earned

KS4 speciality

More non-uniform days

# School Uniform Response

There were a number of comments about the Academy's uniform. The government has brought in new guidance about school uniform that means there has to be a full review of our current school and PE uniform before the end of the year. This does not mean that the uniform will be completely changed but there will be the opportunity for students, parents and staff to discuss any changes that could be made to improve the uniform and reduce the overall cost.

I am aware that Key Stage 4 students have previously been the only year groups to wear the blazer and that it has been important to them to have that distinction as they move into key stage 4. We trust you understand that with the increased ventilation issues caused by covid it is unfair to KS3 students not to give them the option to wear the blazer to keep warm. However this does mean we need to talk to students about what alternative changes we can make to the uniform for KS4 students so that this difference in identity continues next year.

Restrictions on jewellery will remain in place as part of the health and safety requirements and general expectations of high standards of appearance.

# Bigger Bike Shed

We want as many students as possible to walk or cycle to school everyday. It is very healthy for you but also improves our environment and makes what is currently a very busy road safer.

The Academy are currently working on the next 5 year Building and Capitation plan, where this item will be added. Although the Academy has some key projects which will need to take priority to meet curriculum needs before we are able to allocate money to this project.

# Toilets

Humanities toilets 3 girls: 1 boys to reduce queues

Doors on the quad toilets

Sanitary products in the toilets fall off the dispenser- more secure dispenser

## Response:

The Quad toilets are fitted with doors to each individual toilet not to the entrance. The entrance is open to aid ventilation and support safeguarding so that these areas are open to supervision throughout the day. Doors won't be added to the entrance area for these reasons.

The Humanities toilets are being changed so that all four toilets are unisex to reduce the queues.

Mr Magson will look if dispensers can be put in place.



# The times of the school day

Shorter lessons, 30 minutes, with increased doubles and triples

More movies in class

Computers to be used in tutor groups and classrooms

iPads to be reintroduced to tutor groups and classrooms

1 day a week in the computer room per tutor

Phones allowed in Period 6 for work only

Ensure the bell rings on time

# The times of the school day - Response

The time of each lesson is reviewed each year as part of the curriculum model and to ensure the optimum time for learning in the current context. Timing of lessons is complicated and whichever model is used e.g. 50, 60 or 90 minute lessons does not suit every subject area. We will continue to review this each year. Changes like this can only be done once a year when the timetable is made in September. If there were to be a change this would be discussed with staff and students before it happened.

It would be wonderful if we could give all students access to the computer room once a week but with only two full computer rooms this is just not possible. We also only have a limited number of ipads that can be booked out for lessons. Financing computer equipment is extremely expensive and our school budget is not big enough to increase the computer equipment as much as we would need to do this. We are planning to increase the number of computers in the Technology department and in other areas of the Academy to be ready in September 2023 which will help a little but not enough to allow all forms to access these rooms on a regular basis.

# The times of the school day - Response

The policy on mobile phones will not be changed. Although they can be helpful for research during period 6 the scientific evidence continues to prove that having mobile phones around you or even in your pocket where you can feel it has a very negative impact on your ability to remain focused on a task. The distraction of mobile phones is too damaging to learning to change the policy.

The bells have been changed since the meeting to sync with the computers.