

Pupil Voice Meeting 6th September 2017: Senior Leadership Team Responses

You said:

We could support the school show and other school events by doing fundraising events such as Dalkeith's Got Talent; Teachers v Pupils Bake Off; art sale or themed disco.

We responded:

The PTA is very keen to continue to build links with pupils and fundraising is a great way to do this. Pupil Voice representatives should discuss these ideas with the PTA and the relevant S6 committees. The idea of a sale of art is particularly appealing given the incredible skills on display in the school.

You said:

The PE department doesn't have all the resources it needs for a full range of activities.

We responded:

Health and wellbeing is a key priority for the school. In addition to school funds, the PTA have generously agreed to support a re-stock for PE in order to have as many young people active and included as possible. Pupil Voice representatives should consult with the PE department to discuss equipment priorities.

You said:

There are lots of school trips but not everyone can afford these.

We responded:

Dalkeith is an inclusive school and no pupil should miss out on a learning opportunity because of financial pressures at home. All letters advertising trips with costs attached will include a statement reminding parents/carers that financial support is available if required.

You said:

The lunch hall continues to get busier; how can we make sure people have places to go?

We responded:

The provision of lunch clubs for pupils makes a real difference to the volume of traffic in the dining hall and, it's thanks to these that we've managed to make the introduction of the new S1 very smooth. We have already invested in more seating, with benches for inside and outside ordered and ready to be installed soon. PTA funds supported this, as did funding from Tesco. We are also going to investigate the use of the former bike sheds as an outside sheltered area.

You said:

Lots of pupils would really appreciate somewhere they could fill their water bottles.

We responded:

We used freestanding water units previously, but there were issues with cost and the associated mess with plastic cups. Pupils who need to re-fill water bottles are able to do so at the kitchen at present, but we understand that can be tricky at busy times. Parent Council members were also keen to open up discussion in this area. SLT will take forward different options in discussion with the facilities management team from BAM.

You said:

Although most pupils agree that school uniform helps them to be ready for work and helps prevent bullying, some people would like a return to polo shirts or black shirts.

We responded:

The review of school uniform was conducted in conjunction with the Parent Council and with pupil focus groups at the end of last session. One key change was made, in that blazers are now compulsory only for office bearers, rather than the whole of S6. Although there was a range of views amongst the pupils, the overall agreement was that the simplicity of a white shirt and tie made it much easier to comply with the school uniform and for teachers to check everyone in their class was wearing it. This makes school uniforms checks quicker, and frees up time for learning and teaching.