

30<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Student Voice Committees**

Spring Term 2023 has been an exciting time for Student Voice at Ashmole Academy.

We currently have eight student voice committees, which reflect our whole school commitment to listening to the views, wishes and experiences of our student body.



Each committee has a set of shared aims, which are:

- To provide a platform for students to have a say in the running of the school, knowing that they will be listened to and that their views will be seriously considered.
- To respect students as partners in their own education and in improving the school community.
- To enable students to share and exchange ideas within and across year groups.
- To give students direct experience of democratic processes, creating new initiatives, solving problems and achieving their goals.
- To ensure students have the right to express their views on matters that affect life in school, and to have their views taken into account, as called for in Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In the Autumn Term, the committees met to discuss their priorities and strategies for this academic year. After gathering the views of the student body, each committee came up with a range of ideas for school improvement projects. In the Spring Term, these ideas were pitched to the Head Teacher. I am delighted to update you on the projects that have been approved for implementation in the Summer Term.

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The **Equalities Committee** and the **Charities Committee** have teamed up and will be organising a Culture Day to raise money for a local, national and international charity. The committees sent out a survey so every student could suggest charities to support. Great Ormond Street Hospital, Cancer Research UK and Save the Children were selected following this vote.

The **Catering Committee** will be focussing on ways to improve the queuing system at break and lunch as well as looking at ways to enhance the general experience of students using the refectory.

The **Wellbeing Committee** will be organising a wellbeing day in May to support and promote positive mental health for students and staff.

The **Green Committee** are launching a campaign to reduce waste and litter. Part of this will be the promotion of plastic reusable lunchboxes as an alternative to disposable foamed polystyrene boxes. The committee have also set up a gardening club and made links with Ashmole Primary School's Eco Warriors, making sure that environmental sustainability remains a constant priority.

The **Extra-Curricular Committee** have already set up a record number of clubs and activities this academic year. The committee's next project will be organising a chess tournament for all year groups, as this sport has been surging in popularity at Ashmole Academy.

The **Site Committee** are looking to landscape the front lawn and redesign aspects of the school's Reception area. The committee will also be sourcing outdoor clocks for the Hammerhead and Languages Quad areas, in response to feedback from the student body.

Finally, this term the **Form Reps and Senior Team** have been considering how we can improve our values-based rewards system and asking students for their views.

I would like to thank and congratulate all our student committee members for their phenomenal hard work and thank all parents and carers for their support. If your child is not yet a member of one of our committees and would like to join one, they should contact me via Firefly or see me in person.

Participation in school decision making fosters a sense of social responsibility in our young people. The impact of this is wide reaching and is an area that we are continuing to grow and develop further at Ashmole Academy.

Your faithfully



Mr M Watton  
**Assistant Head Teacher**