 **Mount Lourdes Grammar School**

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**Student Council Bulletin – June 2017**

This is the June bulletin produced by the Student Council. At the last Student Council meeting in April 2017 the following areas were addressed and discussed with the help of Mrs Cullen and Mrs McKeever.

* Promoting Year 8 Games Club
* Possibility of wearing MLE jersey for PE rather than white polo shirt
* PE kit supplier
* Transport options for students who stay over for afterschool activities
* Canteen issues
* Year 13 activities / opportunities
* Mental Health issues
* AOB

**Activities for Year 8 students**

Following the Student Council meeting in November 2016 it was arranged that board games would be available for Year 8 students on a Wednesday and Thursday morning in Room 6. Board games were donated by the staff and Year 13 students volunteered to help out. Unfortunately this venture has not been taken up by students. Year 8 representatives Carla McCool and Aoife Haughey explained that they had published the morning activities at both Morning Assembly and in form class. Upon evaluation it was felt that despite a request from Year 8 students for this event, the morning time was perhaps not the best occasion. It was decided that this event would be piloted again for Year 8 students next year but would be available one day a week at lunchtime in a particular classroom.

**PE Kit supplier / Possibility of wearing MLE jersey for PE rather than white polo shirt**

Year 9 and 10 representatives discussed the possibility of changing the PE kit supplier and consequently having the option of wearing the MLE jersey during PE rather than the white polo shirt. Mrs McKeever suggested that a meeting be arranged with Mrs Owens Head of the PE Department to discuss this matter further. On the 17th May Carla Ryan met with Mrs Owens and outlined the request that had been made. Carla explained that if the kit supplier was changed to O’Neill’s Sports Wear it would enable students to buy the kit in the local shop or have the option of buying it on-line throughout the year. Cost was also discussed and Carla felt that students could have the option of either wearing the Mount Lourdes jersey or white PE t-shirt for PE classes.

Mrs Owens agreed to contact O’Neill’s to find out more information and arranged a follow up meeting with Carla to discuss design ideas.

In June Mrs Owens informed the student council that O’Neill’s will now stock the Mount Lourdes kit.

**Transport options for students who stay over for afterschool activities**

Year 11 representative Grace McCann discussed transport options that were available to students who attended afterschool activities. Grace explained that while students who travelled on an Ulsterbus service could access services later in the evening and use their bus pass, students who travel by Education buses could not and had to pay for their transport if they took an Ulsterbus. Mrs Cullen informed students that Fermanagh Rural Lift did provide a service for a set fee from the school gates to their home and that there were posters about this on display around the school. Mrs McKeever explained that Mrs McCaughey manages school transport and that it would be useful to discuss this matter with her further. Mrs McKeever also suggested that Mount Lourdes join with another school council and that they present a joint argument possibly through the learning community to raise the issue. Mrs McCarron is the school liason officer for the Fermanagh Learning Community and she will raise this issue at the next meeting in September.

**Canteen Issues**

Year 12 representatives discussed canteen issues. They noted that the previous meeting with the Canteen Supervisor had been successful and a wider variety of foods and more fruit had been made available in the canteen. Year 12 representatives suggested that although they were going on study leave shortly they would like that food would be left out longer during second lunch. It was agreed that students would speak to the canteen supervisor about this in September. Mrs McKeever also informed the student council that improvement works on the canteen are due to start shortly and plan to be completed in January 2018.

**Year 13 activities / opportunities**

Year 13 representatives said they would like to have more activities / opportunities that Year 13 students could avail of and subsequently reference on their university applications. Mrs McKeever encouraged students to be proactive and show leadership skills in bringing new ideas forward. Mrs McKeever suggested that students investigate possibilities and bring these to the next meeting at the start of next year.

**Mental Health Issues**

Year 14 representatives spoke about the importance of raising awareness on mental health issues. Mrs McKeever and Mrs Cullen agreed this was an area that the student council should focus on next year and which would support the awareness that is currently being raised through the PD programme and by the various guest speakers that have delivered talks relating to mental health during the year.

**AOB**

**Update on Healthy Snacks Vending Machine**

Year 9 representatives Emily Prunty and Carla Ryan researched options for the vending machine and had a follow up meeting with Mrs Colton School Administrator. Mrs Colton is currently reviewing the request in light of new guidelines from the Department of Education.

**Heating**

Student Council members have been working on ‘Close the door / Keep the heat in’ and ‘Close the window / Keep the heat in’ stickers which they will put up round the school at the start of the new school year.

**The following suggestions were made through the Student Council Suggestion Box placed outside the main staffroom**

**A Non Uniform Day**

The school fund raising committee organised a non-uniform day on 16th March 2017. The money raised went towards the schools designated charities.

**Juniors to be allowed to go to the canteen at break time**

Key Stage 3 representatives on the Student Council were asked to inform their respective year groups that from 8th May until the end of term junior students could use the canteen at break time. The use of the canteen by junior students will be reviewed again when refurbishments to the canteen have been completed.