 **Mount Lourdes Grammar School**

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**Student Council Bulletin – January 2017**

This is the January bulletin produced by the Student Council. At the last Student Council meeting in November 2016 the following areas were addressed and discussed with the help of Mrs Cullen and Mrs McKeever.

* Activities for Year 8 students
* Healthy snack vending machine
* Canteen issues
* ICT facilities
* Senior to be allowed out at lunchtime
* Heating

**Activities for Year 8 students**

Year 8 representatives discussed activities for Year 8 students in the mornings / break time / lunchtimes. They explained that students would like to have something to do maybe board games in the mornings before form class. Mrs McKeever explained that a number of extra-curricular activities are available and asked Carla McCool and Aoife Haughey to publicise the extra-curricular timetable with their year group. She suggested that Mrs Cullen and Year 8 representatives speak to the Head of Year 13 – Mr Connolly to see whether any Year 13 students would be interested in volunteering to run the board games mornings.

Following a meeting with the Head of Year 13 and a request for Year 13 volunteers to help out with the board games mornings, it has been arranged that board games will be available for Year 8 students on a Wednesday and Thursday morning in Room 6. Board games were kindly donated by the staff.

**Healthy Snacks Vending Machine**

Year 9 representatives discussed having a healthy snack vending machine. They explained that the water vending machine had been very successful and that there is a lot of interest from their year group in such a machine. They also suggested that an ideal location would be opposite the water vending machine. Mrs McKeever asked Mrs Cullen to make an appointment for Year 9 students to have a meeting with the school administrator to discuss this further.

This meeting took place on 10th January. Mrs Colton the school administrator agreed that a healthy snack vending machine would be a strong possibility but asked the students to research what healthy snacks would be included in the vending machine. Year 9 representatives Emily Prunty and Carla Ryan are currently researching options and will hold a follow up meeting with Mrs Colton in the coming weeks.

**Canteen Issues**

Year 10 and Year 11 representatives both discussed canteen issues. A request for a wider variety of foods and more fruit to be available in the canteen was made. Further suggestions included a separate sandwich bar, smoothies, healthy juices and cereal bars. Year 10 and Year 11 representatives held a meeting with Mrs McPike the Canteen Manager. She explained that she had in the past put on a number of vegetarian options but that students were not purchasing them. She said that she would try them again and hopefully they would be more successful. Mrs McPike agreed to order Fruit Bursts which were popular with students and would also try options like watermelon, fruit salad and other seasonal fruit. Mrs McPike explained that unfortunately staffing and the layout of the current canteen would not enable a separate sandwich bar. However there are plans to enhance the school canteen and these suggestions will be kept in mind.

**ICT facilities**

Year 12 raised the issue of the computers in room 10. There are not enough computers and some students are having difficulty logging in and with their user domain. Mrs McKeever explained that she has been working with the ICT technicians recently and that she will raise these maintenance issues with the technicians.

Since the student council meeting in November the facilities in Room 10 have been upgraded.

**Senior students to be allowed out of school at lunchtime**

Year 13 representatives wanted to know would it be possible for seniors to leave school at lunchtime. They explained that such an option would allow students to meet their various dietary preferences. Mrs McKeever explained that this request had been raised at various stages over the past years. She explained that it would not be achievable due to the amount of monitoring required to ensure students had returned to school after lunchtime. This would be particularly difficult in Mount Lourdes given the large number of senior students.

**Heating**

Year 14 representatives were concerned with the heating in some of the classrooms. Mrs McKeever noted that this was an issue and that doors and windows were being left open in the cold weather. She asked that the representatives take note of the rooms of particular concern and that Mrs Cullen set up a meeting between Mrs Colton and the Year 14 student council members.

This meeting took place on 13th January 2017. Mrs Colton took note of the rooms that were of particular concern and said that this would be passed on to Mr Gunn. Mrs Colton also asked students if there were future concerns that they inform the classroom teacher who in turn would then contact her. The student council said they were keen to work in partnership with the school on this issue and would like to produce door stickers similar to the fire door stickers to ensure doors are be closed (i.e. Close the door / Keep the heat in). Mrs Colton complemented the students on their initiative and would be keen to see proofs of their suggestions. Year 13 and Year 14 representatives are currently working on this.

During their work on this area, the student council have come across interesting information in a leaflet from the Energy Saving Trust. The leaflet ‘Energy Myth Busting’ is available on the student council section of the school website.