

Woodbridge Road Academy Council Meeting

Thursday, 12th June 2025

Attendees: NS, BD, GJ, GK (apologies SM)

1. Ofsted

Following the Ofsted inspection on w/c 2nd June, the school has received the first draft of the Ofsted report which is very positive. They expect to receive the final report before the end of the month.

The leadership team are very grateful to all the staff for their efforts to ensure the inspection run smoothly.

2. Curriculum changes for next year

Plenty of changes in the school have been implemented this year, with a special mention to the forest school and the vegetable patch. The forest school has been very successful in terms of pupil engagement, teamwork and social skill development with the pupils taking ownership of the initiative.

Both programs will be carried on into next year, with the addition of a new shed and a chicken pen - the pupils are very excited about this.

Two new Y7 classes will start in Sep (19/20 pupils). For the first time, siblings of existing pupils will be joining the school. To accommodate this extra intake, teachers have been recruited, and the school will imminently advertise for Teaching Assistant positions.

In terms of curriculum, Key Stage 3 English will see some changes next year. Key Stage 3 Maths was already modified this previous year, with the changes being very positive for the pupils.

More options will be added to Key Stage 4: Construction, Computing (on-line lessons), History, Sports B.Tech... in addition to the existing: Photography, Catering and DoE (Bronze level, while Silver is being considered as an option for Y10 and Y11).

At the moment, options are discussed in Y9 in a very low-key way. Going forward, with more options on the table, the selection process will likely be more formal.

The school will continue its ethos of not set pathways for pupils, no ceilings - leaving the decision on what route to follow for each pupil as late as possible. Besides GCSEs, the school will be offering iGCSEs and, as a back-up, entry level Science and Maths for Y9. Additionally, some pupils will be offered life skills qualifications.

3. Pupil Council update

This initiative has worked brilliantly, and they have taken their role as pupils representatives within the school very seriously. Lately, the pupil Council has started to engage externally. In March they met the SEND Operations Board to present ideas and suggestions on behalf of the school. They will meet the SEND Improvement Board

in September, again to bring forwards the school views. On top of this, they are expecting to present to SENDIAS when they visit the school; they will present to the Academy Principles in their upcoming meeting and they will attend the next meeting of main/special schools in Ipswich (which will take place in our school).

For the Councillors, this is a fantastic opportunity to develop public speaking skills. Not all of them are yet comfortable with this but they are getting into it.

The Council meets fortnightly and are currently exploring how they can help with the transition/onboarding of new students.

4. Any other business

There are nine school leavers this year. Some of them have been in the school since its formation.

This is the last council meeting Beatriz will be attending. She has been a school councillor for the last three years, having joined when the school started in the previous building. Naomi thanked Beatriz for her support during the last three years.