



**Year 7 Headteacher's Question Time**  
**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021**  
**1.15 p.m. – 1.55 p.m. – G10**

**Panel: Mrs Cooney, Mrs Peniket, Miss Millward**

**Miss Millward welcomed the year 7 students to their first Headteacher's Question Time session and the following questions were asked:-**

**Are we going to have any school trips?**

**Mrs Peniket:** I always take year 7 students to the theatre at Christmas and to Dudley Zoo in September. Unfortunately these trips have been cancelled due to COVID but hopefully the Dudley zoo trip will go ahead in June or July next year.

**Mrs Cooney:** a lot of the theatres were unsure whether they would be open for plays and pantomimes this year but we hope to be able to arrange theatre trips again soon.

**Why are subjects like music and cooking important?**

**Mrs Peniket:** We have to follow the curriculum and music, PE and cooking will broaden your outlook in life and will provide you with more options in the future.

**Mrs Cooney:** in society it is very important that you study the breadth of subjects which will allow you to apply for different careers.

**Why are we learning how to multiply, divide, subtract and add when we should be learning things like percentages and fractions?**

**Mrs Peniket:** Mr Pearce was unable to attend the session today but he has provided the following information for me to pass onto you:-

From 22nd of November until the end of this week, all of year 7 are following the intervention scheme of work, which has been put together using information from the most recent assessment. Each year 7 teacher has highlighted a number of topics that each group struggled with on the assessment and are teaching these now in order to close gaps in student knowledge. Many of these topics are things that would normally have been covered in year 6, but the assessments suggest that this isn't the case, maybe due to the disrupted school year. For 7x1 (Mariam's group), they should have spent about 3 lessons on skills associated with multiplication and division, but will also be covering calculating with fractions, converting between fractions and decimals and using inequalities to compare numbers - all of which were also areas for development across the group. After Christmas all students will revert back to the core scheme of work and will therefore be studying 'Angle and Polygons'. Mr Pearce

**Do you teach any lessons?**

**Mrs Cooney:** Not at the moment. I am a science teacher and I teach chemistry. Sometimes I do take cover lessons. I really enjoy teaching and I miss chatting to the students when I am not taking lessons.

**Were you worried or scared when you first became Headteacher?**

**Mrs Cooney:** I was absolutely petrified and I still am! Someone once said to me that if you are not a little nervous at the start of term then it is time to give up, as we have a massive commitment to the students to ensure that you all get the best education that we can possibly give to you and we also have the responsibility to keep you safe during the day.

**When one of your students is upset or angry and they come to you, what do staff do to help them?**

**Mrs Peniket:** If students are upset or angry, you can always come and see your Review Tutor, Achievement Co-ordinator (myself), Mrs Baxter or visit Place2Be. Sometimes issues can be resolved easily but sometimes other intervention is needed and this can be arranged.

**Are we going to have a house system when we become a King Edward's school?**

**Mrs Cooney:** I am afraid that I don't know at this stage. I understand that you did have a house system at Lordswood previously but not anymore but we can look at resurrecting this.

**Miss Millward:** students used review group letters previously as the house system as the points system was very difficult to manage and we didn't have the resources to do this properly.

**What has the school done to reduce its carbon footprint?**

**Mrs Riley:** School Council will be looking at this and students will be asked for ideas. We will look to restart the recycling programme again and also look at whether lighting and computers can be switched off when not in use. We are having to keep the windows open due to COVID so we are having to keep the heating on more than normal but any ideas you have can be sent to me.

**Why are the school hijabs so expensive?**

**Mrs Peniket:** The material used has to be robust as they are washed constantly and so have to be good quality as it is part of the school uniform. We try to keep it consistent so that every student wears the same type and colour of hijab.

**What does nein mean in German as my cousins are from Germany and often say this?**

**Mrs Cooney:** It means no.

**When will we change our uniform?**

**Mrs Cooney:** this has not yet been decided as we need to discuss this with the Student Council in the first instance and following this students, staff and parents will be consulted regarding this.

**What is the name of the new school?**

**Mrs Cooney:** It will probably be King Edward Lordswood Girls' School but this is not definite yet as the decision will be discussed as the Headteachers' board meeting in December. Steering meetings will then follow to finalise things such as the uniform and the school name.

**Miss Millward thanked all the students for attending the session and for asking such interesting questions.**