



**Year 10 Headteacher's Question Time
Tuesday 1st February 2022**

1.15 p.m. – 1.55 p.m. (Room G10)

Panel: Mrs Cooney, Mrs Verma, Mr Goetschel, Mrs Yorke

Mrs Yorke welcomed the year 10 students to the Headteacher's Question Time session as we are always interested to learn of the questions that students would like to ask. The students directed the following questions to the panel.

a) What happens if we fail our mock exams? b) What happens if we fail our option choices but pass the core subjects maths, science and English?

a) Mrs Verma: you won't fail your exams as you are preparing and learning everything you need to know all of the time. If you are not performing as well as expected at the moment and you are not getting the grades expected, then you must speak to your teacher who will support you. When you do your mocks, if you do not get the grades you would like, it's not the end of the world. It is not about passing or failing the exams, it is about doing your best.

Mrs Cooney: I think that this is a mindset and it is your opportunity to understand what you don't know and you can then re-focus upon improving and learning from mistakes, rather than focussing on passing or failing.

b) Mrs Verma: with regard to failing your option choices, we do not think that core subjects are any more important than your option choices. Every subject is of equal importance.

Mrs Cooney: There will be no need to change any of your options.

Mr Goetschel: There will be areas where you will do better than in other areas, but in year 11 we can look at the areas that you need to work on.

Will our Year 10 mock exams be based on things learnt in Years 7-10?

Will we have a mock exam for PE?

Mrs Verma: Your exams will be based upon the work that you have been doing for GCSEs. You build upon the subject content each year and then use the knowledge that you have gained since year 7. With regard to a mock exam for PE, if you study GCSE PE then you will have a mock exam for both theory and practical.

Are we going to have formula sheets for GCSE exams?

Mrs Verma: There will be normal formula sheets for all science subjects and maths.

Mrs Cooney: You will need to learn all formula sheets.

How are you finding your job at LGS?

Mrs Cooney: I really love my job at LGS. The staff are nice and they really care about the students. The students are polite and want to learn and this makes my job so much easier. The lack of money, the work around the King Edward merger and staff absences due to COVID are making things more difficult but I wake up each morning and look forward to coming into work each day.

What is your favourite thing about Lordswood?

Mrs Cooney: Students are my favourite thing as it is the reason I chose to become a teacher. My favourite things are the morning, lunchtime and after school duties as this gives me a lot of opportunities to see students as I really like talking to you all.

What was your favourite subject when you were at school?

Mrs Cooney: I really liked Science because I liked the fire experiments and that is why I chose to become a Science teacher. I also liked drama as I do like to talk a lot and I loved being able to be dramatic without people thinking I was weird.

What are the reasons for Lordswood joining the King Edward's Trust and what will it achieve?

Mrs Cooney: Single academy trusts have no other schools in their trust and multi-academy trusts have many schools in their trust; we are a single academy trust. You have probably seen on the news that the Government wants schools to belong to a multi-academy trust as there are many benefits. It is like if you are single and living in a house alone, then it is expensive living on your own and paying all the bills yourself and it can be lonely at times. By joining a multi-academy trust you become part of a family and you then have the advantage of being able to share costs and ideas. We will have more money to spend on students and teachers will have the opportunity to share ideas with other teachers that will enable us to provide a better quality of education for students.

What is the biggest change that will happen in school after we join the King Edward's Trust?

Mrs Cooney: the biggest changes will be the school logo and change of school name. The uniform logo will change and the LGS logo will be replaced with the KEVI logo. The school name will change to KEVI Lordswood School for Girls'. The staff and SLT will be the same but other people will be able to come into school to help us.

How will LGS becoming a King Edward's School affect us in Years 10 and 11?

Mrs Cooney: The changes will be as outlined above and there will not be any other things that will affect you in years 10 and 11. When you apply for a place in a sixth form, King Edward are known for their high quality of education that will help you to secure a place. There will be no change to exam boards as these will remain the same.

LGS promotes LGBT issues, can we also promote the Black Lives Matter movement as they are both equally important?

Mr Goetschel: I absolutely agree that they are both equally important. We already do a lot for Black Lives Matter. The October edition of Loudspeaker articles related to the Black Lives Matter movement and an assembly took place in October that was also dedicated to this movement. The next edition of the Loudspeaker will be focusing on culture.

Mrs Cooney: It is about our culture as a school and the things that we do and do not tolerate. It is not just about Loudspeaker or one off assemblies, it is about if anyone gets things wrong, we all need to have a responsibility to educate everyone regarding what is acceptable behaviour.

When we change our uniform will the uniform for year 11 students also change?

Mrs Cooney: We are currently conducting a uniform survey so a change in uniform is not guaranteed. If we do change the uniform we would not expect everyone to go out and buy a new uniform. Most schools 'phase in' a new uniform. This means that for a year, students can choose to wear the old or new uniform, then as they grow out of the old uniform, they swap to the new uniform.

The Headteacher thanked the students for giving up their lunchtimes to attend the session and ask such interesting questions as it was lovely to speak with them.