

Lordswood Girls' School

QuestionTime



Year 7 Headteacher's Question Time
Tuesday 22nd March 2022 - 1.15 p.m. – 1.55 p.m. (G10)

Panel: Mrs Cooney, Mrs Peniket, Mrs Verma, Mrs Yorke, Mrs Aston, Mrs Hughes, Mrs Riley

Mrs Yorke welcomed the students to the Headteacher's Question Time session and the panel were asked the following questions:-

What job did you do before you worked here?

Mrs Cooney: I worked at a number of different schools, as Head of Department, Head of Faculty, Assistant Headteacher and also in a teaching and learning role called a Lead Practitioner and a Deputy Head of multiple schools. Before teaching, I worked at Asda. I also worked at a Petrol Station so I have been involved in a number of different types of jobs over the years.

Are students allowed to sell tickets or do a raffle to raise money for charity?

Mrs Riley: You will need to come and have a chat to me to provide me with details of the raffle and where the donations will be going to. I will then discuss your proposal with SLT. We will be doing a fundraising week soon and one of the things that we may be arranging then is a raffle.

How do we access the prayer room?

Mrs Peniket: The prayer room is located upstairs, opposite the library, where there is a smaller room and next door to this room is the Prayer Room. Before you are able to go to the Prayer Room your parents will have to sign a form which is uploaded on the school website to say that you will adhere to the rules. You need to hand in the form to student reception who will then give you a pass.

Would it be possible for us to have enrichment activities during period 5 on a Friday?

Mrs Verma: Your timetable is filled with all the subjects that you have to study for 50 periods over two weeks. If you had enrichment activities during period 5 on a Friday, this would impact upon the teaching and learning of other subjects. That is why enrichment is arranged at lunchtimes and after school.

Students find it very hard to get ready for PE in the five minutes we are given. Would it be possible to have slightly more time to get changed?

Mrs Aston: Lessons start after the register has been taken and you are given 5 minutes to change into your PE kit so you have to change and then come straight out of the changing room to start your PE lesson. This does give you enough time to change as long as you don't start chatting to friends or go to the toilet during this time. You have to do 35 minutes of actual exercise during each lesson.

Mrs Cooney: You will be having a new uniform in September so have a chat with your parents as the details are included in the Parents' Bulletin this week. One of the changes is that you will be able to come into school in your PE kit if you have PE during lesson 1 and go home in your PE kit if you have PE during lesson 5. on the days that you have PE lessons. This will also allow the actual exercise time you have to be extended as you will not need to get changed for these lessons.

Why is it important to have rules in school?

Mrs Peniket: All schools have rules that students and staff have to abide by. Rules enable everyone to move safely around the building and there is a calmer working experience when rules are in place. They also keep you safe and help you to learn more effectively.

Do you have lots of work to do during the school day? What kind of things do you do?

Mrs Cooney: I have lots of meetings during the day. Today I came into school at 7.30 am and the first meeting was a diary meeting, looking at all SLT meetings taking place during the week, discussing events that have been requested by teachers to make sure they are safe to do and that they don't clash with other events. I then went into staff briefing where information is shared with staff. I then helped Mr Fox by covering lessons. A finance meeting followed this and we will have our weekly SLT meeting this afternoon. We have many meetings to make sure that the school is running smoothly. Monday is my favourite day as I do many school duties on this day and love speaking to the students.

Mrs Verma: Will we be doing DT as part of art or is it a separate subject?

We are currently discussing moving DT into the curriculum and this will be in Science, Art and Food Technology from September. DT will appear as a separate subject on the timetable, hopefully before you choose your options.

Why do we have PSHE days?

Mrs Hughes: PSHE are amazing days where we discuss many topics such as mental health wellbeing, IT safety online and you are given careers information. There is a large mix of subjects discussed during these sessions on how we can keep ourselves safe and happy throughout our lives.

Why are subjects like art, drama and food technology important?

Mrs Verma: These subjects are as important as maths, science and english which are the core curriculum. All subjects that you study make you a more rounded individual by providing you with skills for life and giving you a wider experience and knowledge of what actually goes on in the world so it is really important that you appreciate all lessons.

Mrs Cooney: if we all only did core curriculum subjects none of us would do music, food, PE, art, or drama so we include all of these subjects on the timetable so that we produce well balanced students who look forward to coming to school to learn. The broad and balanced days lessons provides you with the necessary skills for when you go to work.

What are you as the new Headteacher planning to bring to Lordswood over the next few years?

Mrs Cooney: We are looking at introducing DT and I am currently looking at various data systems to help make it easier for teachers. We are also joining King Edward VI and I am trying to keep the absolute best things and also trying to make other things even better.

What is the best part of your job and why?

Mrs Cooney: I really love doing my school duties. I became a teacher not because I like to do budgets and sit in meetings, but because I like to work with students as they are our future. Students say some kind and wonderful things to each other and I love to say good morning to you all but I do get upset if students don't answer me. I also like to chat to students at breaktime and lunchtime and say goodbye to them at the end of the day.

The students were asked if there was any other question they would like to ask:-

What are we doing about LGBT – can we change the noticeboard?

Mrs Riley: I have done some research with regard to the noticeboard. Please can you come and speak to me to highlight the changes that you are referring to. We do have an LGBT club in school and LGBT is included in the discussions we have on PSHE day.

Mrs Yorke thanked the students for giving up their time to attend the Headteacher's Question Time session and for their very interesting questions.