



## Year 8 Headteacher's Question Time

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022

1.15 p.m. – 1.55 p.m. – G10

**Panel: Mrs Cooney, Miss Briggs, Mrs Aston, Mrs Riley**

**Mrs Riley welcomed the students to the year 8 Headteacher's Question Time and the following questions were directed to the panel:-**

### **Will there be any trips in Years 8, 9 or 10?**

**Miss Briggs:** Now that COVID measures are being lifted this will hopefully become an option. It has to be recognised that organising a school trip requires a large amount of staff time which has to be completed in addition to their usual job. We also have to be mindful of the current financial climate as schools do not have unlimited funds to subsidise trips and many families are currently facing financial strains due to the increased costs of living.

### **Why are there cameras in some classrooms and corridors?**

**Mrs Cooney:** there have always been cameras in school for your safety. We can always track who is in the building at all times. At weekends we have external organisations coming into school for lettings so it is helpful for cameras to be in place. Cameras can see in the dark so if we do experience any break-in or burglary, we can check to see if anything has been stolen.

**Mrs Riley:** we have tracked many students who have done things that they shouldn't have done by viewing the CCTV footage.

### **Will we be taking part in activities with other King Edward schools once we have joined the trust?**

**Mrs Cooney:** there will be a lot of inter-school rivalry with KE schools with table tennis, chess and dance competitions being organised. Usually year 7 students from all the King Edward schools are invited to a large welcome event at the start of each year. The students usually go into the Grand Hall for this event but as there will be an extra 150 students when Lordswood joins King Edward, the Grand Hall will not be large enough so they are looking for other venues to be able to accommodate this number of students; fingers crossed it will still be able to happen.

### **Can we hold a fundraising event for different charities?**

**Mrs Riley:** We love raising money for charities and our students are brilliant at doing this. We have raised money for breast cancer now, children in need and comic relief. We may be able to hold a school council fund raising week at some point, so if you have any ideas for this, please tell your Student Council Rep.

### **Could we have a school basketball team?**

**Mrs Aston:** We did plan to before COVID. Last September we were playing basketball in school as there were no competitions between September and February but COVID restrictions have now been lifted so hopefully we will be able to arrange to do this now. We are hoping to have two netball and two basketball teams but we will need a few staff who are willing to give up their free time to be able to arrange this.

**Now that you know the school more, what do you think it's best qualities are?**

**Mrs Cooney:** The students and staff are definitely the best qualities at Lordswood. The students are really pleasant and always say good morning when they come into school. They also want to learn. The staff keep the heart of the school at the centre of everything they do. We are lucky the teachers always want to do their best for the students.

**How did you adjust to being the Headteacher of a new school?**

**Mrs Cooney:** I am still adjusting and have good and bad days. I am learning new things every day which I find really exciting and if there are things that I don't know, I ring helplines and King Edward's school to ask for assistance.

**Mrs Cooney, Miss Briggs, Mrs Vine/Mrs Aston**

**How long have you been a teacher?**

**Mrs Cooney:** in July it will be 20 years since I started teaching. I started as a Science teacher. I taught chemistry and then specialised in teaching and learning.

**Mrs Aston:** I started my teaching career at Lordswood Girls' School 7 years ago.

**Miss Briggs:** I started teaching at Lordswood Boys' School 10 years ago and then moved to teach at Lordswood Girls' School.

**What difference is there with teaching boys and girls?**

**Miss Briggs:** It is difficult to answer because I don't like to make generalisations, but the boys generally give everything a good go as they don't care if they get things wrong sometimes and they don't hold grudges. Some girls don't like to get things wrong, and this can sometimes limit their learning, and they do sometimes hold grudges. All teenagers are good fun to work with though.

**What advice would you give to students about education and career paths?**

**Miss Briggs:** There will be a lot of assemblies arranged on careers and review groups will focus on different career paths with teachers also giving you information during your lessons. There are also STEM events being organised, one is taking place next week so there will be lots of opportunities. Mrs Gager is now responsible for careers opportunities and will be able to help you. Students need to do their very best in school so that you get high grades which will give you good grounding for your future careers.

**What is involved in an Ofsted inspection and will changes be made because of our recent inspection?**

**Mrs Cooney:** I cannot share outcomes of the recent inspection until the Ofsted report is published. Ofsted inspectors are experts in their field. They visit lessons, look at books and speak to staff and students. On day 1 the inspectors looked at five different subjects and collected information on these. On day 2 they looked at the information collected a little further. Sometimes they ask to look at Pupil Premium, SEN or enrichment activities on day 2. They then write a report and send it to the Headteacher and the report is then uploaded onto the website and a letter will be sent to you and your parents. Ofsted always reports on things that they want to improve upon and this helps us to understand what we can do better.

**The students were asked if there were any other questions they wished to raise:-**

**Why do we have a school garden. Why cant we extend the building in that area to provide more space?**

**Mrs Cooney:** we can't afford to extend the building but every year we do put in a bid to try and obtain funding so that we can make improvements. It is nice having gardens but we cannot use the space at the moment as it is very slippery and boggy.

**Can you add things to the playground?**

**Mrs Cooney:** we have to be very careful because in PE you wear trainers but at breaktime and lunchtime you wear your normal shoes and we would be at fault if we put anyone at risk by putting equipment in the playground when they are not wearing the correct footwear.

**Will we have new gates on the playground?**

**Mrs Cooney:** we are obtaining quotes to replace the gates.

**The students were thanked for taking the time to attend the Headteacher Question Time session and thanked for their very interesting questions.**