



BASSETLAW YOUTH COUNCIL

MEETING NOTES

Thursday 3rd December 2015



Created by...



STUDENT VOICE
PRESIDENT TO OUTWOOD ACADEMY VALLEY

SPORTS FACILITIES

- Many government organisations talk about how important it is for teenagers to keep physically fit in order to maintain health and wellbeing.
- However, gym memberships can be rather expensive.
- We also realise that some of you don't wish to participate in organised sports yet hiring facilities can also be rather expensive.
- The Youth Council will talk more about this as the summer draws closer.

MENTAL HEALTH

- It has been raised that there's a lack of knowledge in mental health and how it affects people
- Some don't understand the difference between recovering from mental illness and recovering from physical illness. Others only have part of the knowledge and so sometimes self-diagnose themselves incorrectly.
- Secondary students would like to raise awareness and knowledge of mental health in schools. However, rather than have a member of school staff talk about the topic, they would prefer an external source to come into the Academies as this would get the point across much easier.
- It was also noted that young people health services, such as CAMHS, end once you turn 17-years-old, meaning that 18-year-olds are treated with 17-year-olds.
- Young Minds is campaigning for improved transition care post-18, stopping 16 and 17-year-olds getting lost in the system.

ISSUES AT NIGHT TIME

- It's a rather scary experience for a young person to walk through Worksop Town Centre at night time - especially on their own. Some students have to do this on a regular basis (such as the Air Cadets and sixth formers).
- Many students use the railway as a way to get to Sheffield, Meadowhall, Nottingham etc. But when returning (especially in winter), it may be dark. This can make it even more frightening when there is a very abusive passenger aboard.
- If you ever experience such a thing, we advise you to call the British Transport Police at 0800 40 50 40.

DISCRIMINATION

- It has been discussed that there is sometimes a stigma on those effected by mental illnesses.
- It has also been raised that there are some examples of racial and religious based abuse/discrimination within the community; the UK Youth Parliament spoke about this.
- The Outwood Grange Academies Trust operates and strictly enforces an anti-racism policy. This meaning that there aren't many cases of racial discrimination within Outwood Academy Valley and Portland, but also, students are heavily discouraged from saying such comments within the community.

A CURRICULUM FOR LIFE

- The UK Youth Parliament recently debated on schools offering a curriculum to prepare students for life.
- This includes political education, sex and relationships education, cultural awareness and finance skills.
- Outwood Academy Valley has changed its Key Stage Three Life curriculum to suit these needs and the Student Voice President to OAV is proposing a 'My Life' session for VMG time; a trial session for this will be completed by the Academy in the new year along with the rest of the VMG reform.



CAREERS EDUCATION

- The Bassetlaw District Council will be hosting the 'Big Ideas Big Ambitions' event soon. This will include a variety of employers, apprenticeship providers and university representatives.
- All schools (excluding the primary chain) part of the Outwood Grange Academies Trust pay for an externally-sourced careers service, Careers Inc, therefore ensuring that all students of Valley, Portland and the Worksop Post-16 Centre have sufficient education in careers.
- Outwood Academy Valley was recently awarded the Career Award for Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG).

INTERNET SPEEDS

- A Youth Councillor from Ranby raised how slow internet speeds can be. This can affect study, local business and the overall communication of rural areas.
- Fibre optic broadband is being installed within Worksop; this is where the electronic binary data from your computer travels to a green box via the traditional copper cable, it is then converted into light binary data and travels via optical fibres to another green box near its destination.

RETFORD SKATE PARK

- The current skate park in Retford was good in its time but wasn't designed to last.
- The skate park requires investment and we would like to get skaters involved - perhaps by creating a community interest group on Facebook.

TRAVEL CARDS

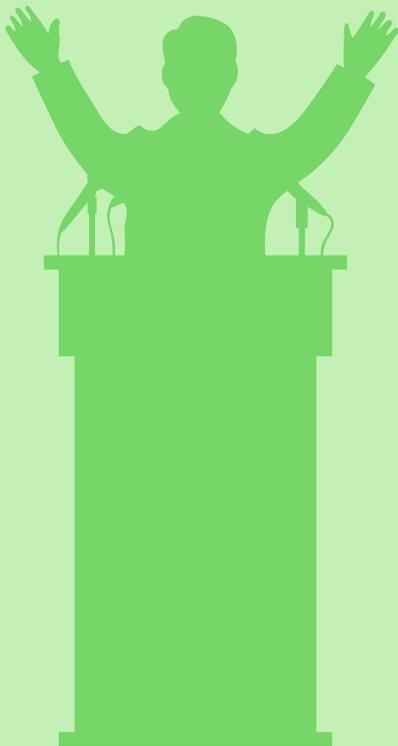
- In the first meeting, Blake Hull (Student Voice President to Outwood Academy Valley) explained that introducing a concession card of some type was part of his campaign.
- As part of the Bassetlaw pilot for the Total Transport Fund Nottinghamshire, student travel cards may be issued.
- Cllr Tracey Taylor will be arranging a meeting with Outwood Academy Valley's Student Voice regarding the student cards and public transport.
- Transport in rural areas and across county boundaries was also spoken about.

WORKSOP JUNIOR COUNCIL

- The Worksop Junior Council is an organisation including many members from our primary schools. The biggest concern they had was 'older kids' in the community.
- Student Voice President to Outwood Academy Valley, Blake Hull, has responded to this by including a plea of respect in his next edition of President's Notes. This includes the following...
- The play areas are provided by the council for all young people to enjoy. If we're ever in the younger section (this usually has a small green fence around it), I think it's appropriate to say that we should put younger children first and ensure that we don't intimidate them. I'd also like to ask, on behalf of the Worksop Junior Council and parents, that we're conscious of what language we use and what topics we discuss near such areas.



“The more we increase the active participation and partnership with young people, the better we serve them... and the more we work with them understandingly, the better we serve our entire community.”



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