



Dear Parents

6 October 2023

We held our first School Council Meeting of the year this year. Each Year Group from Year 3 upwards has 2 representatives. Each pair of representatives has been given a notebook by the (Prefect) Chair of the Council, Arlo Lambie. The book is used by the reps to record suggestions made by their peers, and these suggestions are discussed in the meeting. Below is a summary of the suggestions made:

1. More pegs in the pupil toilets and a lock repair in one cubicle – to be actioned
2. Consideration of other snacks to be sold on 'Ice Cream Friday' – to be discussed with the PSPA, as they run this weekly event
3. A MUFTI Day for the Mountbatten Hospice – to be added to the School Calendar
4. An appeal for more donations to the PSPA second hand uniform stock, including football boots – please accept this newsletter as a request for more donations
5. An additional (contact) rugby club – reps to approach the Sports Department
6. Launch a School Magazine – written by the pupils and published four times per year (seasonal) – a fabulous (and popular) idea and further discussion ongoing
7. Request for consideration of a trouser option for girls – to be discussed at the School Leadership Team Meeting

The pupils conducted the meeting with confidence and spoke sensibly and maturely. Mrs Soar and I were very proud of them. We also made it clear that we are happy to listen to all suggestions, but that this does not necessarily mean we will ultimately agree and change things at school – although we do hope to do so whenever possible. The pupils understood this and welcomed the opportunity for discussion, regardless of the outcome.

In assembly, and as it was the start of October, we discussed the history and purpose of Black History Month, and I spoke about the life of Dr Martin Luther King, including a short extract from his famous 'I have a Dream' speech, focussing on two statements in particular:

- All *men* are created equal
- one day...the *sons* of former slaves and the *sons* of former slaveowners will be able to sit down together at the table of *brotherhood*

I explained that the italicised words should be interpreted as male and female.

I then asked the pupils about the meaning of prejudice (the word of the week), and they were fantastic, with one pupil referring to the trading of lives as if they were items. We extended this to all forms of prejudice and my questions of the week are:

1. What can we do to combat all forms of prejudice?
2. What is the Nobel Peace Prize and what is it awarded for? Dr King, aged 35, received the Prize in 1964, and was assassinated four years later.

The pupil body agreed that we do not always treat people equally, even at Priory School, and that we will be more conscious of this in future. All classes should be developing these themes this week.



If one can go from prejudice to parking, I will try. The layby at the top gate does NOT belong to the school. It is used by our parents, lorry drivers, delivery drivers and even the police speed camera van. Please park sensibly and do not block, or force others, to block the main carriageway. I cannot overstate how dangerous this might be to other road users, pedestrians and our pupils. If the layby looks full, then you should not try to pull in. A few minutes of inconvenience might be the difference between an accident or not. We have come close to suffering accidents, and these are categorically avoidable.

Returning to more pleasant matters, thanks go to Mr Craddock for this week's Tuesday Talk. Mr Craddock is a Senior Manager at GKN Aerospace on the Island, and he told us all about the Company, what is manufactured here in Cowes, the development of electric aeroplanes and GKN's commitment to the environment. The Talk was excellent, and he even brought in an aeroplane door to demonstrate how light and strong it is. If you would like to share your work and/or passion with the pupils, please let me know. We'd be delighted to host you.

Reports

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| 1. Tues 3 Oct | Tuesday Talk 'Career at GKN Aerospace' (Mr Craddock) |
| 2. Wed 4 Oct | Presentation on the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme (Mrs Wellbelove) |
| 3. Thurs 5 Oct | S5 GCSE Geography Fieldwork, Ventnor |
| 4. Fri 6 Oct | Prize Day, St Mildred's Church |

Future Dates & Events

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| 1. Mon 9 Oct | YR/Y1/Y2 Pumpkin Field, Westcombe Farm |
| 2. Tues 10 Oct | Tuesday Talk 'Being Safe Online' (Ryde Neighbourhood Policing Team) |
| 3. Tues 10 Oct | Presentation on D of E (online for parents) (Mrs Wellbelove) |
| 4. Wed 11 Oct | Harvest Festival, St Mildred's Church (11.00am) |
| 5. Wed 11 Oct | S3/S4 Girls Netball Friendly, Cowes Enterprise College |
| 6. Thurs 12 Oct | Y4/Y5/Y6 PEACH TAG Rugby Festival, Queensgate Foundation School |

Last week's Mufti Day & Cake Sale

We had an additional cake sale later on in the day and raised an additional £34.00, making the new total £351.50.

Achievements

David EJJ Lloyd
Principal