Dawn House School: PLG Minutes:

Engage, Develop, Communicate, Aspire



Date: Thursday 22nd June @ 8:50am in the Meeting Room

Pupil Attendance: GH, AC, CJ, XT, IJ, JC, TT and CW

Topics for discussion:

Best things this year at Dawn House:

- KS4 SW Food Tech lessons, Art lessons, Bikes, New PE equipment
- KS4 LC: Swimming, Cooking, Performing Arts, PLG, Sports Leaders
- Primary: Teachers, Trips, Choice Time
- KS3 AR: Swimming, Friends PGL
- KS3 MW: Bikes, trips, swimming, friends, PGL
- Chimes: John Muir, Food Tech, Swimming, Sports, Work Experience, Sports Leaders, Fishing, Going out
- KS4 AD: Tutor time and lessons everything!
- KS3 JC: Literacy choir, world book day, forest school pizza making, choice time, biking, uniform services

What would you like to see improved at Dawn House for next year?

- KS4 AD: More laptops, climbing wall, swings
- Chimes: Sports equipment in Chimes, laptops, more work experience, practical lessons,
- KS4 SW: Afternoon break, tuck shop
- KS3 MW: More stationary, more performing arts/PE/Science, quiet spaces, new options at choice time, updated merit charges
- KS3 JC: Wider tables to fit more chairs under and more animals
- KS3 AR: Longer breaks, free snacks, more swimming, more bike-ability
- Primary: Overnight stays
- KS4 LC: More activities on the Friday afternoon, more access to the sensory room, assembly timings changed

What are your thoughts on the merit system?

- KS4 SW: Too childish
- KS4 LC: Not appropriate for KS4 most pupils do like it though
- Primary: Like it but not everyone knows what it is
- KS3 AR: Prices are too high, some pupils do like it though
- KS3 JC: A mix of responses ranging for really like it to not liking it
- KS3 MW: Activities don't reflect the merits, it is good that it sets standards but some of the points are too high
- Chimes: Not applicable
- KS4 AD: Not appropriate for KS4 and some of the prices are too high (especially sports)

How could we make the merit system better? (teacher thoughts here too)

- KS4 SW: They would like to move it online, external trips based on rewards
- KS4 LC: More use of subject specific progress post cards and subject certificates
- Primary: Something new and not a chart

- KS3 AR: Lowers the targets, moving online and not having sheets, consistency across school and parents being told when someone gets a merit
- KS3 JC: More time on a Friday for enrichment time
- KS3 MW: Prices are too high, chart on the wall during lunchtime on a Friday detailing all the activities which staff/pupils can then tick off and select their choice rather than having to rush in form time
- Chimes: Not applicable
- KS4 AD: Not being appropriate for KS4

We would like to relaunch the houses system in September - what ideas do you have for how we could name the houses?

- KS4 SW: Houses named after trees is good because it promotes the environment
- KS4 AD: Harry Potter themed houses. Merits and houses need to combined/
- Chimes: Don't really feel involved in the houses, colour based, states of matter
- KS3 MW: Mythical creatures, elements, some people think it needs a total relaunch something online
- KS3 JC: Animals, cities and colours
- KS3 AR: Metals and animals colours not good because they can confuse with ZOR, could we do a competition to design house names and logos
- Primary: Countries of the world, Mario characters and Harry Potter themes
- KS4 LC: Pupils know the current names. A suggestion was to use banana tree!

Any other business:

- KS4 AD: New laptops are really important. New soft comfortable chairs.
- KS3 MW: More quiet space for pupils to eat their lunch. More dance and gymnastics. Can the DHS wall be turned into a climbing wall.
- NK OT: Questions regarding sensory question pupils carry their own. Good idea or not? Pupils thought it was a good idea. Bags with different colours proved popular. Miss is going to get some samples and then PLG will choose.
- Pupil leadership board to be created in the meeting room to introduce the members and be a central point to share notes

Actions:

- BN/JB/KHS Review the merits and houses system. Look at possible online options. Provide staff training relating to the use/award of the merits to ensure consistency and clarity across the school. Review the costings of enrichment time on a Friday. Try and find a system which combines the merits and houses better for enhanced promotion across school. Discuss the options and ideas relating to house names.
- BN/JMc: Timings for assemblies are being changed from September and this will be shared with staff when timetables given out. This will remove any disruptions and ensure consistency.
- BN/JB/KHS Discuss the idea of having a board in the dining room on a Friday so pupils can sign up to enrichment activities during lunch
- SLG/ELG: Review classroom equipment requests
- BN/JMc: Discuss having subject specific awards for celebration assemblies
- NK: To source samples for the OT bags and share in our next PLG meeting