

Student Voice at BSW

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In what has been a truly unique year at BSW and in education as whole it has been more important than ever for the communication between staff and students to remain strong and for students' opinions on the issues that matter most to them to be heard by their teachers and the staff who work with them.

Student Council

The Student Council forms an essential link between the voice of our student community and the teaching staff. We are very proud of our Student Council and the work they did to set up the adopt a ward initiative with Broadwater Ward in the summer term.



The Student Council -

From left to right; Emily Rusbridge 10EDU, Fyn Cooper 9KCH, Antoni Geborys 9KCH, Lexie Benbow-Hart 9KCH, Emma Hill 11FPO, Jayden Kowalski 9HPE, Benita-Marija Jocaite Y8SNA, Ben Waterer 10GWE, and Ruby Robinson-Wright 10EDU.

The Student Council have recently opened this initiative up to Year 7 who have written some truly lovely messages of support for the patients and staff at the ward. As Mia Fowle 7ARO commented “it was a good thing to do because some of the patients there could be feeling lonely and the messages we send can make a difference to how they feel, hopefully make them feel happier and let the NHS staff know how amazing we think we are”. The messages have once again been warmly received as Jo Yearsley the Ward Manager replied; “what fantastic pictures, words and thoughts from your lovely and caring students. They are beautiful to read and I know the patients and staff on Broadwater Ward will be so thankful and appreciative of the care, kindness and love that your students have shared. They will mean such a lot to all who read and see them. Your students will grow into such lovely adults showing such care for others”.

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Honey Lovett, 7MDA

Mia Fowle, 7JNO

Shan Pentason, 7KLA.



Despite the in-school academic year of 2019-2020 being cut short by the pandemic, it has been fantastic to see our partnership with the Schools Students and Teacher Network (SSAT) award coming to fruition as our first group of Student Leaders achieved their SSAT Student Leadership Accreditation awards. Huge congratulations to these 50 students for all of the hard work they have put into their leadership areas, contributions to wider school life and the local community and thanks to the staff who have guided their progress in completing the accreditation.

Awards -

Digital Leaders Gold Award: Louie Rowe, Christopher Minton, Adam Scott, Corban Fletcher, Giacomo Marsh, William Neville and Aman Rakesh.

Digital Leaders Silver Award: Luca Venditto, Layla Brooker, Jack Fullard and Isaac Goodban.

Sports Leaders Bronze Award: Kitty Gildonald, Rosie Harman, Evie Simpson and Maddie Booker.

Eco Leader Silver Award: Ben Waterer.

Photography Leader Bronze Award: Lily Chow and Emily Keil-Williams.

History Leader Silver Award: Alex Broadhurst and Alfie Jones.

History Leader Bronze Award: Luca Venditto, James Compton, George Maynard and Cara Plassing.

Drama Leader Silver Award: Emma Hill, Daniel Archer, Holly McManus, Eva Sadler, Ide Sullivan and Luca Venditto.

Drama Leader Bronze Award: Lexie Benbow-Hart, Fergus Coogan, Fyn Cooper, Phoebe Deutsch, Emi Lomberg and Imogen Swain.

Modern Foreign Languages Leader Bronze Award: Charlie Bain, Henry Broadhurst, Jamie Busson, Maisie Chandler, Isaac Cooper, Lilly Dear, Phoebe Deutsch, Ruby Harwood-Miller, Jianwei Huang, Anna Hu, Daisy Martin, Lola Martin, Felix Monaghan, Nikola Osinska, Dominika Panyamark, Thomas Rayland, Theo Sherman-Reade, Olivia Thorley and Ben Waterer.



Pictured: Mr McPherson and a selection of his Digital Leaders.



Pictured center: Phoebe Deutsch: Drama and MFL Leader. Top right: Luca Venditto - Digital, Drama, and History Leader.



In November all Tutor Groups took part in the Make Your Mark campaign run by the West Sussex Youth Cabinet. As part of the campaign students voted on the issues that mattered to them most at both a national and local level. The issues which gained the most votes will then be presented to MP's by the West Sussex Youth Cabinet. In 2019 the school's high voter turnout rate led to BSW being awarded the Gold Democracy Award and we are aiming for the same this year! Our students clearly enjoyed participating in the campaign; Jamie Busson 9JFO, "as we aren't old enough to vote in elections it is good to be able to have a say on the national issues which matter most to us". Evie Moeller 9JTO, "it's great to be able to choose how to improve our local area and give our views on how funding should be spent".

Votes For Schools:

Votes For Schools became a regular Tutor Time activity last term and each week students examine a topical, cultural or political issue and cast a vote on which side of the issue's main viewpoints they most agree with. Topics students have examined in the Autumn term have included human rights, ways to diversify the curriculum and the impact of social media on young people's wellbeing. Cara Plassing 8DHU; "I like Votes For Schools because I get to learn more about issues in the news and then decide my own view. It is also interesting to compare how our school voted compared to other schools in the country".

During the first lockdown and the Autumn term all students have completed ImpactEd surveys as a way of collecting information about their learning and wellbeing experiences, achievements and concerns. Mr Cordwell who is leading the initiative explains, "the surveys were originally designed to give us an insight into student wellbeing during lockdown and students' motivation towards remote learning during this period. This term the surveys compare how students are doing now they are back at school. Then we can review the data and use it to help support students who may be struggling and put them in touch with a Tutor / member of the pastoral team". We will also shortly be launching a system for tutors to stay in touch with their tutees on a regular basis. Eadie McCarthy 9HPE; "it's nice that the school is checking on our views of our progress and how our behaviour and motivation affects it".



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During the last two weeks of the Autumn term all Tutor Groups have been completing a Student Voice survey designed by the Student Council in which pupils can give their opinions on what the school is doing well and what we could do to further improve BSW for our wonderful students. Positive comments from students included; “I think the response to Covid 19 is really planned well”, “when you need help or are struggling, there is always someone here to help you”. “The iPads really help and make it easier to learn” and “there is an array of clubs to do, good lessons and nice teachers”.

Areas for development suggested were; “placing more of the outside benches under the canopies so they aren’t wet on rainy days”, “publicising all of the different mental health support available for students on a regular basis” and “increasing the number of bins in the Atrium and front playground”.

Emma Hill 11FPO; “it has been great to read so many positive comments and thoughtful suggestions from students for how the school could be further improved and I look forward to working with the Senior Leadership Team to make these changes happen!”

BoB

Finally, we were delighted to see the return of BoB - the Best of Bohunt newsletter which was such a hit during lockdown. Ben Waterer 10 GWE who led the editing of the Christmas edition had this to say; “after the incredible success of the BOB issues last summer, we decided to keep the project going, with new staff and a whole new format, ready for our first issue at the end of last term. Our hope was that a Christmas BOB would be something to bring us through this dark year and become a Bohunt tradition for the future!”

Student Voice is incredibly important to all of the staff at BSW and equally we have been blown away by the huge number of heartwarming messages of support we have received from parents and members of the school community since we entered this new period of home-learning and Zoom teaching. If you have any suggestions for ways we could further strengthen communications please email: jwhite@bohuntworthling.com

Finally, Year 7 students stay tuned for your opportunity to apply to become a member of the Student Council - information will be released once we are all back in school.

The Student Council and all of the pupils involved in Student Voice at BSW would like to wish you and your families a very happy new year and send you all our best wishes for a brighter 2021.

Mr White - Student Leadership Coordinator and Adam Scott (11 MMC) - Newsletter Editor.