

# Student Voice

## Summary and Responses

THOMAS  
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Chair's summary

02.11.23

## Executive Summary

The first Student Voice meeting of 2023-24 discussed several topics such as better maintenance for toilets, issues with headphones allowance, and tutorial relevance in the world of today. Reps highlighted that there should be better awareness for women's toiletries and that it should be made more known for more young women to know where help is available. Moreover, there was a push on the availability of plugs within the canteen so that students could charge their phones and laptops and the steps that can be taken to ensure that this is realised. More generally, there was a consensus that there were problems with the fountains that must be addressed because students were having trouble getting water and filling up water bottles. Moreover, post holders and tutor reps believed that there should be more leeway given to students going from one lesson to the other as the timetable does not account for walking time and time in traffic due to walkways and links. Overall, many issues were raised and more general members of the Tallis Post 16 society are encouraged to come and share their views on issues such as these raised.

## Report

### Issues raised – Response – Action

#### Order of Issues:

1. Maintenance and Upkeeping
2. Term Days
3. Plugs in the canteen
4. Transitions between lessons
5. Headphones: The issue of No Sight No Sound
6. Navigation
7. Tutor time: Newsround
8. Societies
9. Reheating of Food

AOB

## Order 1: Maintenance

Issue raised: The toilets are not being properly maintained, water is leaking everywhere and there are no signs of broken toilets, so students do not know where to go.

Response:

I agree that there has not been an adequate amount of upkeep within the school toilets. Since last year, other members of student voice have raised this issue, and nothing has been done. I agree that signs must go up to inform students when toilets are broken or if there is an issue with flushing. I will speak to members of staff associated with this issue and I will look to arrange a meeting with G4S when appropriate to seek to mitigate this. Thank you for bringing this up.

Supplementary issue: There should be correct surveillance put in place as students are throwing tissues around and blocking the toilets.

Response:

There may be an issue in providing more surveillance near toilets since it is a private space, but I agree that more should be done to inform students that this type of behaviour is not tolerable. More specifically, the Block 2 toilets on the ground floor are incredibly dirty and it is where most of these types of activities take place. I will speak to members of staff on toilet and break duty and provide a response when these conversations have taken place

Issue raised: The fountains are a gamble; sometimes one is working, sometimes it is not. There must be something done to make sure that the fountains produce water

Response:

The fountains have been an issue for an extended period, since I was in secondary school. There have been countless amounts of calls for the fountains to be fixed. Alongside my responsibilities, I will make sure that I have meetings with G4S and the Deputy to make sure that this issue is fixed before the end of my term.

Action:

1. Chair will have a meeting with G4S to discuss toilet and fountain upkeep
2. Chair will seek to have a conversation with members of staff on break and toilet duty to discuss what can be done to stop this behaviour.

## Order 2: Term dates

Issue raised: The term dates are not working. Some exams are straight after the half term break which is not enough time to recuperate after the break

### Response:

I understand that there is an issue with the term dates as many students have brought this issue up before. However, there is very little that can be done because the term dates have been set in stone. I will look for opportunities to meet with Mr Bradshaw to discuss future term dates and how to mitigate to ensure that there is enough time for students prepare themselves for school.

## Order 3: Plugs in the canteen

Issue raised: There should be more plugs in the canteen for chargers and other uses

### Response:

Other students have raised this issue alike yourself. I, personally, would also benefit from an increase in plugs in the canteen. I will look for opportunities to speak with the relevant staff members to see what can be done. This being said, the building has structural foundations which would require works in order to place these plug sockets in the canteen. I will look to see if anything can be done in order to try implement plans in the future to make sure that plug sockets can be built.

## Order 4: Transitions between lessons

Issue raised: We need more time in between when lessons end and when lessons start to be able to get past the traffic at the links

### Response:

Thomas Tallis does not have a bell which makes transitions between lessons more staggered. This allows for there to be less traffic as a few people may have already left classrooms and are waiting. I support calls for a 2 to 3 minute buffer time in between the start and the end of a lesson.

However, I am not sure on how feasible this could be since there is a lot of content to get through at any stage of secondary, or sixth form education and teachers need the most time possible to be able to get the main bits of the lesson done. I will look for opportunities to speak to the relevant staff member regarding this matter.

#### Order 5: Headphones: The issue of No Sight – No Sound

Issue raised: The No Sight No Sound rule is massively unpopular in school between all students and most of us want it gone

Response:

I completely agree with scrapping the No Sight No Sound rule. Almost all students that I have spoken to about this issue say that it is unnecessary and harsh. I support calls of either a reform to the No Sight No Sound rule; such as being able to wear headphones or use your phone around all areas in the school apart from inside of the building or removing the rule altogether. I will certainly try to arrange a meeting with the deputy head to discuss this and raise this prevalent issue to achieve a solution that sixth form students will be happy with.

#### Order 6: Navigation

Issue raised: There should be more signs around the school so that more people know where they are going

Response:

I agree that blocks should be clearer, however, over time more students will be able to know where they are going.

#### Order 7: Tutor time: Newsround

Issue raised: Once a week, in tutor, there should be Newsround played during AM registration

Response:

Newsround is very valuable, and I agree that students should be able to keep up on the news during tutorials. I think it is mainly up to tutors themselves that can choose when to do this, however, it is possible to look into a standardised time where students can listen to Newsround. I will look for opportunities to speak with the relevant staff member regarding this.

#### Order 8: Societies

Issue raised: There should be a Muslim society, and in general, more societies in the school

Response:

I agree that there is a lack of societies, with the Lecture Society being the only main society. We need to have more societies for faith groups and other groups that there is an interest for. I personally would also like to create a society so I will speak to Ms King to see if the creation of more societies is possible.

#### Order 9: Reheating of food

Issue raised: Sixth form students should be able to reheat their food and use the kettle

Response:

Using the microwave does have health and safety issues as if a student burns themselves, it could fall back on the responsibility of the school. I will look to see if there are any ways to mitigate this problem seeing as many students have brought up this issue before this discussion also.

AOB:

Student voice are looking for some volunteers who can help with KS3 Calm club which aids certain KS3 students who are having some difficulty with the demanding tasks needed for their year. Moreover, there is a big push on linking up with KS3 ambassadors who have asked for a clearer relationship between secondary and sixth form student voice rather than blurred lines.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the first student voice meeting of the 2023-24 season was a success with a high turnout and those who had a prevalent issue being able to voice their opinions and share collaborative solutions. The chair encourages more students to come to student voice and voice their concerns, whether they are a post holder, tutor rep or none of those.