

# Student Voice

## Summary and Responses

THOMAS  
TALLIS  
SCHOOL



Chair's summary

15.11.23

## Executive Summary

The second Student Voice meeting of 2023-24 discussed several topics such as relations with the KS3 activist groups, an update on toilet maintenance and fountain improvements. Moreover, there was a huge emphasis on the issue of water being sold in the canteen and how sustainable it is to have reusable cups in the canteen. Another issue that was raised was the controversy surrounding current events such as the war in Israel and Palestine. There was a focus on if students should be able to debate this topic as surface level debates will not prove beneficial for anyone. There was an update on the kettle and microwave situation, and the troubles surrounding the health and safety risk posed by having these appliances in the sixth form canteen. Furthermore, there was still a focus on societies with more people having ideas for some societies in Tallis. Lastly, period poverty was discussed as an issue because people felt as though there was a lack of information for girls to go and access hygiene products. Overall, many issues were raised and more general members of the Tallis Post 16 community 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 Update
2. Reheating of Food Update
3. Societies
4. Canteen selling water
5. Period Products: Donations and Accessibility
6. Headphones update

#### AOB

### Order 1: Maintenance and Upkeeping Update

Issue raised: What has been said regarding the toilets and fountains, are there any solutions that have been given?

#### Response:

So far, there has not been a direct solution given to the problem, however, there will be a team set up regarding having these conversations with the correct people. Ms. King has set up a team of two, me and Tylah, who will investigate more on this issue and bring back feedback in due course. There will be a meeting set up with Vanessa Cummins, who is the most relevant staff member to this issue and next meeting there will be feedback from the Chair regarding what was discussed, and next steps taken.

### Order 2: Reheating of Food Update

Issue raised: Is there any feedback regarding microwaves and kettles

#### Response:

There has been feedback from Ms. King. She has spoken to relevant staff members regarding this, and there have been two responses. Regarding kettles, there is various amounts of red tape surrounding the kettles because it is boiling water and it is quite dangerous to allow Tallis students unsupervised access to these appliances, therefore, it is quite unlikely that kettles will be used by Tallis students. However, regarding the microwaves, Ms. King has had more leniency on this issue and so she is pushing strongly for this to be passed and so that Tallis students can use the microwaves. I will support Ms. King in her efforts of trying to get this agenda pushed through, quickly and smoothly.

### Order 3: Societies

Issue raised: Has there been steps taken to ensure more societies are encouraged to be created

#### Response:

So far, no. However, please do keep coming to me with ideas for societies and I will be able to direct them towards, either Ms. Lumsden or Ms. King

#### Order 4: Canteen selling water

Issue raised: The canteen should sell water instead of fizzy drinks

#### Response:

I agree that water should be sold in place of fizzy drinks. I am currently trying to work with a potential group of students, to get this project on the road. Moreover, due to the fountains having several issues, it is sensible to sell water in the canteen so that students have access to clean, fresh, water.

Supplementary issue: The school should sell more water bottles and/ or recyclable cups for students to recycle and use

I support this idea, and I will try to see if anything can be done to make this a possibility. However, logistically, this may be a bit of an issue because it will cost the school a lot of money to roll out this scheme and the school already has a tight budget. That being said, I will look for opportunities to speak with the relevant staff members regarding this issue.

#### Order 5: Period products

Issue raised: There should be a donation box for period poverty in the school

#### Response:

I think that a donation box could be a good idea to try and alleviate period poverty within the school. I will see, where possible, to set this up with the gender equality coordinator and report back in due course

## Order 6: Headphones update

Issue raised: Has there been any progress made with allowing students to wear headphones around the building

Response:

The secretary has tried to push for headphones to be allowed when around Tallis. I will join the deputy chair in his efforts to get this campaign running.

AOB

Student Voice has been able to allocate some student voice reps with the KS3 ambassadors, and there will be a meeting in due course about what was said and those at the meeting will report back to Student Voice. Moreover, there was stress placed on getting targets written up for all student voice post holders.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the second student voice meeting of the 2023-24 season was very productive with vast amounts of topics discussed and solutions being put forward by each post holder and commitments being made. The chair encourages more students to come to student voice and express their concerns, whether they are a post holder, tutor rep, or neither.