



**Riverside Meadows**  
Academy



## You Said, We Listened!

**A wonderful second school council meeting with some great ideas coming out. I have read upon your minutes and this is what we are going to do:**

<b>The School Council Said.....</b>	<b>As Headteacher I say.....</b>
From last Meeting – Coloured rooms, we will discuss this at the next meeting	Thank you for that. Can I remind you though that some people are unable to regulate with certain colours, please be mindful of this.
No timetable on the noticeboard.	I have asked Hazel to put one up again.
There are still two assemblies on a Friday.	We will discuss this in SLT on Wednesday morning. At the moment we feel that you need the information assembly and the rewards assembly before you go home, but we will discuss it again.
Phones should be taken away from the learners immediately.	And we agree, but sometimes people try and sneak them through. That is why we need your help to identify these people so we can stop it from happening. In an ideal world we wouldn't have any phones in school!
We don't think there are good enough lunch clubs. We would like a library club, a chill club and a movie club.	I totally agree, and this is why we have school council to find out what you want. I will speak to the lunch time team and organise this for next term.
No TLM in the Year Seven Class. We don't get drinks of water until we get home.	I'm sorry about that. We have TLM adverts out at the moment for your class and we hope to interview soon. Please ask Simon to radio if you need a drink and someone can bring a jug of water to the room. We used to have jugs of water and cups for every room, but some people ruined this by throwing water around. Do you feel this is something that we could bring back and try again?
We would like a better punch bag.	Punch bags are expensive and staff need specific training to use them properly. Unfortunately I've witnessed too much inappropriate use with it recently, hence why it broke in the first place (flying jump

	kicks are not acceptable!). A new one won't be bought until people are trained in appropriate use for your own safety.
We would like a fish tank in school.	I do love a fish tank in a school, however at the moment I don't think there is anywhere suitable for one. I do have a plan for the front of school area, however we need it clear of students before I can do anything with it. Watch this space....
We like the mats on the therapy room floor.	So do I, and we are very lucky that Dreamdrops charity donated them to us.
We need more house competitions	I agree! What type of competitions would you like staff to organise. Please remember there should be something for everyone!?
We need another minibus.	I've already enquired with the trust about another vehicle. We would need to fund raise a lot of money for one, so at the moment it's better to borrow one from one of the other schools.
Food portions are too small.	I will speak to Edwards and Blake about this and see if we can get slightly bigger portions.
Staff need protecting more because they get hit by students.	Assaults at RMA have only occurred recently when a student has been in crisis, but staff are well trained to deal with these situations and our priority is to keep students safe. The largest problem we have are students been nosey, wanting to see what is happening, or trying got antagonise a person and refusing to move away which makes the situation worse. More training will be happening next term and I hope that this message gets back to students that it isn't ok to refuse to follow instructions as it is that behaviour which puts staff members at risk of getting hurt.
We need a padded room again where we can punch the walls.	<b>This will not be happening.</b> The padded room is for high level physical restraints, and we do not have those situations in this school as they are dangerous for both the staff and student, and a really unpleasant thing to experience. The walls aren't designed for students to punch, as was evident when I took all the pads away last year as there were large holes behind them in the plasterboard. I am surprised that more people didn't get broken wrists! Regulation can be achieved without hitting things, and this is why the school is much safer and calmer now than it was two years ago. The pads just encouraged physical aggression and inappropriate physical

	contact. For all our safety, they won't be coming back.
We like the bean bags, can we have more.	Hopefully as we move into the summer term, if students can prove they can look after the equipment, we will purchase more for you, but they are expensive so look after them.
We should have learner elections.	We always wanted to implement a prefect and head people role in school through elections. We wanted to tie this in with an election process so you could have it as a learning experience as part of Fundamental British Values, but we've not had that opportunity yet.
Fundraising for Comic Relief and World Book Day	These are fantastic fundraising opportunities and I look forward to hearing your proposals.
We thought it is a good idea to learn basic first aid. We have a petition that 32 people have signed.	No need for a petition. It is actually built into the PSHE scheme of work that you will learn basic first aid. In the coming terms I'm also going to get everyone to learn CPR and know how to use a defibrillator. Having performed CPR myself on four different people, I know that it makes the difference between life and death; and it is an essential skill for everyone to know!

**I look forward to the next meeting.**

**Andrew**