



# **The Thomas Adams School**

## **Policy Statement**

### **Student Involvement and Responsibility**

Updated August 2017

Reviewed by Governors

## **Student Involvement and Responsibility**

The Thomas Adams School provides a warm protective environment and one in which there is a danger that we do almost too much for the students. We need to give them the opportunity to take responsibility in as many forms as possible - in their learning; in club activities; in making decisions about their actions within School.

- a) Students should be given some responsibility for their own learning as part of our planned curriculum. Student self-assessment is also very valuable in that it helps students to reflect on how they have done and how they could be doing better.
- b) The School's Code of Conduct is very much based on setting out students' rights and responsibilities and encouraging them to base their behaviour and treatment of others upon these, rather than rigid rules which allow no scope for students to better understand why some things are acceptable and others are not.
- c) When establishing extra curricular activities, staff are asked to involve students as far as possible in the planning and organisation of the activities. Current excellent examples would include, amongst others:

- House Captains (including Sports Captains, Citizenship etc.)
- Head Boy / Head Girl
- Pupil Volunteer Scheme
- School Leadership group
- Library helpers
- Prom Committee
- Paired Reading
- Adams College Senior Council
- Preparation of music and drama performances
- The prefects
- Environmental group
- Health Champions
- Adams Aware (ADA)

- d) One of the major aims of the Pastoral and Social System is to encourage events and activities where students take on responsibility when they participate, e.g.:
  - Organising teams
  - Fund raising
  - Competition entries
  - House competitions/challenges
  - Music and Drama performances
  - Hill Challenge
- e) Students have every right to make their views known on all aspects of the School. This is achieved by:-
  - Year Council which meets with the HoY
  - The Senior Council which discusses matters of concern and then reports directly to SLT via the head boy/girl
  - The Headteacher encourages students to see her personally if they have complaints or queries and runs an open door system

- Students' views will be sought on specific issues, e.g. the positive rewards scheme, as part of review and evaluation
  - A students' consultation exercise via questionnaire is undertaken annually on the students' general attitude towards the School and departmentally also
  - All staff are expected to encourage students to express their views (politely) and to pass on to Headteacher, SLT or other relevant staff whatever they need to know. It is very much a question of creating an environment where students feel that they can express their views and where staff feel they will not be taken advantage of and the system abused.
- f) The School Council also exists to give students the experience of helping running events and activities, e.g. school fundraising events and charity events. Many students excel themselves by the flair, efficiency and maturity they show in organising such events.

### **School Council**

The School Council is an organised body of young people who work together with other interested parties, aiming to make a positive contribution to all aspects of life within The Thomas Adams School. It is run by the Head Boy/Girl and deputies.

The Council is made up of elected members of the student body, each Year nominating two representatives from Years 7-10, plus House Captains. These students attend full Council meetings along with any member of the teaching and non-teaching staff. They attend (with others) year council meetings run by their Head of Year prior to a full meeting.

Council representatives will also report back to students within the Year and to the Head of Year.

The School Council undertakes work in areas such as fund-raising, charity work, community work, social provision and sport and leisure.

Mrs McGurrin and Mrs Turner oversee all Council meeting proceedings. They also help the students liaise and work with all interested parties as and when necessary.

### **Measuring the Impact**

The School has a policy statement/plan for student involvement in place, with a member of the SLT having responsibility for monitoring progress in this and implementing the whole school plan and The House Coordinator act as "Champions" for developing the student involvement and culture within School.

Students' suggestions have resulted in a number of improvements e.g.:

1. The stairs by the French rooms are now in use as a down staircase between lessons for pupils using rooms 5, 6, 7, 8 and 12, 13, 14. The stairs are out of bounds at lunchtimes as it is difficult for the lunchtime ancillaries to monitor them effectively.
2. Picnic tables have been put in the quads outside the Drama Studio and Science Rooms. Extra litter bins have been provided around the school.
3. Pupils' toilets have been zoned and improved. Any problems to be dealt with promptly by the caretakers and SMT staff responsible for checking.

4. Uniform has been reviewed. Year 11 to have its own colour of sweatshirt.
5. One way system in operation in corridors during the school day to help avoid crush at points of congestion.
6. New improved facilities in the Dining Hall and better tuck shop arrangements at break time.
7. Involvement in New House initiatives including rewards.
8. A new student planner, which is reviewed regularly.
9. Support for charity activities and money raising for school activities and improvements.
10. Arrangements for bus lines.
11. Arrangements for entry into school at the end of break and lunchtime.
12. Menu / Meal Deal / Healthy School Lunch initiatives.
13. Outdoor seating area.
14. Outdoor lunch provision.

The Head Boy / Head Girl and deputy Head Boy / deputy Head Girl are elected by staff and work to represent the student body and staff members with relation to school issues. Their responsibilities include:

- Assisting with School events such as discos, Parents' Evenings, Open Evenings, rock nights etc.
- Chair Lower School Council (Years 7-9) and Senior Council (Years 10-11).
- Representing the views of Lower School Council to the Senior Council members.
- Guided tours of the School.
- Input to School assemblies.
- Oversight of Council/Student Notice Board
- Inducting new students.