

# The Pontypridd High School



## What is a School Council ?

A school council is a group of students that are elected by their fellow students to represent their opinions and raise issues with the headteacher and governors of our school. The school council can also take forward projects on behalf of the students and be involved in planning and things like the School Improvement Plan, governing body meetings and interviewing staff.

To be effective we must ensure that our student council;

- represents all students and includes as many people as possible
- takes the time to listen to all students and communicate their views
- gives feedback to students so they are informed of what has happened

Members of the student council have agreed that they should be;

- Loyal, trustworthy, helpful, constructive, determined, friendly, supportive, together and good listeners

## Our Student Council Mission Statement

*'The role of the Pontypridd High student council is to serve, listen to and represent the views of everyone. The Council are keen to make significant contributions to improve the overall achievement of students and ensure they have a rich, varied and enjoyable experience; they are given the opportunity to express themselves, formulate arguments, represent the views of others and feedback to their peers.'*

## **Our Student Council Aims**

- To gather the students' views on aspects of school life by liaising with each Year group
- To represent students' views at School Council meetings so that these can be fed back to the school's management team
- To help to identify areas of school which would benefit from improvement.
- To raise with the student body, issues which are a cause of concern
- To give students an insight into citizenship
- To represent the student body in meetings with school governors and visitors

## **Who are the Student Council ?**

Our Student Council consists of two elected pupils from each Year group, one boy and one girl. This includes Years 7 to 12. The Student Council meets at least once each half term and will be chaired on a rota basis by the two successful Year 12 students. Staff are represented by the Headteacher, Mr Cripps, the Business and Resources Manager, Mrs Cook and Mrs Debbie Davies, a School Governor.

## **How is our Student Council organised ?**

During School Council meetings a number of points about school development and improvement are usually raised. These points vary from small suggestions like what new clubs could be offered to very significant issues. For example the recent news regarding the reorganisation of schools and the impact on Pontypridd High will be a major point of discussion.

Student council meetings take place at least once per half-term. Form tutors are asked to discuss and debate key topics which are brought to the attention of student council representatives. The key issues are debated in whole school council meetings before students share their views with members of the school leadership team and the governing body.

Participation is not just about people asking for your opinions. Through the school council we can support each other to make things better. This can include being part of groups who try to;

- improve the wellbeing and safety of all students
- raise money and funds for named charities and our School
- make the school environment better
- improve different aspects of learning and teaching
- help and support students improve in aspects of their learning like literacy and numeracy

## **What have the Student Council achieved in recent years ?**

Last academic year, the student council had one main focus for the school: to deliver student perspectives on the school to teachers and leaders in order to help them improve standards across the school. To do this, the student council compiled one of the most comprehensive surveys on behavior along with marking and feedback and distributed it to the whole school. Significant work undertaken resulted in;

- The Positive Relationship Policy being implemented successfully across the school
- A new marking and feedback policy which is the basis of our teaching and learning
- A new Homework policy in Years 7 and 8 – 'Discover More'
- Successful recruitment of over 20 staff
- Changes to the school lunchtime and end of school day
- Improvements to the school canteen
- Enterprise days which raise money for different charities

## **What are their roles and responsibilities?**

In addition to the full Student Council, each member of the student council is given a role within one or more of the 'Action Groups'. Students who may not be successful in joining the Student Council will be asked to join different action groups. Each of these groups is assigned a member of staff who will work with the teams on a termly basis through projects they undertake.

### **1. Action Group : Student Wellbeing**

#### **Link Teacher: to be confirmed**

- To review the positive relationships policy
- Lead assemblies and workshops
- Make links with local primary schools in different transition events
- Attend parent evenings
- Support and help all students in the school, particularly Year 7 and 8 students
- Raise awareness on important issues such as mental health support
- Organise workshops and / or assemblies to inform students of important events or issues
- Act as a mentor for vulnerable pupils if required through the peer mentor programme
- Be responsible for pupil voice with reference to anti bullying strategies / concerns
- To report back to senior staff and governors

### **2. Action Group : Charity and Community Links**

#### **Link Teacher: to be confirmed**

- Raise awareness and money for two chosen charities
- Volunteer in the local community and / or host community events at Pontypridd High
- Raise awareness about charity appeals through assemblies and celebrate success
- Oversee and coordinate all fundraising activities throughout the school

### **3. Action Group : School environment**

#### **Link Teacher: to be confirmed**

- Meet with senior staff and site management staff to review the school grounds and facilities
- To identify a plan of action to improve areas identified, inside and outside
- To meet with students to identify most favoured plans
- To cost out and engage sponsorship from local businesses
- To report back to senior staff and governors

### **4. Action Group : Learning and engagement**

#### **Link Teacher: to be confirmed**

- To discuss ideas about teaching and learning with senior staff
- To help review different aspects of the assessment and feedback policy
- To support work with Discover More and homework in Years 7 and 8
- To look at the use of digital technology in the classroom and in your learning
- To identify improvements that can support better learning, in and out of the classroom
- To be part of the recruitment for new staff through the interview process
- To report back to senior staff and governors

### **5. Action Group : Student support**

#### **Link Teacher: to be confirmed**

- Be willing to listen to pupils read or support literacy, numeracy projects in tutor time
- Increase participation in extra-curricular clubs
- Have a presence at break and lunchtime for students to listen to their views
- Set up a support programme for students around examination preparation and stress relief

## How do I get involved ?

If you are interested in being a member of the school council you need to complete the application form attached to this information. Here are some of the people who may be able to help you make up your mind about applying;

- **A teacher** : he / she will know you well and may be able to support you – e.g. if you wanted to stand for election;
- **A school council link teacher** : he / she will be able to tell you more about an Action Group
- **A senior member of staff** : they may be able to help and should listen to your ideas;
- **A member of the governing body** : a governor who has a responsibility for participation;
- **Your parents / carers**: remember to tell your parents / carers about the things you are involved in in school, so that they can support and encourage you.

## Student Leadership

If you choose to participate, it is important that you are supported and helped to develop the skills you need to do this well, in particular leadership skills. Our ambition is to develop a range of personal, emotional and social skills so our students are able to thrive as members of the community and succeed in the workplace. Such leadership opportunities provide students with the chance to develop decision making skills, to understand the nature of commitment and responsibility, and to nurture in them greater self-confidence and self-esteem arising from earning the respect of their peers and staff.

Students are asked to lead action groups, to feedback on behalf of a group, and to direct small projects, as well as having an opportunity to represent their year on the student council. Playing an active role in groups also helps you to develop important skills such as:

- Listening;
- Getting your point across;
- Negotiating;
- Organising and budgeting skills;
- Working in a team.

Before completing your application form, read through the job descriptions below. They include a 'person specification' which gives details of the type of personal characteristics are important to do the job well.

## 1. Chairperson of the Student Council : Year 12 Leaders

Person Specification and Job Description for Student Council representative for 2018 / 2019	
<p><b>Purpose : You will jointly chair the School Council and lead the Sixth Form Council. You will make sure that student voice is represented in key decisions and developments within the school.</b></p>	
Personal Qualities	Job Description
<p><b>Suitable candidates who will Chair the Student Council must be;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Responsible and reliable.</li> <li>- Organised.</li> <li>- Able to work to deadlines.</li> <li>- Able to manage other people and oversee all other positions of responsibility.</li> <li>- Empathetic to others' needs</li> <li>- A good listener and communicator.</li> <li>- Willing to give up their own time for meetings, publicity and planning.</li> <li>- Independent as well as a good team player.</li> <li>- Be confident to speak as necessary at school events.</li> <li>- ☑ Interested in shaping the future of the school.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Suitable candidates must be able to;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Greet important visitors to the school.</li> <li>- Lead the Sixth Form Council and jointly chair the school council</li> <li>- Find out about and represent the views of other students.</li> <li>- Deliver presentations to students, staff, governors and parents / carers if needed</li> <li>- Be internal and external ambassadors for the school and act as role models for all students</li> <li>- To attend a governors meeting and report on how student voice has had an impact on school planning</li> <li>- Prepared to attend parents meetings, open evenings, celebration of achievement and other events as required</li> <li>- ☑ Make a difference !</li> </ul>

## 2. Student Council representatives

Person Specification and Job Description for Student Council representative for 2018 / 2019	
Person Specification	Job Description
<p><b>Suitable candidates for the Student Council must be;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Responsible and reliable</li> <li>- Organised</li> <li>- Able to recruit and manage other people, in order to staff the lunchtime drop in club</li> <li>- Empathetic to others' needs</li> <li>- A good listener and communicator</li> <li>- Approachable</li> <li>- Friendly</li> <li>- Willing to give up their own time for lunchtime activities</li> <li>- Able to attend and speak as necessary at school events</li> </ul>	<p><b>Students must be able to;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Represent their year group at school council meetings with commitment and full attendance.</li> <li>- Report back to their tutor groups following year council and wider school council meetings.</li> <li>- Believe in the importance of representing their year group's point of view even if they do not agree with it themselves.</li> <li>- Initiate discussion and debate with fellow student representatives and understand the importance of teamwork.</li> <li>- Understand that as a school council representative, they have the obligation to participate in making decisions about the school, along with staff and school governors.</li> <li>- Represent the students of Pontypridd High School at important public occasions.</li> <li>- Attend all school council and year council meetings. If there is a justifiable reason ensure that an adequate stand-in from their tutor/year group is present.</li> <li>- Contribute to a half termly newsletter to inform staff and students about the school council, their role and achievements</li> <li>- Make a difference !</li> </ul>

# The Pontypridd High School



## STUDENT COUNCIL APPLICATION 2018/19

This form is also available to download at ; [www.pontypriddhighschool.co.uk](http://www.pontypriddhighschool.co.uk)

### 1. Your personal details

Your Name :

Year and Form group :

### 2. Your personal interests and achievements in School

**Think about;** Describe your involvement in activities within school / previous school. Include positions of responsibility held, involvement in musical, dramatic, sporting or cultural activities, membership of clubs, committees and extra-curricular activities or ways in which you have represented the school.

Outline what skills and experience you have developed through this involvement

### 3. Your personal interests out of School

**Think about;** Describe your interests out of school. Include membership of clubs, societies, hobbies and leisure activities, sporting interests, part-time work or any other information relevant to your application.

Outline what skills and experience you have developed through these interests

<b>4. Your preferred role on our Student Council</b>	
<b>Please tick the box(es) of the role and Action Groups you are interested in being part of;</b>	
Year 12 Leader of the Student Council	
Action group 1 : Student wellbeing	
Action group 2 : Charities and fundraising	
Action group 3 : School environment	
Action group 4 : Learning and engagement	
Action group 5 : Student support	

<b>5. Your supporting statement</b>
<b>a). Why are you interested in this role</b>
<b>b). Identify and describe an improvement you would like to make at Pontypridd High School and describe how you plan to make the improvement to help the school become a really great school.</b>

<b>6. Your personal development</b>
<b>Describe what the benefits would be to you from taking up a leadership role in the Student Council.</b>

<b>7. Your personal declaration</b>
<p>As a student leader in the school;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I undertake to be responsible and demonstrate leadership and commitment to the life of the school.</li> <li>- I understand that Student Council duties include attending regular meetings, representing the school on formal and informal occasions, being involved in organising and/or leading events, being an ambassador for the school and a role model to other students.</li> <li>- I agree to wear and promote the School Uniform on a daily basis.</li> <li>- I will work hard to develop good relationships with staff and students and the wider community and seek their views, consistently showing personal integrity and a positive attitude.</li> </ul>

<b>Your signature :</b>
<b>Print your name :</b>
<b>Date :</b>

Please email a copy of your completed form or print off and hand a hard copy to Mrs Debbie Davies, School Governor by Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Email : [daviesd@pontyhigh.co.uk](mailto:daviesd@pontyhigh.co.uk)

The Senior Leadership Team and Sixth Form Leadership Team will consider all applications and interviews will follow if required. Successful applicants will be appointed to the Student Council for the academic year 2018/2019.