**Student Voice**

Equal Opportunities for all

**What is the Student Voice Network?**

The objective of the Student Voice Network is to establish student voice in all schools in the Warrington area and to enable these schools to connect through student representation.

Our aims are to develop opportunities for young people to meet and discuss issues which they face within their own educational facilities. We intend to ensure the diverse population of young people within our town can expand and establish best practice within their own school environment, by sharing concepts with a creative approach to problem solving. Through this new initiative, young people will be able to build connections, evolve ideas and grow their relationships with a wider school community.

**Student Leadership System**

If your school/college requires a Student Leadership Team, led by a Head Student, we would recommend this process to establish a system.

* A senior staff member with responsibility for student voice starts the process by receiving from applicants for the role of Head Student, an application or side of A4 which encompasses the following: who they are; why they want the position as Head Student at your school; what skills or experiences do they have to help fulfil their role and what they hope to achieve and how they would implement this.
* These are read and evaluated before the interview stage, which conducted by the staff member, involves a group interview and a personal, one-to-one interview to establish truth to their application and to see how they function interacting with other pupils.

-The group interview, for example, the candidates are split into equal teams who come up with a group presentation highlighting which of the schools’ values are the most important in their opinion having already ranked them in order. This is observed by the senior staff member who takes notes as the presentation is delivered to the other candidates. This is a key skill the student should be confident in doing that is engaging and appropriate in tone along with showing key teamwork skills and abilities to take on responsibility.

-The personal interview, for example, is conducted with each candidate to probe further into their application and ask more relevant questions relating to the school or scenarios they may encounter. This may be performed by a panel of affiliated staff or by the senior staff member entrusted with student voice. This interviewee should be comfortable in engaging with questions fully and be diplomatic in tone and response.

-These interview stages are highly recommended, as they form a vital experience for all students involved, successful and unsuccessful, of an interview process similar to that in the workplace.

* After the interviews, staff may endorse certain applicants privately based upon past merit, involvement in school life and conduct in day-to-day school life.
* A candidate is then selected for Head Student and Deputy Head Student, preferably a boy and a girl, forming the student leadership team and should be met with regularly after the Y11s leave until their departure next Spring.
* Unsuccessful applicants, however, may be considered for other student voice roles in your school such as: prefects, school councillors and house captains, which we recommend you implement to create for opportunities for young people.
* If your Head Pupils wish to expand their leadership, we would suggest creating a *cabinet* of students who represent different subject areas. From this point your Head Boy and Girl can decide how the cabinet is formed and how those pupils will make a difference to the school. *If you would like support in this section, we will happily provide it.*

Candidates with responsibility of Head Student and Deputy Head Student must be role models for their school. This is a prestigious position and representing the student voice of their educational facility comes with accountability and duty to withhold their school ethos, conducting themselves at all times to the highest standards. The ability to speak eloquently and with presence at open evenings, communicating and directing others, managing events and to initiate new and creative projects which will impact the student’s life within their school is key.

The Head Boy and Head Girl role is to bridge the communication gap between the students and the teaching staff within the school. Ensuring teachers and the management of the school hear the student voice, which will in turn shape and progress the needs of the student body and the school as a family and one community.

**How the Warrington Youth Voice will support your school**

*Some opportunities will be held off until further government corona virus updates*

We will ensure to support your school throughout this new process, additionally we will meet regularly with your Head Student representatives, 3-4 times a year at an appropriate venue such as Warrington Town Hall or possibly at a host school(this is depending on the government advice for corona virus safety, if we cannot meet in the Town Hall or other such large venues like schools the meeting will be held over zoom). This will ensure opportunities to communicate concepts, topics or obstacles which can be solved together.

Members will feel part of a wider school community where challenges and success can be exchanged through open and honest conversation. Subjects can range from but not exclusive to: implementing a wider student voice with more representation and roles; improving facilities and quality of life amenities; combatting widespread issues; organising events and sharing ideas or concepts that maybe beneficial to your school.

We will organise as part of this network visits, talks and workshops from guest speakers for students to engage in providing advice from their experience on placements, completing applications and tips for interviews, money management advice, or stress management, well-being and achievement in their field . We will always have different decision makers in attendance such as senior local government officials, council leaders and chiefs, police chiefs and MP’s.

Funding for charity event can be arranged, as well as locations the Warrington Youth Voice can provide such as the Parr Hall.

To enhance and encourage students to enjoy their subjects is key, as pupils are more likely to work harder in subjects they enjoy. We can provide locations to hold events such as Theatre performances and Art expeditions. Sports day can be held within stadiums rather than school. Through our termly meeting we can discuss what other events students would like to hold.

Having opportunities to meet in person, build friendships and support each other, will ensure we build a strong, loud voice. After all, strength in numbers can deliver a powerful message to make changes happen and a difference to all young people in Warrington. A passion for enriching young people and making their voice heard is what has driven this initiative of the Student Voice Network and we hope that you too share that same passion and sign your school up.

-Ryan Hogan,

Director of Education

Warrington Youth Voice