

STUDENT COUNCIL



SEPTEMBER 2021



What is a Student Council?

Student Council is a group of students who have been elected by their peers to share their views and raise issues with the Senior Leadership and Governors of their school. Student Council can also propose and take forward initiatives and projects on behalf of their peers, and be involved in strategic planning and processes such as School Development Plan, governing body meetings and staff appointments.

A Student Council provides a meaningful way in which all students can voice their opinions and have their views taken into account in decisions that impact them.

Student Council gives students an opportunity to play an active role in decisions that affect them.

The main task of an effective School Council is to help all students:

- enjoy and feel empowered by their education
- feel that their school responds to their needs and views
- have opportunities to let adults know their feelings and opinions about things that affect them
- have a say about decisions and play an active role in making their school a better place
- develop life skills and advocacy through participation

If you have questions, Miss Muršić will happily answer them. Please, reach her via email.



STUDENT MEETINGS

Each Friday, students in a class meet to discuss and vote on that week's Big Question (as launched in assembly). These discussions are led by one of the elected student representatives.

The questions are usually linked to events happening in our school or the wider community. Sometimes, questions will require one answer from the class as a whole group; other times, each student's individual answer will be submitted. Student representatives can also suggest questions leave comments on the behalf of their group.

Student is patient, fair and takes initiative.



STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

The main purpose of our Student Council is to connect our students and encourage open communication, sharing of ideas and opinions. Members of the Student Council will have a chance to publish news written by students for students. We will support publishing and sharing student stories, drawings, photographs, announcements, interviews and news. What are your students' talents? Talk with them about using this opportunity and feature on our web.

Student likes to talk and share ideas with others.



THE ROLE OF A STUDENT COUNCIL

Student Council is made up of students, who have been elected by their classmates to support our direct democratic system. Members of the student council, in collaboration with our Deputy Headteacher and Head of Autism Research and Development, decide on weekly questions and record the votes/opinions in every class.

Roles and responsibilities of the School Council:

- To express both their own views and those of other students
- To communicate students' thoughts and feelings with the school leaders
- To attend (and lead) regular meetings
- To actively engage in make positive changes

Student Council encourages children and young people to become active members of a democratic society.

Being a part of the school council can help students develop skills, such as collaboration and communication, as well as build their confidence with preseting and making decisions.

Pupils involved in making decisions benefit in a variety of different ways: increased confidence, self-esteem, ability and a greater sense of responsibility.



FROM IDEAS TO CHANGES

Students are in the centre of our school development. How would our students like their school to look, work or feel in the future?

Student Council members will listen to their peers and help our leaders create the best specialist school in the world. Is your student a good listener? does he/she have ideas that would make our school better? Encourage them to join Student Council and support them in applying.

Student is committed to improving our school.





ELECTION AND RESULTS

Just like our local and national leaders, student councilors need to show their peers that they are fair, reliable and trustworthy - qualities needed to share votes and comments with the rest of the school. Students should write in their application, reasons why they wish to join the student council and why other students should vote for them. When all applications are received, staff will present the candidates and each student will have a chance to give one vote. The votes will be counted and the election results will be presented during an assembly.



ENCOURAGE YOUR STUDENTS TO APPLY

Being a member of the Student Council gives students a unique chance to develop communication, presentation and leadership skills while supporting their classmates to voice opinions. One of the added benefits to the Student Council membership is the termly meeting where they can learn more about advocacy, politics and take part in local and national youth parliament discussions.



EXAMPLE APPLICATION FORM

Hi, my name is

My best qualities are

I would like to be a part of the Student Council because

Vote for me!

Application form alternatives:
- send email to sara.mursic@abbotsleaschool.co.uk
- send voice note to 07903185704

Leave your application in the Student Council box at the atrium by Friday 1 October.