

The Introduction of Pupil Council Positions

Originally proposed by Rose Inglis

The Idea: To introduce the new roles of Pupil Council Chair, Pupil Council Second Chair and Pupil Council Secretary, which would be re-assigned annually. The role of chair is taken on by a sixth year pupil, with second chair being a fifth year, and the secretary being from any year. Roles can be designated by senior management, or elected within the council.

Why is the introduction of these roles beneficial?

- It makes the pupil council truly pupil led, which furthers the aim of the council to be effective representatives of the student body
- It will increase the productivity of the council, as the students who take on these roles will be more able to make pupil council a top priority, over staff who already have a heavy workload on top of their commitments to the council
- The effect of increased productivity will be that the council will become more valued by pupils, and will be more widely recognised as a force of change, therefore increasing pupil participation in council projects
- It will create a sense of independence within the council and give those with a specific role a greater sense of responsibility, giving members a great opportunity to develop their skills, become more independent and be confident within themselves

What do the positions entail?

Pupil Council Chair

- Responsible for working with staff and council members to devise a schedule for pupil council meetings
- Will chair and set agenda for each meeting in conjunction with staff
- Responsible for delegating tasks to other members based on the skills and attributes of each member
- Main point of contact in the council for teachers and S6 leadership team (i.e. if staff or leadership team need pupil council involvement in a project they would reach out to the chair)
- Responsible for assuring the council is reaching its goals and staying connected with pupils
- Main communicator for council with external affairs, communicating with people outside of school etc

Pupil Council Second Chair

- Responsible for assisting chair in all tasks including helping to chair meetings, setting agendas, being second point of contact for teachers and leadership etc
- Taking on the Responsibilities of the Chair if the Chair should be absent for any length of time

- Works closely with the council secretary to assure the council is as organised as possible

Pupil Council Secretary

- Responsible for taking minutes during the meetings and typing them up after each session
- Responsible for keeping council paperwork and notes well organised
- Works closely with chair and second chair to write letters and statements to be sent on behalf of the council

Final Word

The St Thomas' Pupil Council is extremely excited for the year ahead and very much hopes that the introduction of these roles as recognised positions within the council and school community, will be an invaluable asset in ensuring that the council meets its full potential in effectively representing the Students of St Thomas of Aquin's, and in guaranteeing a wonderful experience for everyone in the community during their time at school.