



Comunik8 News



September 2006

What's been happening with Comunik8 this year?

If you haven't already heard about Comunik8 (Wigan Borough Student Council), you might be wondering what it's all about. Well it's a forum which meets about three times a year to discuss a range of issues related to school. The idea is that students from different schools get together to talk about issues that might have been discussed at school council meetings but which students think it might be useful to share ideas with

other schools about. The meetings also provide Wigan Council's Children and Young People's Services with an opportunity to listen to the views of students, which may help them to make certain decisions.

All secondary schools are invited to send two students to represent the views of students in their school, so if you've got an issue or idea that you think should be discussed with other schools at Comunik8,

get in touch with your Comunik8 representative via your school council.

Over the past year, representatives from 17 different schools have attended Comunik8 meetings. Representatives stated that attending the Comunik8 meeting provided them with "different ways of dealing with important issues in school we may not have thought of" and that "progress will be made".

So what's happening next year?

We want to ensure that Comunik8 continues to develop over the next year. One of the ways in which we hope to raise awareness of what is going on at Comunik8 meetings and ensure that all students have the opportunity to keep up-to-date with what has been happening at the meetings and any action planned, is by taking up your suggestions and making information available on the internet.

A Comunik8 section will be

established over the next academic year on the Linc Online website, which can be visited at www.wlct.org/culture/linonline/linonline.htm

The Linc Team will be attending the Comunik8 meeting on 20th September to find out what information students would like to be available on the website.

To ensure that Wigan Council and in particular Children and Young People's Services listen and respond to your views,

Comunik8 dates for 2006/2007

The following meetings will start at 9.30 a.m. and conclude with lunch at midday:

20th September 2006

29th November 2006

17th January 2007

28th March 2007

Meetings will take place in the Council Chamber at Wigan Town Hall.

over the last year we have been piloting a form which will summarise the key issues raised by young people at Comunik8, Young People's Councils and other youth groups and will be taken to key decision makers in the Council who will be asked to provide young people with a response. We hope that this system will be up and running effectively over the next academic year.



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Year 2005/6—Key issues discussed

Bullying

Comunik8 representatives felt that bullying was a big issue in schools and shared their ideas about what could be done to tackle bullying. Some ideas that seemed to be working were systems for reporting bullying incidents by text and email and mentoring / mediation schemes run by students to support students who might be experiencing bullying.

Since attending the meeting and listening to some of these ideas, some schools have reported that they have introduced similar systems in their schools. It's great to hear that you the

students are working hard to help make improvements in your school. We intend to help you by including the ideas that were raised in a pack that will be sent into schools for use during anti-bullying week.

School meals

Geoff Long from MCCS, the school meals provider and Helen Turner, Food Policy Co-ordinator for the Borough attended a meeting to talk about some of the national changes to food in schools. The changes include restrictions on what is available in vending machines as well as new nutritional

standards designed to make school meals healthier and more balanced. In order to achieve these standards, new menus had to be developed and the ideas provided by students at Comunik8 about which types of healthier options you would prefer were used to inform the new school menus .

You also told us that in some special schools students were getting smaller food portions than in other secondary schools. This has now been dealt with and all students of secondary age should be receiving equal portions.

Sports activities

Representatives from Active Living, Sports Development and Extended schools attended a meeting to talk about how they could help schools to offer more physical activity opportunities during school time and through after school activities. Comunik8 representatives stated that they would like to see more activities such as basketball, cricket, trampolining, golf and hip-hop dancing on offer. The idea of students sharing their skills by coaching other students was also raised as an idea and as result is now being piloted in one school using the Junior Sports Leadership Award with students who have not taken GCSE P.E.

Circles of Influence event

Strong opinions about transport & the environment, health and citizenship & education?

You might be interested in the Circles of Influence event taking place during

local democracy week this year. The event, organised by Children and Young People's Services, will run from 5—9pm on Friday 20th September at Wigan Town Hall and will include free food.

You can send your question or comment in advance by texting it to 07930 192311 or emailing it to linconline@wlct.org by the end of September. The best questions will be discussed on the night.

For more information or to book a place contact Angela Wood on (01942) 705944.