



Guilsborough Academy

Guilsborough Multi Academy Trust

Student Parliament 2024



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General Introduction

At Guilsborough Academy we feel that allowing you, the students, to have a voice and be involved in the decision-making processes of the academy, empowers you and develops a positive culture and ethos.

The benefits of listening to and acting on **student** voice include increasing student's engagement in learning, encouraging collaboration between the students and their teachers, creating and maintaining a positive environment and culture, building respectful relationships, connections and belonging developing personal and social capabilities.

In 2024-25 we will be introducing a student parliament system which allows each tutor group to elect and vote for a representative to be 'their voice'.

Each term, the student parliament will meet for one period to hold a meeting and discuss key topics for the academy. For example, uniform, school clubs and visits, the canteen, behaviour and respect for the site, teaching and learning....at the start of the year, we will agree our termly focus.

The parliament will be run for the student, by the students!

Members of the Senior leadership team in 6th form will support the parliament and senior teaching staff will also be present at some of the meetings to hear your voice.

Each week, leading up to the parliament meeting, student representatives will have to speak to their class (their constituents) and gather their thoughts, ready to present and discuss.

- Each student will have a desk and name displayed for the meeting in the main hall.
- There will be a student parliament display board, identifying the MSP's (members of the student parliament)
- The meetings will be chaired and led by the Principal and Vice principals of the student board, elected by the MSP's in term 1.



The Student Parliament will be made up of representatives from every combined Tutor Group (known as 'MSPs' – Members of the Student Parliament) giving a total of 40 members. The Parliament will mostly be led and managed by a President and two Vice-Presidents (taken from the 40 MSPs) who will be supported by WLG and HNT and the 6th form student leadership team.

The Parliament will meet termly, sometimes twice termly, for a double lesson, usually in the hall. The seating plan is based on the United Nations General Assembly complete with a stage, lectern and placards for each MSP desk. Parliament meetings will occur at different times of the week throughout the year so that the same lessons are not being disrupted every time. Deputy MSPs should attend meetings when the main MSP is unable to. There will be badges for the MSPs and Deputy MSPs and a school notice board advertising the members, dates of meetings and topics to be covered.

Once in position the President and Vice Presidents will set the agenda for each Parliament meeting based on the prominent student voice issues at the time and recommendations from staff. Members of staff will sometimes be invited to speak at Parliament meetings but it is important to note that these meetings are led entirely by the students. Each Parliament meeting will also contain an 'open microphone' session so that all MSPs have the opportunity to share issues that have not been on the meeting's agenda.

What happens in between Parliament meetings is crucial. There should be dialogue between the MSP and their Tutor Groups so that the wider pupil population are kept up to date with the work of the Parliament. The President and Vice Presidents will have a dialogue with WLG and other members of the Leadership Group to give certain issues a raised platform.

MSP Job Description

Are you interested in an exciting, challenging and rewarding opportunity? Would you like to have an important role in promoting the student voice at Guilssborough Academy? If your answers to these questions are yes, then you should apply to become an MSP (Member of Student Parliament).

What does an MSP do?

The job of an MSP is to be the key representative of your combined tutor groups on the Student Parliament. You will attend termly meetings in the hall. At these meetings you will work with other MSPs from all year groups on a variety of Academy issues affecting you and your classmates. You will then report back to your tutor groups what was discussed at these Student Parliament meetings and then take back the views of your tutor groups on some of the different issues to the next Student Parliament meeting. You may also be expected to attend smaller committee meetings during some tutor times and break times to discuss specific Student Parliament issues in more detail. You may also be needed to help interview new members of staff on occasions throughout the year.

What does an MSP need to have?

- Good listening skills
- A good level of confidence
- An ability to speak in front of an audience
- An ability to represent different opinions to your own
- Good communication skills (both oral and written)
- Excellent reliability to check electronic communication on a regular basis and attend meetings that will sometimes take place at break times
- The responsibility to catch up on any missed work when meetings take place in lesson time.

If you feel you have the above and would like to be your Tutor Group's MSP then you should complete an MSP Application Form and hand this to your Tutor. Each combined Tutor Group will need to have an MSP as well as a Deputy MSP who could attend meetings when the main MSP is unable to (or share the role)

4) **WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES AND INTERESTS?**

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5) **SIGNATURE & DECLARATION**

| | | | |
|--|--|-------|--|
| Please sign and date here to confirm that the information given is accurate | | | |
| Signed: | | Date: | |

The role of the Tutor and Tutor Time with MSPs

The first thing all Tutors will need to be responsible for is arranging who will become your Tutor Group's MSP and Deputy MSP (Term 1). This should be a 3 stage process:

- 1) Drawing the attention of the need to have an MSP to the combined Tutor Groups by sharing the Job Description This will be done the day after the Student Parliament launch assembly (Term 1)
- 2) Encourage the completion of Application Forms from interested pupils (deadline for a return of these forms tbc – to WLG)
- 3) Either hold an election or 'appoint' where necessary so that your Tutor Group has their MSP and Deputy MSP in place by tbc. **The names of these two pupils should be emailed to WLG by tbc at the latest as the first Parliament session takes place on tbc.**

Following the first Student Parliament session all MSPs should be given the opportunity to find out what their Tutor Groups feel about the priorities of the Student Parliament (set out at the first meeting) so that these can be shared at the next meeting. Following the second Parliament meeting there should be a Tutor Time opportunity for the MSP/Deputy to feedback what was discussed/decided at this meeting.

The above should then be the pattern of dialogue throughout the year whenever there are Parliament or committee meetings scheduled (a Tutor Time opportunity for MSPs before and after the meeting to seek Tutor Group opinions on certain agenda items and to feedback accordingly). To facilitate this dialogue MSPs should regularly be receiving electronic communication giving details of meeting agendas, minutes and action points. **It is therefore very important that MSPs are regularly checking their electronic communication and Tutors should occasionally check with their MSPs that this is happening.** As well as electronic communication MSPs will also receive some paper documents at meetings which, along with their own notes made at the meetings, will also assist their feedback to their tutees.

If a Tutor is concerned that their MSP is not effectively fulfilling their role then they should initially discuss these concerns with their MSP. Likewise if the Parliament President or Vice Presidents have any concerns about an individual MSP (possibly due to lack of attendance at meetings) then they may share these concerns with the MSPs Tutor. If such concerns persist it may be necessary to replace the MSP in question. Heads of School may also wish to intervene if there are disciplinary issues with any MSP. **If a Tutor Group does have a new MSP or Deputy MSP throughout the year it is important that WLG is notified about this at the earliest opportunity.**

Mr K Woolridge

The President, Vice-Presidents & Committess

The President and Vice-Presidents will be elected at the second Student Parliament meeting from interested MSPs. These interested MSPs will have to prepare a speech as to why they should be the President and an election will follow accordingly. The MSP who comes first in this election will be elected President and the second and third placed candidates will become the two Vice-Presidents.

The President and Vice-Presidents will then be responsible for planning and chairing the future Student Parliament meetings.



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