Review of School Councils

Following a request from BAD Youth Forum, the Schools' Forum has set aside a sum to allow all schools to have a student voice evidence gathering visit.

- BAD Youth Forum asked that all school councils could be visited by a trained school improvement officer. They wanted an objective view of each school council so that each school could have an individual snapshot of its own council and a picture of how it compares with school councils across the borough.

- Whilst this has been requested by the Youth Forum itself, it will also provide helpful evidence for schools – it will contribute to the student voice strand of the schools' own self-evaluation evidence.

- The programme of visits is being coordinated by Anne Pepper – Principal Adviser – an experienced school improvement officer and Ofsted Inspector and Erik Stein – Group Manager Engagement and External Services – an expert on schools' councils.

- The visits are planned to take place in the second half of this term – February and March – with the possibility that a few may go into April. Secondary schools will be prioritised. There are around 55 visits to make – so it is a considerable undertaking!

- Visits will follow a standard pattern:
  - Meeting with school council representatives;
  - Meeting with SLT lead for student voice;
  - Reading of any relevant documents/minutes;
  - Brief feedback to head or nominated senior leader.

- Key points will be captured on a proforma agreed and provided for the school.

- General points will be drawn out in a report for the CCSC and BAD Youth Forum.

- Visits will be carried out by LA staff and Janet Dyson who is the RE Subject Adviser to the local SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education) and has many years experience supporting and inspecting schools – with particular expertise in Religious Education, spiritual, mental, social and cultural development – which strongly includes how students' views are captured and valued by schools.

- Headteachers have been briefed and given a copy of the Schools Council UK Top Tips documents.