

WAYNE: Every time anything comes up, you just say it isn't worth it. Well, I think some things are worth it.

JUSTINE: Yes, Wayne, and so do I. But not the dinner queue.

TONY: You what?

JUSTINE: We gave up dinner times, we met after school, we wrote letters to the Governors and took minutes, and we ended up deciding who went in first for dinner. Big deal.

TONY: Is that all it's about?

WAYNE: Of course it isn't.

JUSTINE: But it could be.

WAYNE: You think Ms. Palmer is going through all this just to talk about dinner queues?

JUSTINE: No, I don't. I think she wants it to be useful for us. I think she'd like us to have more say, and she'd also like us to see the point of politics and the other stuff she teaches.

WAYNE: Right. So do I. We're on the same side, and we ought to support her.

JUSTINE: But I don't think the Head thinks that, or most of the other teachers. So even if she gets us together, they're not going to allow us to decide anything that matters. We can have a nice chat, but we'll end up realising that there's nothing we can do.

WAYNE: You can't be sure of that.

JUSTINE: No, I can't. Just like you can't be sure that it'll work. So you back your hunch and I'll back mine and we'll see who's right, eh?

ASHA: It should suit you, having Palmer to yourself. You can have your very own meeting, without any of us dimwits getting in the way.

WAYNE: I didn't say anything about dimwits.

ASHA: Sorry. People who don't care. Right, if I don't care then you certainly don't need me. What about Tony, does he care? I mean, about anything outside the Premier League?

TONY: How do you know what I care about?

WAYNE: Alright, I'm sorry. I shouldn't have said that. I got carried away.

JUSTINE: Dear Ms. Palmer, you will be glad to know that Wayne's passion for politics just got to be too much for him to control (she and Asha laugh).

WAYNE: It's not funny. Look, I don't want to do this on my own.

TONY: Well, see how it goes. If it works, we might join later.

WAYNE: It won't work like that. If nobody shows up, then it won't start at all.

JUSTINE: But if it starts, it'll start with the small stuff, the dinner queue, right?

WAYNE: Maybe. But then, if that works, it could get on to more important stuff later.

ASHA: Or, the tooth fairy might take over. Could your council get my mobile phone back?

JUSTINE: You wish.

TONY: Forget it Asha, you're dreaming.

WAYNE: Look, if you're daft enough to use it in the middle of a lesson, there's a good chance you're going to lose it.

ASHA: How right you are. But that's it, you see, Wayne. You're a sensible type, and teachers know you're responsible, and I'm sure you'll be a prefect one day. If there's a school council then you might be chairman or secretary –

WAYNE: But that's not the point. It's not about me.

ASHA: Maybe, but it is about meetings, and lots of talking, and my life's too short for that. If you can show Tony a meeting that looks better than a game of football then I'll be impressed. Personally, I wouldn't bet on it. But thanks for asking.

WAYNE: Great. Well, see you around. (They start to move off, Tony and Wayne in one direction, Asha and Justine in the other).

JUSTINE: Sooner than you think, maybe. I'll be there.

TONY: But you said –

JUSTINE: Sure. But I can change my mind. Something you just said. I may not stay, mind, but to start with I'll give it a go. See you, Wayne.

Talking points:

1. Why do you think Justine changed her mind? What would be a good reason for going to this meeting? What would make her stay?
2. Meetings. Some people like them, some don't. Some are good at them, some aren't. Are they important? Are they necessary? Why/why not? What is a good meeting like, and how does it work?
3. Should school councils be for people who like that sort of thing, or for everyone? What would be the best way to make a school council involve a lot of people?
4. This play mentions many possible issues a school council might deal with. Make a list of all of them, and then try to agree on the ones which you think a school council should deal with.