

Local Governing Body
Minutes of the Meeting
Held on 13th February 2020

Present: Simon Prior (SPR) – Chair Mary Sanders (MSS) - Chair, Rolf Purvis (RPS) – Head teacher, Jeanette Redding (JRG) – Vice Chair, Lesley Waugh (LWH) and Lynne Martin (LMN), Simon Grapes (SGS)

Also present: Natalie Paine (NPE) and Mark Eastwood (MED)

1. **Apologies:** Lucy Scott, Helen Richings and Jim Warwick

From the Chair

- SPR – Welcomed all to the LGB as his first meeting as chair and reiterated to all the school ethos and how the LGB should keep this in mind when attending meetings and reviewing reports. SPR also announced that Helen Richings has resigned as parent governor and that recruitment would need to be made to replace her once the governor skills audit is completed.
2. **Declarations of Interest** - None
 3. **Minutes of the last Meeting**
 - Were agreed as being an accurate account of the meeting and signed by SPR.
 4. **Annual Safeguarding Update – Mark Eastwood**
 - MED - Explained to the LGB that Year 10 and 11 have recently received a presentation on county lines given its prevalence in the media. Students were asked in this assembly to complete and evaluation and students reported that they felt 100% safe. They also reported that they felt their knowledge of this topic was secure and that the training was relevant. Furthermore subject specific presentations on key issues in the media such as FGM would be taking place.
 - JRG – Asked MED if there would be sessions on consent?
 - MED - Responded that there is an upcoming session on consent and female empowerment that Rose Cornelius was arranging with Year 10. MED also informed the LGB that staff safeguarding training is taking place each half term.
 - LMN – Asked if there were any concerns about members of the public being able to access after 4pm?
 - MED – Stated that there were no concerns as students would be minimal and those on site are supervised.
 - MED – Stated that there continues to be a lot of work surrounding bullying including a member of staff employed as an anti-bullying champion.
 - LWG - Asked if the peer sessions arranged are working?
 - MED – Stated that the arranged peer support sessions work well. He reported that when looking at the bullying log there were only 16 actual cases of bullying and whilst there were more reported, upon looking into these were more a case of friendship fallouts.
 - SGS – Asked if there was an analysis in terms of bullying trends?
 - MED – Stated that there was a trend of verbal bullying amongst Year 9 boys however a successful managed move of one student had reversed this.
 - SGS – Asked MED if everything not classified as bullying is still logged?

- MED – Stated that there were 29 accounts of ‘unkind’ behaviour which were not classified as persistent bullying.
- JRG – Asked if racism is logged in the bullying log?
- MED – Stated that acts of racism are logged but dealt with differently.
- SGS – Asked if the reporting of bullying is advertised to staff and students?
- MED – Responded that this is addressed in assemblies and staff training.
- SGS – Asked MED if training is given to show signs of spotting bullying?
- MED – Responded that the training covered this and how to deal with it. He reported that DMA has also applied to be an ‘Altogether School’.
- SGS – Asked how many schools have this?
- MED – Responded that there are not many and that it shows that we adhere to certain expectations in tackling bullying in schools.
- SPR – Asked MED to explain following the previous LGB why students arriving on managed moves are not successful but those leaving DMA were?
- MED – Explained that the success of a managed move depends on the right student in the right school. He explained that DMA uses this tool early on to prevent a further problem developing. Some of the students that have arrived at DMA had not been in school for a long time and were very disengaged.
- SPR – Asked if the managed move process is a fixed time period?
- MED – Answered that it was 8 weeks long.
- LMN – Asked if MED has a say in which students are taken on?
- MED – Stated that he did and that there is a panel meeting which takes place which works closely and is becoming more experienced.

5. Inclusion – Natalie Paine

- NPE – Stated that the SEN Department had come a long way in building connections outside of the school and getting more correct advice and support such as the virtual school for SEN. There has also been an improvement in building positive relationships with parents. 50 students with ADHD are now working with county core consultation and as a result there are improved strategies and sharing of good practice. NPE stated that the team had recently lost their progress support worker apprentice meaning the team were down to 2 progress support workers however a new member of staff had been recruited and would be starting in March.
- NPE – Stated that there has been an improvement in staff accountability and that the emphasis was that staff should know their SEN students and keep up to date with the strategies that were detailed on the TRS system.
- LMN – Asked NPE if staff are challenged if they don’t know who the students are.
- NPE – Stated that the teachers are challenged and held accountable. Staff are tested and teachers share seating plans with each other and sharing of best practice for students.
- LMN – Asked if there was an increased use of technology for SEN students?
- NPE- Stated that students are reluctant to carry around laptops however by encouraging some of the older students to carry these it has changed the stigma.
- SGS – Asked NPE what the interaction with county was now like?
- NPE – Stated that now knowing who the correct people to contact meant the SEN team are able to contact when needed.
- SGS – Asked if there is a published list of who to contact and whether they are challenged when not able to contact?
- NPE – Stated that there is not a list but that she has been able to establish key contacts.
- LMN – Asked NPE if there is much support from the families of SEN students?
- NPE – Responded that there are three way conversations where the students are consulted about their own provision with the parents and students present.

6. Faculty Update – MFL – Rolf Purvis

- RPS – Stated that 2018/19 results showed students achieving 5+ were French 30%, German 23% and Spanish 10%. During the first year staffing had proven very difficult with a number of longer term absences. A restructure in June has led to offering French and Spanish at GCSE for the following year. The quality of teaching and learning in the department is varied and this led to the decision to

amalgamate the MFL and English department due to the excellent leadership in the English department. Julie Cowan will still remain as head of MFL with support from Michaela Nolimal. RPS stated that there is active recruitment for an assistant head for MFL so that they are represented at SLT. RPS also stated that there is a drive to overstaff MFL.

- SPR – Asked if Michaela Nolimal was to mentor Julie Cowan?
- RPS – Stated that Micheala's role was to steer the department in the right direction. He stated that the MFL department had a new very enthusiastic teacher that students were responding well to.
- RPS – Stated that DMA was taking the issues in MFL very seriously and they are looking to replicate the outstanding MFL lessons at Chesterton.
- LMN – Asked RPS if the plan was to offer additional languages in the future?
- RPS – Stated that it was important to get the two languages right first and that results in German had shown no improvement.
- JRG – Stated that Julie Cowan was looking forward to Chesterton's involvement.

7. Headteachers Report

- RPS – Stated that the focus has been on recruitment for future vacancies with a number of staff moving on, some due to geographical reasons.
- LWG – Stated that the increased focus on staff wellbeing will help retain staff.
- RPS – Stated that there are regular communications to staff praising excellent lessons and that the performance appraisal system is also designed to give positive feedback.
- RPS – Stated that he has met with Liz Truss about Athena College and the developments being made there and that she is keen to support opening a satellite school in Cambridge.
- RPS – Stated that Clare Hargraves has interviewed potential Year 11 candidates for the sixth form and that each of them had come across well and very positively.

8. AOB

- SPR – discussed link governors with the LGB. LMN and JRG would now be link governors for safeguarding.
- SPR – Stated that a skills audit would be sent to the LGB for SGS to collate.

SIGNED BY CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

SIGNED *Simon Prior*
DMA LGB, Chair of Governors

SIMON PRIOR

DATE 23rd April 2020