

Local Governing Body  
Minutes of the Meeting  
Held on 02.12.2020

Present: Simon Prior (SPR) – Chair, Rolf Purvis (RPS) – Head teacher,  
Lucy Scott (LST) – CEO Jeanette Redding (JRG) – Vice Chair, Simon Sandler-Vallance (SSV),  
Simon Grapes (SGS), Jim Warwick (JWK), Carolyn Johnson (CJN), Clare Gunns (CGS), Mary  
Sanders (MSS), Jo Hornsby (JHY), Lynne Martin (LMN)

Also present: Mark Eastwood (MED), Richard Auffrett (RAT) Esther Hyde (EHE), Matthew Rogers (MRS)

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of Last Meeting
  - SPR – Minutes Agreed
  - JRG – Asked the LGB to keep her updated on training attended or required

### **3. KS4 Curriculum – Richard Auffrett**

- RAT – Presented to the LGB.
- RAT – Stated that there has been an increase in the progress 8 score since 2017.
- RAT – For year 9 core data is predicted to be lower at the same point in 2019 this is to be expected due to the time students were not in school over the last year. However students are making progress and accelerated learning is well evidenced.
- RAT – Explained that for current year 11 there is an expectation to be a dip in core mocks results. Students however have a good attitude to learning. There is good evidence for accelerated learning witnessed in learning walks.
- RAT – For current year 10 ATLs show year 10 have started courses well. Boys are showing lower A and B ATLs than 2019.
- RAT – For 2021 the aim is stability KS4 outcome improvement is now a trend. It is important to look at staff capacity going forward so there will be no additional courses offered. There will also be a considered approach to pathways timings and the use of data.
- RAT – For KS5 there is a broader offer based on DMA areas of high performance such as PE and Social Cluster.
- JRG – Asked RAT what proportion of students will take an EBACC subject going forward?
- RAT – Stated that it was important to balance growth of EBACC uptake and that being meaningful growth with students being better prepared at KS3 to take an EBACC subject at KS4. The national average uptake is 40%.
- SPR – Asked if the broadening of offer at 6<sup>th</sup> form will attract more students to the 6<sup>th</sup> form?
- RAT – That is the hope, students were spoken to and Criminology was added to the curriculum to compliment the uptake of Psychology.

### **4. COVID Update – Mark Eastwood**

- MED – There have been 4 positive cases since half term, none have been linked to suggest school transmission. As a result several students were sent home to isolate who were in close proximity to the positive student. The trust received further guidance during October half term and as a trust we decided to limit the movement of students around the school with students having base classrooms with the exceptions of option subject or MFL groups. This was carried out for three weeks which enabled sending home fewer students when a positive case is identified. However this system had its limitations and it was decided to move to a balance of the system in

place in September and the system after half term. While teachers were great at adapting to moving classrooms as the learning experience was limited particularly around practical subject such as Science and Technology. Also for staff wellbeing it was very difficult to manage moving classrooms throughout the day. As an academy the school is keeping up to date with government advice and update risk assessments accordingly.

- CJN – From a parent perspective CJN would like to thank the school for their support this year to students during a difficult time.
- SGS – Asked if students are being compliant with restrictions put in place.
- MED – Stated that students have been very adaptable and restrictions have been explained fully to all students to ensure they understand the reasons why these have been put in place.
- SSV – Asked if there was more psychological advice available to students with adapting to changes at home as a result of COVID.
- MED – Stated that as part of the training days students who may have struggled were identified and pastoral support put in place. There has also been funding put aside for additional counselling for students that need to access.
- SSV – asked how many students receive FSM?
- MED – 25%
- SSV – Asked how a child accesses free school meals and how a child who receives them feels about receiving them.
- MED – Stated that the students are not regularly identified so students who receive them should not feel stigmatised.
- LMN – Asked if parents could be made aware how to access FSM if they now need to.
- MED – Stated he would re-share the information with parents.

## **5. Previous Year Financial Outcome – Mark Eastwood**

- MED – Stated that meeting with Tracey Sendall there was a small surplus at the end of the financial year. There has also been a restructure of catering staff due to the uptake of school meals given the restrictions faced.
- SPR – Asked if there was COVID funding.
- LST – Stated that there was some catch up funding but no specific COVID funding to cover additional costs such as cleaning.
- SPR – Stated that information on catch up funding (Pupil Premium, Year 7, PE and Covid 19) and how this is being used is on the school website.
- MED – Stated that a large financial commitment this year has been the Ipad scheme giving Ipad's to years 7-10. Parents have been generous in their contributions to these keeping these viable.
- JWK – Asked about the Wifi to support the Ipad's.
- MED – Stated that the existing infrastructure for the Wifi was not adequate to support the wifi this was identified early on as needing improving. However the order for this has been delayed due an issue with ordering.
- LST – Stated that this has been escalated to the director of education, the RSC, Liz Truss and Open Reach as soon as the trust was made aware of the issue.

## **6. Reports – Circulated Prior**

### **Behaviour and Attendance**

- MED - Attendance is currently 94.8% which is higher than this time last year. PP and SEN attendance is in line if not better than national averages. The measure for attendance does not include those self-isolating. If included this is 91.2% it is widely publicised that nationally this is around 78%.
- Med – 26% of students have self-isolated for at least one day.
- JRG – Asked if students self-isolating are accessing online provision?
- MED – Stated that the resources are added for every lesson regardless if a student is self-isolating?
- SSV – Asked if figures regarding attendance are published to motivate students?
- MED – Agreed to publicise.

## Careers

- JRG – Asked if there were plans to reinstate work experience.
- RPS – Stated that the limited opportunities in the area lead to low aspirations. It is important that the students have an excellent learning experience in school to raise aspirations and providing a more comprehensive offer at 6<sup>th</sup> form.
- LST – Stated that there is also a cost involved in a whole year group but if a student would be motivated by specific work experience this is offered. Careers fairs and visitors are also chosen carefully to continue to raise aspirations. An area that could be looked at going forward could be 6<sup>th</sup> form work placements.
- JRG – It would be good to give specific work related placements.
- SPR – Asked if the Beacon East service has been contracted again this year?
- RPS – Stated that this outside careers advice is currently brought in however this could become an internal resource.

## **7. Faculty Update**

### **Geography – Matthew Rogers**

- MRS – There are currently 5 members of staff including 2 members of SLT, an NQT, a trainee teacher and link teacher from Witchford.
- MRS – During lockdown the main aim was to maintain the normal curriculum this was achieved through Skype lessons. In KS3 there is an emphasis on skills such as graphs and data.
- MRS – At KS4 there are 73 pupil's at Year 10 and 75 in Year 11. There are two separate sets in year ten giving more targeted teaching to the two groups however Year 11 have period 7 sessions if required.
- MRS – For Mock Year 11 Exams results have been similar to November last year despite the decrease in teaching times. Year 11's this year have sat all three papers in comparison to just paper 1 and 2 last in last year's mocks. Results from Paper 3 have been positive which has shown work over lockdown has been embedded well.
- RPS – Stated that the geography department inherited by CET in 2017 had no Geography specialists and the department is now fully staffed by staff with Geography degrees.
- RPS – Stated that the lessons observed are of a high quality.
- SPR – Stated that the FFT scores have shown significant improvement over the years in geography.
- SPR – Asked if the splitting of the year 10's into ability groups was a deliberate choice?
- MRS – Stated that this was a choice enabled by timetabling and increased staffing.
- SPR – Asked if there is a lot of mentoring for the trainee and NQT?
- MRS – Stated that Jess Davies is mentored by David Hewett and Nicola Burton by himself and both are succeeding very well.
- SGS – Asked for November mocks whether they were given exam papers they would have been given?
- MRS – Stated that some content was not covered prior to students taking the paper but students are graded on the papers they had been taught?
- SGS – Asked what the Geography uptake at 6<sup>th</sup> form is looking at?
- MRS – No firm data yet.
- MED – Stated that whilst applications are known students are less explicit as to the courses they would like to do.
- LST – Stated that the curriculum and the way lessons taught in lockdown for the Geography department was changed to help deliver the content and this is reflected well in mock results.

### **History- Esther Hyde**

- EHE – Stated that there has been significant changes in the department in terms of staffing. Esther and Nick Hewitt have split the year 11 groups with Nick taking a lead due to his expertise in the exam board.
- EHE – KS5 classes are being taught by teachers with specialist knowledge of the course content.

- EHE - Across KS3 this is divided amongst the team
- EHE – There are 3 NQTs in the team and they have shown significant resilience and adaptability. Feedback from staff observing has been incredibly positive with excellent classroom management shown by all.
- EHE – Is currently looking at which paper and content is due to be dropped from the syllabus to allow students to focus on the subject areas they will be tested on.
- EHE – Stated there has been a tweak to the KS3 course with the ‘Death of Socrates’ added to the course to compliment the ancient history course.
- SPR – Asked if Ancient History is KS3 or KS4?
- EHE – Stated that Year 7 have picked up Ancient History
- MSS – Asked EHE if she had thought on inviting Cambridge University to deliver a team’s talk?
- EHE – Stated that this was being looked into?
- SGS – Asked how the mentoring programme works and if it was possible to have some notes on how this is delivered?
- RPS – Stated that Diana Turnbull could attend a meeting to explain how the training programme works.
- LST – Stated that it would be good for one of the NQT’s to attend.
- RPS – Stated that when CET arrived at DMA the history department was in need of improvement and that the work Esther has put in since September was commendable and the department has great potential.

## **8. Headteacher’s Report**

- RPS – Stated that his report has been largely covered. This year has been the most challenging for himself and all staff involved.
- RPS – Stated that for the NQT’s and Trainees that have been particularly affected have shown tremendous resilience.
- RPS – Stated that due to the impact of COVID there has been a focus on teaching and learning lead by Nick Hewitt. There are no staff on support plans and any with concerns last year have shown significant improvement.
- RPS – Stated that it was great to see Ipad’s being used in class in very imaginative ways.
- RPS – Stated that 15 of the 16 NQT’s are thriving and the one exception is being supported to improve subject knowledge.
- RPS – Stated that DMA was also fully staffed.
- RPS – Stated that there will be window replacement programme at the 6<sup>th</sup> form work to be complete by Easter 2021.
- RPS – Stated that he’d had a very positive meeting with Liz Truss regarding a new school build and supporting an application after the 2021 spending review.
- JRG – Asked about forming links with the leisure centre to improve the facilities offered?
- LST – Stated that post COVID there would be discussions with the leisure centre to links could be made.
- JRG – Asked the proportion of staff are on track to meet appraisal targets?
- RPS – Stated given none were on support plans this would be 100%.
- LST – Stated that a number of staff who have left have had their performance managed if they are not meeting the standards expected.

## **9. Health and Safety**

- SPR – Asked if there are any Health and Safety issues to raise.
- LST – Stated that John Sayer reports to the Trust on Health and Safety issues.
- SPR – Stated the Carolyn Johnson will be the LGB link for Health and Safety.

## **10. AOB**

- SPR – Stated that a sub group of governors are engaging with Nick Hewitt regarding the teaching and learning.
- JRG – Stated that online meetings with heads of departments and teachers will be taking place to see how teaching and learning strategies filter down to staff teaching.
- SPR – Asked for DTL (plus an NQT) to attend 3rd Feb meeting to discuss the NQT programme and 6<sup>th</sup> Form to be discuss at either 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb or 17<sup>th</sup> Mar meetings.

- JWK – Asked if there is a value in separating the 6<sup>th</sup> form and main school for the SIP?
- LST – Stated that whilst a lot of the targets are transferable there are some specific areas that should be focused on for 6<sup>th</sup> form such as student recruitment, curriculum and improvement of the student experience.


#### **11. Safeguarding**

- LMN – Reminded the LGB that safeguarding should be a standing agenda item.

>NGE to include safeguarding on all future Agenda.

No Safeguarding issues raised.

#### **SIGNED BY CHAIR OF GOVERNORS**



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**SIMON PRIOR**

**DATE**      **3.2.2021**