

Local Governing Body
Minutes of the Meeting
Held on 24.3.2021

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), Clare Gunns (CGS), Mary Sanders (MSS), Jo
Hornsby (JHY), Lynne Martin (LMN)

Apologies:- Jo Hornsby (JHY), Lynne Martin (LMN), Nick Hewitt (NHT), Karen Lonsdale

Also present: Mark Eastwood (MED), Jo Geary (JGY), Amy Chapman (ACH), Rhiannon Harris (RHS), Nick
Hewitt (NHT)

1. Apologies

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

- Minutes Agreed with an amendment.
- The Chair praised MED attendance rewarding scheme.

3. Drama – Amy Chapman

- ACH – Stated that the drama department has been very successful and that there has been a focus on extra curricular drama activities. There has been a good uptake of drama and great Progress 8 outcomes at GCSE and A Level.
- ACH- Stated that there has been a lot of trips to theatres and workshops in schools from professionals.
- ACH- Stated that there were a number of foci for the future such as increased uptake of A Level and continuation of two GCSE groups.
- ACH – Stated that in future her aim would be to take students to perform at the corn exchange in Kings Lynn to add a sense of occasion and promotion of the arts at DMA as well as limiting disruption of the school day. ACH stated that there is also a plan to carry out a home school play at an open-air theatre.
- The Chair asked if there was a technical side of drama on the curriculum?
- ACH – Stated that this is slightly limited due to health and safety but that the technician that helps with DMA drama productions can also teach students certain technical aspects.
- A governor asked how students are targeted for GCSE drama?
- ACH – Third of students PP in GCSE group.
- A governor asked if there would be enough rehearsal time?
- ACH – Stated that this would have to be worked around other performances.
- CJN – Offered to help the drama department.
- The Chair asked ACH about the recent radio show.
- ACH – Stated that this has now finished but is available to listen to and a write up in the EDP.

- **NGE to send ACH Presentation**
- **ACH to consider offer of support from CJN**

4. Music

- MED – Started by stating that RHS had been promoted to Head of Music.
- At the Chair's request RHS proved a brief summary of her background, it was noted RHS is a NQT under the mentorship of ACH.

- RHS – Stated that this was the first year reintroducing music to KS3 which should provide a better foundation for students who wish to progress to GCSE music.
- RHS – Stated that during the lockdown students used their Ipad's for lessons to develop skills.
- RHS – Stated that there is now Peri music teachers and that there has also been an introduction of extracurricular music clubs.
- RHS – Stated that she is currently shaping the KS3 Curriculum. RHS presented an overview of the curriculum to the LGB.
- RHS – Presented her ambitions for the music department going forward including more students taking up music at GCSE and eventually an A Level group and longer terms ambitions of a school orchestra.
- MED – Stated that every student in KS3 next year will have music on their timetable.
- The Chair asked what the mechanism is for students playing their own instruments.
- RHS – Stated that peripatetic teachers carry out lessons with students and that she is currently advertising these to Year 7 lessons and targeting upcoming Year 6 to take up learning an instrument.
- RPS – Stated that the music and arts departments were flourishing and that the reintroduction of music to KS3 had been very successful.
- The Chair asked whether there was scope to increase collaboration between Drama and Music.
- ACH – Stated that this was aim going forward.

➤ **NGE to send RHS Presentation**

5. KS3 Curriculum – Nick Hewitt

- NHT – Stated that there has been a reform of the KS3 curriculum in particular the reintroduction of Music. There has also been an introduction of GCSE Ancient History.
- NHT – Stated that there had been a number of developments across all Key Stages such as the expansion of Latin and Classics.
- NHT – Stated that there has also been an overhaul of the Ethics curriculum and the introduction of Criminology to 6th Form, this was proving to be very popular.
- NHT – Stated that the introduction of iPads to lessons has changed the way students learn.
- Governors noted it was apparent through teaching and learning visits and discussions that teachers' enthusiasm regarding the iPad scheme was having a positive impact on the morale of students.
- A governor asked to what extent Ethics is related to citizenship and citizenship related to Ethics.
- NHT – Stated that this was more related to the PSHE curriculum currently whereas the Ethics curriculum is more focused on world religion. However this is being developed to look at the philosophies in world religion.
- A governor asked if the curriculum in Ethics could be shaped to relate more to citizenship?
- NHT – Suggested that JRG speaks to Esther Hyde.
- A governor asked how smaller departments, such as Latin and Ancient History, would not become pinch points and what support was available to them?
- NHT – Stated by bringing these smaller departments within larger departments had actually spread the knowledge of these new subjects more widely and was proving to be a positive move.
- Governors asked NHT to explain Nearpod.
- NHT – Stated Nearpod is software that models existing systems, allows integration of several resources and provides analytics from formative assessments to help make data led decisions.

JRG – Action to speak to Esther Hyde

6. Sixth Form – Jo Geary

- JGY – Stated that there was no data drop for Year 12 until April and a significant data drop in May.
- JGY – Presented the LGB current data.
- JGY – Stated that 84% students have applied for university, with 60% of students applying for Russell Group universities and 16% have applied to Oxbridge. This has been supported by Rhiannon Evans-Ali.
- RPS – Stated that Rhiannon Evans-Ali Assistant Headteacher at Chesterton has been supporting students 1 day a week with their applications.
- JGY – Stated that attendance was at 90%; ongoing refurbishments of the College had boosted the students enthusiasm.

- JGY – Stated that assessment preparation had been rigorous, students felt supported. Feedback from students post lockdown 3 was that the covid 19 testing process had made them feel safe and made for a positive return school.
- JGY – Stated that for next year there were 140 applicants to date and 113 offers made.
- The Chair praised the efforts of all concerned and welcomed the significant increase in applications.
- JGY – Stated she would like to start to look at T Levels going forward. She praised SLT support in encouraging students to apply to Athena she also praised the support from the DMA Governors with regard to the Trust-wide student mentoring programme.
- The Sixth Form link governor praised JGY for her work to date.

➤ **NGE to send JGY presentation to LGB**

7. Careers – Karen Lonsdale

- KLE – Stated that there were specific foci in terms of careers for each year group relating the Gatsby benchmarks.
- KLE – Presented to the LGB the Gatsby Benchmarks and how each of these were being met by the careers provision at DMA.
- KLE – Stated that she had carried out a compass plus evaluation of careers provision to students since September and in all areas there had been improvement. The compass plus system also provides evidence as to how the benchmark is being met.
- KLE – Presented to the LGB further developments and progression in terms of meeting the Gatsby benchmarks.
- KLE – Stated that there is also a focus in listening to student voice.
- The Chair noted it was important to hear there was a clear intention to raise student aspirations.
- A governor asked if there were specific contacts KLE had for future visitors to promote careers?
- KLE – Stated that there was an existing list of contacts but that she would be reviewing these contacts.
- A governor asked in terms of Year 10, what time would be allocated, and if there was enough time to fit in virtual work experience.
- KLE – Stated that this would be slotted in to the school day and would not be onerous.

➤ **NGE to send KLE presentation to LGB**

8. Return to School and Ofsted - Mark Eastwood

- MED – The aims for returning would be that it was safe, normal and positive. The biggest hurdle being mass testing of students which meant the start of school was staggered; 90% of students took the three tests. This promotes good testing habits for students leading to home testing.
- MED – Stated that the mass testing was carried out by staff and volunteers from the community and with 3000 tests carried out; all were negative.
- MED – Stated that attendance since return was 95.6% compared to a national average of 94.4% which is a good indicator in the confidence parents have to send students back to school.
- MED – Stated that the focus for teaching and learning since the return had been to promote engaging lessons with discussions. The message to parents has been that there is no intention to 'catch up' students but to accelerate learning. To start with lessons were very cautious until mass testing was completed and now with students used to the routines of mask wearing, staff can be more adventurous with their lessons.
- MED - Stated that in terms of Year 10 and 11 each students needs to have a portfolio of evidence to award grades including mini assessments. This portfolio should demonstrate skill and knowledge across the breath of the course with quality assurance being a focus.
- The Chair asked if common assessments shared with CCC are now the same as WVC.
- RPS – Stated that these were all the same where the subject exists.
- A governor asked how long assessments would continue after Easter?
- MED- Deadline for submission of evidence is June the bulk of assessments will be done well in advance of this allowing enough time to provide further evidence if required.
- A governor asked how the school would ensure students are motivated to revise at Easter?
- MED – Stated that schools were allowed to share the Ofqual calendar and this should provide students with the knowledge of when assessments are due.

9. Reports –

- **Disadvantaged Pupils:** The Chair stated that the recent T&L discussions with staff had confirmed the PP Strategy was being implemented across the school.
- **CPD Programme:** The Chair stated that from reading the report (section within the T&L Strategy) and speaking to NHT it was apparent that the CPD Programme was very robust with clear messages.

Safeguarding –

- **MED -** Stated that the SCR had been reviewed by governors.

Health and Safety

- **MED –** Site condition survey carried out and no major defects identified.

10. Health and Safety- Nothing significant to report.

11. Next Meeting 19th May 2021

SIGNED BY CHAIR OF GOVERNORS



SIMON PRIOR

DATE 19.5.2021