

Local Governing Body
Minutes of the Meeting
Held on 26th Sept 2019

Present: Mary Sanders (MSS) - Chair, Rolf Purvis (RPS) – Head teacher, Lucy Scott (LST) – CEO
Simon Prior (SPR)- Vice Chair, Jeanette Redding (JRG), Philippa Stevens (PSS) Lesley Waugh
(LWH), Lynne Martin (LMN), Simon Grapes (SGS)

Also Present Nick Hewitt (NHT), Clare Hargraves (CHS) and Bastiaan Nooteboom (BNN)

1. **Apologies:** Jim Warwick (JWK)
2. **Chair:-** Jacqueline Westrop has tendered her resignation from the LGB. The chair wished to thank her for contributions to the LGB and her help to the school.
3. **Declarations of Interest :-** Declarations of Interest documents presented to each member of the LGB for completion.

➤ NGE – To collate after meeting.

4. Terms of Reference

MSS – Stated that a new chair will be elected at the next meeting and that expressions of interest should be sent to NGE. A new staff governor has been advertised for and should be in place for the next meeting. The terms of reference require an additional community governors. MSS asked the LGB to think about possible community governors and that anyone who may be willing should send expressions of interest to NGE with details on the skills that they could bring to the LGB. An additional parent governor is also required.

➤ NGE – To advertise parent governor vacancy.

MSS – The draft terms of reference are agreed and to be displayed on the website.

➤ NGE – To send to website provider.

5. – Minutes of Previous Meeting – Agreed by all.

➤ NGE – To send signed minutes to website provider.

6. Health and Safety – Bastiaan Nooteboom

BNN – Stated that he has met with governor links Lesley Waugh and Helen Richings who looked at the new Darwin (D) block. There are also regular meetings held with the heads of department on a half termly basis to identify any areas of concern. During the summer regular works such as tree inspections, legionella testing and electrical inspections were carried out. The tree inspection lead to the immediate removal of an identified dangerous tree on the Sixth form site. The electrical works are in progress replacing many of the academies fuse boards. The big project for this year will be the replacement of the main buildings flat roof which should cause minimal disruption. There is also a new Health and Safety system in place provided by Citation which will improve reporting and deliver online training modules for staff.

LMN – Asked if there has been a lockdown drill carried out?

LST – Responded that this would be happening soon but that it was important to settle new Year 7 students first.

SGS – Asked how repair work is prioritised, is there a risk register?

BNN – Responded that there was a risk register and that annual inspections will also help identify work that is immediately required such as the tree inspection.

7. Exam Results – Clare Hargraves

CHS – Informed that LGB that the progress 8 figure had been confirmed as -0.1 putting DMA in the average category for schools across the country which is a significant improvement. Pupil Premium students were also 'average' at -0.2 meaning the gap between Pupil Premium students and all students nationally is closing.

- 16% of all grades at GCSE were 7/8/9 and this reflects the increased focus on challenge set by teachers in lessons.
- High Prior attainers were the most improved group and this was a key focus of last year.

➤ NGE – To provide full headline stats from CHS.

CHS – Explained to the LGB that the next steps would be; to further narrow the gap between Pupil Premium students and all students nationally. To focus on the middle prior attainers, focusing on challenge of lessons. To improve outcomes for boys and to achieve 100% pass rate with no U's.

SPR – Asked CHS if there were any figures for how SEN students performed.

CHS – Responded that SEN figures are not nationally reported as students would be easily identified.

LST – Stated that results for SEN students were very positive.

CHS – Explained to the LGB that the previous year's foci that were identified last September had all been met.

SGS – Asked why the focus had shifted to Middle Prior attainers and how this is done?

RPS – Explained that it is important to focus on all students but not to let those performing in the middle fall out of focus.

SPR – Asked LST and RPS whether it was harder to now know where to focus as previously there were very obvious areas to focus?

LST – Stated that the key was to remain consistent and not keep changing focus and that the main goal will always be progress 8.

CHS – Explained that for KS5 the average grade rose from a C- to a C and that there were far fewer grade u's. Progress for the Sixth form was above average. Subjects that performed least well were business, French and Politics. Business and French will no longer be offered and teaching staff were much more familiar with the politics course this year. 10% of the current Year 12 cohort is made up of students that had started course elsewhere and transferred to the DMA sixth form.

LMN – Asked if there were Chesterton students at the DMA sixth form?

LST – Responded there were not currently but there are plans to form strong links with Chesterton and the sixth form in future to offer more options to DMA students and those at Chesterton. This is being explored at trust level.

PSS – Stated that from a staff perspective being more selective with intake is providing a much better teaching environment for staff and students.

CHS – Stated that the entry requirements for sixth form were much more stringent this year and would continue to be much more next year to ensure students are on the right course and on track to pass that subject.

LWH – Asked if the teacher mentoring from Chesterton staff to DMA staff had slowed down.

LST – Responded that there is much more across trust working with some staff working at both schools. Previous support from Chesterton SLT was not needed with DMA SLT now taking a lead for example with their own CPD programme based on Chesterton's model.

8. Year 10 End of Year Progress data – Nick Hewitt.

NHT – Explained to the LGB that data from the current Year 11 (previous Year 10) mock exams show a progress 8 figure of -0.3 and -0.5 for Pupil Premium students. This is a very positive picture as this shows that they are already on track for a great progress 8 figure. There is also an improvement on the data collected meaning that we can be much more confident of the figures.

HRS – Asked NHT why the Pupil Premium data has improved?

NHT- Responded that all staff are held to account for the PP students, there is a much more focused curriculum and smaller targeted classes. There have also been specific strategies for PP students such as in house tuition, breakfast clubs and extra-curricular activities such as trips for KS3 students. There has been an increased focus for SLT and Middle leaders with each member of SLT mentoring a group of PP students.

JRG – Stated that there was a focus on knowing students and making sure they are on the right pathways and that lessons are structured accordingly.

HRS- Stated that it is important that students know they are supported and that someone believes in them.

NHT – Stated that there had been a specific careers event for PP students and career interviews giving the students more choice but by including them in those choices this gave them accountability for their choice which will make them try harder.

SPR – Stated that aspirations of students had been raised through events such as the careers event.

NHT – explained to the LGB that attendance for PP student had improved by 2% giving an average of 89.2% for PP students.

SGS- Asked if attendance is better for the younger year groups.

RPS- Answered that yes traditionally this was the case.

SGS – Asked what drives low attendance and non-attenders?

NHT – Stated that there were a variety of very specific reasons.

LST – Stated there were a number of persistent non-attenders despite rigorous chasing and fines.

- NGE – To circulate NHT report with minutes.

9. School Improvement Plan – Rolf Purvis

RPS – Talked the LGB through this year's School Improvement Plan (SIP). This largely mirrors last year.

- NGE – To circulate SIP with Minutes

LMN – Asked whether this year Staff wellbeing would be a focus?

RPS – Stated that there are already initiatives in place such as introducing feedback books to reduce marking but that Rose Cornelius (Assistant Head) had been given the specific role of improving staff wellbeing this year and could attend a future meeting to discuss with the LGB.

10. Help and Hinder Survey – Rolf Purvis

RPS – Explained to the LGB that at the end of the last term staff were asked to complete the help and hinder survey. This details what supports them and what barriers are in place for doing their jobs well. A large theme was the sense of collegiality amongst staff and the willingness to help one another. The main hindrance trend was the lack of photocopying budget for staff. This was put in place due to a very large overspend in the initial term making it necessary to reduce the amount staff were able to spend.

SGS – Asked how staff completed the survey.

RPS – Stated that this was done via computer on a training day.

LST – Pointed out that this staff had free text boxes so were able to write what they chose giving more specific items to address.

11. Reports – Circulated prior to meeting.

a) Safeguarding

HRS – Met with Mark Eastwood and there was a clear anti-bullying focus this year and this was discussed as to what was in place. HRS was concerned with the school gates openings.

RPS – Assured HRS that these would be unlocked at 3 and locked again until the end of period 7. It was agreed the side gate would be locked after bus departure.

b) English

JRG – Met with Michaela Nolimal at the start of term and commended MNL's attitude where she stated 'there was no reason all students should not achieve a level 5'. JRG attended the English department's meeting on the training day and was impressed by some of the teaching strategies shown.

RPS – Stated that there was an improvement of the teaching in the English Department and this was a credit to MNL.

12. AOB

LWH – Stated that Friends of DMA (FODMA) had met several times and had a number of events planned including an Autumn Fair, Bingo and Valentines disco for KS3. Departments are able to submit wishes for requests on funds raised.

HRS – Informed the LGB that whilst in reception a parent paid huge compliments to Natalie Paine and the SEN team for the support her daughter had received stating that each of her teacher clearly knew about her daughter.

LST – Stated that there had been a huge focus on knowing your students including SEN students.

LMN – Asked if there was any news on Music teaching?

RPS – Stated that there was an employed music teacher Chris Goodall (CGL).

➤ LMN – To make links with CGL

Date of Next Meeting – 5th Dec

Meetings Dates:-

5th December 2019

13th February 2020

2nd April 2020

4th June 2020

16th July 2020

SIGNED BY CHAIR OF GOVERNORS



MARY SANDERS

DATE:- 16.1.2020 _____