



Curriculum Committee Meeting  
Thursday, 7 October 2021 at 5.30 pm  
**Via VIDEOCONFERENCE**

Chair: Susan Kara

**MINUTES**

**Present:**

**Governors**

Susan Kara – **SK (Chair)**

Nick Regan - **NR**

Tahir Darr – **TD**

Stuart Weatherall – **Swe**

Sam Parker – **SP (observer)**

**In attendance:**

Jonathan Reeves, [Deputy Headteacher](#) – **JR**

Graham Nash, Head of 6<sup>th</sup> Form – **GN**

Rachel Bromiley, PA to Headteacher (*Clerk*)

	<b>Item</b>
1.	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b> The Chair welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance.
2.	<b>Procedural items</b>  <b>2.1 Apologies</b> Apologies were received from Steven Mackay and Sarah Mills due to Year 10 Parent Evening.  <b>2.2 Confirmation of Quorum</b> It was agreed that the meeting was quorate having more than three governors present  <b>2.3 Declarations of Interests for this meeting</b> None were notified  <b>2.4 Notification of Any Other Urgent Business</b> None.
3.	<b>The minutes of the last Curriculum meeting on 8 July 2021</b> <b>3.1</b> The minutes were <b>APPROVED</b>

---

1 Please send apologies to the Clerk: [jeremy.kaye@judicuium.com](mailto:jeremy.kaye@judicuium.com)

	<p><b>3.2</b> Matters arising from the minutes There were two actions</p> <p>1) Freedom of Information policy. SMK has amended the policy and it should appear on Governor hub for approval at next FGB SMK to action</p> <p>2) risk register, R19 SMK has agreed this can be removed</p>
4.	<p><b>Update on current return to school</b></p> <p>JR: Student attendance is still lower than in a normal year, over 90% which is just above the national average Many students are having positive lateral flow tests which are mostly resulting in negative PCR tests. We are trying to run a normal school but with COVID on top whereas last year many things stopped due to COVID.</p> <p>COVID now has to be marked as an illness so it is having an impact on the school's attendance rates.</p> <p>Staff attendance hasn't been unduly affected by COVID but as supply agencies do not have any staff available Oldfield staff are being used more than in previous years.</p>
5.	<p><b>Examinations</b> <b>A Level Results</b></p> <p>RB (on behalf of GN) had uploaded reports to Governor Hub ahead of the meeting.</p> <p>GN: The Alps report for last year's Year 13 shows that they did extremely well and the results were Alps 1, which is the highest you can get. It is possible that the students may not have done so well if they had sat external examinations, but they were a bright capable year group. It is likely that the top end of students would have performed well.</p> <p>Q: SWe: what are T-scores? A: GN: This combines QI score with how individual students did. This is the most rounded result obtainable from Alps. QI scores are the overall measurement of how well subjects did. i.e. average of how different subjects perform. The range of score is from Alps4 to Alps1. The results may mask what the external results may have been.</p> <p>GN explained that this is the year group had not sat any GCSE's due to COVID and therefore are students that have never sat a formal exam. There were issues around revision skills and mental health (anxiety etc). The mock results are a concern.</p>

Staff are confident that these students are doing well but the mocks show that there are some gaps in knowledge. It may be that their starting figure is high due to higher prior attainment as the GCSE results were from the COVID period.

Q: SWe what are the school doing about this?

A: GN: There are some strategies in place:

Mentoring tuition funding – Gaynor Williams is providing mentoring and pastoral support. There is an increase in mental health issues. Some strategies were put in place last year, but we are currently firefighting as there is no support (funding) available after students are 18.

Students are being targeted if they are two grades below that expected.

Some students are being mentored by their tutors if they are one grade below in one A-Level but doing well in others.

27 Students are a big concern. 31 students are a mild concern.

The whole year group is being targeted in revision skills. Enrichment sessions and bespoke targeting is happening for individuals.

Q: SK: Are there going to be any rehearsals for the formal exams.

JR: Yes, further details coming up shortly.

Q SWe: Not surprised overall, but more so at the subjects with lower Alps grades. Can anything else be done; could more be done?

A: GN: We are reassuring students that they can improve and it is no surprise that they are having difficulties following COVID. GN is not convinced that the red scores are completely accurate, maybe in some areas. With regards to resources, neither tutors nor SLT have an endless capacity so that is a barrier. We need to make sure our mentoring programme is rigorous and targeted. We have more resources that can be used to so yes, there could always be more but time but that is the constraint. It would make a difference to have more mentoring capacity. JR confirmed that we have some funding to be used for school led intervention like mentoring and tutoring. JR is looking for suitable people to fill these roles. **The Committee would support the use of any available resources for this purpose.**

The government has indicated that it will be 'reigning in' results next year. JR said that the students might receive inflated results if the results used are between 2019 and 2020. The most pressing issue for students is not so much grades but whether they can get to their next step,

### **GCSE Results**

JR explained it was hard to say exactly how much progress the students had made. There were no national tables of progress to compare them to.

The process at Oldfield was managed well from a staff stress/workload perspective. JR was keen for students to not have overinflated results and was confident in our assessment of the students.

The gap between boys' and girls' results has decreased and similarly PP and non-PP. Both areas the school has been working on. The results were encouraging. We tried to rule out bias as much as possible. Previously exam scripts were not anonymous. This year the candidate numbers were used on assessments and scripts were randomized, so that teachers were not marking their own classes. There was no pattern of bias against ethnic groups. Some of those approaches will be retained for future, i.e., candidate numbers on mocks.

JR has no confidence in the predicted grades collected at the end of last year for the current Year 10. The exams taken in the summer were largely affected by absence.

The governors thanked JR and GN for their comprehensive narrative.

Q: SK: Do we have baseline data for Y7/8.

A: JR: we are using CAT scores although they are not as useful as we had expected. JR then explained what CAT scores are

JR: They are a series of online tests. Verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, spatial awareness. They try to predict what a student might achieve in Y11. They have been around for many years but are now online and the results are available very quickly. These are now being used as primary schools are not doing Year 6 SATS at the moment.

The tests suggest that we have no students in the bottom range and very few in the top range which we do not agree with. Some students in our Reading Plus did not even get the lowest mark in the score, which seems inaccurate. The tests will be run again for the current Year 7 and 8. JR will analyse the results afterwards and compare to previous results.

Some students are currently doing Reading Plus tests and whilst we planned to do CAT scores before half term, it will now be in November. Results will be available for the next meeting. **Action JR**

## JR

**Update on exams** – the government published their consultation document last week and the closing date is at half term. The school will work on the assumption that everything in the document will happen as that has happened over the last couple of years. Mock exams will be run for Years 11 and 13 in November. The period of exams will be extended compared to previous years. The next period is likely to be March.

GN is working on the timetable and it could be fitted into a 10-day period.

	<p>There is possible additional pressure on students that these mock exams will count and may be used to determine grades. JR/GN to give some thought as to how scripts are fed back to students as the school need to keep the papers as evidence and ensure that there is no way that students can alter papers. <b>Action JR/GN</b></p> <p>Q: SK: Is there a way of finding out what other schools are doing? JR said that other staff at the school speak with teachers from other schools and will no doubt share that with him.</p>
6.	<p><b>Timetable issues</b></p> <p>The main issue is that there is currently only one Sociology teacher but that is the only problem area. There is a question over whether we go for a January appointment or wait until September, but it is currently being covered internally</p> <p>6<sup>th</sup> form numbers are at 78 this year which is lower than anticipated. GN has spoken to several other heads of 6<sup>th</sup> forms who also have a lower number this year. We knew how many had applied to us, but we do need to do more self-promotion which will be addressed this year. The 6<sup>th</sup> form information evening will have specialist subject talks. There will also be sessions around pathways/next steps. Some of the Bristol based students chose to attend 6<sup>th</sup> form in Bristol.</p> <p>SK: when do you talk to younger students about 6<sup>th</sup> form? A: GN said we have not done much with lower years over recent years and there is more work that could be done .</p> <p>Q: SK: Can a strategy for promoting the sixth form be developed and brought to a future meeting? <b>Action: GN</b></p> <p>Q: TD: The Impact of spiral teaching. Ofsted had talked about building up knowledge. They had questioned whether some students were unable to access the lessons as they (Ofsted) had observed some students who were not engaged. A: JR confirmed teaching is being adapted to cater for students different abilities. Resources need to be reviewed to ensure that the reading age is appropriate.</p> <p>Q: TD asked if timetabling went OK. A: JR said that most schools have an internal member of staff that does timetabling and in Oldfield it is Lucy James. Rooming is always a struggle and we had to change the Year 10 option blocks when Lucy was part way through timetabling to accommodate the younger students.</p> <p>Q: SW: Do the infrastructure bids that we have in place have an impact.</p>

	A: JR confirmed that we are going to do something with the rooms we have to expand our provision. Student areas for self-study are lacking. The rooming in Penn is more 6 <sup>th</sup> form only now.
7.	<p><b>Review of policies</b></p> <p>9.1 Curriculum policy review is due October 2021 - <b>ACTION: JR to liaise with SMK so that this can be confirmed at next Curriculum Committee meeting</b></p> <p>9.2 Pupil premium policy review is due October 2021. <b>ACTION: JR to liaise with SMK so that this can be confirmed at next Curriculum Committee meeting</b></p> <p><b>ACTION: The SIP has been revised and that should be discussed at next Curriculum Committee. Action SK</b></p>
10.	<p><b>Review of the risk register</b></p> <p>It was reviewed at the previous meeting and one item is to be removed.</p>
11.	It was recommended that the title Chair should be used throughout GB meetings/paperwork in future. <b>Action SK to put recommendation on Governor Hub</b>
12.	<b>The date of the next meeting was agreed as 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022</b>
13.	<b>The meeting concluded at 18:53</b>

Signed on:

By:

**Actions**

**Governors**

**SK**

**Revised SIP on next CC agenda**

**Recommendation that 'Chair ' be used for all Governor business to go on Governor Hub asap**

**School**

**JR/SMK**

**Reviewed Pupil premium policy on next CC agenda**

**Reviewed Curriculum policy on next CC agenda**

**JR/GN**

**To report back at next CC on plans to maintain integrity of exam scripts**

**To report back at next CC on 'mock results**

**GN**

**Strategy for promotion of sixth form to be developed and brought to future CC meeting**