



**Curriculum Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday, 8 July 2021 at 5.30 pm**  
**Via VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**Chair: Nick REGAN**

**MINUTES**

**Present:**

Tahir Darr – **TD**  
Susan Kara – **SK**  
Stuart Weatherall – **Swe**

**In attendance:**

Jonathan Reeves - **JR**  
Jeremy Kaye (*Clerk*)

	<b>Item</b>
1.	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b> Nick Regan did not attend so TD took the Chair. The Chairman 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. No apologies were received from Nick Regan before the meeting. <b>Clerk's note:</b> Apologies were received from Nick Regan after the meeting.  <b>2.2 Confirmation of Quorum</b> It was agreed that the meeting was quorate having 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> JR asked for an item to be added so he could give an update on the Development Plan. This was <b>AGREED</b> by the chair and added to item 11.
3.	<b>The minutes of the last Curriculum meeting on 29 April 2021</b> <b>3.1</b> The minutes were <b>APPROVED</b> <b>3.2</b> Matters arising from the minutes

	There were no actions arising
4.	<p><b>Update on current return to school</b></p> <p>JR gave an update on the closure of the school. 28 staff were isolating and where 400 pupils had been isolating this was now the whole school. He noted that this closure was a necessity as staff numbers were below a workable minimum.</p> <p><b>Q: Chair:</b> Is it realistic to re-open on Monday?  <b>A: JR:</b> Yes, I believe so</p> <p><b>Q: Chair:</b> How is planning for next year?  <b>A: JR:</b> The SIP is almost done but the SLT planning day has been delayed</p> <p><b>Q: SWe:</b> Are staff site able to maintain a safe site?  <b>A: JR:</b> There has been no issue with site staff, only pupils and staff</p>
5.	<p><b>Centre assessed grades for A level and GCSE, an update</b></p> <p>JR ran through the update document that had been distributed in advance and read by all stating that graded had been re-assuring. He explained the process used and gave a brief report on the figures distributed. He stated that assessments had ben done blind to aid bias using only candidate numbers. There was no pattern of bias found in the system.</p> <p><b>GCSE:</b>  He advised that the figures showed that PP pupils did not appear to have been disadvantaged.</p> <p>There was then a discussion around results by ethnicity and progress.</p> <p>The chair commented on the difference in grades compared to 5-6 years ago and how improvements were clear.</p> <p>JR stated that maths had improved due to the improvement in that department.</p> <p><b>Q: SWe:</b> Is it not depressing that 23% of pupils still can't get a basic level in maths and English  <b>A: SK:</b> indeed, but we must remember that age is not always a good marker, some improve later</p> <p><b>Q: SK:</b> The results may not be as they were 2 years ago but, do we know how far behind?  <b>A: JR:</b> Its variable subject by subject some are the same, some higher, some lower</p> <p><b>A LEVEL:</b></p>

	<p>JR explained that these looked a bit high, but not much. This could be smaller class sizes due to fewer pupils. Grading benchmarks were then discussed. JR said we expect few appeals and explained how the mock exams were held.</p> <p><b>Q: Chair:</b> Did we use real papers?  <b>A: JR:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Q: Chair:</b> Do you think there will be much push back on grades?  <b>A: JR:</b> We had to send in a sample and we met with the exam board, so no</p> <p>JR ended by saying we expect a good set of A level results this year and the students who have not got their required grades are the only ones likely to appeal.</p>
6.	<p><b>The new learning area of Social Sciences</b></p> <p>JR gave an update on the plan and the included subjects and explained the roles of the team including Lucy James as there was no leader of learning yet. An advert will be placed in January for the post.</p> <p><b>Q: Chair:</b> Will Lucy's teaching be covered?  <b>A: JR:</b> Yes, sociology is covered with staffing a bit tight.</p> <p><b>Q: Chair:</b> There were 3 candidates, right?  <b>A: JR:</b> Yes, one accepted then changed their mind</p>
7.	<p><b>The next academic year</b></p> <p>JR explained the day structure should be back to normal. There will be no bubbles and no self-isolation. Two tests will be needed, one before the first day There will be a meeting next week with staff to discuss what do we keep and what stays. We know working at home will be discussed as well as one-way systems. Years 7-11 will not be using Penn.</p> <p><b>Q: Chair:</b> Will we keep the 2-bell system?  <b>A: JR:</b> Yes, punctuality has been poor and we need to re-establish it</p> <p><b>Q: SWe:</b> Will staggered starts and breaks disappear?  <b>A: JR:</b> Yes, and the bus schedule will change</p> <p><b>Q: Chair:</b> What about windows open and face masks?  <b>A: JR:</b> We will keep spraying and sanitizers may remain to ensure pupils remember the virus is still here. This may Also help any staff who are anxious. Masks will probably be optional. A contingency plan for another outbreak will be in place, including remote learning.</p>
8.	<p><b>The role of the committee chairman – Nick Regan</b></p> <p>The chair explained that Nick would be stepping down as Chair due to work commitments and SK would take on the role.</p>

	Everyone thanked Nick for his hard work and for remaining with the committee
9.	<p><b>Review of policies</b></p> <p><b>9.1 SEN policy</b> This was re written less than a year ago with few changes made since. SK &amp; TD said it was an encouraging read with SWE saying the changes were sensible. Using a show of hands this policy was <b>APPROVED</b>.</p> <p><b>9.2 Freedom of information policy</b> SK noted that it had no introduction and should probably say that the 'Publication scheme' IS the Freedom of information policy. All AGREED with this and also that the section numbers were incorrect or a section was missing.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ACTION: SMK: This policy is to be checked by the HT and re-presented for approval at the next FGB meeting</b></p>
10.	<p><b>Review of the risk register</b></p> <p>The items relating to this committee we checked in detail being R02b, R18 and R19. It was AGREED that IF agreed by the HT this item (R19) would be removed, or at least reworded.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">ACTION: JR to discuss with SMK</p>
11.	<p><b>Any other URGENT Business</b> (as previously agreed in item 2.4)</p> <p>As above (item 2.4) JR gave a brief update on the development plan for leaders of learning. He explained how they were looking at improving differentiation, CPD and adaptive teaching and if resources available are appropriate to literacy.</p> <p><b>Q: Chair:</b> How would we measure success? <b>A: JR:</b> Through learning walks but it is a bit subjective</p> <p><b>Q: SWe:</b> Is evidence differentiation a problem? JR explained that poor behaviour can be due to a pupil feeling a task is beyond them without additional support.</p> <p><b>Q: SK:</b> Is the SEN lead involved? <b>A: JR:</b> All staff will be involved</p> <p>There was then a brief discussion around cost and the ability to get all staff trained which was followed with one on differentiation.</p>
12.	<b>The date of the next meeting was agreed as 7 October 2021</b>
13.	<b>The meeting concluded at 19:00</b>

Signed on:

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

**By:**