



Curriculum Committee Meeting
Thursday, 29 April 2021 at 5.30 pm
Via VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chair: Nick REGAN

MINUTES

Present:

Nick REGAN (*Chair*) – **NR**
Tahir Darr – **TD**
Susan Kara – **SK**
Steven Mackay (*Headteacher*) – **SMK**
Stuart Weatherall – **Swe**

In attendance:

Jonathan Reeves - **JR**
James Cordle - **SC**
Graham Nash – **GN** – *From 17:55*
Jeremy Kaye (*Clerk*)

	Item
1.	Welcome and Introductions The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.
2.	Procedural items 2.1 Apologies There were no apologies received nor recorded. It was noted that Duncan Giles had again failed to attend or send apologies. TD will arrange to speak with him. 2.2 Confirmation of Quorum It was agreed that the meeting was quorate 2.3 Declarations of Interests for this meeting None were notified 2.4 Notification of Any Other Urgent Business None were requested or agreed
3.	The minutes of the last Curriculum meeting on 14 January 2021 3.1 The minutes were APPROVED and will be signed in due course

	<p>3.2 Matters arising from the minutes</p> <p>ACTIONS from meeting on 14 January 2021</p> <p>Item 9 - Review of progress against SIP KPI's for curriculum - COMPLETE</p> <p>Outstanding from 8 October 2020</p> <p>4.0 Parent letter - COMPLETE</p>
4.	<p>Update on current return to school</p> <p>SMK advised that life at school was starting to feel more like normal and the pupils were feeling more stable. Les was ABOUT Covid even with the current rules. Behaviour was also more like normal. JC said they are just getting on with it. SMK said that there were no particular issues and that they have had had no positive tests since the first batch, with only 3 pupils self-isolating.</p>
5.	<p>Leader of Learning – Modern Foreign Languages - James Cordle</p> <p>The chair introduced JC who gave a short briefing / update on the workings of the MFL department. He explained the current staffing, their experience and early aims and achievements. In 2019 the moral was quite low which has now been turned around. He explained about the changes made to the department particularly in quality delivery. He explained that there was still work in progress but that he was using the team's strengths. Some of the areas where progress has ben made are: Faculty handbook, marking policy, schemes of work, KS3 vocab, use of a spiral curriculum and dual linguists in years 7 & 8. Data tracking is now robust. He is particularly proud of the high-quality revision videos that have been produced which are on SharePoint. Regular vocal tests are now in place. 'A' level teachers are being trained and there is a desire to increase language trips / visits.</p> <p>The chair thanked James for his update.</p> <p>Q: SK: How many sets are there of the dual linguists? A: JC: 1 class of each so 2 of 30 pupils</p> <p>Q: TD: How do you decide in year 7 which language they will take? A: JC: We send a letter to parents asking if there is a family reason for a preference, not everyone gets a first choice but if there is a good reason, we take that into consideration.</p> <p>Q: Chair: How feasible is it to add another language? A: JC: Well, German is on its way out in the South West. Italian is only used in Italy. We would consider Mandarin, but it's not easy to find suitable teachers. A: SMK: Finding appropriate Mandarin teachers is difficult.</p>

	<p>GN said it would be a good enrichment opportunity. SMK explained how this has worked in his wife's school but again how it is difficult to get the right teacher who can teach another mainstream subject.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">JC left at 18:05</p>
6.	<p>Centre Qualifications 2021 policy</p> <p>SMK advised that the policy which had been shared in advance had been ratified at SLT but was being brought to this committee to ensure that Governors had sight of it. Everyone confirmed it had been pre read.</p> <p>There was a general discussion on assessments and the need for this policy and that it appeared that carte blanche had been given to mould it, however it was for the DfE to approve it.</p> <p>The aim is that students and staff do not have a bad time with assessments as they did last year.</p> <p>JR shared his screen and explained step by step how the assessments will work, marking carefully and without stress.</p> <p>He explained the standardisation of meetings, moderation and consistency through the process and how students will be marked by candidate number to ensure impartiality and no potential for bias. The spreadsheet combines scores, compares to means & spread for the cohort.</p> <p>Q: Chair: Are they then moderated?</p> <p>A: JR: Explained sampling and moderation and pre marking, for example, two maths teachers marking and comparing.</p> <p>JR continued that an inset day had been added to the calendar and he explained teams of two teachers doing grades, a Head of Subject +1. He also explained how ranking is given, explained consistency in the process and the stages involved. He then explained how grades have been monitored and recorded since March 8th as part of stage two. For Stage 3 being subject leaders will meet together with JR or GH to discuss & examine decisions. Positive moves only will be considered.</p> <p>Q: TD: Will all this take place in school?</p> <p>A: JR: Yes. He explained how this will be done.</p> <p>Q: TD: Just using test papers?</p> <p>A: JR: Yes. We were promised test papers from exam boards but they were so late and poor we wrote our own as well.</p> <p>The chair said this looks diligent and thorough and I wonder how it compares with other schools.</p>

	<p>JR explained the next steps: Submit policy. DfE will ask for random sampling of 5 students, early subjects. They may make visits to view out of line results.</p> <p>Q: TD: What may they criticise? A: JR: Historic data, rankings, grade distribution</p> <p>There was then a brief discussion on the policy which everyone thought was well written and presented.</p> <p>Q:TD: Are we being too honest? A: JR: Some schools will inflate and some will do the opposite for sure. If results are reasonable, we should be morally satisfied.</p> <p>He stated that there is no perfect solution or system and like exam marking it can be partly a personal understanding of the answer.</p> <p>Q: SK: Is there robust storage in place to store the assessments, thinking of the 5 selected student s in particular? A: JR: Yes, since March</p> <p>Q: TD: Did we have many appeals this year? A: JR: 25 at GCSE questioned a grade</p> <p>JR then explained the appeal process.</p> <p>Q: SWe: If based on levels of attainment for 2017-2019 with the disruption, is this reasonable? A: JR: Yes, what is fair is not out of line with 2017/19</p> <p>There was then a discussion on how this may affect year 12 and University entrances.</p>
7.	<p>Curriculum structure 2021/22</p> <p>SMK had shared the structure in advance and he briefly explained that nothing much has changed in the model across the school. He shared the highlights of the changes including time investment for reading and staffing the SEND centre to support pastoral staff.</p> <p>SMK & NR explained the context of the report and explained the details.</p> <p>Q: SWe: Do any staff have more than 80% contact time? A: SMK: Its 88% average Q: SK: Is that recorded? A: SMK: Yes, in their job descriptions</p>
8.	<p>GCSE / A level options</p>

	<p>A report was distributed and read in advance. JR advised that GCSE was stable in most subjects. There were no major changes and explained the different subjects that were popular.</p> <p>Q: TD: Computer science has dropped, any idea why? A: JR: We don't know, maybe it's a lesser IT alternative</p> <p>Q: SWe: Is there any thought on single subject science? A: SMK: It is offered to more able students A: JR: it is also difficult to deliver</p> <p>There was then a discussion around single, double and triple science with SMK saying that it is not a significant issue.</p> <p>GN went on to give an update on A levels. He explained sciences have been strong over the last 5 years. Biology leads. Most popular are then psychology & sociology. Maths and Further maths are still strong however creative subjects are not retaining numbers. Health & social care are increasing.</p> <p>Q: Chair: Is the art dip due to the loss of the fine art specialist? A: GN: Maybe, and less promotion of the subject. A: SMK: I think there may be some truth in that</p> <p>Q: TD: Why spend money on promoting if we are full? A: GN: The 6th form will have 100 each year</p>
9.	<p>Review of risk register</p> <p>R02B – mitigating March SIP should be monitored. No changes to the risk register were required at this time.</p> <p>Q: SWe: With private schools full, will this have an impact on years 7 or 12? A: SMK: No, we don't believe so</p>
10.	<p>Discussion on re-election of Duncan Giles</p> <p>There was an open discussion and no one proposed him for re-election. The COG will contact him and thank him for his service.</p>
11.	<p>Any other URGENT Business (as previously agreed in item 2.4) There were no items of AOB</p> <p>Head of History - The Chair allowed SMK to state that there were 6 strong candidates for this position.</p>
12.	<p>The date of the next meeting was agreed as 1 July 2021</p>
13.	<p>The meeting concluded at 19:20</p>

Signed on:

By:

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Please send apologies to the Clerk: jeremy.kaye@judicuium.com