



Curriculum Committee Meeting
Thursday, 13 January 2022 at 5.30 pm
Via: VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chair: Susan Kara

MINUTES

Present:

Susan Kara – **SK** - Chair
Tahir Darr – **TD**
Nick Regan - **NR**
Stuart Weatherall – **SWe**
Samantha Parker – **SP** (from 17:50)

In attendance:

Jonathan Reeves – **JR**
Lucy James – **LJ**
James Beddow - **JB**
Jeremy Kaye (Governance Professional)

| | Item |
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| 1. | Welcome and Introductions The Chair welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance. She specifically thanked the members of SLT attending and for standing in for the HT. |
| 2. | Procedural items 2.1 Apologies Apologies were received from Steven Mackay and Graham Nash. 2.2 Confirmation of Quorum It was agreed that the meeting was quorate having three governors present 2.3 Declarations of Interests for this meeting None were notified 2.4 Notification of Any Other Urgent Business There were no matters requested for AOB |
| 3. | The minutes of the last Curriculum meeting on 7 October 2021 3.1 The minutes were APPROVED with the Chair advising that she will ask Rachel Bromiley (who had clerked the meeting) to correct spelling. |

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| | <p>3.2 Matters arising from the minutes</p> <p>5. Examinations. GCSE results - On agenda for this meeting</p> <p>5. Examinations. Update on exams scripts feedback - On agenda for this meeting</p> <p>6. Timetable issues. 6th Form strategy – to be delayed till next meeting as GN absent</p> <p>7. Review of policies:</p> <p>7.1 Curriculum policy review – On agenda for this meeting</p> <p>7.2 Pupil Premium policy review - On agenda for this meeting</p> <p>7.Note Revised SIP to be discussed at next meeting - On agenda for this meeting</p> <p>11. Title 'Chair' to be used instead of 'Chairman' in the future - COMPLETE</p> |
| 4. | <p>Update on return to school (Covid)</p> <p>JR gave a brief update on the return to school which he stated was similar to the situation pre-Christmas. It appeared that absence was slowly improving and possibly starting to drop off. Mask wearing was now mandatory but had been so at the school pre-Christmas so no change. There was little parental feedback on masks.</p> |
| 5. | <p>Examinations</p> <p>5.1 Reading Plus Test</p> <p>JR explained that this had been done in October and that data was probably premature. There were no KS2 tests but CAT tests are being run on 31/1 Year 7 Covid absences had put this on hold. A report on results will be tabled for the next meeting.</p> <p>Q: TD: Do you have a general feeling? Will they be lower?</p> <p>A: JR: Not significantly different to current year 8 but we need to compare year groups for better data</p> <p>JR then ran through the detail in the report that had been distributed in advance as well as documents distributed on 12/1. He explained the data including predicted grade 'range' that was being used. He gave an explanation on teacher assessed grades compared to predicted grades. He advised that in Year 11 there was currently no gender gap.</p> <p>Q: TD: We have had issues with the gender gap in the past, are you confident of the data?</p> <p>A: JR: For attainment yes, for progress we have no idea.</p> |

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| | <p>He then advised that the PP versus non-PP gap was currently 4.9, similar to the pre pandemic National figure. JR then ran through year 10 data.</p> <p>Q: SWe: Is the data not shown in the [] missing? A: JR: Yes. We can only use progress data from GCSE results, if there are none, we have none.</p> <p>JR then ran through year 9 explaining the ladder tables and that there was the same gender gap as year 10.</p> <p>5.2 Script feedback update</p> <p>JR confirmed that no scripts were or will be given back to pupils, in order to keep them for evidence, if needed, but it is unlikely that exams will be shelved again. He explained that many options had been discussed and that the same system will be followed for mock exams as was used last year.</p> <p>Q: TD: If exams do go ahead will they be done in the same way they used to be, in halls and gyms? A: JR: Yes, our sports halls as before.</p> <p>Q: NR: Back to scripts. How did it work in Maths versus English and how was it in other schools? A: JR: Some schools just gave them back to pupils. Our view is that no papers should be given back and photocopies can be taken where appropriate but for subjects with multiple papers that just won't work. We explained this and why subjects may be different regarding photocopies.</p> |
| 6. | <p>Timetable issues (6th form)</p> <p>It was AGREED to delay this item till the next meeting as JR advised they did not have numbers yet.</p> <p>LJ advised that currently it was about 150 with 2/3 internal and 1/3 external (<i>which was higher than usual</i>). JR said that the expectation was 80, similar to the current year but that next year they should go up.</p> |
| 7. | <p>SIP</p> <p>JR explained how the SIP was now available to all governors linked via GH and how they can access it.</p> <p>LJ gave an update on four areas of the SIP in some detail showing that work has continued even during the pandemic. She was asked to, and explained, what ECT means (<i>early career teachers</i>) and how this is now 2 years and that CPD had been maintained, if shorter during the pandemic.</p> |

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| | <p>She explained improvements in quality of feedback and the changes in approach and coaching style.</p> <p>Q: Chair: How many ECT's do we have? A: LJ: Currently three</p> <p>With regard to academic excellence there was now a Teaching & learning working group which had met and were looking at current research. The Key Principles for The Oldfield Standard are the next step to review and rewrite.</p> <p>LJ then explained the Knowledge Organisers (KO) and how these are taught/used with flash cards and self quizzes.</p> <p>Q: Chair: Is there any student feedback from KO? A: LJ: No, not yet</p> <p>Q: SP: Flash cards & self quizzes, is there a difference in gender as to use? A: LJ: It's too soon to say, we will have to look into this specifically</p> <p>JR then spoke about year 11 interventions. He explained tutoring and mentoring in English, Maths and Science and how this worked in small groups. Science had been planned but had to be put on hold and Maths was starting in February. There were 20 year 11 students in English receiving interventions.</p> <p>He went on to explain exam support, how the 'Super Curriculum' is managed with packs of resources for independent study and how a resource library was building. He explained the move to TV screens and devices instead of white boards which are being rolled out and hopefully across the school in 1.5 years.</p> <p>Q: TD: This is fantastic and thanked JR saying this is one of the things we want to do strategically, as you know. A: JR: It was a positive that came out of Covid.</p> <p>The Chair then mentioned a few items on the SIP including community relations which may have been Covid restricted but noted that now the full SIP was accessible it would be easier to follow.</p> <p>LJ noted that partner school cooperation's had not stopped for Covid and were ongoing. SP noted that a sports leadership initiative was taking place next week.</p> <p>Q: Chair: what is the effectiveness of middle leadership? A: LJ: WE have 7 staff enrolled on professional qualification training (now it is fully funded). She then listed a number of areas available for middle leadership, including lesson feedback, head of year training, development programs, leadership book club, CPD courses and courses for aspiring senior leadership.</p> |
| 8. | Review of policies |

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| | <p>9.1 Curriculum policy Using a show of hands this policy was APPROVED.</p> <p>9.2 Pupil Premium policy</p> <p>JB gave a detailed run through of the new Pupil Premium Strategy Statement which had been distributed to the committee in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>The Chair thanked JB for his hard work on this.</p> <p>Q: SWE: I am aware that it is difficult to monitor the % of staff time actually taken up compared to that which is allocated but do we monitor this? A: JB: Yes, it is monitored Q: SWE: Is the % reflected in the PP? A: JB: Yes Q: SWE: English as a second language, is that a special intervention? A: JB: We suggest IXL learning to improve both Math / English skills A: JR: It is needed now more than ever before.</p> <p>SWE stated that this is an ambitious plan and gave his thanks.</p> <p>Using a show of hands, the policy was APPROVED.</p> |
| 9. | <p>Review of the risk register The HT had advised the Chair that there were no items that needed updating.</p> |
| 10. | <p>Any other URGENT Business (as previously agreed in item 2.4) There were no items of AOB</p> <p>TD (as COG) thanked the SLT again for their attendance and for putting into writing, and making sense of the little data we have.</p> |
| 12. | The date of the next meeting was agreed as 28 April 2022 |
| 13. | The meeting concluded at 19:10 |

Minutes will be signed digitally on GH