Minutes of the Meeting of the Local Governing Board of Wolfreton, held on Microsoft Teams on Monday 12 April 2021 at 17:00

GOVERNORS PRESENT:

Mrs S Milner (Chairperson, SM), Miss S Kukuc (Headteacher, SK), Mr P Matthews (PM), Mr A Paffley (AP), Miss H Power (HP), Mr R Whitlam (RW), Mr K Woodcock (KW)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs L Craxton (Clerk, LC)

Throughout these minutes a question is indicated by Q followed by the initials of the questioner and a comment is marked by C.

41   WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

SM welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Helen Power as a recently recruited Trust Appointed Governor

42   APOLOGIES

Mr R Firth

Resolved: That consent was given to the absence of the above-named Governor

No apologies had been received from Mr R McKinnon

ACTION: LC to follow up with RM regarding his absence from the LGB

43   DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None other than the annually declared interests were tabled

44   MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (14 December 2020)

Page 6 – NFVR to be changed to NGRT

Resolved: Once the above change had been made, the minutes of the last meeting on 14 December were confirmed as a correct record and are to be electronically signed by the Chair.

Signed by the Chair:

Date: 21 June 2021

45   MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

ACTION: Relevant sections of the Development Plan to be on each LGB agenda going forward **Completed**

ACTION: SM, AP & KW to complete the 2020 Safeguarding module on Learning Link by the next meeting in March 2021 **See minute 52**

ACTION: RM, SM & RW to activate their GDPR Sentry accounts and complete the Introduction to Data Protection training along with the Governor test by the next meeting in March 2021 **See minute 52**

ACTION: AP & KW to complete the GDPR Governor Module by the next meeting in March 2021 **See minute 52**

ACTION: By request, SK is to share the Policy Tracker at the next LGB **SK to forward tracker to LC for distribution with the minutes**

46   HT UPDATE

SK thanked all LGB members for accommodating the change to the meeting date and invited questions relating to the HT update. Highlights include:

Safeguarding
- Close onsite monitoring and support is ongoing for SEN students
- Support from SMASH & the TCAT Mental Health Support Worker continued remotely throughout lockdown

Health & Well-Being of Staff and Students
- A clear Academy wide communication strategy was agreed during lockdown
- Tracking was established to ensure individuals did not miss any communications
- Curriculum well-being focus took place during PSHE and Year 11 tutor time
- Staff were supported to be able to work from home
- Attendance has been very positive

Student Education and Engagement
- A good level of contact was achieved with those students who did engage with online learning regularly
- Online parents' evenings were a huge success
- All students were issued with an Academy email address to facilitate home learning
- Differences noticed between the lockdowns with more consistency seen in the 2nd lockdown
- Curriculum leaders monitored online learning and were able to identify areas for improvement and further learning

Performance Data
- At 50.13, A8 is above 2019 values but is sitting half a point below the 2020 value
- 9-5 Strong BASICS is 49%. This is above 2019 national average and in line with 2020

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Date: 21 June 2021

- 9-4 Standard BASICS is 71%. This is 6% above the 2019 national average yet 2% below the 2020 value. 5 more students are needed to achieve the same percentage as last year
- EBacc – 52% entered, 28% achieved. The WS entry was reduced to support progress in English and Maths. Despite this reduction, it remains above the national data for 2019 and is similar to the % of 2020
- DA students – currently 14% of the student body is classified as DA. The cohort is still below national average
- The P8 internal gap is -0.43, an increase of 0.2 since DT1 in October

Return Plans
- The Quality of Education team is leading a 'Back on Track' strategy –
  - Assessment. Assess students following lockdown
  - Analysis. Analyse student understanding and knowledge, are there any patterns, similarities between groups, year groups or individuals?
  - Activate. Activate learning through an adapted curriculum, specific intervention or scaffolding

Lateral Flow Device Testing
- Sadie Prestwood and SK visited 2 LFT sites prior to setting up on site to get an idea of what was expected
- Over 4500 LFT have been carried out on site with special thanks given to Sadie Prestwood for organising the testing and making sure everything ran smoothly. Thanks were also given to Ian Farmery, the Trust Covid-19 Testing Quality Manager for his support and guidance throughout
- As at noon on 01 March, 88% of students had booked to take up the offer of testing, 4% had declined and 8% were still outstanding
- Although the LFT on site facility was successful, it could not have been maintained any longer due to the staff volunteers needed to run the centre
- The students are also to be commended for the way in which they handled the situation

Challenges
- The following will be addressed in the coming weeks:
  - Testing
  - How grades will be awarded this summer
  - Individuals health & well-being

Q: (KW) All staff are to be commended for their positive response to the return to school. Personally, I have seen no negative effects but has there been any anxiety amongst the student body regarding returning to school and do you think this will impact on their future learning?
SK: There is always an element of anxiety for returning to school after holidays, for example. Pastoral and Attendance teams have been offering support but the overwhelming feeling is one of positivity, let's get back and do this! As for the overall impact, we are very careful with our language and do not talk about gaps, lost learning etc., our message still stands – 'we've got this'. Students will be relentlessly monitored throughout their school career
Q: (SM) How does engagement track against other Trust schools?
SK: We haven't evaluated against other schools, we have looked at other WS students and assessed in two ways – adjusted the data trawl for engagement data, but this was not shared

Signed by the Chair:

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as the announcement for return to school came beforehand and invited those students who needed additional help to come into school and learn alongside key worker and CEV students. This method was not 100% successful, however

Q: (SM) I have been very satisfied with pastoral and safeguarding activity. Have you seen any trends with certain students in certain topics, practical subjects for instance that may see lower online engagement and attendance?

(SK) That is impossible to map as some work is set and not delivered live. All Science labs were converted into standard classrooms to allow for distancing. Once Y11 and Y13 have left, it will allow us more space, therefore the labs can be returned to their normal use

C: (AP) Online and home learning for practical subjects is not impossible but it is incredibly difficult. Students who have no home access to the internet and the new Year 7's who have been using iPads in Year 6 – we have to adapt to their needs

C: (SK) Moving forward we hope to be able to offer online home learning to those that need it most long after the pandemic has ended, it's about the overall future of the students, not just lockdown and we haven't asked for the devices back yet

Q: (AP) Is there any way to drive Drama, school play, musicals for instance, when allowed? Struggling students come alive during these and its good for them to be able to get involved.

SK: At this time they are just not possible as it would mean having to mix bubbles. This provision was offered online but it was not the same. Outdoor sports, however, have started again and the Art Department has been setting challenges online

Q: (HP) After a year of home learning are the students struggling to adapt to being back in a classroom?

(SK) One of the advantages of home learning has been that we can encourage independent learning and develop skills. The challenge will be keeping it up but the teams are working together to see what works best. After school intervention has been offered by some teams with Maths, for instance, meeting in the forum

Q: (SM) How are the SEN students coping?

SK: It varies. Some found online learning difficult and came into school to work in adjacent classrooms with a different TA. Challenges also arose in this area with staff absence but we continue to monitor and support each student individually

47   SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW

As per the request at the last LGB, the SDP was shared with all. This is a live document and is constantly being updated. The aim of the plan is 3-fold:

- Excellence – to foster a culture of self-improvement through CPDL
- Endeavour – to embed challenge for all and an effective assessment practice to ensure targeted support to secure good outcomes
- Respect – to foster a culture of ambition and pride

- The Director of English has launched the DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) programme
- English and Maths will always be in progress

Q: (SM) Why are Science and Combined Science red?
SK: There was no scheduled PPE in November, we did in-class assessments and it was the right decision not to grade on this
C: (SM) Good to see French and Spanish are amber
SK: It is a reduced cohort and curriculum this year

Signed by the Chair:

Date: 21 June 2021

48 CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

SK was very pleased to be able to share what an academic year looks like for a Year 7 student. Highlights include:

- The redesigned KS3 is centred around 'lighting fires and expanding horizons' in Year 7
- The document is a live document and is able to be updated/amended as and when changes may occur. The current version includes the adjustments made to accommodate lockdown
- Faculty leaders meet regularly to discuss the curriculum
- The curriculum for Years 7, 8 & 9 are available on the website

Q: (KW) Will the audience understand the pages in French and Spanish?
SK: That's a fair question, we need a translated version
C: (KW) This is very good for Governors to see
C: (SK) It's also good for the staff to see

49 COVID CATCH-UP FUNDING

- Catch up premium allocation £107,520
- Visualisers are now in place
- WS looking into the feasibility of allowing learners to keep the laptops issued for home learning during lockdown despite the return to school
- The GCSE Pod is to be used to engage students
- My Tutor, Yipiyap and Pearson utilised for more focussed 3:1 tutoring
- Subject specific apps such as Tassomai being used
- Lexia in use to improve the reading age of students in Y7 & Y8
- 12 students are taking part in the 'Brilliant Club'
- External agencies such as MIND used to support the well-being of students and improve on attendance
- No additional ELSA at this time. The SMASH team has provided support along with pastoral staff

Q: (KW) Is this a one-off funding? How will we sustain these programmes in the future?
SK: More funding will come next year. As with all funding, I ask the leads what they need to make a difference and we work out how to achieve this
Q: (AP) Is there provision for spreading ideas Trust-wide?
SK: Yes, HTs meet regularly to discuss strategies, as do the leads

50 POLICY UPDATE

50.1 Bereavement Policy

The Bereavement Policy was tabled for approval

ACTION: SM to forward spelling and grammatical errors to SP for updating the Bereavement Policy

Resolved: The Bereavement Policy was approved

Signed by the Chair:

Date: 21 June 2021

50.2   E-Safety Policy

The E-Safety Policy was tabled for approval. The policy needs much more work and SK agreed to set up a working party with AP, HP & KW to bring it up to standard.

Once the working party has agreed the updates, the policy will be emailed to the LGB for electronic approval. Until the changes are approved, the previous version of this policy will remain in place

ACTION: SK to set up working party with AP, HP & KW to bring the E-Safety Policy up to standard

50.3   Provider Access Policy

The Provider Access Policy was tabled for approval

Resolved: The Provider Access Policy was approved

50.4   Searching, Screening and Confiscation Policy

The Searching, Screening and Confiscation Policy was tabled for approval

Resolved: The Searching, Screening and Confiscation Policy was approved

51   GOVERNOR VIRTUAL VISITS

Due to the current situation, visits, albeit virtual, are not taking place as regularly as scheduled

PP Link: RW has received an update from LW and has been assured that the pupil premium strategy is progressing satisfactorily

SG Link: SM met with MC and no concerns were raised. SM to complete the visit form and forward to LC for filing

ACTION: SM to complete the Governor Visit Form and forward to LC for filing

52   GOVERNOR TRAINING AND SUPPORT

Learning Link: KW outlined that 4 Governors are still to complete the new Governor Safeguarding module (v5) on Learning Link and urged them do so before the next meeting

4 Governors also need to complete one other module of their choice for this academic year on Learning Link

GDPR Sentry: 3 Governors are yet to complete the Governor Data Protection module. Again, this is to be completed before the next meeting

SM recently completed Safer Recruitment training as well as attending a webinar on 'Becoming an Evidence Based Governor'.

Signed by the Chair:

Date: 21 June 2021

ACTION: PM, RM, SM & RW to complete the 2020 Governor Safeguarding Module on Learning Link before the next meeting

ACTION: PM, RM, HP & RW to complete one other Learning Link module of their own choice before the next meeting

ACTION: RM, SM & RW to complete the Governor Data Protection module on GDPR Sentry before the next meeting

53   AOB

53.1   Mission Statement Consultation

The current Mission Statement only refers to students. SK proposed a new Mission Statement that encompasses all members of the WS community

Resolved: The new Mission Statement was approved by the LGB

54   DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 21 June 2021, 17:00

55   ACTION POINTS

55a   ACTION: LC to follow up with RM regarding his absence from the LGB **(minute 42)**

55b   ACTION: SM to forward spelling and grammatical errors to SP for updating the Bereavement Policy **(minute 50.1)**

55c   ACTION: SK to set up working party with AP, HP & KW to bring the E-Safety Policy up to standard **(minute 50.2)**

55d   ACTION: SM to complete the Governor Visit Form and forward to LC for filing **(minute 51)**

55e   ACTION: PM, RM, SM & RW to complete the 2020 Governor Safeguarding Module on Learning Link before the next meeting **(minute 52)**

55f   ACTION: PM, RM, HP & RW to complete one other Learning Link module of their own choice before the next meeting **(minute 52)**

55g   ACTION: RM, SM & RW to complete the Governor data protection module on GDPR Sentry before the next meeting **(minute 52)**

Part A finished at 19:03

Signed by the Chair:

Date: 21 June 2021