

AYLESBURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL



MINUTES OF THE LEARNING AND TEACHING COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2016 AT 8AM

PRESENT:	Dr N Laljani (Chairman) Mrs J Atkin Mr K Hardern	Mr G Howe Mr M Sturgeon (Headmaster) Miss E Treherne
IN ATTENDANCE:	Mrs C Cobb Mr D Kennedy Mr G Singh Dr K Smith	Clerk Observer Assistant Headteacher Assistant Headteacher
APOLOGIES:	Mr M Brock	Apologies received and accepted

		ACTION
1	NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS No items were under Any Other Business	
2	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS There were no declarations of interest.	
3	APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN In accordance with the terms of reference Dr Laljani was appointed Chairman for one year.	
4	PRESENTATION BY MR SKINNER ON DEPARTMENT DEVELOPMENT PLAN – ENGLISH <i>Mr Skinner came into the meeting and circulated the English department Development Plan. Arising from the presentation:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is an increased sense of inclusion within the department, which has been extremely positive as it gives a continual sense to improve at all times.• The department has had more ownership over the process, which has also been popular with staff and had a positive effect.• Peer observations and learning walks have been carried out and has allowed for good practice to be shared.• The process has allowed for greater flexibility, data was considered to provide a focal point, which the department has had the freedom to select and how to improve going forward• The Chairman asked if all departments are carrying out a development plan? The Headmaster confirmed they were, it is part of the overall process. In the coming year departments will collaboratively devise a timeline to assist with work loads• Mrs Atkin asked how often the plan is reviewed and does it inform staff appraisals? Mr Skinner responded he regularly reviews the plan and the outcomes feed into staff appraisals.	at

- **The Chairman asked if the English plan would be shared with other departments?** The Headmaster responded there are no plans to share it at present as only one year has been completed, but where good practice can be shared it will be
- **Mr Hardern asked how staff differentiate their teaching practices between abilities?** Mr Skinner gave the example of two support classes he had been teaching.
- **Mr Hardern asked what was being done for high-end achievers?** Mr Skinner responded high-end achievers are inclined to be set more researched based tasks to extend them

5 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

5.1 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th May 2016 were agreed as an accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman.

5.2 MATTERS ARISING

Economics Comparative Data – Mr Singh circulated an analysis on economics GCSE and A level results, the data demonstrates that there is only a very slight increase in A level results of those taking Economics at GCSE. **Mr Kennedy asked what enrichment is there in the GCSE specification and should summer reading be considered for students who wish to take economics?** Dr Smith responded a number of students struggle to make the decision between business and economics despite taster classes in each subject being given. Governors noted the economics GCSE results were good.

Review of A level timetable provision from 9 to 8 periods – Mr Singh circulated a report. **Mr Hardern said the report demonstrates it has not been detrimental having reduced the timetable from 9 to 8 periods?** Mr Singh agreed and said there has been no impact on results

6 UCAS REPORT

Mrs Laura Adams came into the meeting and circulated a report. Arising from the report:

- The Headmaster reported the results demonstrate that good advice and guidance was given on University courses to students and in the most part taken, however in some cases where it wasn't there were disappointments.
- **Mr Hardern asked for comparison data on 2016 and 2017 on the Aylesburian list of Universities be presented next year**
- **Miss Treherne asked if there should be monitoring where papers are marked incorrectly by the exam boards and students lose out on University places as a result to see if any trends are emerging**
- Governors noted the UCAS results were good with an increase in numbers of students going to Russell Group Universities and their first choice of University, which was the most important aspect.

Mrs Adams

Mrs Adams left the meeting.

7 HOME LEARNING

Mr Singh reported the staff working group had reviewed home learning, the online platform and visited other schools to establish how they manage home learning. The outcome was sometimes students not being fully aware of why home learning was being set. As a consequence staff have received training on the relevance of the home learning being set and to clarify in student planners why it has been. This will continue to be monitored.

8 SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The School development plan sections pertaining to the committee had been previously circulated. Dr Smith also circulated the results analysis of different student groups to include SEND, ethnicity, EAL and those students who attract pupil premium funding. Arising from the reports:

- The whole GCSE cohort had been reviewed owing to the drop in attainment, the school broadly remains in the same position as previous years against other BASS schools, demonstrating a slight fall in results across many high attaining schools.
- Students at the lower end did not make the value added expected and in comparison to previous years, the principal reason being that this cohort has the highest percentage of pastoral care needs and the data does not demonstrate this.
- SEND and EAL have higher value added
- Governors noted the diversity of the school is increasing year on year and this must continue to be recognised to ensure adequate provision is in place to support this
- A significant level of support was in place for the three students who attract pupil premium funding, sadly two of these students refused to take any of the support given, which has overall has given a negative value added
- **Mrs Atkin asked if there were any concerns around any subject?** The Headmaster responded that as well as annual data, the school also tracks three year rolling data to identify trends. Where these emerge, action plans are put into place and subjects identified on the School Development Plan. Currently we are experiencing unprecedented change in subject specifications and this will be monitored so comprehensive data can be gathered
- Departments have identified areas where they could improve and a bottom up approach is being taken

9 REVIEW OF GCSE STATISTICS 2016

Dr Smith circulated a report on the GCSE statistics review for 2016. The Headmaster introduced this paper saying there has been concern about the controlled assessment grades, as externally moderated and a detailed review had been undertaken. Arising from the report:

- **The Chairman asked if in future unmoderated marks would be given to students?** Dr Smith responded in future students will not receive marks as marks can change, instead staff will give verbal feedback to students on the quality of the work. This will provide consistency across the school.
- The Headmaster reported in the last five years marking has been accurate (within the tolerance levels) as there has been no changes from the examination board. Therefore there was little evidence to believe on this occasion it would be any different. Students have been provided with their marks in the previous years due to the relative

accuracy of the school assessment and the external moderation process.

ACTION

10 POLICIES FOR REVIEW

Governors reviewed both the Child Protection Policy and the Anti-bullying policy and agreed they should be recommended to the FGB for approval.

FGB Agenda

11 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

A presentation on the AGS Learner should be given to the FGB

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 9th February 2017
Thursday 18th May 2017

All Governors

The meeting closed at 10am

Signed Date
CHAIRMAN

