

# AYLESBURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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## MINUTES OF THE LEARNING AND TEACHING COMMITTEE THURSDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2016 AT 8AM

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**PRESENT:**

Dr N Laljani (Chairman)	Mr G Howe
Mr P Aston	Mr R Rooney
Mrs J Atkin	Mr M Sturgeon (Headmaster)
Mr P Buckland	Miss E Treherne
Mr K Hardern	

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr M Brock	Observer
Mrs C Cobb	Clerk
Mr G Gate	Observer
Mr G Singh	Assistant Headteacher
Dr K Smith	Assistant Headteacher

### 1 NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following item was agreed to be taken under Any Other Business:

- Policies

### 2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

### 3 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

#### 3.1 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015 were agreed as an accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman.

#### 3.2 MATTERS ARISING

All matters arising have been taken under individual minutes.

### 4 SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Headmaster reported there had been no significant changes since the full update at the full Governing Body meeting.

### 5 UPDATE ON DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Dr Smith reported to Governors on DT as follows:

- GCSE results have not performed well in the last two years and reduced year on year.
- There are three sets all taking three slightly different topics as they are looking at different materials and therefore they are doing things slightly differently

### ACTION

- Coursework accounts for 60% of the overall mark, which is higher than most subjects and is the area being reviewed as the boys are generally doing ok in the exam
- The steps being taken include a more consistent approach to coursework across the three sets; staff are receiving training from the exam board; there is more rigorous coursework moderation being carried out and lessons are being learnt from electronics and Resistant Materials and this being applied to graphics
- The Year 11 mock results are showing the boys are on track but this is only looking at the exam element and not the coursework. Coursework still looks significantly off target. Students at risk of underperforming have been identified and parents have been informed, however a lot of the coursework element takes place over the spring and summer term. Staff have worked very hard to try and improve results and it is too early to say what the predictions will be.
- **Miss Treherne asked if the new GCSE coming in in the autumn term would change things?** Dr Smith responded he thought it would but a decision on how to run the course has not yet been taken
- **Mr Brock asked how many boys choose DT?** Dr Smith responded 40 in Year 11
- **Mr Rooney asked if any other subjects have the same percentage of coursework and if lessons could be learnt from them?** Dr Smith responded Art does and the DT and Art departments have met to discuss this.
- **Mr Hardern asked if there maybe organisational issues for the boys?** Dr Smith responded this is being considered and is discussed with the boys when they choosing their GCSE options
- **The Chairman asked if the AGS Learner takes account of organisational skills?** Mr Singh responded the AGS Learner is focused on each student and where they need to develop. One key element of the AGS Learner is 'Ownership' which links into organisation, but the challenge may be to develop Ownership into students in GCSE years when it has been something they have struggled with since Year 7.

## 6 AGS LIST OF UNIVERSITIES

This item was taken under minute 8.

## 7 UPDATE ON ECONOMICS

Mr Singh reported there have been concerns around the GCSE, AS and A level value added results being down, a plan was put in place and there were improvements to the results in 2015. Mr Singh further reported:

- There has been a greater focus on supporting the boys with exam requirements, marking and teaching has shifted to the assessment criteria
- Work has been undertaken with Mr Grant on reviewing the data and how the boys can be better supported. Overall the teaching is good but more support for the boys is being put in place
- A number of strategies have been put in place (before the 2015 results) to include more learning walks, lesson observations, CPD for staff taken both internally and externally and more materials are available for the boys
- There are concerns with the current GCSE cohort as the value added is down, mock grades are also down and 18 received a D or lower

result. Students have been identified and support has been put in place. Work is also taking place with parents and the pastoral team. Those who achieved a D or below in their mocks have taken a follow up exam and the results are not yet known.

- At A level the concerns are not so great. One member of staff is leaving the department, they mainly teach Business Studies and this may have an impact. **Mr Buckland asked if the member of staff is being replaced?** The Headmaster responded they are until the end of the academic year but not in the long term as the department is overstaffed at present.
- **Mr Brock asked how experienced the staff are who teach economics?** The Headmaster responded the head of the department is a chief examiner and very experienced, the two other members of staff are also very good.
- **Mr Howe asked if economics is a sensible subject to offer?** The Headmaster responded it is a strong academic subject. At A level it is notoriously difficult and at GCSE a lot of boys choose it that probably shouldn't and this will be raised when the boys make their GCSE options.
- **Mr Buckland asked what the comparison was against other schools?** Dr Smith agreed to obtain the data and bring it back to the next meeting for Governors consideration
- **The Chairman asked when the next set of indicators would be known?** Mr Singh responded after the follow up mocks and agreed to bring the comparison between economics and maths A level results back to the next meeting.

Dr Smith  
Agenda

Mr Singh  
Agenda

*Dr Smith left the meeting*

## 8 REPORT ON UCAS APPLICATIONS

*Mrs Laura Adams came into the meeting*

Mrs Adams circulated a report on the progress of UCAS applications for 2016. Arising from the report:

- There is an increase in applications to Russell Group universities, but a slightly higher number of rejections
- There were fewer applications to Oxford and Cambridge than 2014 but it is more in line with previous years. The Headmaster reported he has spoken with schools who are successful in securing more Oxbridge offers and it appears the work being carried out at AGS is similar to those schools. Mrs Adams is going to visit these schools to establish what processes they are following.
- There were more applications to study medicine but it continues to be extremely difficult to secure a place.
- **Mr Brock asked what percentage are not applying to University?** Mrs Adams responded approximately 12%. The Headmaster further responded the principal reason for not applying are the costs of going to University.
- **Mr Hardern asked what the measure of success is for Year 13 exits?** The Headmaster responded it is about preparing the boys for the future, with some attending university and others choosing different routes.
- Bath, Loughborough and Reading Universities have been included in the AGS list of Universities alongside the Russell Group and Oxford

and Cambridge, they have been included because they are popular choices with the boys and in some cases offer better courses.

- **Mrs Atkin asked if there are any boys who cannot attend university for financial reasons but have aspirations to do so?** Miss Treherne responded each boy has a one to one interview and is shown how to apply for additional funding if needed.
- **Mr Gate asked if more are applying to go to university abroad?** Mrs Adams responded Europe and America are definitely being considered where they have not necessarily been before. **Governors requested in future to have the number of applicants to American and European Universities included in the report.**

*Mrs Adams left the meeting*

## 9 GOVERNOR SEF ACTIONS

Mr Brock reported the new framework is in line with the revised Ofsted framework. Mr Brock reported he would be reviewing the Governor SEF and issue sections to Committee Chairmen to complete.

Mr Brock

## 10 EXTENDING THE MOST ABLE

**Mr Hardern reported he regularly meets with the SEN Co-ordinator and he asked what is being done to challenge and engage the most able?** The Headmaster responded the expectations of Ofsted have to be contextualised as 98% of students are already in the high achieving bracket so the approach for extending the most able has to be a whole school approach from the SLT to Heads of departments to teachers in every subject and is about extending every student to achieve their very best. Mr Singh also reported that he has looked at enrichment activities to extend the most able Mr Singh circulated a report to show what each department is doing for these students. **Mr Rooney asked what opportunities are there on trips and social and personal development?** The Headmaster responded being appointed house captains, prefects and head boy, the EPQ allows individuals to excel in an area not recognised in usual academic studies, boys with exceptional music talents, but don't necessarily learn an instrument in school, have the opportunity to play in school and attend concerts and join in house music.

**Mr Gate asked how the school identifies the most able?** The Headmaster responded there is a lot of data, which is reviewed on a regular basis. However there are boys who do things outside of school and don't necessarily share this with the school and it is challenging to get this information if it is not forthcoming and therefore difficult to support. One way this is addressed is the boys are encouraged to come forward with ideas for extra curricular clubs.

**Mr Gate asked if the Headmaster felt the most able are being challenged and achieving their full potential?** The Headmaster responded they are and this can be demonstrated as they are measured and the data is very positive.

**Mr Gate asked if a very able artist is being extended and how could Governors evidence this?** Mr Singh responded a Governor visit would enable Governors to evidence this and all teachers in all subjects teach beyond the exam, staff are passionate about their subjects and this is

Headmaster

disseminated to all boys. The Headmaster agreed to bring a statement on extending the most able to the next meeting

**11 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Governors agreed they would like the following items included on the agenda for the next meeting:

- Head of English to give feedback on departmental self evaluation
- How staff are being geared up for new GCSE's
- Show My Homework (Minute 5.2, 8.10.15)
- Student Use of Technology (Minute 5.2, 8.10.15)
- Review of A 'level timetable from nine to eight periods in Year 12 (Minute 10.1, 8.10.15)

**12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 8am

All Governors

**13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**13.1 POLICIES**

**Mr Hardern requested in future policies became a standing item on the agenda and asked if the school had reviewed the Controlled Assessment Policy and Privacy Notice as he noted they were due for review by Governors?** The Headmaster responded the Controlled Assessment Policy was no longer required and he would bring back the Privacy Notice to the next meeting.

Headmaster  
**Agenda**

The meeting closed at 10am

Signed ..... Date .....  
CHAIRMAN