

# AYLESBURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL



MINUTES OF THE LEARNING AND TEACHING COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2017 AT 8AM

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

## 1 NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was agreed the following item would be included under Any Other Business:

- Parent Evenings

## 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 13<sup>th</sup> October 2016 were agreed as an accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman.

### 3.2 MATTERS ARISING

- **The SEND Report presented at the last meeting, Mr Hardern had asked should there be allowance in the Curriculum Policy for deviating from the national curriculum insistence on MFL study when it is clearly not achieving any benefits for students with special needs? - Mr Hardern further asked if consideration should be given to some SEND students not taking certain subjects at GCSE, particularly modern foreign languages as it is extremely challenging, stressful and harder for them to make progress in?** The Headmaster responded that he did not think a blanket approach should be taken and it should be considered on an individual basis. The Headmaster also felt the learning involved of a modern foreign language impacted on other subjects and therefore was extremely important; removing a language GCSE would also put pressure on the remaining other GCSE subjects (students take 10 on total including a language) as the best eight results are considered for admission into the sixth form. Miss Treherne also reported not taking a modern foreign language might impact on UCAS applications.

## ACTION

- **To understand the rationale behind having multiple systems for recording homework and be briefed on the plan to consolidate this, assuming that is the plan** – Mr Singh reported three to four years ago, students were given planners/diaries, there is now alternative provision in place. Google classroom has been introduced and is currently being trialled with Year 8; if it is successful it will be rolled out to the whole school in September 2017. **Mr Hardern asked what the benefits were of Google Classroom against Show my Homework?** Mr Singh responded Show My Homework did not have the capacity of Google classroom and was more prescriptive not encouraging independence. Governors requested a presentation on Google Classroom at the next meeting.

Agenda

#### 4 UPDATE ON SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Headmaster had previously circulated an update on the progress being made on the SDP pertinent to the committee. Governors noted in LT6 11 Oxbridge offers had been received, which was excellent. **The Chairman requested a presentation on digital learning was given at the next meeting.**

Agenda

#### 5 INCREASE TO STAFFING STRUCTURE

The Headmaster reported owing to funding pressures staff have not always been replaced when they leave and in certain subjects student numbers have increased. To date the school has managed to cope with the pressures of this but it does not allow for any flexibility. Coupled with this there has been a national recruitment crisis, which has now impacted on local recruitment. AGS has an ageing staff and so therefore succession planning is extremely important. In PE where a broad range of sports are offered the PE team have found it extremely challenging to provide extra curricular activities. **The Chairman asked if a proposed staffing structure had been shared with the RiF Committee?** The Headmaster responded it is going to be shared at the next meeting to ensure what is proposed is financially viable. **Mr Hardern asked what the staffing strategy is going to be?** The Headmaster responded the strategy would be on a subject-by-subject basis. **Mr Hardern asked if consideration should be given for the school to become a SCITT?** The Headmaster felt there was not the capacity in Buckinghamshire as there are already two SCITT's one based at The Royal Latin School and the other at Dr Challoner's Grammar School. **Mrs Ward asked if it was possible for those coming from industry who wished to train as a Teacher to carry out the training over two years on a part time basis?** Mr Singh responded it was however most people complete training over one year. **Mrs Smith asked if there could be any cross over for teachers to teach more than one subject?** The Headmaster responded there is some crossover for example chemistry teachers are teaching physics to lower years (this is due to being unable to successfully recruit more physics teachers) however one of the biggest strengths of the school is students are taught by specialist teachers who are experts in their subject. **Mr Brock asked if there could be greater collaboration with Aylesbury High School?** The Headmaster responded there is collaboration with Music A level taught at AHS and Drama, which is taught at AGS but it is extremely difficult to do this where there are greater numbers of students wishing to take a subject. **The Chairman stated this was a crucial issue across the whole school and requested a traffic light system for all subjects so Governors could clearly understand where the level of concerns are on a subject-by-subject basis and further suggested a proposal on the**

**new staffing structure was presented to the FGB having had the financial implications considered by the RiF Committee meeting.**

**6 GOVERNOR SEF ACTIONS**

The Chairman reported Mr Brock had consolidated the Governor SEF and currently there are no actions for the committee.

**7 AGS LEARNER**

Mr Singh gave Governors a presentation on the AGS Learner. Governors agreed it was very good, particularly the reflections on what you would tell your younger self and suggested it was projected at Parents evenings.

Mr Singh

**8 POLICIES FOR REVIEW**

**8.1 EQUAL OPORTINITIES**

This policy had been previously circulated with amendments. Governors reviewed the policy and agreed it should be recommended to the FGB for approval.

**FGB Agenda**

**8.2 HOME SCHOOL AGREEMENT**

The Home School Agreement had been previously circulated with amendments. Governors reviewed the document and agreed it should be recommended to the FGB for approval.

**FGB Agenda**

**9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2017

All Governors

**10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**10.1 PARENT EVENINGS**

Mr Howe reported he had attended the Year10 parents evening and was concerned that a small percentage of parents appeared not to be very comfortable with the process and asked if there was anything which could be done to improve this? The Headmaster responded it could be a challenging evening for some parents as the information they are receiving from teachers about their children may not always be what they had hoped for. Governors discussed and agreed when they were in attendance they would try to approach any parents who they felt looked uncomfortable.

All Governors

The meeting closed at 10am

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