

AYLESBURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

MINUTES OF THE LEARNING AND TEACHING COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 19TH MAY 2016 AT 8AM



PRESENT:	Dr N Laljani (Chairman) Mrs J Atkin Mrs M Brock Mr K Hardern	Mr G Howe Mr R Rooney Mr M Sturgeon (Headmaster) Miss E Treherne
IN ATTENDANCE:	Mrs C Cobb Mr J Collins Mr G Singh	Clerk Observer Assistant Headteacher

1 NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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

- Update on Design Technology

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 11 February 2016 were agreed as an accurate record subject to one amendment in minute 10. The fourth paragraph question was removed and the response joined to the third paragraph above. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

3.2 MATTERS ARISING

3.2.1 ECONOMICS COMPARISON DATA AGAINST OTHER SCHOOLS

Mr Singh reported the 2015 Economics data has been reviewed, in comparison to BASS (Boys Academic State Schools) schools. The Headmaster reminded Governors the majority of other BASS schools are highly selective and the comparisons are carried out for aspirational reasons. At A level AGS Economics ranked 23 out of 26 and 9 out of 12 against other Bucks Grammar schools. At GCSE AGS ranked 6 out of 9 against other BASS schools and 1 out of 2 against other Bucks Grammar schools. **Mr Brock asked how staff felt about the results?** Mr Singh responded they were not surprised given the concerns, which had been raised previously. For 2016 the value added has increased but is still -0.5 of a grade lower, 85% of students are predicted a grade B and above and only 3 students (previously 18) are predicted a grade D. **The Chairman stated this suggests the interventions put in place have had a very positive effect?** Mr Singh responded the 2016 results would hopefully confirm this. Mr Singh further reported that Alex Grant and his team are working extremely hard to find a solution, the strategies are very specific and the change in the exams has

ACTION

made things very challenging. **Mr Hardern asked if consideration as to whether Economics GCSE should be offered should be given?** The Headmaster responded Economics offers a good balance to Business Studies GCSE.

3.2.2 COMPARISON DATA BETWEEN ECONOMICS AND MATHS FOLLOWING MOCK EXAMS

Mr Singh circulated an analysis of the economics and maths results from 2013-2015. The analysis does not suggest the maths grade requirements to do economics at A level should be increased. **Mr Brock requested a comparison of the A level economics results of those who took GCSE economics and those who did not.** Mr Singh agreed to bring this back to the next meeting.

Mr Singh
Agenda

3.2.3 EXTENDING THE MOST ABLE

The Headmaster previously circulated a paper on extended learning. The Headmaster further reported all students should be stretched and whilst supporting the most able was extremely important this should be done on an individual basis. The paper circulated focused on excellence for all, based on staff knowing their students well and what additional support they may need.

Miss Treherne reported owing to funding cuts there is a potential for some extra curricular activities to be under threat of not being offered, which is a shame as staff would like to be able to offer them. **Mrs Atkin asked if parents could be approached to support where they have the requisite skills?** The Headmaster responded they could but staff would still need to be present.

Recruitment is a major challenge and the numbers of applicants applying for roles has diminished significantly, this is a problem when staff leave and need to be replaced, particularly for extra curricular activities if they coach a particular sport or a specific club. **Mr Hardern asked if the difficulties surrounding staff recruitment was limiting the most able?** The Headmaster responded it is the breadth of what can be offered which could be affected. Mr Rooney reported the PE department are looking at strategies on how coaching for some sports will be delivered, particularly rugby. The Headmaster further reported there could potentially be issues but it is being monitored. **Mr Hardern asked if there was enough capacity to extend and engage the top 5%?** The Headmaster responded that teachers normally practice differentiated teaching in class, with the most able given more challenging tasks. Additionally, a number of different opportunities, e.g. lunchtime clubs are run in nearly all subjects by staff and they continue to go over and above for the students. **Mrs Atkin asked if she could accompany a senior member of staff on a learning walk to demonstrate how staff differentiate in the classroom.** The Headmaster agreed to organise this and ask all Governors if they too would like to carry out learning walks.

Headmaster

Mr Rooney gave Governors a presentation on the general student data he receives for his class on targets, performance, attitude, homework, how students are doing and any concerns there may be. The data assists all staff that have responsibility for a class and enables support to be put in place where necessary.

4 SHOW MY HOMEWORK

The Headmaster reported the home learning group has met to review home learning and using online technology. Show My Homework is a software package being looked at but is only one of many available. A key determinant is the ability to integrate with iSAM's, the schools information management system. The school is also reviewing Firefly as an alternative software option. This package can integrate with iSAM's and does everything that is required, however it is expensive. Firefly will need to be trialled to give staff the opportunity to carry out a full review and give their feedback.

5 STUDENT USE OF TECHNOLOGY

The Headmaster reported a review of student use of technology has not yet taken place. The review could potentially be wide ranging including students, parents and staff.

6 STAFF CPD

The Headmaster reported three leadership courses are running for new teachers, aspiring middle leaders and aspiring senior leaders. The courses are being run in conjunction with AHS and The Grange, 30-40 staff from across the three schools are involved in the programmes and staff have the opportunity to experience teaching and leadership in other schools. **Mr Hardern asked who had come up with the idea?** Mr Singh responded it was raised in discussions between the Heads of the three schools and then taken forward by the respective Assistant Headteachers.

7 REVIEW OF A LEVEL TIMETABLE FROM NINE TO EIGHT PERIODS IN YEAR 12

Mr Singh reported some staff carrying out the aspiring senior leaders course have requested to undertake a data analysis project as part of their course, and they will be asked to carry out part of the review of the A level time provision. The Headmaster agreed to bring back the review of the A level time provision for Year 12 once it is complete.

Headmaster
Agenda

Miss Treherne reported that previously Year 12 students, taking 4 A levels had a full timetable with only limited study periods, this contact time has decreased for students studying 4 A levels and further still for those studying 3 A levels. As a result some students have supervised study but this raises the potential for students to have significantly more study periods and noncontact periods on the timetable. Some students do not do any extra curricular activities and therefore can be given permission to go home as there is not enough study space on the school site. **Mr Brock asked if the new sixth form centre would allow for more students to remain on the school site?** The Headmaster reported it would increase capacity and has been instigated for this very reason. The design will be underpinned by the need to meet these demands as practically as possible. **Mr Brock asked if there has been any feedback from parents?** Mr Hardern reported it has been raised at parent consultation evenings, and the opportunity to stay at school is welcomed by some parents.

Miss Treherne further reported the impact of the timetable on staff has meant taking on an additional class in the lower part of the school, where more preparation, planning and marking has to be done and this has put a lot of additional pressure on staff.

8 UPDATE ON SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Headmaster had previously circulated the progress being made on the SDP. Arising from the updates:

- The SLT are meeting on 23 May to review the current SDP and to set priorities for 2016/17. The SDP for 2016/17 will then be presented at the FGB meeting.
- LT9 – Embed The AGS Learner across the entire school community to improve the awareness and importance of learning characteristics - **Mrs Atkin asked if there was anything further to report on the AGS Learner?** Mr Singh responded more will be known after half term when a review of the year is due to take place
- LT10 – Review the use of home learning to aid development of learning in line with The AGS Learner focus - **Mr Hardern asked if there was anything further to report on this action?** Mr Singh responded the Home learning research group would present to staff in June, having previously reported to the SLT. **Mr Hardern requested an update on this at the next meeting.**

FGB Agenda

Mr Singh
Agenda

9 GOVERNING BODY SELF EVALUATION

The Chairman reported Mr Brock has reviewed and updated the framework and highlighted areas for the L & T Committee to complete. The Chairman, Mr Howe (subject to availability), Mr Singh and Miss Treherne agreed to update the L & T section.

10 POLICIES FOR REVIEW

There were no policies for review.

11 REVIEW TERMS OF REFERENCE

Governors reviewed the terms of reference and agreed they should be recommended for approval to the FGB with no amendments.

FGB Agenda

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be confirmed

All Governors

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 UPDATE ON DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Dr Smith came into the meeting.

Mr Hardern said at the last meeting concerns were raised about last summers Design and Technology coursework marks. Dr Smith reported that the graphics coursework caused the negative value added last summer. This year parents have been informed where there are concerns and interventions have been put in place for those students who were falling behind. A more rigorous internal moderation process has been put in place and coursework has been shared for review between each member of staff for the three subject areas (electronics, graphics and resistance materials). The raw marks have been submitted and subject to moderation are Electronics 64 points, which is equivalent to a B grade; Resistance materials 79 points, which is equivalent to a B grade; Graphics 64 points which is equivalent to a C grade. Overall the raw scores are lower than 2015 but staff

are more confident of the validity of the scores. In 2016/17 no students in Year 11 have elected to take Graphics at A level. **Mr Howe asked if this was because of the low grades being achieved in previous years?** Dr Smith responded it could be but Graphics is inclined to attract more artistic students and there maybe fewer of them within the cohort.

The meeting closed at 10am

Signed Date

CHAIRMAN