

AYLESBURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

MINUTES OF THE LEARNING AND TEACHING COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 19TH OCTOBER 2017 AT 8AM



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

1 NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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

- Year 11 Parents Evening

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

3 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Dr Laljani was unanimously appointed Chairman for one year.

4 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Mr Kennedy was unanimously appointed Vice Chairman for one year.

5 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

5.1 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th May 2017 were agreed as an accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman.

5.2 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

6 PRESENTATION FROM THE HEADS OF ENGLISH AND MATHS

Mr Skinner and Mr Smith came into the meeting.

English

ACTION

Mr Skinner, Head of English reported the new grading presented some challenges with exam boards being non-comital on what a grade would like. It made predictions very difficult and so teachers were tough on marking, which knocked some student confidence as a consequence. A Level English numbers are a set down on previous years and this is being seen across all BASS schools, the principle reason for this is students are not enjoying the new GCSE syllabus. The A Level course has not changed. **Mr Kennedy said if the joy of learning English has been taken away then this should be reported back to DfE.** Staff had to overcome the new language and skills needed for the new English GCSE's and wrote the new schemes of work together, the Head of Edexcel came to talk to staff and AGS hosted all the exam board meetings and other schools were invited. Overall the exams were more difficult. The final outcome of the results has seen an increase in English Literature and English language has remained the same. The student perception of a 7, which equates to a grade A, is not as good. The whole department worked very collaboratively and were very supportive of each other. **Mr Collins asked why the exams were more difficult?** Mr Skinner responded there was no coursework, therefore 100% exams and so students could not gauge how well they were doing. New skills such as elevation, how to compare were also required. In English Literature, no books were allowed in the exam. **Mr Brock asked what is being done to try and increase numbers wishing to take A level English?** Mr Skinner responded there is a big push this year and GCSE marking will be more confident and this will increase student confidence. The Headmaster reported overall English results were down across all BASS schools and AGS maintained a positive position and the results were up, which was very pleasing and due to the very hard work of the department.

Maths

Mr Smith circulated a report, as attached, on the key changes to the maths GCSE and departments response. A decision was taken to stay with Edexcel and they did provide good resources and communication. The exam results were overall very pleasing, the target was 80% and 75.7% was achieved and the average point score has remained stable. The department worked extremely hard with the new schemes of works and will continue to make improvements. **Mr Brock asked if the changes brought in are good or bad?** Mr Smith responded there is more problem solving, which will help for those who go on to take A level maths. There were some concerns for the weaker students with problem solving but they coped well. The same cohort will also be the first cohort for the new maths A level.

Mrs Smith asked if many papers were returned for re-marks? Mr Smith responded only a handful and a few did see their results increase. Mr Skinner responded only 2 or 3 were re-marked and they increased but overall the grades given were fair. **Mr Kennedy asked if primary school pupils are coming in more able with harder SAT's being set?** Mr Skinner responded not in English and Mr Smith responded they had more exposure to things but they were not necessarily better. **Mr Hardern asked if there were lessons other departments could learn regarding the Year 7 curriculum?** Mr Singh responded both Mr Skinner and Mr Smith are to present at the Heads of departments meeting to share their experience and knowledge. **Mr Hardern requested an update from the Heads of Departments meeting.**

Mr Singh
Agenda

A report and analysis had been previously circulated. Arising from the report overall there were successes in both Years 11 and 13 particularly as their predictions were not as strong as previous cohorts. The value added dropped to 0.1 and whilst this was not wanted it was positive given the cohorts predictions. The analysis does not tell the story of some of the great successes for example one year 13 student who achieved 3 C's at A level and got a place at his first choice University was a significant achievement.

A Levels

The impact of taking three subjects meant students were unable to drop their weakest which in turn meant the importance of subject choice and support put in place to assist the students is massive. **Mr Collins asked what is being done for students who are struggling?** The Headmaster responded it falls to Heads of departments to create good habits, explain how study time should be spent and the AGS Learner plays a very significant role. Mrs Venning also raised on the INSET days the importance of consolidation as well as homework and this is being carried out in the lower schools too to prepare the students for years 12 and 13. **Mr Kennedy felt resilience and structure should be built into the AGS Learner as they offer opportunity.** Governors noted 40 students are taking AS levels of which 15 are taking maths. The Headmaster explained it offers a supplement to Physics A level where students don't wish to take Maths A level, previously in order to take physics you had to take maths but it was recognised some students left as a consequence and some external students did not select AGS. Dr Smith further reported a lot of work is being carried out with computing as their results have dipped for a third year. An action plan was put in place at GCSE and this has increased the value added significantly, which will hopefully impact on the A level results. **Mr Williams asked if the grades were as predicted?** Dr Smith responded they were and a lot of interventions were put in place. **Mr Hardern asked if there was anything the FGB could do?** Mr Smith responded he did not think so and agreed to update Governors on the progress being made at the next meeting. **Mr Kennedy asked if Computing is a sustainable subject given the issues with staff recruitment and retention?** The Headmaster responded there are a number of students who wish to take computing and it attracts external students into Year 12. **Mr Kennedy suggested approaching people who work in the programming industry to come and give talks to the students.** Governors noted the outcomes for BME, EAL, SEND and disadvantaged students were equal to the rest of their cohort, with the exception of disadvantaged, which represent three students of which one had done very well and another very badly.

Dr Smith

Headmaster

GCSE

Governors noted the Progress 8 was significantly higher at +0.7 which is higher than the last two years and places the school 9/26 BASS schools, this will be confirmed in November. Governors congratulated the Headmaster and all staff and felt this was great cause for celebration. **Mr Collins asked where the school aspires to be placed amongst the BASS schools?** The Headmaster responded 15/26 so to accelerate 6 places is very significant. **Mr Kennedy asked if there was more which could be done to raise this aspiration?** The Headmaster responded there is always more which can be done and this is constantly being considered. Mr Singh reported the GCSE cohort were the first GCSE group to start with the AGS Learner and this has impacted very positively. Dr Smith also reported the students were tracked

in Year 10 which allowed interventions to be put in place at an early stage. **Mrs Atkin reported at the Year 11 parents evening a number of parents had mentioned their sons had staff mentors, which has clearly been an excellent initiative. Mr Brock asked if there were any concerns with any GCSE subjects?** Dr Smith responded Ancient History, Art, DT and German had lower results and action plans have been put in place. The Headmaster also responded a lot of work is being done to drill in to these subjects but sometimes it is the marking which is out of the school's control. Governors noted BME and EAL students achieved higher results than their peers and the SEND and Pupil premium students were lower. The pupil premium students represent a tiny number and the SENDCO is reviewing the SEND pupils.

Governors discussed and agreed the Chairman should raise the excellent results and Progress 8 scores at the FGB meeting.

Chairman

8 SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Mr Singh updated Governors on the progress being made on the items pertaining to the committee on the SDP as follows:

- LT1, LT2 and LT3 have all been populated with data following the results
- Learning and Teaching strategies planned for July 2017 have been covered under the AGS Learner.
- **Mrs Atkin asked what the most challenging areas are of the SDP?** The Headmaster responded maintaining a strong position, continuing to put good strategies in place including the AGS Learner and putting interventions in place e.g. the Year 10 tracking data identifying where interventions need to be put in place. The Headmaster further reported losing 17 students who did not return to Year 12 despite qualifying to do so. **Mrs Ward asked why this was?** The Headmaster responded the majority of them came from out of County and transport costs are a big factor. **Mr Brock asked how many external students gained admission into Year 12?** The Headmaster responded 36, taking the total number to 186 which is 17 below capacity. **Mr Kennedy felt the value of external students coming into Year 12 is very significant for the reputation of the school and accessibility.**
- **Mr Hardern requested in future where an objective is completed that Governors receive the conclusion at the next Learning and Teaching meeting.**

9 AGS LEARNER

Mr Singh reported on the AGS Learner that a staff survey was carried out at the end of the summer term, the areas strongly identified were the development of students and awareness of the AGS Learner and more collaboration was asked for. Overall the AGS Learner has had a very positive reaction. The Student questionnaire results were also more positive in the second year. The plan for 2017/18 is to work more closely with parents, which will be shared with the parent forum beforehand. Work is being undertaken with other schools to include The Royal Latin, Cottesloe and Watford Grammar School. The Teaching and Learning Conference took place at AGS, 12 senior leaders attended and it helps with being able to evaluate our

ACTION

performance and gives more opportunities for both staff and students. **Mrs Ward asked if the AGS Learner is adapting to the new skills required for English and maths problem solving skills?** Mr Singh responded it is about developing skills and challenges students face. **Mr Kennedy asked and Governors agreed they would like to invite the student who spoke at the Teaching and Learning conference to come and talk to Governors if he would be happy to do so.**

Mr Singh
Agenda

10 CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

The Headmaster reported the policy circulated is the Bucks model policy which has been slightly adapted to make it pertinent to the school. Governors agreed the policy should be recommended to the FGB for approval.

FGB Agenda

Mr Kennedy asked if there were appropriate filters in place with reference 5.1.5 in the policy and how can Governors be assured? The Headmaster agreed to ask the IT manager to respond to this and also stated a new state of the art filtering system has been purchased to ensure there are the appropriate level of filters in place. **Mr Williams asked that Mrs Venning reports compliance is in place to the next FGB meeting.**

Headmaster
FGB Agenda

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

8th February 2018
10th May 2018

All Governors

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 YEAR 11 PARENTS EVENING

Mr Hardern agreed to attend the Year 11 Parents evening and agreed to ask Parents about the AGS Learner. Mr Singh agreed to provide some questions.

Mr Singh &
Mr Hardern

The meeting closed at 10.15am

Signed Date
CHAIRMAN

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

Mathematics GCSE (9-1)

Key changes:

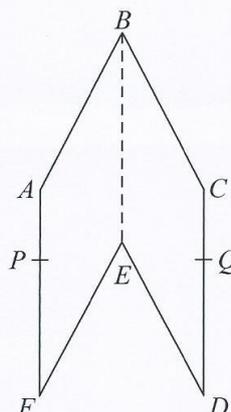
- Minimal content change for Higher Tier.
(All at AGS take Higher Tier. Targets grades 9-4)
- No formulae are given.
e.g. quadratic formula, sine rule, triangle area ($\frac{1}{2}ab\sin\theta$), cosine rule ($a^2 = b^2 + c^2 - 2bc\cos A$)
- Switch to unstructured problem solving questions:
 - No 'scaffolding'
 - Multistep problems
 - Increased importance of clear communication skills
 - Combining different areas of Maths

Department response:

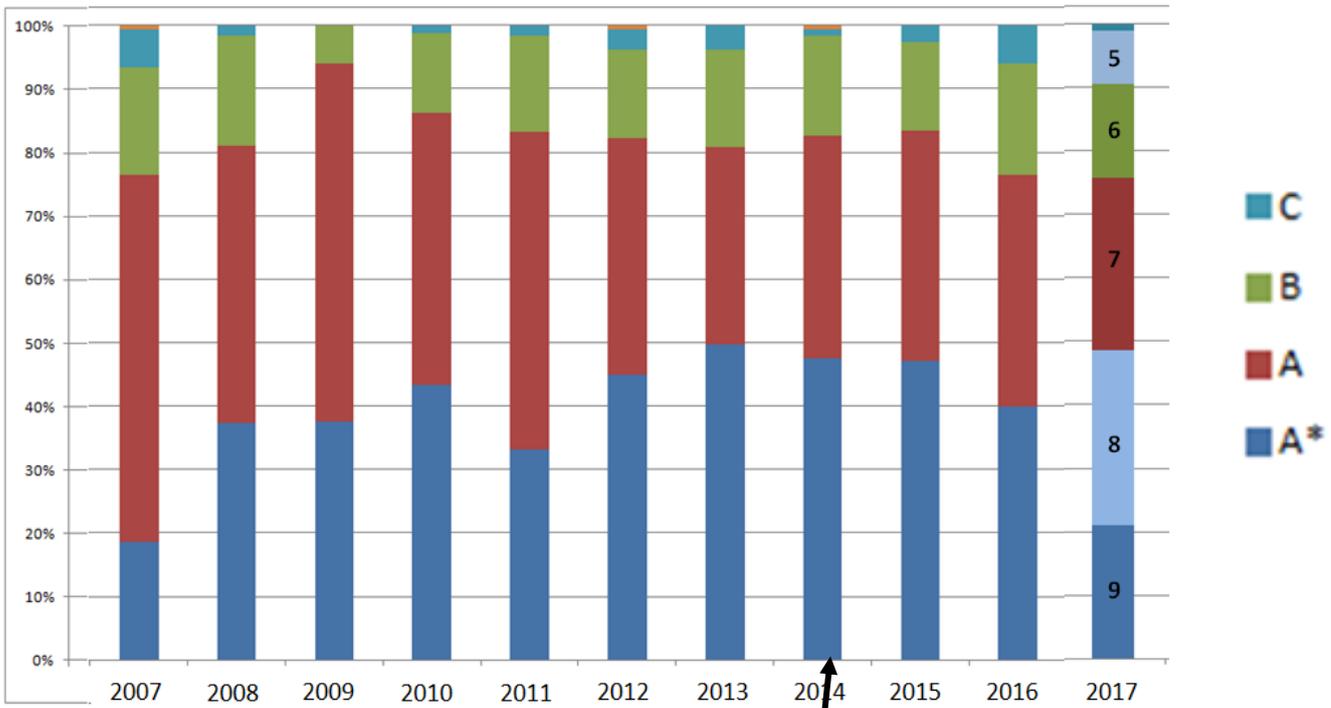
- To focus from early in KS3 on developing problem solving skills. Build strategy planning and clear communication.
- Problem solving activities feeding into schemes of work.
- As cohorts with increased problem solving exposure feed through, anticipate improving outcomes.
- Keep under review the impact of additional qualifications.
(GCSE Statistics for all, Additional Maths or Level 2 Certificate in Further Maths for top sets.)
- 'ResultsPlus' analysis. e.g. our ten 'worst' questions

1	AGS average	Edexcel average
1H Q22	0.43/5	0.18/5

The diagram shows a hexagon $ABCDEF$.



$ABEF$ and $CBED$ are congruent parallelograms where $AB = BC = x$ cm.
 P is the point on AF and Q is the point on CD such that $BP = BQ = 10$ cm



First cohort with GCSE Statistics in Year 10

First cohort with GCSE Maths (9-1)

GCSE Mathematics: numbers (# 2012/13 best grade from linked pair)

Grade	2010	2011	2012 [#]	2013 [#]	2014	2015	2016	Grade (9-1)	2017
A*	75	61	83	93	87	88	73	9	38
A	74	92	69	58	64	68	67	8	50
								7	49

B	22	28	26	29	29	26	32	6	27
C	2	3	6	7	2	5	11	5	15
<C			1		1			4	2

Total	173	184	185	187	183	187	183	181
%A/A*	86.1	83.2	82.2	80.7	82.5	83.4	76.5	75.7
%A*-C	100.0	100.0	99.5	100.0	99.5	100.0	100.0	100.0
Av pts	53.70	52.88	53.36	53.60	53.67	53.67	52.62	53.39