

AYLESBURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

MINUTES OF THE LEARNING AND TEACHING COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2018 AT 8AM



PRESENT:	Mrs J Atkin Mr M Brock Mr K Hardern	Mr D Kennedy Mr M Sturgeon (Headmaster)
IN ATTENDANCE:	Mrs C Cobb Mr C King Mr R Williams	Clerk Observer Observer
APOLOGIES:	Dr N Laljani	Apologies received and accepted

In the absence of Dr Laljani Mr Kennedy took the Chair for the meeting.

1 NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No items were tabled under Any Other Business.

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Mr Kennedy declared he was married to the Headmaster's PA.

3 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

3.1 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th October 2017 were agreed as an accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman.

3.2 MATTERS ARISING

Heads of Department Meeting – The Headmaster reported a PEST analysis had been undertaken at Head of Department level as part of the overall future strategy. **Mr Kennedy asked if staff were finding the new syllabuses challenging for GCSE and A level subjects (excluding English and Maths)?** The Headmaster responded they are challenging but mainly due to staff not being able to fully identify what a grade 9 looks like and it is unlikely it will be known until after the first year of results. Mr Skinner and Mr Smith (Heads of English and Maths departments) have presented to staff on their experience and strategies put in place, which was very well received.

Computing A level – Mr Brock asked how many pupils are studying A level Computing? The Headmaster responded this year there are 14 pupils, it is a popular subject particularly for external pupils as not all schools offer it at A level. The school is very fortunate to have two computer scientists at present.

Child Protection policy – The Headmaster confirmed the new filtering software has been installed. Governors requested Mrs Venning attended the FGB meeting to update Governors on how safeguarding is being managed in school and to confirm the school was compliant with all aspects

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Headmaster
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of child protection.

4 AGS LEARNER

Sam Carter, Year 12 pupil, came into the meeting to give Governors a presentation on the impact of the AGS Learner on pupils.

Mr Kennedy asked about the engagement of the Alumni? Mr Carter responded the Alumni are invited into school to talk about their experiences, it has a lot of value with pupils as they become role models and pupils are given an insight into the real world after AGS. **Mr Hardern asked if it was more beneficial having Alumni come in who are closer in age to the sixth form?** Mr Carter responded not necessarily as the experience of all the alumni, some of which are not so good, are very enlightening. **Mr Kennedy asked if there should be greater engagement with the AGS Learner for younger pupils?** Mr Carter responded those pupils in the younger years have had the AGS Learner from the day they started at AGS, it is the older years who were more cynical at the beginning but not anymore as they can see the benefits of it not only now but also in the future after they have left AGS. **Mr Williams asked if there is anything the AGS Learner is not addressing?** Mr Carter responded there are developments going on all the time and so he did not think any significant changes should be made, the challenge is around maintaining it to keep it interesting. **Mr Hardern asked how effective the parent role is?** Mr Carter responded pupils and teachers are very well informed about the AGS Learner and are very comfortable with how it works, he did not think there was as much communication with parents except through "Thought for the week". Mr Carter did also feel it should not be enforced in all aspects of a pupil's life as it would potentially be devalued.

Mr Kennedy thanked Mr Carter for an excellent presentation and said his knowledge of the AGS Learner was very impressive.

Mrs Beckley came into the meeting.

Mr Kennedy asked how staff have responded to the AGS Learner? Mrs Beckley responded that staff have responded well, they have been consulted from the outset, as have a group of pupils and parents. Professor Guy Claxton, emeritus Professor of the Learning Sciences at the University of Winchester, gave a talk to staff at the last INSET day and he was very engaging, his theory is around learners teaching themselves. A department session has taken place on the challenges and the practicalities of what works. A learning and teaching working group has been formed to focus on different areas, the first focus is around revision and the characteristics of the AGS Learner around revision and how Professor Claxton's ideas can be applied to make revision more exciting. **Mr Williams asked about parental engagement?** Mrs Beckley responded the AGS website is available and there is information around dates for parents to come into school to receive further information on areas e.g. the transition between KS3-KS4.

The Headmaster summed up that a common purpose has been identified regardless of your subject. The cultural shift will take a few years to embed and in a few years all pupils will have started AGS with the AGS Learner in place and they will therefore know no different. It is a central strength which will allow everybody to develop and also allows them to reflect in future years which will assist pupils retrospectively. **Mrs Atkin also felt the AGS Learner provides a framework for emotional support and self-worth for teachers, which was very important.**

Mr Kennedy thanked Mrs Beckley for her update on the AGS Learner.

5 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE FGB MEETING ON 8TH DECEMBER 2017

Staffing Levels – The Headmaster circulated a traffic light report identifying each subject and where there are staffing level concerns. The concerns around Geography have been addressed and a new member of staff has been appointed. The Headmaster further reported he would be presenting in future on areas where over staffing should be considered to protect a subject going forward. Individual staff risk assessments have also been undertaken. **Mr Brock asked if a quality overlay should be added?** The Headmaster responded this has been included on the individual staff risk assessments. Governors noted that DT is a problem area to attract teachers. The Headmaster reported that Government policy affects DT and therefore teachers are not specialising in it, however Engineering has been introduced at GCSE to run alongside DT and some of the modules are DT based.

6 SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Headmaster updated Governors on the progress being made (the SDP had been RAG rated so areas of progress could be clearly identified), on the items pertaining to the committee. **Mr Hardern asked if there were any areas of concern?** The Headmaster did not think so. **Mr Kennedy asked if the Headmaster felt the number of Oxbridge offers was the right proportion?** The Headmaster responded that he felt the proportion was about right. We are always interested in improving this. The Headmaster also reported the number of applications (28) was reflective of the year group and he was very pleased with the number of offers (8) which had been received. **Mr Kennedy asked for the next meeting if information could be given to Governors on the aspirations of those pupils who attract pupil premium funding.**

Headmaster
Agenda

7 BEHAVIOUR REPORT

A report on both sanctions and rewards had been previously circulated.

Mrs Atkin did not feel the electronic postcards pupils receive as a reward for good work is very meaningful and suggested this was further considered.

Headmaster

Mr Brock asked if there was a link between behaviour and the AGS Learner? The Headmaster responded there was and there are AGS Learner merit awards.

The Headmaster also reported a full review on addressing low level behaviour, particularly in Years 8 and 9 is going to be undertaken, as there has been an increase in this behaviour.

8 CAREERS

The Headmaster had previously circulated a report. Arising from the report Governors noted the numbers of pupils making UCAS applications has reduced, those who choose not to make a UCAS application are given advice on the areas they would like to consider. **Mr Williams asked what pupils were wishing to do instead of University?** The Headmaster

ACTION

responded a number are now applying for apprenticeships and training in industry. **Mr Brock asked if there should be a deputy for Mrs Adam's role, whilst she was away on maternity leave?** The Headmaster responded the sixth form team are covering this whilst Mrs Adams is away and there is a lot of advice available for pupils. **Mr Hardern felt parents of Year 11 pupils should be informed their children are being offered external careers advice, which does not have to be taken up if a pupil chooses not to.** The Headmaster agreed to further consider this. **Mr Hardern also asked where there are a higher number of rejections from Universities is there something which needs to be changed?** The Headmaster responded the courses which receive the higher number of rejections are the most competitive and so therefore one would expect this. It is important that the students receive appropriate advice to be aspirational but also to provide opportunities for success.

Headmaster

9 UPDATE ON KEY STAGE 3

The Headmaster had previously circulated a report showing the progress being made by Years 7, 8 and 9 and the minority groups to include SEND, Pupil premium, BME, EAL and ATL. **Mr Kennedy noted SEND pupils were not making as much progress as their peers and what was being done to support them?** The Headmaster said interventions had been put in place and the numbers of pupils with SEND was very low, therefore one pupil could sway the figures significantly. **Mr Hardern reported he would raise this with the SENDCO when he next made a visit to the school and would report back.**

Mr Hardern
Agenda**10 GOVERNOR SEF ACTIONS**

Mr Brock reported he was currently reviewing the Governor SEF and it would be taken to the FGB meeting, which follows the Governor Away day.

11 POLICIES FOR REVIEW

Mr Williams requested all policies showed marked up changes when any changes were being proposed.

Headmaster

Learning and Teaching Policy – Governors agreed the policy should be recommended to the FGB for approval.

FGB Agenda

Policy for Appeals Against Internal Assessment of External Qualifications - Governors agreed the policy should be recommended to the FGB for approval.

FGB Agenda

12 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Governors agreed the following topics for the next agenda:

- Computer Science department to make a presentation
- Governors felt there should be a rolling programme of department presentations made.
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Headmaster

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

10th May 2018

All Governors

The meeting closed at 10.10am

Signed Date

CHAIRMAN