

AYLESBURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

MINUTES OF THE LEARNING AND TEACHING COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 10TH MAY 2018 AT 8AM



PRESENT: Dr N Laljani (Chairman) Mr D Kennedy (by phone)
Mr M Brock Mr M Sturgeon (Headmaster)
Mr K Hardern

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs C Cobb Clerk
Mr G Singh Assistant Headteacher
Dr K Smith Assistant Headteacher
Mr R Williams Observer

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 8th February 2018 were agreed as an accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman.

3.2 ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING

The actions arising from the last meeting had been previously circulated and noted by Governors.

Careers – Governors noted the careers advisory service is available for all Year 11 pupils on a one to one basis, of which not all take the offer up. Parents are made aware of the sessions at information evenings and the pupils through assemblies.

Aspirations of pupils who attract pupil premium funding – The Headmaster reported funding for pupils who attract pupil premium funding finishes at the end of Year 11, most of these pupils stay on for sixth form and historically have gone on to attend the best Universities and courses. There are 55 pupils who attracting the funding across the school, the numbers being slightly higher in the younger years and this is most likely a product of the secondary transfer test being accessible to all. All pupils, including those who had previously attracted additional funding, can apply for bursaries and this is actively encouraged. **The Chairman requested a breakdown by Year group of pupil premium numbers so this can be included in the strategy plan.** Governors noted the work of the Outreach programme and how pupils at primary schools who might not have considered a grammar school now do so.

ACTION

Headmaster

Dr Laljani

4 ITEMS FROM FGB MEETING ON 23RD MARCH 2018

4.1 UPDATE ON PROGRESS BEING MADE IN ENGLISH

The Headmaster reported revision sessions are running every week, annotated scripts have been purchased as models for pupils. All pupils who attract pupil premium funding have been offered additional sessions. The mock results have improved on the previous year, but this is also due to improved guidance from the examination board and Edexcel regional meetings take place at AGS. **Mr Brock asked how many pupils are taking English A level?** The Headmaster responded the numbers taking English A level reduced when a decision for pupils to only take 3 A levels was made. Most pupils are inclined to take maths and sciences over English. **Mr Brock asked if it is possible to ascertain if this was similar across all BASS schools?** The Headmaster agreed to further investigate this.

Headmaster

5 SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The updated school development plan had been previously circulated. The progress on English had been taken under item 4.1.

The Headmaster agreed to include a code on the RAG rating and include the date when the SDP was last updated.

Headmaster

Mr Hardern asked if the highest achieving pupils are being challenged to reach their full potential? The Headmaster responded class teachers differentiate for all abilities in every lesson, some subjects are streamed by ability e.g. maths and science. If a pupil e.g. a pupil who attracts pupil premium funding is exceptional at languages, then an additional language is provided there is one pupil who is currently learning Japanese. Societies have also been set up and guest speakers are invited to come and talk with the pupils. The same principals apply for sport. The school strives to ensure all pupils reach their full potential and they are actively encouraged to do so.

Governors noted from data presented that boys in single sex schools perform better and how this information is shared with the wider community needs to be further considered.

6 PRESENTATION ON COMPUTER SCIENCE

Dr Smith and Mr Chappell came into the meeting.

Dr Smith reminded Governors the reason why the presentation was initiated was due to a dip in Computer Science results. In 2016 the results were lower than expected in both GCSE's and A levels, this was despite the A level results being higher than the previous year. An action plan was put in place and the GCSE results went from being one of the lowest performing value added subjects in the school to one of the highest. In 2016 55% achieved an A* and in 2017 75% achieved A*. The A level results dipped again in 2017. The importance of Computer Science is recognised not least because for the number of external pupils who join the sixth form to take it as an A level subject. An action plan has been put in place to support the A level, greater differentiation is being used as the range of abilities at A level is huge as a number of pupils have not studied Computer Science at GCSE. The department has had mentoring from another department (Chemistry),

department data is being tracked alongside whole school data and it has been included as part of the appraisal system. A member of the SLT was part of the department self-evaluation and this was due to an action plan being in place. Lesson observations, both peer to peer and SLT drop-ins and the improvements have been noted as has the clarity of teaching and under achieving pupils are being identified and interventions put in place for them. The termly assessments are saying both Year 12 and 13 are making better progress than expected and definitely better progress against previous years. The department has been challenged and has been able to demonstrate the improvements made. Pupil feedback has been excellent and very helpful, and they have also been involved with the department self-evaluation process.

Dr Smith and Mr Chappell left the meeting.

7 AGS LEARNER

Mr Singh reported this year has been spent on consolidation. A workshop for parents has been arranged for 15 May and 100 are attending, the workshop has been targeted at KS3 parents. Part of the workshop is to talk about the new GCSE's and to put the parents into the position of being a learner, so they can understand the learning experience of their sons.

8 BEHAVIOUR REPORT

Following the last meeting a number of questions around behaviour management had been raised, Mr Singh responded to the question around why such high standards of behaviour are achieved particularly in KS4. Behaviour is better than it was ten years ago, staff are role models, there is a very high regard for respect, the house system, engagement with school life, student leadership and rewards and recognition are some of the methods used to maintain high standards of behaviour. There are challenges around behaviour in KS3, staff have completed questionnaires, and consistency with how bad behaviour is managed has been addressed to ensure it is consistent throughout the school. There is low level bad behaviour in Years 8 and 9 and this is being further investigated by the Head of Year 11, he is looking at feedback and is working with a group of staff and will feedback his findings to the SLT.

The AGS Learner also looks at behaviour and the areas which need to be addressed are the recording of low level behaviour, staff training and litter.

9 POLICIES FOR REVIEW

9.1 BEHAVIOUR POLICY

Governors reviewed the policy and agreed some amendments should be made. The Headmaster agreed to re-circulate the policy to the Committee before taking it to the FGB for approval.

Headmaster
FGB Agenda

9.2 DATA PROTECTION FOR EXAMINATIONS POLICY

Governors approved the policy as circulated.

FGB Agenda

10 REVIEW TERMS OF REFERENCE

Governors reviewed the terms of reference and agreed they should be recommended to the FGB for approval.

ACTION

11 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Results from the summer term exams
- There would be no presentation at the next meeting

13 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS (to take place at 8am)

18th October 2018
7th February 2019
9th May 2019

All Governors

The meeting closed at 10.10am

Signed Date
CHAIRMAN