

AYLESBURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

MINUTES OF THE LEARNING AND TEACHING COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 16 OCTOBER 2020 AT 8AM (held via Google Meet due to Covid-19)



PRESENT: Mr J Collins (Chairman) Mr M Sturgeon (Headmaster)
Mr M Brock Mrs A Ward
Mr N Gibbs Mr R Williams
Mr K Hardern

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

	ACTION
1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN Mr Collins was unanimously appointed Chairman for one year.	
2 NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS No items were tabled under Any Other Business.	
3 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS There were none.	
4 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING	
4.1 MINUTES The minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman.	
5 ACTIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST MEETING An update on the actions taken since the last meeting had been previously circulated. Examination Policy – The Chairman agreed to review the policy, to refine it rather than make any material changes.	Chairman
6 GCSE AND A LEVEL EXAM RESULTS 2020 Dr Smith circulated a report. Arising from the report Governors noted a comparison against other schools has not been carried out as each School took a different approach to CAG's. A levels – Overall results increased on the previous year; Disadvantaged, SEND, EAL students results were very much in line with their peers. The Chairman asked if students got places at their first choice of University? Dr Smith responded all students got an offer of a place but not necessarily at their first choice, as Universities used the algorithm results, in the first instance, to offer places. The Chairman asked if there were any appeals on the CAG's? Dr Smith responded across A level's and GCSE's	

there were 40 requests to check if an error had been made, no errors were found. 4 complaints were received, 3 have been dealt with satisfactorily and 1 is ongoing and a new complaint is expected. **Mr Brock asked if there were any surprises with the A level results?** Dr Smith responded there weren't as this would have been picked up at the moderation stage and if any did arise then a challenge was made to the subject department.

GCSE's – Progress 8 is fractionally lower than the previous year but attainment has increased, this demonstrates that a rigorous process for producing the CAG's was followed. BAME, EAL and students who attract pupil premium funding were all in line with their cohort. SEND students results were slightly lower as two students did not do very well and this is being further investigated. **Mr Hardern asked about Engineering and Drama as they were both on action plans?** Dr Smith responded both subjects had completed coursework and mocks and overall the results were much higher and there was strong evidence to support the results.

The Chairman on behalf of Governors congratulated staff on manoeuvring through a very difficult exam season. The Headmaster thanked Dr Smith, the SLT and all subject leaders who worked incredibly hard to ensure the Ofqual guidance was applied fairly and consistently.

The Chairman asked if any different actions need to be taken if CAG's are applied in 2021? Dr Smith responded the policy has been reviewed and HOD's have been asked to hold another moderated assessment to ensure there is reliable data if required. **Mr Brock asked if there are any subjects where students have fallen behind during lockdown?** Dr Smith responded there are individual students, approx. 20, but not across a whole subject, support has been put in place and catch-up funding will be applied. The subjects who are a little behind are those with a greater percentage of coursework. There are a few students where there are concerns and the pastoral team are supporting them and their parents are being kept informed. Mr Singh also reported the students are very aware of the importance of all assessments carried out, staff are aware of the mental health issues around this, the additional assessment being carried out will be for departments to decide when, to give maximum flexibility and teachers know their students well so it is important a balance is struck.

Dr Smith left the meeting.

7 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Mr Singh updated Governors on the progress being made on the strategic priorities, as follows:

- **COVID-19 – Review and develop remote home learning and in-school provision- Curriculum, assessment , support** – This item was taken under the next bullet.
- **Extend and implement the Digital Learning Strategy in conjunction with LT1** – Key priorities have been identified as a consequence of the school closure due to the pandemic. Feedback from students and staff has been gathered and overall remote learning feedback is very positive, especially around the use of webcams for live streaming lessons. Staff confidence has also increased. The webcams have also enabled assemblies to be delivered for events like Remembrance Sunday. **The Chairman asked if there are any safeguarding issues around webcams?** Mr William's responded, as **safeguarding Governor**, he had raised this with Mrs Venning who **confirmed there were no issues.** The Headmaster also reported the

cameras have a wide angle lens and so you can't zoom in on individuals. A clear device policy is going to be implemented for September 2021, the considerations will be around whether every student must have a device, and if so should the school be prescriptive on what device, current feedback is that 85% of students have their own device. **The Chairman asked if there is a minimum level of technology needed for a device?** Mr Singh responded parents are being advised to purchase a Chrome Book, which start at £160, the only area which needs to be updated is the operating software, as everything else is online. **The Chairman asked how will pupils who attract pupil premium funding be supported?** Mr Singh responded financial support will be available, for those students who don't attract pupil premium funding but Teachers are aware there is financial hardship, a certain level of criteria will be applied so they too can be financially supported. 3 Smart Touchscreen TV's been installed and are being trialled in 3 classrooms. They will be reviewed at the end of term and if successful they will be rolled out to each department. **Mr Brock asked what the cost of each is?** Mr Singh responded £1,600 plus £499 for a visualiser, some classrooms already have visualisers. The Headmaster reported money has been allocated in the budget for this and it is not an additional spend. **The Chairman asked if the decision to purchase Smart TV's was in line with the IT strategy?** Mr Singh responded the IT strategy will be the main area of consideration when the Smart Touchscreen TV's are reviewed at the end of term. **The Chairman asked if there is sufficient IT technical support to install the Smart Touchscreen TV's into all classrooms?** Mr Singh responded three members of staff are the digital leads and each of them have time allocated per week to support staff. Mr Singh agreed to do a demonstration for Governors and would notify the Clerk of a date.

Mr Singh

- **Operationalise Educational Research to improve the quality of learning and teaching** – The Headmaster reported this is ongoing but has slowed down as Teachers have other priorities with remote and in class teaching. The research project undertaken by Mr Gibbs has been shared with staff and is embedded in the school. Governors agreed they would like Mrs Beckley to report at the next meeting on the work being undertaken
- **Extend and enhance involvement with Challenge Partners to impact teaching and learning at AGS and beyond** – The Headmaster was pleased to report AHS and Aspire have joined the hub. Challenge Partner continues to be extremely positive for all concerned
- **AGS Learner – develop and implement strategy (character and resilience)** – Mr Singh reported personal development sessions have been introduced via Tutor groups. The topics discussed include mental health, equality and world affairs. The AGS Learner is going to be rebranded, resilience and reflection are central to any discussion with students.
- **Full review of curriculum and implementation across the school** – Dr Smith is carrying out this review with a curriculum team, changes are expected and a report is expected in the Spring term.
- **Maximise achievement with a focus on upwards convergence** – There was nothing further to report on this presently

Mrs Beckley

8 SCHOOL BASED ASSESSMENTS

This was taken under minute 6.

9 POLICIES FOR REVIEW

Governors approved both policies and noted the Chairman is to refine the Examinations Policy. Governors agreed both policies should be recommended to the FGB.

Behaviour Policy
Examinations Policy

ACTION
FGB

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

Friday 26th February 2021
Friday 28th May 2021

All Governors

The meeting closed at 10.05am



Signed Date ...26 February 2021.....
CHAIRMAN