

# AYLESBURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

MINUTES OF THE LEARNING AND TEACHING COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY 14 OCTOBER 2021 AT 8AM



<b>PRESENT:</b>	Mr E Walter (Chair) Mr M Brock Mr J Collins Mr N Gibbs	Mr K Hardern Mr M Sturgeon (Headmaster) Mr R Williams
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Mrs C Cobb Mr G Singh Dr K Smith	Clerk Assistant Headteacher Assistant Headteacher
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	Mr A Fails Mr P Jennings Ms J Moore Mrs A Ward	Apologies received and accepted Apologies received and accepted Apologies received and accepted Apologies received and accepted

		<b>ACTION</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR</b>  Mr Walter was unanimously appointed Chair and Ms Moore, Vice Chair for one year.	
<b>2</b>	<b>NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>  No items were tabled under Any Other Business.	
<b>3</b>	<b>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</b>  There were none.	
<b>4</b>	<b>MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING</b>	
<b>4.1</b>	<b>MINUTES</b>  The minutes of the meeting held on 28 May 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman.	
<b>4.2</b>	<b>ACTIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST MEETING</b>  An update on the actions taken since the last meeting had been previously circulated. Arising from the actions: <b>RSE Policy</b> – The Headmaster reported he had reviewed the policy in detail with Mr Jennings to ensure it is compliant. The Headmaster confirmed the basic legal and statutory requirements are met and RSE is mapped across the curriculum. The challenge is around being able to do any more as this would require additional staffing, an increase in curriculum time and there are also logistical issues. Dr Smith reported there has been an increase of RSE provision for Years 7 and 10 and Mr Singh reported it will form part of the whole curriculum review. <b>Extra-curricular activities</b> – Mr Singh reported this will be reviewed as part of the review of Character Education and will report back on this to a future meeting.	

## 5 ITEMS FROM THE FGB MEETING 25 SEPTEMBER 2021

**Catch-up funding** – The Headmaster reported the funding was spent in a variety of different ways to support students. Catch-up sessions were run across the curriculum. Heads of departments identified students who would benefit from the additional support and staff put the sessions on, they were able to claim overtime for this. Overall students did very well during the pandemic and this was due to staff delivering good lessons remotely and students responded well. The school claimed £17K from the ESFA, which was not the full amount which could have been claimed. The biggest impact of the support was reading in Year 7, who were weaker than previous cohorts. Anxiety was and continues to be the biggest concern and when it will manifest itself. Going forward funding is being directed at students who attract pupil premium funding, and the school will be required to submit details of students who have received tutoring to the DfE. Mr Singh also reported the summer camp for Year 7 was able to run, historically it has been a sports camp only and this year they did sport, team building and academic sessions, 130 students attended. Each student was bought a book to read over the summer and themes from the book came up during assemblies and across the curriculum. Academically there are no significant concerns with Year 7, except reading, and they are not as emotionally mature as previous cohorts.

## 6 UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

**Mr Collins asked if remote learning for those students self-isolating is taking place?** The Headmaster responded teachers are delivering lessons remotely, which allows those at home to engage with their classes. The vaccination uptake has been 78% and all students will be tested the first two days back after half term.

Mr Hardern requested and the Headmaster agreed to add the link to the SDP on the Governor section of the website.

Headmaster

**LT1 – Beyond Covid – maximise the learning and achievement of students, given the negative impact of COVID-19** – 80% of classrooms now have SMART TV's, which is excellent for students in the class and also for those attending remotely. Chrome Books are being introduced in the summer term for Years 7, 8 and 9, a trial took place with Year 7, Lee, the feedback was very positive and some parental concerns were also addressed around hand writing skills and screentime. The purpose of all students having the same device is to ensure teachers have control of digital learning. Staff will receive training. Parents will be given three models of Chrome Books and cases to choose from, the cost for a Chrome Book starts at circa £200 and where necessary financial support will be put in place. **The Chair asked what the response has been from parents who might have just purchased a device for their son?** Mr Singh responded parents have been given a lot of notice of the school's intention to roll out Chrome Books and no concerns have been raised. **Mr Collins asked if there will be an additional strain on IT support?** Mr Singh responded it will hopefully be less, parents will be purchasing the devices directly from suppliers and will therefore manage any issues with the supplier. Governors further noted the life expectancy of a SMART TV is circa 7 years and so a rolling replacement programme will be put in place.

**LT2 - Curriculum Review – evaluate and update the current curriculum model** – Mr Singh reported a visit was made to Harrow School to review their curriculum review. The curriculum is going to define everything AGS does. There will be three core pillars, the core curriculum, pastoral curriculum and extra-curricular curriculum and through them staff will be

able to assess what works well and seek feedback from stakeholders. A working group has been drawn up for each pillar, each includes an SLT member and a lot of work has already been completed and defined. **The Chair asked what the timeline for this will be?** The Headmaster responded the first stage is for the Working Groups to meet and decide the questions they want to ask, after this a timeline will be defined but the earliest it is likely to conclude is Easter.

**LT3 - Further development of character (learning and emotional) through AGS Learner relaunch** - Mr Singh reported the AGS Learner has been re-launched to staff and how it will filter down to students. There is a lot of personal development work around emotional development and resilience. The Learning Character will take place as part of the curriculum review.

**LT4 - IT and digital learning strategy to enable development of L&T** – Mr Collins requested and Mr Singh agreed to give a demonstration of the SMART TV's at the next meeting. Mr Singh reported what is being considered for this priority is what is the vision of the school and how does learning and teaching prepare students.

## 7 REVIEW EXAMINATION RESULTS

Dr Smith had previously circulated a report. Arising from the report **Mr Hardern asked how the A level outcomes for disadvantaged students compared against their peers?** Dr Smith responded the outcomes were similar and there were no concerns with any of the minority groups. Governors noted the GCSE outcomes for disadvantaged students were lower than their peers and asked if it is known why? Dr Smith responded two student's grades were very good for their own personal achievement but they brought the overall data down for the group.

Dr Smith further reported 10 appeals (8 A level and 2 GCSE) were submitted to the Exam Boards and the Exam Boards only changed one GCSE appeal. The number of appeals demonstrates the robustness of the process. **Mr Hardern mentioned pre-Covid Drama and Engineering were being reviewed as their results were not as strong as other subjects and asked what their position is now?** Dr Smith responded both of their results have increased, both departments have worked extremely hard to improve in all areas. **Mr Brock asked if there were any subject concerns?** The Headmaster responded Computer Science and this is due to a shortage of staff; Engineering still does not have a Head of Department but they are being supported by Dr Smith. German and French have at last been recognised as harder subjects to gain top marks, but this has not been tested as external exams have not taken place.

**The Chair asked for huge thanks to be passed onto all staff for their very hard work and resilience in what has been a very challenging time**

Headmaster

## 8 REPORT ON LEAVER'S DESTINATIONS

Governors noted 86% of students were placed at University, 84% got their first or insurance choice), 13% went through clearing, 2 withdrew their applications and 12 achieved Oxbridge placements.

## 9 CONSIDER STAFF PRESENTATIONS – SPRING AND SUMMER TERMS

**Governors discussed and agreed they would like to receive a presentation on Pupil premium and the impact it is having in the Spring term and the Heads of Departments for PE and Maths, as both are new to the school this year, in the summer term.**

Mr Singh

**ACTION**

Governors also agreed to appoint Mr Hardern, as the Pupil Premium Governor.

**10 REVIEW OF RISK REGISTER (PERTAINING TO L&T COMMITTEE)**

Governors discussed and agreed there were no proposed changes to the risk register and further considered areas of focus for internal scrutiny and recommended a review of the RSE curriculum is carried out and this would be passed to the RiF Committee for further consideration.

RiF Committee

**11 POLICIES FOR REVIEW**

Governors reviewed and agreed the following policies should be recommended to the FGB for approval, as follows:

FGB

Anti-bullying policy  
Attendance Policy  
Behaviour Policy  
Child Protection Policy  
Data Protection Policy  
Examinations Policy  
Appeals against internal assessments policy  
Smoking and Drugs Policy  
SEND policy  
SEND statement for website

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

10 February 2022  
26 May 2022

All Governors

The meeting closed at 10.15am

Signed ..... Date .....  
CHAIRMAN