



AYLESBURY
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Founded 1598

LEARNING AND TEACHING COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES: THURSDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2022 AT 8AM held in the Boardroom

PRESENT:	Mr E Walter (Chair)	Mr T Hall
	Mr M Brock	Mr P Jennings
	Mr J Collins	Ms J Moore
	Mr A Fails	Mr M Sturgeon (Headmaster)
	Mr N Gibbs	Mrs A Ward
	Mr K Hardern	Mr R Williams
IN ATTENDANCE:	Mrs C Cobb	Clerk
	Mr G Singh	Assistant Headteacher

REPORT ON PUPIL PREMIUM

Mr Marcus Travers, Pupil Premium Co-Ordinator, gave Governors a report on the support given to students who attract pupil premium funding, Governors noted due to the number of students being quite small, very targeted support has been put in place. Termly meetings are held with students to discuss their needs and academic targets. The main aim is to ensure they have full access to the curriculum and extra-curricular activities. A number of students are not local to the school and rely on school transport, this does present challenges in them being able to access extra-curricular activities as a lot of them take place at the end of the school day but there are also some at lunchtimes which can be accessed. The budget this year is £32.5K and has been spent on academic support, gym memberships (at the school costing £60 per annum), Halton tennis training, music lessons and trips. Staff are currently looking at a whole school approach and possibly extending the supervision in the library to later in the day to give particularly students who don't have a quiet place to work at home an opportunity to do this at school. Catch-up revision sessions will also be provided and other new initiatives. **Ms Moore asked how often a review of student's circumstances take place?** Mr Travers responded Bucks Council provide an annual update but parents circumstances change throughout the year. **Ms Moore asked what the mechanism to pick up those students who are on the borderline of qualifying for the funding?** Mr Travers responded it is very challenging as parents have to come forward and let the school know, but staff are very aware of some students who come into school hungry and in need of uniform and the school is good at identifying and supporting these students. **Mr Williams asked if the school is concerned that some vulnerable students are not being picked up?** The Headmaster responded it is extremely challenging and the staffing in the student

ACTION

support office has been increased to identify and support these students. The main issue is the pride and/or cultural circumstances of some parents and students not wishing to come forward but the school does recognise that this group exists. The sixth form team actively encourages students, who they are aware of, to apply for bursaries to support them and it is often spent on bus fares. **Mrs Ward asked if there is sufficient funding?** The Headmaster confirmed there is. **Mr Hardern noted there are 11 young carers, of which 8 have SEND or attract pupil premium funding, what support is in place for them?** The Headmaster responded the student support team are aware, support is in place for them and each of them will have a discussion with a member of staff. **The Chair asked what strategies and interventions are in place to support students?** Mr Travers responded Form Tutors meet with students to discuss their target grades and also review them to see if they are on track, if there has been a significant drop in progress this is then raised with the Head of Year and interventions are put in place. Trends are not emerging as they are individual. **Ms Moore asked if there is any positive promotion of pupil premium funding and bursaries?** Mr Travers responded parents of Years 7-11 are sent emails inviting them to apply for pupil premium funding and the sixth form are actively marketed, but it relies on parents making the application. **Ms Moore asked if there are any students who fall under the Looked after children category?** Mr Travers confirmed there are none.

Mr Travers left the meeting.

1 NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following item was tabled under any other business:

- Strategy Day

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

3.1 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2021 having been previously circulated were agreed and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

3.2 ACTIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST MEETING

The progress on the actions from the last meeting had been previously circulated, there were no matters arising.

4 UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

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

LT1 – Beyond Covid – maximise the learning and achievement of students, given the negative impact of COVID-19 – Covid has not had a huge impact on student's academic progress. The school provided good remote learning and the data does not suggest there has been a decline in achievement. There are some behaviour concerns in the lower part of the school around maturity but this is not impacting on academic progress. Some students find it challenging to control emotions, the ability to build relationships and make friends. Year 13 are struggling to act as Year 13 as they have not had role models and are therefore finding it challenging to be role models themselves.

LT2 - Curriculum Review – evaluate and update the current curriculum model and include a report on extra-curricular activities and educational visits – Governors noted the academic curriculum and pastoral curriculum is currently being reviewed, the next stage will be to gather feedback from students. Student engagement with extra-curricular activities is very strong but the barriers, as mentioned before for students is around school transport and so lunchtime activities are also available. **Mr Hardern asked if other languages could be taught rather than MFL?** Mr Singh responded the structure of MFL is being reviewed and Mandarin is being considered as part of the review. **The Chair asked for an update on staffing for IT?** The Headmaster responded a Director of Technology has been appointed, he was a very strong candidate for the role and will start in September. **Mrs Ward asked when the review of MFL will have completed?** The Headmaster hoped next term but it has been delayed due to the Government announcement on external exams this summer.

LT3 - Further development of character (learning and emotional) through AGS Learner relaunch – There has been a re-launch with staff on character and emotional learning, weekly personal development sessions are now being held with Form Tutors. Governors further noted following Mr Singh speaking at the last ACE conference, AGS has been invited to be a hub school for character education, which is very positive. Governors also noted there is going to be an increase to sixth form funding but hours are also increasing to 580, consideration is being given on how to make the sixth form offer broader and possibly include learning on Excel, maybe a language, mortgages and finance and other areas too. **The Chair asked about the numbers of students completing the EBacc?** The Headmaster responded in 2021, 84% completed it, as taking a language is not compulsory at GCSE and this is why 100% is not achieved.

LT4 - IT and digital learning strategy to enable development of L&T – Chrome books are being introduced to Year 7 – 11, Years 12 and 13 will bring in their own device. Staff training has been organised to enable them to deliver learning. The device is another tool but not the only tool to deliver teaching. **Mr Fails asked if there is something in place to support parents?** Mr Singh responded parent

online Q&A sessions are going to take place, a section will be added to the website on chrome books which will include FAQ's for students and staff. **Mr Collins asked if there are any issues around charging for the devices and some parents who can't or don't wish to purchase a device?** Mr Singh responded the library will hold 128 chrome books which students can borrow. **Mr Collins asked if chrome books are going to be used will this affect handwriting skills?** Mr Singh confirmed chrome books are just one tool to deliver teaching and students will continue to do some work in text books.

5 GOVERNOR SEF

How Governors monitor the curriculum – **The Chair asked if there are any areas of concern?** The Headmaster responded 2019 was the last year where external data is available. Drama was placed on a 2 year plan, the mock results were very good and overall good progress has been made. Engineering was also on a plan to improve and the Headmaster was confident the results will be positive. German, in 2019 the government conducted a report which concluded that French and German were harshly marked against other subjects making it extremely difficult to achieve a high grade. In 2020 and 2021 CAG's and TAG's were in place and therefore it is very difficult to judge where the school stands against the Government's report. German teaching is excellent and students are very engaged over two thirds of the cohort choose German, but it is a very difficult subject.

Collaboration with other schools – Governors noted this had been discussed at the FGB and that the Challenge Partners hub now has 14 schools.

Quality of education – Governors agreed subject and key area presentations from staff increases Governor knowledge and awareness; progress data is shared and Governors receive updates through the progress being made on the strategic priorities.

Learning Walks – Governors agreed a focus would be very helpful and feedback from learning walks to the SLT member who accompanies them.

6 UPDATE ON PROGRESS FOR ALL KEY STAGES

Mr Singh updated Governors on the progress being made in all key stages. Please see attached report.

The Chair asked what measure is being used to measure progress for Year 7 as no SAT's data is available? Mr Singh responded progress is measured against their Midyis results, which is taken at the start of Year 7. **The Chair asked about the progress of Year 7 students who attract pupil premium funding, SEND and EAL?** Mr Singh responded disadvantaged students achieved 0.6, the Year group overall achieved 0.1 but the number of disadvantaged students is very small and individual support is in place for them.

7 REVIEW OF RISK REGISTER (Pertinent to the Committee)

ACTION

Governors reviewed the register pertinent to the Committee and agreed there are no changes.

Review of RS provision – The Headmaster reported Mr Jennings had met with the Head of RS to discuss the current provision, it was noted the current provision has been increased to meet the statutory requirements.

8 POLICIES FOR REVIEW

There were none.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 STRATEGY DAY

Mr Williams reported following a meeting with Mrs Ward and the Headmaster it was agreed the Governor SEF, Multi-Academy Trusts; strategy and implementation (having reviewed the strategic plan on the curriculum, digital learning and character) and premises master plan will be included on the agenda for the meeting. Further information will be circulated nearer the date.

10 FUTURE AGENDA ITEM

- PE and Maths departments to give a presentation at the next meeting on intent, implementation and impact of their subjects.
- Update on PSHE

Agenda

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 26 May 2022.

The meeting ended at 10.02am

Signed.....Date.....

Progress of Student – Governors L&T, February 2022

Key Stage 3

Progress is measured against Midyis targets which are adjusted by HODs. Targets tend to be quite high which can make progress appear less than it really is. The table below shows the average progress of students against target grades, where 1 point represents 1 grade.

	Autumn 2020 progress	Autumn 2021 progress				
	Overall	Overall	BAME	EAL	DIS	SEND
Year 7	-0.3	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	-0.6	-0.3 (K) -0.3 (M)
Year 8	+0.1	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	0.0	0.0 (K) -0.2 (M)
Year 9	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3	-0.2	-0.2	-0.7 (K) -0.6 (M)

Key Stage 4

Progress is measured against Yellis targets – these are not adjusted by staff. Targets tend to be quite high which can make progress appear less than it really is. The table below shows the average progress of students against target grades, where 1 point represents 1 grade.

	Autumn 2020 progress	Autumn 2021 progress				
	Overall	Overall	BAME	EAL	DIS	SEND
Year 10	-0.3	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1	-0.3	-1.1 (E) -0.9 (K) -0.3 (M)
Year 11	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	+0.1	-0.2	-0.5 (K) -0.4 (M)

Due to mock results being moderated this year in case they need to be used for TAGs, they have only just been finalised so formal analysis is not yet complete. However, looking at the raw results suggests that most students have made good progress with the top end students doing perhaps better than usual. There are, however, a slightly higher than usual number of students who have not done well with 14 students failing to achieve the 44 points required to join the AGS Sixth Form, despite a more generous approach to grading this year.

Key Stage 5

Progress is measured against Alis targets – these are not adjusted by staff. Targets tend to be achievable overall. The table below shows the average progress of students against target grades, where 10 point represents 1 grade.

	Autumn 2020 progress	Autumn 2021 progress				
	Overall	Overall	BAME	EAL	DIS	SEND



Year 12	-0.1	+1.8	+1.8	+2.8	+1.4	+1.3 (E) -1.0 (K) +0.7 (M)
Year 13	+1.9	+2.1	+2.7	+2.5	+0.4	-0.5 (K) -0.4 (M)