



AYLESBURY
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Founded 1598

LEARNING AND TEACHING COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES: THURSDAY 26 MAY 2022 AT 8AM held in the Boardroom

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

1 UPDATE FROM NEW HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS FOR MATHS AND PE

Mr Duggan and Mr Disley came into the meeting to give Governors their impressions of AGS since joining at the start of the academic year.

What are your first impressions and what if anything needs to change?

Mr Disley responded there are no immediate areas for change, the department will be reviewing the AGS Learner and how this can be weaved through the curriculum. The second area of focus is independent learning.

Mr Duggan responded there is a great sense of community at AGS. Mr Duggan stated that the Department are currently creating a community group to include parents. They are also working with all staff to include them in sport, this will enable AGS to increase the co-curricular offer to students and introduce new areas to include dance.

Are staff engaging in sport?

Mr Duggan responded most are but not all, staff are keen to get involved with the school but not all of them through sport and we have to manage a work life balance

How will we enable activities not currently available at AGS?

Mr Duggan responded we are collaborating with AHS on some areas and they have providers already using their space e.g. street dance who we can also approach.

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Have there been any surprises since joining?

Mr Duggan responded that due to the catchment, some students are unable to engage with activities after school as they use school transport. The Department provide lunch time sessions but the offer at this time is more limited.

Mr Disley responded that there is sometimes a gap in the ability of students and their confidence. The Department are working to build confidence in all students.

What were your reactions to the sports facilities?

Mr Duggan responded they are very good but could be better, we are currently addressing some safety concerns, for example, the basketball nets. Having the facilities spread over three sites does present some logistical problems. We have created a student forum to gather their feedback and the highest negative feedback is having to walk to the different sites for PE lessons. A full size Astro pitch would make a significant difference and allow all year round playing. It would also engage the community. Governors discussed and agreed that Mr Duggan should also attend the C&D Committee to talk about community engagement through sport.

C&D
Committee

The Chair thanked Mr Duggan and Mr Disley for their insights and they left the meeting.

2 UPDATE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Mrs Adams and Mr Jones came into the meeting.

Mrs Adams updated Governors on the progress being made in reaching the Gatsby benchmarks. Governors noted 100% has been reached in benchmarks 1,2,3,5 and 8 and work is being carried out to provide the evidence for benchmarks 4,6 and 7.

Governors asked if the approach to work experience has changed? Mrs Adams responded it has been challenging as we did not have certainty over external exams. They have spoken with the alumnae and are also investigating a whole Year group visit.

3 NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No items were tabled under any other business.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr Fails declared a member of staff is supporting one of his children with tutoring.

5 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

5.1 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2022 having been previously circulated were agreed and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

5.2 ACTIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST MEETING

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

6 REVIEW TERMS OF REFERENCE

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

FGB

7 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 – Student's academic performance has not been particularly affected but they are needing more pastoral support.

LT2 - Curriculum Review – evaluate and update the current curriculum model and include a report on extra-curricular activities and educational visits –

Changes are being introduced in September, there will be a reduction in science lessons in order to timetable an additional lesson in Drama and Computer Science. Food and Nutrition GCSE is being introduced. A review of the pastoral curriculum is taking place to ensure there is a coherent approach. **Mr Hardern asked if Mandarin will be introduced?** The Headmaster responded when students were surveyed about this, the demand for it was not very strong, but it will be kept under review. **Mr Collins asked if there are any gaps with staffing?** The Headmaster responded the staffing structure is very big and there are specialist teachers in each department.

LT3 - Further development of character (learning and emotional) through AGS Learner relaunch – The co-curricular activities have been reviewed, there are a lot of opportunities and they have increased compared to what was on offer in 2019. A lot of work has been undertaken with parents on the importance of character education, which is particularly learnt on trips and visits and through participation in co-curricular activities. **Mr Collins asked if there are any student groups who are not engaging?** Mr Singh responded there are some but we are working hard to engage these students. Every Tutor has been observed delivering character education, the feedback is very positive. The school has been designated as a Character Education hub, having completed the kitemark process. This will allow AGS to support any school with this. **The Chair congratulated the school on this terrific achievement.**

LT4 - IT and digital learning strategy to enable development of L&T – Chrome books have been introduced for Years 7,8 and 9. To date, the experience is very positive and they will be reviewed by the digital leaders next half of term. They will be rolled out to Years 7 and 10 in September and a survey is going to be carried

ACTION

out with Year 11,12 and 13 on what in their opinion is the best device. **Mrs Ward requested and Mr Singh agreed to organise a learning walk, with the focus on digital learning, after the next FGB meeting. Mr Williams asked what the state is of the IT provision across the school?** The Headmaster responded hardware has been ordered but is delayed due to the impact of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Mr Singh

8 UPDATE ON PROGRESS FOR ALL KEY STAGES

Mr Singh updated Governors on the progress being made in all key stages.

KS3 and KS4 progress data is slightly negative but the targets on MidYIS are very high. Of the minor ethnic groups, only SEND students are slightly lower. This has been fully investigated by the Senior Team and there is an overlap between SEND students and those needing additional pastoral support.

KS5 data is very positive and no concerns are emerging in any minority groups.

Year 11 mock results are in line with projections and Governors noted that they are better than previous years.

9 REVIEW OF RISK REGISTER (Pertinent to the Committee)

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

10 POLICIES FOR REVIEW

There were none.

11 FUTURE AGENDA ITEM

- Update on PSHE

Agenda

12 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

13 October 2022

12 February 2023

11 May 2023

The meeting ended at 09.44am

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



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