

ACADEMY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Thursday 9th March 2023
 Time: 5.45pm
 Venue: Laurus Ryecroft

Clerk: N Burgess
 Present: R Carling, M Vevers, S Marsden, J Crawford, L Casey, L Booth and H Rizvi

No.	Action	Initials
1	To report any changes in your record on the register of business interests to the Clerk	All
2	To update Governors on the outcome of the Great Debating Final attended by Y11 student	MV
3	Update on Safeguarding and SEND link visits	SM
3	Inform the Clerk of suggestions for items for inclusion in the Annual Report to the Trust Board	All
4	Governors to complete any outstanding training	All
4	Inform the Clerk of any training completed and send certificates for retention	All
AOB	To review communications to parents/carers	MV
AOB	To review lost property procedure in school	RC

Agenda – Part 1

Category	Item	Notes	Action
1	Apologies	Apologies were received from A Ali	
	AOB items	There were no other items of business to raise which were not covered in the agenda for this meeting.	
	Training	<p>Governors received information on alternative provision for students who are permanently excluded from school.</p> <p>Governors were informed that Pupil Referral Units (PRU) have a really clear curriculum and vision of how they will work. Good relationships with schools are established and there is a wealth of support available to students, including an individually tailored curriculum.</p> <p>Initial work is undertaken with students to enable them to engage with the provision. There are creative aspects to the curriculum, including DofE and Animal Care, Construction and Hospitality, in addition to the academic subjects of English, Maths and Science.</p>	

		<p>Q – Is there a timescale on how long a student attends a PRU before possibly returning to a mainstream school? A – The timescale is totally individual to each student.</p> <p>Q – Do PRUs work for all students? A – For some students it will be the right decision for them to remain at the PRU permanently. In terms of students reintegrating into mainstream schools, each case is looked at individually, including the school they are allocated.</p> <p>Q – Can students return to their original school? A – This is sometimes possible but it is normally another school, whichever is the best option for the student.</p> <p>Leaders at school have a good working relationship with staff at the PRU and can ask for support and advice if there is an issue with a particular student. There is also an agreement in place where the school can access support for outreach sessions.</p> <p>Governors were reassured to hear of the provision available to students to continue their education following permanent exclusion from school.</p>	
	Register of interests	Governors were asked to report any changes to their record to the Clerk.	All
	Part 1 Minutes	Minutes of the meeting held on 24 th November 2022 were <u>approved</u> as a correct record of the meeting and there were no matters arising.	
	Membership: Recruitment update/Succession planning	Governors were informed that the person who had initially expressed an interest in joining the Academy Committee had accepted a Governor post at another school.	
	Scheme of Delegation	There were no material changes to the Scheme of Delegation to note.	
	Trust Board Update	Governors reviewed the Trust Board reports from the November 2022 meeting and did not have any further questions.	

2	School Performance & Accountability	Review School Development Plan	<p><u>Academic Enhancement and Achievement</u></p> <p>A Year 11 student attended the meeting to speak to Governors about the forthcoming Regional Great Debating Competition finals, which she would be attending at Windsor Castle. The competition is for 16-18 year olds, which means the student will be one of the youngest taking part.</p> <p>The student gave a brief overview of the academic enhancement and electives opportunities available to students and which she had taken part in, these included: Rugby, Cicero, Apertura, DofE, university lectures and debating. Subjects debated included immigration, NHS and how to fix the country.</p> <p>In addition the student had taken part in university visits, History trip to Berlin, London trip in year 7 and Apertura trip to London in year 11.</p> <p>Governors asked of the next step for the student who informed them she wishes to study at Laurus Ryecroft Sixth Form and eventually apply to Oxbridge to study medicine and in the future work in cardio or neuro surgery.</p> <p>Governors wished the student well for the finals and looked forward to hearing about the experience and the outcome. Governors were also pleased to note the eloquence and skills of the student and were pleased to hear from a student perspective.</p> <p>S Bridge informed Governors that Debating is part of the AE&A curriculum and is covered within Personal Development. The school provision goes above and beyond statutory requirements and begins for students when they arrive in year 7, including trips to universities, Apertura and Tutor programme. The Apertura programme enhances the student academic dialogue.</p> <p>The Year 7 Enhance trial for this year has gone really well. Students were informed of the programme at the summer term induction meeting. In term 1 students participated in a carousel of taster sessions before making their choices from term 2 onwards. All year 7 students take part. It was noted that students were able to access opportunities they may not normally have selected.</p> <p>All students in years 7, 8 and 9 have attended a University trip this year. There are also additional stretch projects offered to students, via tutor time, to enhance student voice.</p>	MV
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		Ensure delivery of school curricula and assessment in line with the Trust approach	M Vevers confirmed the delivery of the school curricula and assessment in line with the Trust approach.	
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		<p>Review Head of School report</p>	<p>Attendance is an issue nationally at present. Laurus Ryecroft attendance is currently tracking above the national average figure, which is 90.7%.</p> <p>A significant amount of work is being done by the school with regards to attendance. Another member of pastoral staff has been employed as a Family Liaison Officer with a focus on attendance, part of this role will be to make home visits to students.</p> <p>Q – Is there any reason as to why attendance is lower than previous after a drop in Covid? A – There has been a national change in illness perception, where in the past students would have come into school with a cold they now stay home. Working from home has also led to a change in perspective and a change in attitude, these changes are a national perception. The Children’s Commissioner has acknowledged and spoken publicly on this issue.</p> <p>Q – Within the data there are 2 sets of figures for SEND – why is this? A – This is due to the different levels of support within SEND.</p> <p><u>Ofsted inspection</u> Governors were delighted to receive the published report and acknowledge the Outstanding outcome.</p> <p>At the request of JC, MV talked to Governors about the rigorous process and the expectations and demands on staff once the notification of an inspection is received.</p> <p>Leaders were obviously very proud of the Outstanding judgement, as were Governors. The Trust Marketing team have plans in place to communicate the outcome.</p> <p>Governors wished to formally record their congratulations to the whole school team for an amazing achievement. MV also recorded thanks to Governors for their support, both during the inspection and ongoing.</p>	
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3	Governor Monitoring	Finance update including pupil numbers, benchmarking and value for money	<p>Governors reviewed the Management Accounts to December 2022.</p> <p>The implications of rising energy costs were briefly discussed and the unfunded pay awards.</p> <p>Governors had no further questions to raise.</p>	
		Risk register – review risks and any significant changes in risk levels/mitigating actions	<p>The Risk Register is updated ongoing and is reviewed by this committee annually.</p> <p>In terms of risks the Ofsted inspection risk has now been downgraded.</p> <p>A concerning risk at present is recruitment and retention. MV reported that recruitment this year has been the most difficult to date due to the lower number of candidate available, and the number of people opting to undertake teacher training. We are doing well with recruitment here at school but it is a national issue. It was noted that being in a Trust was invaluable in terms of retention as there were opportunities for promotion for staff to remain within the Trust.</p> <p>SEND staff recruitment was discussed. The department has increased in the last year from 4 to 16 staff.</p> <p>The school have recently recruited a Counsellor, who will add a different layer to the pastoral care already in place in school, to be able to support our students.</p> <p>Q-Will the Ofsted Outstanding judgement help with recruitment? A – Yes most definitely.</p>	
		Policy – undertake school level reviews of relevant policies	There were no policies for approval at this meeting.	

	Monitor Pupil Premium, Catch up and Sport Premium spending to ensure it improves the attainment of eligible students	<p>There was zero carried forward from the previous year as the Leaders ensure that the funding is spent on the students in school.</p> <p>Departments are able to bid for funding to support students, for example for revision guides or trips and visits.</p>	
	Ensure Curriculum policies (eg Religious Education and Relationships, Sex Education) Behaviour and Welfare policies are in line with statutory guidance	MV confirmed to Governors that the school policies are in place and published in accordance with statutory guidance.	
	Review educational achievement of looked after/previousl y looked after children (Designated Teacher update)	<p>The achievement of the Looked After and Previously Looked After students is monitored and tracked but, with the exception of MFL results, there are no external outcomes to review. Analysis will be done in September following the year 11 GCSE results, to monitor the small number of individual students.</p> <p>Q – Were Ofsted inspectors happy with the 3 year programme for MFL? A – Yes, the number of guided learning hours are completed which means the exam is not early entry. The exam is sat at the right time for the students.</p>	
	Safeguarding and SEND Link Governor updates	Updates will be given by the Safeguarding and SEND Link Governors at the June meeting of this committee.	SM
	Governor Self Review of Impact (Update Annual Report to Trust Board)	Governors were asked to inform the Clerk of any items they would like to include in the Annual Report to the Trust Board.	All

4	Governor Development	Review Trust Training Plan	Governors were reminded to complete any outstanding training.	All
		Clerk to minute any training undertaken by Governors since the last meeting	Governors are asked to update the Clerk on any training they have completed and send their certificates for retention.	All
5	Community Engagement	Stakeholder Engagement	<p>The Ofsted Report will be sent to all parents and carers at the end of the week.</p> <p>The school production is coming up and Governors are invited to attend.</p>	
	AOB		<p><u>Communication</u> The school have been made aware that parents/carers feel there is more communication than necessary, on a daily basis, via the Bromcom app – My Child at School. MV agreed to look into if some communications could be put together and sent as one.</p> <p><u>Lost Property</u> Some parents/carers have raised the issue of lost property in school and do students know where to go to look for it? It was suggested it may be helpful to have an area with all lost property on display, maybe half termly, to allow students the opportunity to view and retrieve any missing items. RC agreed to look into this.</p> <p><u>School Buses</u> Following the issues raised at the previous meeting JC confirmed that she had written to TfGM and A Burnham and MV had written to A Rayner. TfGM have requested further information around student numbers, term dates and school timings as they are in the process of planning bus provision for September.</p> <p>The update at present is that there has been no positive outcome but the issue will continue to be pursued. A suggestion was made to try to engage local councillors. It was noted that a number of parents had also registered complaints with Stagecoach.</p> <p>Governors were informed that there would be Safeguarding provision training held at school on 13th September 2023, from 2.00 – 4.00, and they were welcome to attend should they wish.</p>	<p>MV</p> <p>RC</p>

	Meeting Dates:	Meeting dates for 2022- 2023	ACM4 – Monday 19 th June 2023 at 5.45pm	
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Impact of Meeting / Key Outcomes	
Governors received information regarding alternative provision for the ongoing education of students excluded from school	
Governors received the Trust Board Report to Academy Committees from their November 2022 meeting	
Academic Enhancement and Achievement was presented to Governors, including a talk from a current Year 11 student	
Head of School confirmed the delivery of the school curricula and assessment in line with the Trust approach	
Governors reviewed the Head of School report	
Management accounts to December 2022 were received	
The School Risk Register was reviewed	
Governors monitored the Pupil Premium, Catch up, and Sport Premium spending	
Head of School confirmed that curriculum policies are in place in line with statutory guidance	
Governors reviewed the Ofsted outcome report	

Meeting closed at 7.25pm

Signed by the Chair

Julie Crawford

19th June 2023