

ACADEMY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Monday 9th October 2023

Time: 5.45pm

Venue: Laurus Ryecroft

Clerk: N Burgess

Present: J Crawford, S Marsden, M Vevers, A Ali, R Carling, H Rizvi and L Casey

No.	Action	Initials
1	To meet to discuss possible link opportunities with local universities	AA/RC
1	Governors are asked to send any updates to their register of business interests to the Clerk	All
1	Governors are asked to let MV know of anyone they know who may wish to express an interest in joining the Academy Committee	All
1	Clerk to speak to L Woolley regarding Governor recruitment	NB
3	To meet to handover Safeguarding and SEND Link Governor roles	SM/LC
4	Governors to complete GDPR training	All
4	Governors to send training certificates to the Clerk for retention	All

Agenda – Part 1

Category	Item	Notes	Action	
1	Governance Arrangements	Apologies	There were no apologies received for this meeting.	
		AOB items	S Marsden informed Governors that an opportunity had arisen and she had applied for a visa to work as a volunteer in Africa for one year. SM would return to the Academy Committee after one year. A Ali has links with projects with MMU and University of Manchester and would like to extend the offer to Laurus Ryecroft. AA and RC agreed to discuss outside of the meeting.	AA/RC
		Register of interests	Governors are asked to update their record and inform the Clerk of any updates.	All
		Code of Conduct	Governors received and agreed the Code of Conduct.	
		Part 1 Minutes	Minutes of the meeting held 19 th June 2023 were <u>approved</u> as a correct record of the meeting.	

			MV commented that recruitment and retention was still a concern and that this was a national issue. It was confirmed that Laurus Ryecroft was fully staffed with curriculum specialists in all areas.	
		Membership: Recruitment Update/Succession Planning	<p>A Staff Governor election is currently taking place and the successful applicant will hopefully be present at the next meeting in November.</p> <p>Further recruitment to the committee was discussed and Governors were asked to let MV know of anyone who may be interested.</p> <p>The Trust also has a continuous ad on Inspiring Governance. The Clerk will speak to L Woolley (Trust Lead for Governance) regarding applications via this route.</p>	All NB
		Scheme of Delegation	There were no major changes to the Scheme of Delegation, which has been crosschecked for compliance.	
		Trust Board Update	<p>Governors received the Trust Board updates from the May 2023 and July 2023 meetings.</p> <p>Q – What is the Director of Education role and the background for requiring this role? A – Now that the Trust has reached a certain size the role works Trust wide to centralise some aspects, including Professional Learning, curriculum and co-ordination of the support and implementation of Trust Directors.</p> <p>As a Trust we now have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 primary schools • 1 primary school in the preopening phase • 1 primary school who have applied to join our Trust • 6 secondary schools • 4 Sixth Forms <p>Q – Is Priestnall requiring a lot of intervention? A – Yes at present we are working closely with our colleagues at Priestnall. MV is splitting time between Laurus Ryecroft and Priestnall where possible.</p>	

2	School Performance & Accountability	Review Head of School Report	<p>The main focus of the report is the Summer 2023 GCSE results. It was noted that nationally results are graded against 2019 figures.</p> <p>74% grade 4+ including Maths and English is a good result for the school and places the school third in Tameside.</p> <p>50% 5+ is acceptable but we will be pushing for higher, better is always possible.</p> <p>Leaders are pleased with the first set of GCSE results for the school but will always continue to strive for better.</p> <p>To place the results in context within the Trust, Laurus Cheadle Hulme, which opened at the same time, achieved 59/60% with a very different cohort.</p> <p>MV detailed Progress 8 measure to Governors. Progress 8 is the figure which measures the progress students have made from KS2 to the end of KS4. A figure of zero is what would be expected. Each GCSE result carries certain weighting to make up the measure and the final figure is made up of 8 subjects. The year 9 MFL results are not included in the progress 8 figure as they were achieved in 2021 when grades were TAG/CAG. As a school we are pleased with 0.32, which is higher than national average.</p> <p>Q – What are the best schools getting? A – Top schools achieve 1. This is not our aim. We have visited some schools where compromises have been made in other areas. We would not wish to narrow our curriculum offer, as is done in some schools. The curriculum here is based on what is the right thing for our students and is driven from a philosophical review.</p> <p>CHHS achieved 0.7. Laurus Ryecroft are second in the Trust for our Progress 8 measure. Better is always possible and there is work to be done in the future.</p> <p>The final Progress 8 figure will be validated in January 2024 once the results of re-marks are known.</p> <p><u>Subject breakdown of results</u> The results for some subjects are only for a small number of students and this can make a massive difference and variation.</p>
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			<p>English, Maths and Science are the only subjects which include the whole cohort.</p> <p>Leaders have had conversations with all Subject Leaders regarding the results and the next steps. We are building the next steps and looking to see how do we get even better.</p> <p>The tie up with English and Maths was not quite there due to different reasons. For some of our staff this was their first run through of exam classes.</p> <p>We are really pleased with the results but we will also continue to keep going and aim higher. Our next steps are to review what we can do better and what next.</p> <p>Year 9 Spanish results were discussed. Nearly all year 9 students sat the GCSE exam and have done really well with a good set of results.</p> <p><u>Sixth Form</u> As a school we are slightly disappointed with the number of students enrolled. There are 37 in the building and they are all amazing students who are working really hard. Although it is a small group of students there is a really good atmosphere in the Sixth Form. Already there has been one student who left College to return to our Sixth Form.</p> <p><u>New staff</u> Due to the opening of the Sixth Form there was a significant number of new staff this year. They have all started really well and are settling in. There is a range of different career phases for our starters, for example ECTs, experienced teachers and subject specialists.</p> <p>Governors had no further questions from the Head of School report.</p>	
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		<p>Review School Development Plan priorities</p>	<p>MV shared the School Development Plan with Governors. The plan has been written in the same format as previous years.</p> <p>Targets are 60% grades 9-5 and 80% 9-4. Progress 8 has been set at 0.8, whilst acknowledging this is a very high target.</p> <p>Attendance is set at 95%. Attendance is becoming an increasing challenge and the national picture is a worry. 89.7% was the national average figure. Since Covid there has been a big shift in the perception of attendance.</p> <p>It was noted that in school today the attendance was 92.3% and that the seasonal illnesses seem to be having an impact.</p> <p>The final figure for last year was 93%. Governors noted that this was a good result in terms of national average. MV commented that as a school they are aiming for 95% and will do as much as possible to achieve this figure.</p> <p>Q- Is there anything we are doing differently? A – The best thing we can do is run a decent school where students actually want to come to, where they have a sense of belonging and where they want to keep up and not fall behind with their studies. We offer pastoral incentives for students for behaviour and attendance, for example the obstacle course where they can compete against staff.</p> <p>There is also the Alton Towers trip. This is an attendance incentive and over 600 pupils are invited. Persistent absence decreased from 25% to 19%.</p> <p>Our Attendance Officer is working closely with families, including home visits and phone calls every day.</p> <p>The School Development Plan is a 3-year plan which is ongoing and revised each year.</p>	
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		Set and ensure delivery of School Curricula and Assessment (in line with Trust's approach)	MV confirmed that the school curricula and assessment is delivered in line with the Trust approach.	
3	Governor Monitoring	Finance update including pupil numbers, benchmarking and value for money	<p>Governors reviewed the Management accounts to 31st May 2023.</p> <p>The reserves have been used for work completed on the building.</p> <p>A concern is that Sixth Form per pupil funding is not as high as 11-16 and there are obviously smaller student numbers currently in Sixth Form. A surplus has been planned to allow for growth. We will monitor closely to work on a sustainable model moving forward. This is not a massive concern but is for Governors to be aware of going forward.</p>	
		Policy – undertake school level reviews of relevant policiesQ	<p>The Behaviour Policy has been amended to reflect the addition of the Sixth Form. Governors <u>approved</u> the Behaviour Policy.</p> <p>Q – Is there anything special for being in the Sixth Form? A – On Wednesdays, during unit 5, they have access to the gym. They also have their own Refectory and silent study areas. These areas are really good places for our students to study and we have even seen some of them take their books to lunch.</p> <p>Q - Are Sixth Form students seen as role models in school? A – Yes, it is good for our year 11 students to be able to see a pathway and this is something which is in its infancy.</p> <p>Q – Do you foresee any opportunities for year 11 and 12 students to work together? A – Yes, in Computing there are some year 12 students mentoring year 11. Year 12 students are also helping to run Electives.</p>	

	Ensure curriculum policies (eg Religious Education and Relationships, Sex Education), Behaviour and Welfare policies are in line with statutory guidance)	MV confirmed that curriculum policies are in place and are in line with statutory guidance.	
	Review educational achievement of looked after/previously looked after children (Designated teacher update)	There were 2 students who were looked after or previously looked after. One had achieved a 4 in English but had not achieved Maths. The other student had achieved 3 in Maths, 4 in English and 5 in Art. This student has now moved on to College to study Art. The outcomes were good for both students.	
	Safeguarding and SEND Link Governor updates	There have not been any specific visits to school yet this half term to report. Governors had attended a Permanent Exclusion hearing prior to this meeting. SM felt that the proformas for SEND and Safeguarding visits were really useful documents to be used ongoing. LC agreed to deputise as Safeguarding and SEND Link during the period of time SM will be abroad. SM and LC will meet to arrange a handover outside of this meeting.	SM/LC

		Critical Incident Planning	<p>There is an overarching detailed plan for such incidents but it was felt that Governors should be aware of the incident levels. We are currently reviewing some of the language used within the levels.</p> <p>Bronze incidents – are dealt with at school level.</p> <p>Silver incident – are dealt with at school level but will involve others for example media communications</p> <p>Gold incidents – are serious incidents which would also include Trust wide support. Incidents are fully recorded including the actions and why there were taken and the lessons which would be learnt moving forward.</p> <p>It should be noted that the lists are detailed but cannot be fully representative of every specific possibility.</p> <p>The full detailed Trust Critical Incident Plan includes roles and responsibilities, and deputies if not available. The support available is Trust wide.</p>	
4	Governor Development	Review Trust Training Plan	Governors are asked to complete annual GDPR training via Laurus Institute. Governors should contact the Clerk if they have any issues in accessing the training.	All
		Clerk to minute any training undertaken by Governors since the last meeting	Governors are requested to send any certificates for completion of training to the Clerk for retention.	All
		Governor Competency Framework/Effective Governance Handbook	Governor’s attention was drawn to the Governor Competency Framework and Effective Governance Handbook as key documents they should be aware of.	

5	Community Engagement	Stakeholder Engagement	<p>The official opening of the Sixth Form had taken place and had been a great success. Two celebrities who are from the local area had made inspiring speeches regarding what they had gone on to do after their school life.</p> <p>The school have made good connections with care homes in the local area. Students have visited to sing, play instruments, and to perform cheerleading for residents. This is a good opportunity for students who may not normally choose to perform in front of a larger audience, and is also invaluable for the care home residents.</p> <p>Q – Are the local residents happy with the school events? A – We send out letters to all local residents detailing the dates of events we are holding. We try to keep disruption to a minimum.</p>	
	AOB		Thanks were offered to SM for her contribution to the Academy Committee and to wish her well on her new venture.	
	Meeting Dates:	Meeting dates for 2023- 2024	Thursday 23 rd November 2023 at 5.45pm Thursday 7 th March 2024 at 5.45pm Monday 17 th June 2024 at 5.45pm	

Impact of Meeting / Key Outcomes
Governors reviewed the GCSE results
Governors received and reviewed the Head of School report
Governors reviewed the School Development Plan
Behaviour Policy was approved
Governors reviewed the educational outcomes of Looked After and Previously Looked After children
Critical Incident Planning was discussed

Meeting closed at 7.00pm

Signed by the Chair



Julie Crawford
22.01.2024