



MINUTES OF THE LGB CATMOSE COLLEGE MEETING

Thursday 9 December 2021, 4pm
John Clare

Present

Emma Gautrey, Judith Gilboy, Andrew Holt (Chair), Gary Marsh, Clive Norgaard Morton, Simon Mellors, Alex Mould, Martyn Rhowbotham, Stuart Williams (Principal).

In Attendance

Sheryl Wilson (Clerk), Natalie Ray, Claire Pugh, Alex Emmerson, Andrew Ward.

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies for absence

Andrew Holt welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received and accepted from Briege Slattery, David Evans and Alice Beckwith.

2. Declarations of Personal Interest and Pecuniary Interest

There were none declared.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14 October 2021

These were signed as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters arising from previous minutes

There were no matters arising.

5. Clerk's Business

Julian Barwell has resigned from his position as parent governor with effect from 5 November 2021. An advert for a parent governor will be placed in the next edition of Connect.

6. Maths Review

Andrew Ward (Team Leader for Maths) joined the meeting to present the findings from the recent maths review which had focused on Key Stage 3. Areas of the review had included the quality of the curriculum for mixed ability students who had been grouped together in Covid bubbles. The maths team is well qualified and observations were graded as either good or outstanding. Where Early Careers Teachers (ECTs) are teaching Year 10 students, they are paired up with able members of staff. The team understands the curriculum and works together to plan in advance.

The pace of learning is maintained, despite the mixed ability groups. Students are engaging and contributing in their classes with appropriate challenge from teachers. A book scrutiny found that some students are not as confident with the basics and this would therefore be a focus. The data within the maths team was consistent and the mixed ability groups were performing on par with one another. Comparisons had been done with key assessments in other subject areas and the data suggests that

maths is more critical in their approach than other subject areas. As a result, the key assessments will be adapted this year to enable lower attaining students to feel more confident.

Students who usually find maths difficult also struggled during lockdown. 10% of students are on assessment which demonstrates that most students are doing well in the subject, however, the team have identified those students who need extra support.

Question: When students join in Year 7, do you notice differences in ability from the primary schools they attended?

This information is not calculated in the data.

Question: For the faster paced group, is there additional tutoring?

Andrew Ward confirmed that students are able to cope with the pace of support and they are naturally more vocal about asking for help. The curriculum is the same, but the faster paced groups go into further detail with areas such as problem solving.

Question: Has there been any noticeable improvement with the lower ability students during the Covid period?

Andrew Ward advised that comparisons had not been made. It is challenging to teach a mixed ability group and occasionally, it is difficult if a parent's view of their child's ability is different to the child's actual ability. Teachers have to decide the exam tier of entry that a student is put forward for and it is therefore important that students are in the correct group. Occasionally, students are moved from one group to another, for example, if they are able and have the confidence to move to the higher ability group.

Question: Do all maths teachers teach across all year groups?

Andrew Ward confirmed they do not, this is dependant on the timetable and knowledge of the curriculum.

7. Update on return to College

Stuart Williams advised that there had approximately been 30 cases per day of students with Covid-19. A lot of work had been done on the recovery plan and getting things back to normal. UK trips have resumed and sport activities have been going well. The College held the annual Presentation Evening and the Christmas Concert will go ahead as planned in Oakham church.

Governors were pleased to hear that activities have been continuing for students.

8. Catmose Challenge

Stuart Williams presented the concept of the Catmose Challenge to governors which will encourage students to get involved in personal development activities and will work alongside the Electives programme and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. A booklet and information sheet was shared with governors prior to the scheme being launched to students. Staff and members of the student council had also given their input.

There will be three levels – bronze, silver and gold. By the end of Year 8, most students will have achieved the bronze level. Badges will be issued and teachers will need to sign their booklet once a challenge has been completed.

Question: Will curriculum time be given to the challenge?

Students will be expected to complete this in their own time and Electives time.

Governors confirmed they thought the challenge was a good idea and liked the booklet and information sheet.

9. Update from Resources

The auditors presented the annual accounts to the Resources committee earlier in the day. The Federation has made a surplus in the year with a cumulative surplus of £1.3 million. Financially, the Federation is in a good position and the Regional Schools Commissioner has approved the application for the College to expand.

Question: How does the Federation accounts compare with other schools?

Natalie Ray reported that the reserves held is extremely good. The pandemic has benefitted the finances of some schools as there have not been as many outgoings.

Trustees approved the proposed date of the schools within the Federation being closed on Friday 11 February 2022 in lieu of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee extra bank holiday. It was hoped that this additional bank holiday could have been added onto the May half term break week, however, this clashed with exams.

10. Scorecards

Behaviour and Welfare

Alex Emmerson advised that staff are being encouraged to award house points, especially in Key Stage 4. There were 9 commendations last term and 3 spot checks on behaviour which focused on punctuality and lateness.

There has been a reduction in the number of fixed term exclusions. The College has worked with the Inclusion Partnership along with SEMH teachers and Educational Psychologists and this has had an impact. Training has also been done with teachers on how to approach different scenarios, conversations with students and de-escalation techniques.

Attendance Scorecard

Claire Pugh advised that attendance remains high at 94% with the national average at 87%. For students with persistent absence, there are regular meetings between the College and the local authority to ensure the necessary support is in place.

Teaching and Curriculum

80% of lesson observations have been graded as good or outstanding.

Pupil Premium Strategy

Claire Pugh explained that the government had announced a new strategy for the Pupil Premium report. The strategy targets all students, not just disadvantaged students.

Governors noted that 25% of students are pupil premium – this is due to the College having a high proportion of service children on roll.

Governors approved the Pupil Premium Strategy.

Outcomes Scorecards

The Year 11 scorecard indicated a positive picture with checkpoint 1. Staff have put in place a lot of intervention for students. For students that have reds on their report, regular meetings with form tutors and the intervention team have been offered to help get them back on track. Information has been sent to parents for the plans for mock examinations.

11. Safeguarding

There had been a scrutiny panel meeting held on safeguarding on 4 November 2021 and the minutes were circulated to governors.

12. Policies

The below policies were ratified by governors:

- Curriculum Policy
- Student Assessment and Reporting
- Careers Education and Guidance
- Provider Access Policy
- College Communication Policy – this was previously a Federation policy, and has now been made more specific to the needs of the College. Governors suggested that parents could be asked to sign that they have read this when their child joins the College.

13. A.O.B

A Stage 4 Governors' Hearing Panel had been heard and governors rejected the complaint.

14. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 3 February 2022, 4pm