

MINUTES OF THE HARINGTON SCHOOL LGB MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2025 8.15AM

Present: Liz Birchall (Vice Chair), Oliver Teasel (Head of School), Phil Dalby, Dyl Powell, Stuart Williams, Diane Wensley, Tony Nice, Nina Hedley, Matthew Holt and Andy Wright.

In attendance: Natalie Henry-Oliver (Deputy Head of School)
Sara Kane (Governance Professional)
Chris Wilson (Chief Finance Officer, RDSF)
Tom Foxall (Lead A level physics teacher)
Ben Dickens (A level physics teacher/ Assistant Principal
(RDSF)Teacher of Physics)
Dave Anderson (Head of School, Uppingham Community College)

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Rob Guthrie, Henry Price, Andreas Menzies, Andrew Robinson and Briege Slattery.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12 December 2024

The minutes of the meeting were agreed to be a true and accurate record and signed by the Vice Chair.

4. Matters arising from the previous minutes

None.

5. Governance Professional's Update

The University of Leicester have recently reappointed Phil Dalby to the Harington LGB for another for another four-year term.

6. Physics Review

Reference was made to the previously circulated report. As highlighted within the Transformation Plan the summer results in physics had been disappointing with 25% of students obtaining A*-A and 78.6% achieving A-C. The purpose of the subject review was to establish the reasons behind the underperformance and formulate a plan to raise outcomes to 35% A*-A and 85% A-C by summer 2025.

The subject review process was explained. The review was led by the Executive Principal, information was gathered from students, lesson observations and parental surveys along with data and objectives and expectations were established. Curriculum and intervention strategies were developed, providing bespoke targeted intervention. It was reported that the targets are fed into the Transformation Plan and individual staff performance review targets.

Data is analysed after each assessment point to ensure that students are on track to achieve their potential.

Question: Was last year's paper used for the recent Year 13 mock examination?

Yes, although marking is not complete the results are looking positive. The Year 13 mock examination data will be shared with governors during the next meeting.

It was agreed that the requirement for students wishing to study A level physics also needed to study A level maths and achieve a grade 7 in both subjects at GCSE was imperative in insuring that the right students access the course and achieve the best outcomes.

The next steps to achieve the outcomes were highlighted:

Pedagogy

Teachers need to support students to ensure that they acquire the core knowledge required by ensuring student folders and work are well organised and by providing resources in advance so that students are well prepared for lessons.

Curriculum Development

Teachers to ensure that schemes of work are shared across the team and to consider changes in the curriculum to aid transition from GCSE to A level in the first term of the academic year. Teachers should also continually review students' subject knowledge.

Question: Could collaboration between maths and physics and the topics taught be coordinated?

Yes, similar topics are taught in both subjects. The topics are often a steep learning curve for students.

Question: Is the subject review process for physics an exemplar of the practice?

Yes, they are very similar for each subject review across the Federation. It was reported that subject review reports are shared across the Federation as examples of good practice.

7. Resources Update

Chris Wilson provided an overview of the year and explained that the budget had been reset during the year due to fluctuation in grants and funding streams. The Federation budget is likely to break even. The forecast for next year looks challenging with increases to National Insurance contributions in April along with pay increases for teachers and support staff. It remains unclear as to whether these will be funded.

Question: Are support staff pay awards fully funded or just teaching staff?

Last year the pay award for support staff was fully funded, however the Federation will not know if this is the case for this year until September. In March the government will announce the grant available to assist with the increased national insurance contributions.

This year, apportionment of resources has taken place to ensure that costs are shared fairly across the schools in the Federation. It is predicted that Harington School will break even this financial year.

Chris Wilson and Nina Hedley left the meeting.

8. Head of School Report

Oliver Teasel referred to his previously circulated report.

Extra-curricular

Sports Fixtures

The number of sports fixtures that the School participates in has increased. Teams have been entered to play basketball, golf, netball and rugby. Also, Harington students have recently secured first place at the Regional Team Milano gymnastics competition and have qualified for the National competition.

Christmas Jumper Day

Students raised over £300 during the Christmas jumper day. How this money will be used for wellbeing activities at the School will be discussed at the next senate meeting.

Rotary Club's Young Musician Competition

Harington recently hosted the Rutland District heat. A Harington student won their category and will advance to the district final.

Admissions

347 students had applied before the closing date of Monday 10 February. This is higher than previous years, with a higher number applying from Casterton College. Any further applications will be classed as late. Two taster sessions have taken place with over 220 students attending from various schools.

Access arrangements

The School has significantly less students that have extra time in examinations compared to the national picture. The number of students receiving extra time in the independent sector is significantly higher. It was reported that following the JCQ guidance it is difficult to meet the criteria for extra time. A number of students do not meet the requirement as there is no processing need. Typically, students at Harington that have access arrangements receive rest breaks due to ADHD, anxiety or health needs for example. It was reported that the School is testing students to ensure that those students that meet the requirement receive extra time. It was agreed that having extra time does give students an advantage during examinations.

Question: If students receive extra time during GCSE's does this transfer to A levels?

Yes, if students have met the criteria for extra time at GCSE level, then they automatically receive this at the A level, however it is difficult to meet the criteria at A level alone.

Attendance

Overall attendance is on target of 95%, there has been a slight increase in attendance for Year 13. However, driving lessons and reduced timetable does impact the attendance figure for Year 13. Welfare monitoring check-ins are taking place for identified students. Weekly Teen Health sessions on examination stress are also taking place in conjunction with Rutland County Council.

Post-18

UCAS and Oxbridge

The deadline for UCAS applications closed at the end of January, 136 applications have been made. Two students have been successful in their applications to Oxbridge. Four students have been successful in their medics' applications with a further six still awaiting a decision. It was reported that weekly support is available for UCAS and apprenticeships and mock interviews have been held when required.

Unifrog and the Doc Soc have been launched to Year 12 students.

Apprenticeships

Vision Path working in partnership with Mars have visited the school to discuss apprenticeship opportunities with students. It was reported that higher level apprenticeships are being advertised more than degree level apprenticeships nationally which typically result in an HND/ level three equivalent qualification.

It was reported that students are finding it increasingly difficult to obtain degree level apprenticeships. The number of organisations offering these has reduced.

Question: How many students went on to undertake an apprenticeship last year?

Four students secured a degree level apprenticeship last year.

9. Attendance Scrutiny Feedback

Attention was drawn to the previously circulated report and the attendance processes were highlighted. Governors are happy with the robust procedures in place to monitor and support attendance to ensure that students attend School and appropriate safeguarding measures are in place.

Natalie Henry-Oliver and Stuart Williams left the meeting.

10. Ofsted Q&A

The previously governor guidance during an Ofsted inspection from The Key was discussed. It was explained that at Harington does not have link governors as governors act as a corporate body not as individuals.

It was explained that at Post 16 students do not receive pupil premium, however the School has a Disadvantaged first strategy to support students.

Oliver Teasel explained the strategy that has been in place at the School for three years and actively puts disadvantaged students at the forefront.

11. Policies

Governors' attention was drawn to the policy overview document which detailed any amendments. The following policies were ratified:

- Behaviour
- Dress Code
- SEND



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12. Any Other Business

A scrutiny panel of Oxbridge support will be held on Thursday 3 April. It was agreed that Phil Dalby, Matthew Holt and Diane Wensley would form the panel.

13. Dates for Diaries

LGB Thursday 3 April 2025 @8.15am

Scrutiny Panel- Thursday 3 April 2025 @10am

LGB- Thursday 22 May 2025 @8.15am

Scrutiny Panel – Thursday 22 May @10am

LGB- Thursday 3 July 2025 @5pm