

ACADEMY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Tuesday 29th November 2022

Time: 5pm

Venue: Hazel Grove High School – New Library

Clerk: C Whitehead

Present: A Bentley, J Butler, S Blades, G Vout, M Stewart, B Vickers, A Phillips, S Warner, R Kumar, C Franklin

H Bove for part of the meeting

Action		Initials
1	Governors were asked to report any changes to their Register of Business Interests to the Clerk	All
2	Governors were asked to review and Approve the Behaviour Policy, the Collective Act of Worship Policy, the Communication with parents or carers Policy, the Intimate Care policy for Resource Base, the Relationships and Sex Education policy, the Anti Bullying policy and the Safeguarding policy.	All
3	Governors were asked to inform the Clerk of any training they had completed	All

Agenda – Part 1				
Category	Item	Notes	Action	
1	Governance Arrangements	Apologies	All Governors were present for this meeting	
		Register of interests	Governors were asked to report any changes in their records held to the Clerk	All
		Code of Conduct	There were no changes to note to the code of conduct.	
		Part 1 Minutes	The minutes of the meeting held 20 th September 2022 were approved as a correct record of the meeting and there were no matters arising.	SB
		Membership: Recruitment Update/Succession Planning	There were no updates to note.	
		Scheme of Delegation	There were no changes to the Scheme of Delegation to note.	
		Trust Board Update	Governors were provided with Trust Board updates from the October 2022 meeting. AB asked about if there was an update about land planning. RK advised the next trust board meeting is tomorrow so there will be an update after that.	RK

2	School Performance & Accountability	<p>School Development Plan Priorities</p> <p>Apertura Presentation</p>	<p>Two of our Apertura students from Y11 gave a talk about what it means to be an Apertura Student and then held a questions and answers session with the Governors. Apertura students are provided with the opportunity to experience a range of seminars and lectures and include the opportunity to complete independent work. It aims to support students for successful applications to the most competitive institutions and programmes.</p> <p>Q - SW asked who runs the Apertura sessions and how often?</p> <p>A - Mrs Roberts administers the Apertura sessions of which we have 45 students in both Y10 and Y11. Supervisors run small groups and facilitates discussion, the students often have different teachers to those who teach them from the curriculum and this means they get to meet a wider range of teachers. Apertura enables students to develop their debating and discussion skills amongst peers.</p> <p>Q – SB asked if any of the sessions question the learning done in curriculum lessons?</p> <p>A - The Apertura sessions could follow on from a PSHE subject which allows chance to delve deeper into the topic.</p> <p>Q – SW asked does the interests of the students drive the group?</p> <p>A - Each session consists of one question or idea and then this leads to debate within the group. Young Scholars and Thinking Works groups work as a whole group but the Apertura students work in small groups and so this gives an opportunity for students to discuss own interests.</p> <p>Q – SB asked who facilitates the discussion?</p> <p>A - The students drive the conversation with the use of power point and activities which has teacher supervision. The Thinking Works sessions are more structured around delivery from a teacher. The Apertura supervisor will deliver the idea of the lesson and facilitate only in these classes, the students will then engage in the conversation and drive the session. This is a different setting to usual classes.</p>
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		<p>Personal Development Presentation</p>	<p>Q – How do you check on development through the programme?</p> <p>A - Projects were voted and the Top 5 went to Trust level to compete with the other schools. It is not based on how well the students are doing necessarily and focuses more on inclusivity.</p> <p>Q – JB asked, is it fun?</p> <p>A - The attendance for these sessions is very good as students do enjoy them. The students are able to meet different teachers to those who deliver their curricular lessons and so students get to know the wider body of staff within the school. They also benefit from new relationships with students they have not worked alongside before, working in smaller groups.</p> <p>Q – SW asked are the groups chosen?</p> <p>A - BV advised yes, they are well prepared and compared. MS noted that there is evidence of this with the confidence shown in the Apertura students.</p> <p>The Governors thanked the students for their time, they commended them particularly on their articulation.</p> <p>HB delivered a presentation to the Governors on Personal Development at HGHS. The vision for the Personal Development team across the Trust is to provide meaningful and tailored opportunities to enable pupils to become confident and successful Global Citizens. This falls under several sections of the curriculum including RSHE, PSHE, RE and Citizenship (Beliefs and Values). It is the golden thread of fundamental British Values. In January 2022 Ofsted recognised our offer as Outstanding and we are now using HGHS as the yard stick for what Outstanding Personal Development looks like. The team is currently working towards the Rainbow Flag Award with the focus for this year to ensure we are meeting all Protected Characteristics that are relevant in schools. This is being delivered as part of The Pride of Lions LGBTQ+ action group at Hazel Grove High School. Teachers have been given training on how to apply this to the classroom, paying attention to language used and when delivering a lesson as part of the curriculum this is signalled with a Rainbow Flag. It is triangulated with SEND, Pastoral and school as well as local and</p>	
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		<p>national data to ensure we are meeting the needs of our pupils. HB asked for a signature of support and extended an invitation to the Governors to take on this role. This would involve showing support for work around LGBTQ+ and inclusivity. This is not a statutory role and would work alongside the wider safeguarding role and the SEND roles already in place as a named governor for PHSE/Wellbeing/Personal Development. Governors were given an open invitation to attend a Pride of Lions lesson or a Beliefs and Values lesson. There will be training session on 6th December for anyone to attend.</p> <p>Copy of presentation to be provided to the Governors.</p>	CW
	Ensure delivery of School Curricula and Assessment is in line with Trust's approach	MS confirmed the school curriculum and assessment was in line with all other schools in the Trust.	
	Review Head of School's Report	<p>BV provided an overview of the Head of School Report which had been supplied to the Governors prior to the meeting.</p> <p>MS asked the Governors for their thoughts, in particular to attendance.</p> <p>Q - JB commented that the reported data was based on none inclusive terms. Why is this needed?</p> <p>A - As it is reported nationally this is how the data needs to be presented.</p> <p>SW commented that the attendance was lower than hoped for Y9 & Y11. MS advised the Governors that this is a traditional dip with quite a lot of persistent absence. We cannot accept that and it is now one of our biggest challenges. Covid mental well being is huge but serial non attenders raises the issue of a change in perception of not coming into school when you almost don't feel well. The presumption to make the push to go to school needs to come back.</p>	

		<p>Review Head of School's Report (Cont.)</p>	<p>Q - AB asked if there is any national research?</p> <p>A – MS confirmed that there is, a decline in attendance and behaviour has brought about significant changes and we need to do whatever we can to improve this. We have to try a number of strategies to get students attendance increased. Cost of living and covid are a couple of many factors. An attendance rate of 96% used to be an issue but there has been a national and local borough drop too. GV commented that we were above this still. MS advised in context that's great. There is lots of work which is already being done, however we do not want to benchmark nationally but against school data instead. Uniform sanctions have been pushed recently.</p> <p>There was a general discussion regarding suspensions and what actions are being taken to continue to drive to lower number of cases, which are already significantly lower.</p> <p>Exam remark requests are all now completed. The latest progress 8 data showed HGHS achieving an increase in grades. HGHS is now ranked 2nd best in the borough with a Laurus School taking the top spot. MS advised this will be celebrated if it remains on track.</p> <p>The Governors were advised that the new school information management system, Bromcom, has the facility to track live data and as an analysis tool it is great, it can drill down to individual students and can target if interventions are needed.</p> <p>The recent Sixth Form Open Evening went really well, it felt really busy with lots of positive feedback from parents and students who attended. The Sixth form staff worked hard to prepare for the event. The deadline for applications is the 9th December and it has already attracted a good number of internal students applying as their 1st choice for post 16 education, as well as from external candidates. The conversion from applications to enrolment can hard to predict, but in time there is a hope that we will be oversubscribed.</p>	
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			<p>Q – AP asked when could we expect the Sixth Form Building to be completed?</p> <p>A – We remain on target for the building to be completed for the summer. We plan to have this open in time for the GSCE results day which is the 24th August 2023.</p>	
3	Governor Monitoring	Finance Update including pupil numbers, bench marking and value for money	The Governors were provided with this prior to the meeting. MS advised the Governors that a big thank you was in order for the Central Services team for working hard to ensure the pay uplift was done on time.	
		Policies (Undertake school level reviews and note phase/trust level policies)	<p>Governors were asked to Review and Approve the Behaviour Policy, the Collective Act of Worship Policy, the Communication with parents or carers Policy, the Intimate Care policy for Resource Base, the Relationships and Sex Education policy, the Anti Bullying policy and the Safeguarding policy.</p> <p>Governors discussed the policies, these documents had been provided prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Q - AP asked if there will be training on the use of communications within the Bromcom process?</p> <p>A - This will be delivered in the next term with use of the app tying into the training package.</p> <p>All policies were reviewed and approved.</p>	All
		Governor Self Review of Impact (Update Annual Report to Trust Board)	The Annual Trust Board report was discussed and is updated following each meeting. CW advised the Governors that the latest Annual Trust Board report spanned over two years, in line with other Laurus Trust schools.	
4	Governor Development	Review governor training plan – GDPR/PDC training/Ofsted training	CW advised on the current training plan and requirements for completing before next meeting.	All

5	Community Engagement	Stakeholder Engagement – Verbal Update (Staff/Parents/Students/Governors)	<p>MS asked the Governors if they had any further suggestions for community connections or if any action had been taken since our last meeting. JB advised that there needs to be an understanding of what involvement is needed and what is feasible prior to approaching connections. MS gave the Governors suggestions for which community links could be approached. This is an ongoing discussion.</p> <p>BV advised the Eco group is all set and ready to go. The paper and bottles recycled points have made a huge improvement to the schools recycling commitment.</p>	All
5	Community Engagement	Stakeholder Engagement – Verbal Update (Cont.)	<p>The Governors discussed Parents Evenings were informed that these will be a hybrid of face to face and online events. Y8 is the next cohort to have an upcoming parents evening and this will be conducted online.</p> <p>Q – SW asked if there was any feedback for preference for the parents evening being face to face or online?</p> <p>A – Anecdotal feedback from staff has been relayed. There will be a review at the end of the year to decide how these events will be held next year.</p>	
6	AOB	Food – as requested by A B prior to ACM2 meeting	<p>Q - AB asked what control have we got with Catering contractor?</p> <p>A - The catering team meet regularly so whilst there is no control over contract prices for each school, this can be brought to the attention of the central services team. The preset price was agreed across the Trust. There will be tweaking of the offer until we get it right. The Meal deal still continues and there is work on informing children to spend wisely and make better choices. Food education is important and our PSHE reflects this in the curriculum.</p> <p>Q - SW asked if the mindset of the students in relation to food choices had changed in a good way?</p> <p>A – The food on offer has a good source of variety so the students are aware and able to taste something different, with themes such as the world cup offer which is running at present, bringing about much more engagement from students.</p>	

	Meeting Dates:	Tuesday 28 th February 2023 Tuesday 27 th June 2023		All
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Impact of Meeting / Key Outcomes	
The Apertura student presentation was very well received, Governors were impressed with the students responses to their questions	
Governors were asked to incorporate a Governor link for PSHE	
All Policies were reviewed and approved	
Bromcom is proving to be a great source for data analysis for the Head of School report	
Governors to continue to suggest ways in which the school can contribute stakeholder engagement	

Meeting closed at 6.45pm