

Education Committee – Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday 1st October 2020

Meeting Venue: Via Zoom Meeting Time: 5:00pm

Governors: Louise Baxter, (LB), Committee Chair

Alison Allart, (AA)
Marilyn Benzing, (MB)
Sara McKenna, (SM)
Joyce Swann, (JS)

Ex officio: Stuart Reeves, (SRv), Head Teacher

Also in attendance:

Catherine Geldard, (DLS), Director of Lower School Jemma Graffham, (DSF), Director of Sixth Form

Dominic O'Driscoll, (AHT-SEN) Assistant HT - Director of Inclusion Danny Simmonds, (AHT-B&A), Assistant HT - Behaviour & Attendance James Towner, (AHT-A&C), Assistant HT - Assessment & Curriculum

Clerk to Governors: Julia Jenkins (JJ)

Apologies: Gabrielle Mace, (GM), Committee Vice Chair

Julian Mace, (JM), Chair of Governors

Matt West, (MW)

Education Committee – Minutes, 1st October 2020

Item	Discussion	Action
1.	 Welcome and apologies for absence Chair welcomed Governors to this 'virtual' Education Committee Meeting via Zoom and noted the apologies of JM, GM and MW. LB informed Governors that SE had offered to join the next Education Committee as it was rather low on numbers 	
2.	Declarations of Interests No declarations. Governors declared various interests in respect of their children who attend the school.	
3.	 Minutes of previous Education Committee Meeting Chair explained the minutes of the 19th March Education Committee Meeting were approved and signed off at September's FGB of 27th September. 	Clerk
4.	Chair commented that having read the papers she was satisfied that students were, on the whole, attaining very well. DLS commented that this cohort had many summer born students who were not yet developmentally ready. Classes were unbalanced this year – a result of Nursery schools not having correctly assessed or shared information. One class in particular has a student with significant special needs resulting in a significantly reduced timetable. However, when the student commences full time then this will present major issues with staffing. The students were however achieving above the National Average. KS1 Attainment and Progress Data DLS advised that outcomes were above National Average. Summer Born had found the year challenging as had the lower attainers. Governors queried whether the gender split may have impacted on outcomes as for Y2 there were twice as many females as males which could have lifted it. DLS advised Governors that Year 1 and Year 2 will be sitting a phonics test this academic year. Students who don't pass will resit in Summer. KS2 Attainment and Progress Data Again, DLS advised that outcomes were above National Average. DLS commented that the data was based on teacher assessment due to the current conditions. Chair enquired how the Primary students were coping with social interactions following a return to school. DLS reported that staff had commented that the children were not very independent and were falling out with peers however, this was normal behavior expected in September. SM also commented that students were tired but had been amazing with washing hands and keeping safe. SM said that staff had observed a massive dip in writing, capital letter formations etc. Handwriting had gone downhill and staff were implementing strategies to include extra handwriting into lessons. This dip had been observed across all primary year groups. Governors commented that this was common across schools and we had seen this situation before in our school for many cohorts. Therefore more ne	

DLS wanted Governors to note that students with significant needs are requiring more and more attention and support and trying to obtain special placements was becoming increasingly difficult. DLS explained that there were some primary children on roll for which Gildredge House may not the right environment, due to facilities and resource availability

SLT and Governors

HT Agreed with Governors that SEND provision and strategy would be a key area of focus for this year. Governors agreed to monitor this key area and support where they could.

Chair queried whether the school should be investing more in Primary for SEND facilities that would support students progressing through to secondary.

HT suggested that AHT-SEN / DLS / and Primary SENDCo meet to discuss and formulate a plan moving forward. This will include a new approach to SEND and a review of the vision.

AHT-SEN / DLS / Primary SENDCo

Chair acknowledged that it had been identified within previous monitoring visits that SEND had a steep mountain to climb and she was very complimentary of the work done to date. HT wanted it noted that SEND is a priority for the school and will be addressed as a high priority.

GCSE Data

Governors noted that the KS4 levels were low and queried the strategy to improve on these
points. AHT-A&C highlighted that over the last 3 years the growth was still increasing. The
strategy to improve had already been effected and the outcome is better than that previously.
AHT-A&C will be working with pastoral teams and Heads of English and Maths to implement
strategies to further improve.

AHT-A&C

- Governors queried KS5 data. AHT-A&C stated that the school doesn't produce KS5 data.
 Governors also asked what the Progress 8 score was. AHT-A&C pointed out that there was no Progress 8 data for this year because no exams had taken place.
- Governors commented that the data received from FFT was really easy to read.
- Chair asked what strategies were in place to support FSM and PP children? AHT-A&C said that these students are likely to be those impacted the most by COVID. SLT were in discussion in relation to the virtual learning environment and how resources could be made more readily available to these students.
- Chair enquired whether any hardware had been provided by Government. AHT-A&C commented that only six laptops had been received. In addition the school had received a catchup premium which would be used to support students in need or to purchase resources / on-line courses.
- In terms of catchup for these individuals, a focus will be on supporting them. However, AHT-A&C commented that interventions during Prep/Twilight are not possible at the present time due to the current situation regarding COVID. It was also noted that many interventions are often conducted via TEAMS which requires access to hardware.
- Chair recognised that the COVID restrictions were unlikely to be lifted before April 20/21 and that
 the school may need to consider other after school provisions so that these students could receive
 extra support. Chair reminded Governors and SLT that the extra curricular offering was a USP
 and that everyone should be thinking about a solution.
- HT highlighted that it was extremely difficult to manage the school at the moment, maintaining
 health and safety for both staff and students and that even evacuating the students at the end of
 the day was taking longer than liked.

5. **SEND**

- Governors asked what was AHT-SEN's impression of the students' welfare, mental health and pastoral needs, following a return to school after Lockdown.
- AHT-SEN responded that he was impressed with how students had returned to school and that the majority of the students were resilient and appeared to be coping well.
- AHT-B&A highlighted that there had been some students presenting themselves with issues but
 the Pastoral care in the school was such high quality that students knew who to talk to and where
 to go. HT said it was a testament to the school and parent body that students had returned strong
 and able to cope. AHT-B&A commented that the newly appointed PSAs had been invaluable and
 all round it had been a good team effort.
- AHT-SEN informed Governors that the school had invested in Lucid Lass software. This software, which is designed for students aged 11 15, offers an on-line assessment undertaken by suites of tests which assess a student's memory and attention. The outcome of the initial assessment will be discussed with parents and then parents have the option to obtain a more formal diagnosis should they wish. Information obtained from these assessments will enable teaching staff to support students struggling with literacy. Governors enquired why the school couldn't provide a formal diagnosis. AHT-SEN responded that the tests required qualified personnel and the cost to the school was likely to be prohibitive.
- The Chair suggested that the school undertake case studies and share with Governors so all can obtain a clear understanding of these students' daily experience. AHT-SEN said that this was something the SLT would discuss with a view to possibly upskilling middle leaders

AHT-SEN

6. **Headteacher's Report**

Behaviour & Transition

HT commented that this has already been covered within these Minutes. AHT-B&A
contributed that the Internal and External Y7 had blended well with existing students being
helpful and supportive to new colleagues.

Safeguarding

 HT wanted Governors to note that the papers submitted were a summary of information which has already been presented to Governors.

Sixth Form Working Group

- HT highlighted that the focus on Sixth Form was ideally to attract bigger numbers so that the Sixth Form could operate totally independently of the Primary and Secondary Phase.
- SE, GF, SM, and MB all volunteered as members of the Group with GM who volunteered as Chair.
- HT said he had a list of ideas which would need costing and listing in order of priority.
- MB mentioned that 'T' levels were to be introduced in 2020. Governors asked for a more indepth explanation of a 'T' level and DSF said that these were a vocational qualification with the same value as an 'A' Level. DSF acknowledged that there may be scope for Gildredge House to offer 'T' levels in some faculties.

Governors queried whether the school received a Destinations Report for Y11 and Y13 student leavers? DSF advised Governors that the Destination Reports were about to be published and she would be happy to share with Governors at next meeting.

HT

DSF

7.	Virtual Open Evening	
	 Via Teams, HT accessed GH Website and shared link to the Virtual Open Evening. In addition to the virtual presentations on the Website, from both students and teachers, the school was offering four Webinar Events which were taking place during w/c 5th October. Bookings were low but HT attributed this to parents being totally satisfied with the information offered via the Website. Chair asked whether any feedback had been received from parents of current Y6 cohort? HT said that he had received a few queries from parents enquiring as to whether they needed to apply for a Y7 place. Chair made a suggestion that perhaps current Y6 parents should be invited to the HT presentations. Chair asked how many Y6 students were lost to other schools in the last academic year. HT responded with three – one to a local school, one to a school of special needs and one to a specialist boarding school. 	нт
8.	Monitoring	
	 MB talked Governors through her Careers monitoring visit. Governors queried how the school was supporting Careers during COVID-19. DSF commented that it was extremely difficult to undertake interviews with social distancing in place. Chair offered interview practice as did MB who was also keen to become involved with virtual work experience. DSF thanked Governors for their support. 	
9.	Policies Reasonable Force Policy	
	 Agreed – HT wanted it noted to Governors that this Policy was not a responsibility of the Governing Board but, due to its sensitive content, he had wanted to share this Policy with Governors. 	
10.	Any other urgent business None	
12.	Confirmation of future meeting dates: • Date of next meeting – 10 th December 2020 Enterprise Committee	Clerk
13.	Meeting Closed • Chair closed the meeting at 6.35pm	