

Minutes of Curriculum Meeting

Date	7 th November 2016
Location	Kings Room - Kings Langley School
Attending	Dawn Helfgott (DH) - Chair, Mark Hutchings (MH), Frances Stickley (FS), Gary Lewis (GL), Rosemary Inskipp (RI), Andrew Hicks (AH) and Fiona Winfield (FW) - in attendance
Apologies	Clare Carpentier, Ruth Jennings, Helen Young, Melusi Moyo.

		Action by
1.	Welcome The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and indicated that the agenda consisted of a series of updates from the Headteacher regarding curriculum matters	DH
2.	To consider and if approved consent to apologies for absence All apologies received and authorised.	DH
3.	Notice of any Conflict from the Agenda None declared	DH
4.	To agree and sign the minutes of the last meeting Minutes were approved although it was noted that there is considerable difficulties in accessing "Moodle" at this time in order to view papers. It was considered that any matters arising would be dealt with during the meeting	DH
5.	Updates and reports The Headteacher provided a number of updates and reports listed below. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further information has been published by the DfE concerning GCSE performance from last summer and providing some opportunities to compare our performance with other schools (both nationally and locally). As stated in an earlier meeting, our results at KS4 were remarkably similar to 2015 with progress in some areas, such as mathematics and science and with disappointment in others, for example Geography and Computer Studies. The latest (unvalidated) figure for "progress 8" indicates that our performance was exactly in line with national expectations at 0.00. However, it was noted that with only a few exceptions, most other similar schools had a negative progress 8 figure. Governors were interested as to why there had been a fall since last year when our headline results seemed strong. Various possible reasons were discussed and it is likely that as more schools ensure that their students access the 8 GCSE "bucket" subjects, competition becomes stiffer. Academically selective schools have generally performed well on these new and untried performance measures, assumedly as they have very few students who fail to sit the full number of 8 GCSEs which contribute to the attainment and performance 8 calculations. Further discussions took place around the relatively poor performance of boys (specifically those of middle ability) and the school will report back at further meetings, plans to correct such under performance going forward. Particularly frustrating as boys in 2015 performed exceptionally well and significantly above expectations and national averages. However, the governors were pleased that the higher ability cohort had performed well and "significantly above expectations" as comments in the previous Ofsted report suggested that the school needed to do more to challenge this group of students. • Much discussion ensued on the difficulties governors were going to have assimilating the new data and its meaning in terms of monitoring school performance and it was confirmed that FW would be organising a full training session at the next full governors' meeting in December 2016. • GL confirmed that he had met with the majority of subject leaders in order to review their 	GL

	<p>analysis of examination data and more specifically, to ensure that action plans were put in place that would robustly challenge any specific areas of under-performance. GL presented one of the comprehensive analysis and forward planning documents produced by a department which represented the level of scrutiny and response expected. For example, general analysis had shown that boys were not planning their time sufficiently carefully when answering many exam questions and subject areas were developing a range of interventions to challenge this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Focus evenings were going well and general feedback suggested that these specifically targeted evenings were being well received. For example, parents of students in the lower school were invited personally to an evening to help them improve their child's handwriting skills (thanks to RJ and Rebecca Fisher who ran the evening). The evening was a great success even though the eventual turnout was very disappointing. Some 250 parents have signed up for the GCSE study and revision session to be led by RJ on the evening of 9th November 2016. • Character Programme - 13 sixth formers have been appointed as student leaders. They were required to apply in writing detailing how they were able to meet the published person specification. Subject leaders will be appointed over the next 2 weeks. Again, it was disappointing to note that very few boys were able to meet the appropriate deadlines. • Show my Homework - GL and FW outlined the recently launched on-line system for setting and managing homework. Although it is early days and the staff are being provided with regular training we are hopeful that this system will eliminate many difficulties some children have with recording and managing homework. Similarly, parents will now be able to view the homework that their children have been set and provide more targeted support and if necessary, challenge! 	
6.	<p>Developments in Diversity Provision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following on from previous meetings, GL provided governors with an update on the school's work in promoting diversity within the school. • The school has completed a detailed audit of provision across the curriculum and in all other areas of school life. The audit form (provided by Herts) was specific in its requirements and it is very reassuring that we were "green" in most areas. My thanks to Ruth Jennings, Melusi Moyo and John Davies for their work in completing this audit. • Although work is still being completed on examination analysis, it appears that once again BME students have done very well in the recent public examinations, maintaining the above national average and above expectation performance that has generally been the case over the past 6 years. • Noah Kaindama (County Advisor) will be visiting on the 15th November to consider our audit and meet with a selection of BME staff and students. 	
7.	<p>Pupil Premium Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although Helen Pocklington (HP) provided a detailed report in July, it is apparent that once again, PP and vulnerable children have not performed well in last summer's examinations. However, although this is very disappointing considering the amount of work and resources invested over previous months, it does appear that the clear reason for under achievement lies in very poor attendance levels for these children. The school will outline further actions going forward to address this problem. The governors expressed their disappointment at the PP outcomes and look forward to seeing some progress measures/impact statements in forthcoming meetings. 	GL/HP
8.	<p>Items for Next Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up to training for performance 8 and other data • Review of RAISEonline data and information • Ruth Jennings to provide an update on the poorly functioning "moodle" system. 	GL FW RJ