

ACADEMY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Tuesday 22nd March 2022
 Time: 6.00pm – 8.00pm
 Venue: Altius, CHHS

Clerk: A Robertson
 Present: A Jarvis, D Brown, P Benton, C Jamison, M Kelly, C Rath, W Searle, J Peet
 In Attendance: L Brooks, H Eckhardt, A Ballard

Action	Initials
Clerk to update the Register of Business Interests with M Kelly's amendment.	AR
Consider if there is something the governors can do to focus subjects towards minority sexes.	All
Provide thoughts on next steps for the committee to be included in the Annual Report	All

Agenda – Part 1			
Category	Item	Notes	Action
Pre-Meeting Training	Pastoral Support	W Searle delivered training to the governors on the various areas of pastoral support available to students, both internally and externally, and how students are made aware of the provision offered. She talked about the Student Support Referral Group which meets monthly to discuss and decide levels of support required by particular students. This training has been delivered to staff across the Trust in more detail.	
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Governance Arrangements	Apologies	I Castledine sent his apologies to the Committee.	
	AOB items	No other items of business were raised.	
	Student Representation – Competition & Physical Endeavour	Elena Asgill-Whalley and Rhys Collister spoke to the Committee of their experience so far in being part of the sporting Elite Pathway being run in partnership with Loughborough University. They discussed their hopes and ambitions for their futures in their chosen sports and the opportunities being afforded to them by the initiative. The students talked about the excellent facilities at the university and the help they were receiving in balancing their studies with training, nutrition, planning and developing good mind-sets for careers in sport.	

			<p>Q. AJ – What subjects do you hope to study at A Level? A. RC – PE, Biology, Psychology</p> <p>Q. DB – How do you feel about balancing your studies with your sports? A. RC – I do cricket training for around six hours a week so it’s not too bad. A. EA-W – Tennis training takes a lot of my time so it was hard not seeing friends and getting my homework done on time, but I am better able to plan now.</p> <p>Q. CJ – When can you join the Elite Pathway? What is the process? A. AB – Parents submitted applications at the start of the academic year to express an interest. Ed Haslam filtered through them with a ranking process.</p> <p>Q. PB – Do you have a range of different sports represented, like fencing? A. AB – Yes there is a wide range including rugby, cricket, football, swimming, boxing, diving, dance and athletics.</p> <p>Q. AJ – Is there access to financial support from the school for students? A. HE – Not currently, but school did help a runner recently, so it can be done on an ad hoc basis.</p> <p>Q. AJ – Could school have done more for you with this or anything better? A. AE-W – I wish it had started sooner but I hope to go on to CHSF so hopefully I can continue with the programme for another couple of years. A. AB – Providing this sort of initiative for our students puts us on a more level playing field with private schools. We are the only school/Trust in the country to be in a partnership like this with Loughborough University. HE mentioned supporting another Sixth Form student in 2020 gain a scholarship to a US college and spoke about the system, requirements and expectations of studying in America on a sports scholarship.</p> <p>Q. CJ – What about the students who miss out getting onto the Elite programme? A. LB – There will be opportunities to apply again and some students may not need the same level of support from this.</p>	
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	1.1 Register of interests	M Kelly notified the clerk of a change in his business interests.	
	1.2 Part 1 Minutes	Part 1 of the minutes from ACM2 were approved by the committee. The Chair reported that an interesting meeting had taken place with Mike Stewart, Trust Director of IT, to review the Risk Assessment and ensure that IT was included.	
	1.3 Membership: Recruitment Update/Succession Planning	Governor links to the Cornerstones were confirmed to be underway and would be ongoing. Updates would be given when appropriate.	
	1.4 Trust Board Update	The Committee noted the Trust Board Updates but no comments were made.	

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2	School Performance & Accountability	2.1 Headteacher's Report	<p>Academic Aspiration: The Head of School referred to the Academy Committee Report Spring 2022 and the academic aspirations for Years 9, 11 and 13. The main thing to report was that exams are going ahead which had previously seemed unlikely. We have been preparing the students for exams all along so we feel they are in a good place; better than some schools which had been banking on teacher assessments. Although the students aren't where we would like them to be, they will be in a good place by exam time, particularly in comparison to the rest of the country, so we are quietly confident.</p> <p>Q. AJ – Are the student being assessed in the same way they would always have been, i.e. mock exams? A. DB – Yes. We tried to run exams in the summer but it didn't work due to covid and numbers, so we have run a full series of mock exams in December and February under exam conditions. Therefore, we have quite strong data.</p> <p>Q. PB – Will they publish progress 8 results? A. DB – Yes, but not KS5 results (just on attainment).</p> <p>Q. MK – How are Year 11 reacting? A. JP – It's been a hard year for them but we're telling them they can do it. Pre-Christmas they felt very low so setting mocks has boosted them. They have come a long way but there is still a long way to go. Revision sessions are being laid on for them.</p> <p>Q. CJ – Having done extra mocks this year, will you do so again? A. It gave us the tools to look at who has not done so well. We ran a student survey to get feedback which was overwhelmingly positive and it allows us to tailor revision sessions accordingly.</p> <p>DB and LB advised that there was no data yet for Year 13 as they have only just sat their mocks. The Year 9 language mocks were really positive and CHHS did really well over all the Trust schools. The data is not as good as 2019 but looks better over other schools. Students are working hard and we are optimistic.</p> <p>Attendance: JP spoke about how covid and lockdown has affected attendance. It is currently at 93% where previously it had been very high at 97%. The national average is 83% so we are still well above that but lower than we'd like. JP also advised the committee of how we are dealing with the low attendance with conversations with Form</p>	
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		<p>Tutors and Heads of Year.</p> <p>HE mentioned that at the end of the summer there were a lot of cases in Sixth Form which was very demanding but they found students accessed online learning because they could rather than coming in.</p> <p>Q. PB – What is the percentage of staff attendance? A. JP – Staff attendance has taken a hit with approximately 4 or 5 members of staff off at any one time with covid (often due to children being off).</p> <p>Q. AJ – Do you think the line will change nationally due to ongoing covid? A. Yes, we need a reset. There is no pattern to who is off but we are checking that no one is falling through the gaps as part of our safeguarding.</p> <p>Exclusions/Suspension: AB referred to the report and the new format from using Pastoral Genie. Permanent exclusions are low and lower than national figures (partly due to not being in). The BLIP programme is proving very positive.</p> <p>Q. AJ – Do you have an overview of behaviour and trends? A. AB – Yes, we review it monthly in our leadership meetings. Year 9s are not well behaved, whereas Year 7s behave the best, as you would expect. The majority of behaviour issues are around lates and no PP& R, as well as disruption to learning. We are responding to this with more walkabouts.</p> <p>Verbal</p>	
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		2.2 Student A Level Choices by Gender	<p>HE spoke about the report but advised that the gender splits as we're looking at it may not be representative of how certain students may feel they present. More girls sat A Levels last year which is similar to the national picture.</p> <p>Chemistry is one subject where we have more girls studying it than boys where historically it would be the reverse or at least an even split.</p> <p>Currently we have 77 girls and 76 boys in Year 13 and 85 girls and 70 boys in Year 12.</p> <p>LB gave feedback from staff with their input on gender splits across their subjects, including PE, English, Maths and DT.</p> <p>AJ asked whether it is worth focusing on a subject area to target specifically towards men or women, commenting that problems in the outside world are only getting input from 52% of the population. PB added that subject combinations were very important. HE advised that Helen Dangerfield has spoken to Year 11s about subject combinations and we have identified that it is an area we need to upskill staff in.</p>	
		Policies	The governors were informed that the uniform policy was being reviewed to include donated and second-hand uniform availability and would be presented at ACM4 for review.	
3	Governor Monitoring	3.1 Staff governor roles and responsibilities	The staff governor roles and responsibilities document was noted.	
		3.2 Trustee & Governor Visits Protocol	The draft version of the Trustee & Governor Visits Protocol was shared with the governors to note and be aware of for times when they come in to visit school.	
		3.3 CHHS AC Annual Report	The Chair asked the committee to share thoughts on what areas they feel they should focus on going forward e.g. recovery and performance post pandemic, attendance, behaviour.	
4	Governor Development	Training Governor Verbal Update	CJ completed the PDC training with Stockport.	

5	Community Engagement	Governor Verbal Update	The Chair gave an update on how well the school production of <i>Little Shop of Horrors</i> went and the excellent performances given by the students. He commented on the positive feedback from the students themselves and the high regard they had for the teachers and all the hard work they put in.	
	AOB	Ukraine conflict	<p>Q. CJ – How are the students were affected by the conflict in Ukraine? A. The main impact will be financial and will have a knock-on effect on FSMs, trips and possibly seeing refugees coming into the school. Information on the conflict has been shared during Cornerstone Friday and Dr Dickins will be giving a Q & A session.</p> <p>Q. AJ – Do we have any Eastern European students? A. A few, but probably more Middle Eastern students e.g. Syrian.</p>	
	Meeting Dates:	Summer 28.06.2022	The next meeting date was noted.	

Agenda – Part 2

The press and members of the public to be excluded from the meeting at this point under 2003 (school governance procedures) (education) regulations because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Category	Item	Notes	Action
1	Staff	Recruitment	
		We have been recruiting for lots of teaching positions with just Maths, RS and part-time Music teacher to appoint still. Support staff recruitment will happen after Easter. A couple of SEN staff are moving to other school.	
2	AOB		
		No other business was raised.	

Impact of Meeting / Key Outcomes

Pastoral Support training was delivered to the governors.
Students from the Elite Pathway spoke to the committee about the programme.
Academic Aspiration was discussed in for the Year 9s, 11s and 13s with the upcoming exam season and in view of the last couple of years of the pandemic.
Thought was given to the gender split in subjects at A Level.



Adrian Jarvis
Chair of Governors

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