

The Heath Governing Body

Meeting	FGB Part 1 Minutes (Meeting 2 Quality of Education)
Date	Thursday, 9 th December 2021 at 5 pm

<u>Present:</u> Mrs Ainsworth, Mrs Billingsley, Mr P Broderick, Mrs Hayes, Mrs Lovell-Kennedy, Mr Mansfield, Mrs Parry, Miss Snelson, Mrs Ward Mrs McNamee, Head of School; Mr Jardine, Executive Principal; Mr Dance, Vice Principal, Mrs Newcombe and Mrs Pulman, Assistant Principals, Ms Gwynn, SENDCO		<u>Apologies:</u> Mrs Hodgson, Mrs Rock, Mr S Byrne, Vice Principal		Non- attender: Mrs Smith	Clerk: Marie Wadsworth	
Items	Discussion	Action	Who	When	Accountability – key questions to be asked at next FGB meeting	Impact
Declaration of Personal or business interests	No changes to note at this time.					
Confirmation that the meeting is quorate	Chair confirmed the meeting was quorate.					
Board Membership Matters	Chair welcomed Mrs Lovell-Kennedy to the meeting and advised that Mrs Bamber had resigned from the Governing Board on 2.12.21	Trust informed of resignation	Clerk	Asap		Board now has one Trust appointed governor vacancy
SEND Provision Update – D Gwynn (postponed from previous meeting)	DG referred to the snapshot of GCSE TAG results from August 21 previously issued to governors in advance of the meeting (copy on file). The data is from Term 3, last year’s Year 11. There hasn’t been a data drop this academic year. Governors noted that SEND students made progress between January and June. Progression across all subjects was similar for SEND and non-SEND students. SEND students made over a full grade of progress in Maths between Jan and June. Boys with SEND outperform girls with SEND in all areas. Students with SEND who are not PP outperform students with SEND who are also PP.					

	<p>Students with SEND who have less than 85% attendance achieved over a grade less than students with SEND who had attendance above 85%. If students with SEND who have less than 85% attendance are taken out of the SEND cohort, the gap between SEND and non-SEND students is reduced by about half a grade. Interventions Sept -Dec 2021 - Reading: 21 students across year 7 and 8 twice a week for half an hour at a time. Spelling: 15 students across year 7 and 8 twice a week for half an hour at a time. Numeracy: 12 students across year 7 and 8 twice a week for half an hour at a time. Nurturing: 17 students across year 7 and 8 once a week for half an hour at a time. Social skills: 2 students once a week for half an hour at a time. Handwriting: 10 students across year 7 and 8 once a week for half an hour at a time. One to one counselling: 17 students at least once a fortnight for an hour at a time. We have also had a number of students accessing support from outside agencies, including NGage and the Bridge outreach. The Cloud (CSI) accommodates up to 30 students at break and dinnertime as well as a number of students throughout the day for a variety of reasons. Intervention sessions have been missed due to staff and student absence, so groups have been kept for the full term rather than swapping at half term. Once they finish at the end of this term, there will be quantative data to show the impact of the sessions.</p> <p>Q: How big are the social skills and nurturing groups? A: nurture groups up to 6 and Social skills up to 4. Students won't want to talk in larger groups. Q: Do you have sufficient staffing to cope with the number of students in Y7. A: Yes, we have just recruited another 2 staff so have a net gain of 3.</p> <p>Vice Chair expressed concern regarding the end of the inclusion focus group and asked could it potentially be reinstated. The Executive Principal confirmed there was no issue having a focus group but the information discussed there needs to be shared with the LGB and this is why one LGB meeting per term has been set aside for inclusion to ensure there is an understanding by the entire governing board of the complexities of inclusion and staff will attend the LGB and report at that meeting. Q: Can we have a Young Carers' Report? A: Asst SENDCO was asked for this but is a bit stretched at the moment.</p> <p>Governors noted that Helen McGarry from the Trust has offered her support with general assessment and will be coming back in January looking at Y7 and digging deeper from CAT scores. DG left at 5.40 pm.</p>					
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<p>Pupil Premium Provision update – Helen Newcombe (postponed from previous meeting)</p>	<p>Governors had been provided with the Pupil Premium Strategy Statement in advance of the meeting (copy on file). This document detailed the school’s use of Pupil Premium (and recovery premium for the 2021 to 2022 academic year) funding to help improve the attainment of The Heath’s disadvantaged students. It outlines our PP strategy, how the school intends to spend the funding in this academic year and the effect that last year’s spending of PP had within The Heath School.</p> <p>Q: Where is the impact recorded? A: There isn’t a section for that.</p> <p>Q: Re the £44k carry forward of PP funding from previous years, I would have thought it would have been spent on that year’s PP child; why is there a carry forward? A: this is due to the lockdown but there were also some costs at that time.</p> <p>Q: I’m concerned that there is a carry forward of over £40k, someone needs to be on their toes – children are missing out on school trips, social trips; I understand why this hasn’t happened over the last 18 months but shouldn’t we be more proactive and be looking at something more for these children? A: We have been creative; with no live theatre we have bought in a virtual live recording; we have spent money but not necessarily the same way as prior to the pandemic. We have appointed 2 Learning Mentors and an Academic Mentor.</p> <p>Q: is all the catch up money spent? A: that is all together in the main PP budget.</p> <p>Mrs Newcombe advised there was nothing new to report regarding Safeguarding. She thanked the Vice Chair and Ms Scott who assisted in the completion of the recent safeguarding audit. She advised the school had purchased National Online Safeguarding which allows staff to be able to complete the sexual violence and sexual harassment training on line and all staff have been requested to undertake the online Prevent training.</p> <p>Q: when will we get the results of the safeguarding audit back? A: HN will go through the audit with the governor critical friend.</p> <p>Q: Has the PP mid-year review taken place? A: Yes.</p> <p>Q: How are you evidencing what you have spent and the impact it has had. A: everything in place is recorded by the Education Evaluation Fund. Intervention mid-point assessments will have a data drop. Starting point is the GL assessment and PASS assessment and using sec tool</p>					
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	<p>Mr Broderick advised that the NTP recently announced the ISO block has been removed and can now be doubled up, the limitation has been removed.</p> <p>Mrs Newcombe was thanked for her update and left the meeting at 5.40 pm.</p>					
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<p>Behaviour & Attendance update – Ric Dance</p>	<p>Mr Dance had provided governors with a whole school attendance update (copy on file). Attendance is currently 91.1%, the whole school figure last year was 94.1%. Governors should take into account that in September last year an isolation X code was in use, however this year if isolating with Covid it is categorised and recorded as an illness absence. To date since September just over 300 students have tested positive for CV19. Covid and coding are the reasons for the drop in Y7 attendance. National figure is 87.5% as at 25.11.21 so although we're not pleased with our current lower figure it is at least remaining higher than national. Chair asked if governors had any questions on attendance, they did not.</p> <p>Mr Dance then reported on suspensions (formerly known as exclusions). Figure was at 25 when the report was prepared however there are 3 Y8 students who have had 8 suspensions each. One is a LAC student who has been to two other schools but not settled in either, was moved to The Heath and not settled here and has truanted and taken other students with her into an alliance of three and 8 of the 25 suspensions are attributed to these Y9 girls. The Y9 student will be going on a placement to The Bridge and one student is going to The Grange to try and break the pattern, the third is remaining at The Heath. RD was disappointed to see 3 suspensions for Y7 students however it's setting the tone for students and parents and they were all warranted.</p> <p>Q: with regard to Y7 students, was there any forewarning from their Primary Schools? A: yes, we do get that but ironically not for these three students, these have been silly things that aren't acceptable; new issues arise all of the time such as Tik Tok and vaping etc.</p> <p>Q: have we had any 'ghost' children who have disappeared after lockdown. A: I reported at the last meeting that electively home educations students have to go through a lengthy process and we are the first to discourage it and it doesn't necessarily give the best education outcomes. We don't have any ghost students but are actively trying to engage with poor attenders.</p>					
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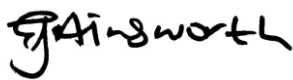
<p>Quality of Education – Teaching and Learning – Mrs Pulman</p>	<p>Mrs Pulman referred to a PowerPoint issued to governors in advance of the meeting (copy on file). She advised that all departments have been seen before Christmas. Learning walk weeks have been calendared and subjects have been informed if it is their learning walk in advance (Friday 10 days before). The focus of the first round of learning walks was whole school priorities and new documents have been used in line with them. The order of the second round of learning walks will depend on the outcomes of the first learning walk and individual departmental foci agreed with the Head of Department or Faculty and will be discussed after the first learning walk to support individual departmental needs. All calendared learning walks are to be completed by 9th May 2022 before the majority of the GCSE exams start. GRP meets with Heads of Department before the learning walk to plan and gather information to support the department. SLT members linked to the departments are involved in the learning walks and all members of staff are given an opportunity for feedback on any lessons seen and overall written feedback is shared.</p> <p>The first round of learning walks before Christmas has looked at whole school priorities: are pupils being given opportunities to revisit prior learning in lessons? (This has included looking at updated departmental planning and Curriculum Maps that have been designed to give pupils opportunities for Covid catch up and a focus on the new Year 9 curriculum). Is marking and feedback leading to progress in lessons and across schemes for learning? Is teaching supporting different groups of pupils are leading to progress of all pupils in the classroom with a key focus on PP, Boys, SEN? Is reading being promoted in lessons? Are pupils taking pride in their work?</p> <p>From the whole round of learning walks (English to be completed next week), the following key positives observed are: staff are using appropriate retrieval activities across the school to support pupils' learning. Staff are following curriculum maps which is ensuring fluency and coherence across departments. Staff are strong classroom managers, behaviour across the school was a strength. There is a positive atmosphere in all lessons, pupils were keen to get involved, some strong questioning seen to extend pupils' answers and understanding. There is some great diagnostic marking where teachers are giving pupils clear areas to improve and some really positive modelling seen that develops pupil independence and understanding. This was especially clear in maths and science where they have been working with the MAT focusing on modelling.</p>					
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	<p>Areas of focus: in some classes a small number of enthusiastic pupils dominate responses and this allows quieter members of the class to sit back, this allowed for some passive learning, more directed questioning is needed to combat this. We need to continue to develop more whole school reading, as reading in lessons is varied across faculties.</p> <p>Homework needs to be set consistently and always uploaded onto class charts. Modelling could be used more consistently whole school to develop understanding and independence. Pupils' responses to teacher feedback are inconsistent. Marking is not always resulting in pupils developing their work. Teachers need make their expected outcomes in lessons explicit to pupils to enhance engagement.</p> <p>The next round of learning walks to focus on individual departmental priorities discussed with the Head of Department. New Head of School to be involved in the next round of learning walks. CPD has been held on 8th November 2021 looking at SEND and pupil voice needs to be gathered to support whole school improvement. CPD planned for Jan 2022 to look at best practice from the learning walks. This will be focused on what a successful lesson looks like: Climate, Planning and Feedback. CPD planned in 2022 to roll out MAT work on modelling. Some staff have follow up observations after the learning walk. This will involve support with planning and delivery of lesson to show good practice.</p> <p>Q: How would you describe what you have seen? A: I've seen a lot of good practice, some not at the standards we would expect but nothing we weren't already aware of – Covid has had an impact but general practice, standards and atmosphere are good; just a few very small tweaks will make a difference.</p> <p>GRP advised staff will be paired up to share good practice. Some areas which have caused concern in the past have showed progress e.g. Maths has had a change of leadership and there has been a significant impact on students' behaviour and learning. Staff will be given the opportunity to learn from each other.</p> <p>Q: do you include supply agency staff in agency walks? A: a long term supply teacher, maternity cover for example would be seen but not single day agency staff.</p> <p>Q: Do Heads of Faculty attend learning walks? A: yes, they do.</p> <p>GRP stated that some Early Career Teachers' (ECT) modelling is phenomenal and some of the more mature staff would benefit from observing them.</p>					
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	<p>Q: has there been a problem with staff who started during lockdown? A: We have a few new staff in English so we will know more next week when we complete the English learning walk. GRP was thanked for her report and left the meeting at 5.50 pm.</p>					
Part 1 minutes of LGB meeting 13.10.21	Accepted as true record with nil matters arising.					
LGB meeting and link review	Chair outlined the format for LGB meetings; there would no longer be an inclusion focus group meeting. The first LGB meeting of the term would focus on Inclusion and the second LGB meeting of the term would focus on the Quality of Education. Governors noted the Governor link list and that this would begin after Christmas when the new Head of School is in post.					
Principal's Report Part 1	<p>The Executive Principal had provided governors with the following documents from the Trust for their information: Academy Trust Handbook Sept 21; THFNW updated code of conduct; THFNW Scheme of Delegation, THFNW Appendix 1 High Level of Responsibility document; THFNW Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment Training Calendar; THFNW Governance Newsletter – Autumn Term 21, Char and Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between children in schools and Colleges Sept 21.</p> <p>He had provided governors with the school and Trust policies below: BTEC & vocational reasonable adjustments and special consideration policy; BTEC policy and procedures. THFNW Charging and Remissions Policy; THFNW Whistle Blowing Policy.</p> <p>Governors had received a quality of education report from Mrs Pulman earlier in the meeting and a CEIAG update for the Autumn term 2021 in advance from Mr Reay. He has worked hard to ensure our NEET figures are zero and every child has a place in FE/training. (copies on file).</p> <p>Mr Jardine(JJA) had looked in detail at the school's quality assurance process with School Improvement Partner, Neil Dyment who had worked with the Science Department re sequencing and planning. JJA advised that new Head of School, Mark Tudor will be on site again on 15.12.21 and will meet with SLT members, have lunch with the Junior Leadership team and meet with staff after school and governors at 5pm.</p> <p>Q: When will you expect the new curriculum plans to be finished? A: early next term. Mr Talbot will present at the next LGB meeting.</p>	<p>School Policies ratified.</p> <p>Letter of thanks to be sent to Mr Reay.</p> <p>Report from Neil Dyment to be given to govs when available.</p> <p>Curriculum presentation</p>	<p>LGB</p> <p>Chair</p> <p>JJA</p> <p>Mr Talbot</p>	<p>9.12.21</p> <p>Asap</p> <p>At the next LGB QofE meeting.</p> <p>Next LGB QofE meeting</p>		

	<p>Q: can we have finance report – we’ve had no information for the whole term. A: Yes, will request for the next meeting.</p> <p>Q: Has the exam board given money back? A: not as much as we thought – 30% credit for next lot of exam fees.</p> <p>Q: I was shocked at the functionally literate figure, we’re higher than average, 34% as disadvantaged and 20.8% national figure. How does that compare with other schools in our area? A: Looking at The Grange overall PP including Primary is above 60%; OBA is 50 – 60% in Runcorn the average figure is 35 – 40%. The blend we have makes the school work well. Runcorn as a whole is a deprived town.</p> <p>Q: What is The Prescott School? A: 61%.</p>	Finance report at the next LGB meeting 10.2.22	Clerk	Next LGB meeting		
Chair’s Action	<p>Chair had accepted Mrs Bamber’s resignation as a governor wef 2.12.21. DFE grant assurance doc 20/21 signed; agreed BTEC Policies & Procedures The Heath School, BTEC and Vocational Reasonable adjustments and special considerations policy. Attended Exec Principal’s appraisal meeting. On HOS interview panel; arranged welcome meeting for governors and HOS. Met with Exec Principal to discuss agenda; drafted LGB Action Plan.</p>					
Any Other Urgent Business	<p>Mrs Hayes advised she had met with Clare Hallwood from the MAT re EAL provision to ensure consistency across the trust. 3 Y10 students joined The Heath in lockdown and Mrs Hayes is in touch with the LSA in The Prescott School to share good practice. The draft policy is currently with Mrs Newcombe and will come to governors when ready.</p>					

Meeting closed 6.15 pm

Signed: 

Jane Ainsworth
Chair of Governors