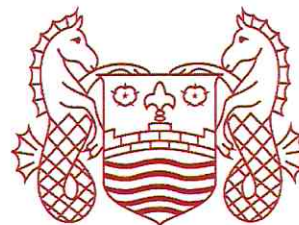


**The Netherhall School and Oakes College
Local Governing Body
Meeting Minutes**



20 October 2022 via Zoom

Governors Present

Shelley Monk (SM Chair), Chris Tooley (CT Principal), Paul Bullen-Smith (PBS), Nicky Odgers (NO), Gilles Monniaux (GM), Ellie Wood (EW) and Rachel Calder (RC)

Others Present

Tom Hunter (TH), Rob Syposz (RS), Steve Lewis (SL), Janet Goldsworthy (Clerk)

The meeting was quorate throughout.

	ITEM	ACTION
1	Acceptance of Apologies for Absence and thanks	
	<p>The meeting due to take place on 22.09.2022 had been re-arranged to take place on 20.10.2022 as there were not enough governors present to be quorate.</p> <p>Apologies were received from Rob Driscoll that were accepted by all governors present.</p> <p>Heather Edwards, a potential new Trust appointed governor, was unable to attend due to a family matter.</p>	
2	Declarations of Interest with regard to agenda items	
	There were no declarations of interest.	
3	Minutes of last meeting and matters arising	
	<p>The minutes of 14.07.2022 were subsequently approved by all governors present with the exception of the removal of the percentage signs in Item 6.</p> <p>SM had fed back to AL through KJ regarding the lack of training resources for governors. AL have signed all governors up to the NGA Learning Link resources. However, it is felt that governors need to be more outward looking in their development and need to be networking with other external organisations.</p> <p>SM had discussed with AL the responsibility and process for budget approval. AL confirmed that governors are not required to understand the fine detail behind the budget but need to see assurances and perform due diligence on the key budget themes. AL will be providing further guidance on this matter.</p>	
4	Academy Improvement Plan 2022-2023	
	<p>Governors commented that it had been helpful to see the strategic intent and the outcomes on the same page</p> <p>Q Will any of the outcomes occur earlier than planned?</p> <p>A This would be the case if it were not for the financial challenges facing the school. The forthcoming gap in finances has been flagged to AL.</p> <p>The AIP had been circulated to governors in advance of the meeting and a new section 1c4 which references student mobility has been added. New students from around the world arrive at NHL every week and mobility is unusually high at Netherhall at 25% compared to the national average of 2.5%. NHL are</p>	

	<p>looking to employ a new strategy to identify the needs and streamline processes and ongoing support for these students. As part of this Anjuli Riley has been appointed as Mobility Leader.</p> <p>Our agile improvement process involves close monitoring (externally and internally) and creates distributed leadership and capacity for the Head and Deputy Head to focus on future strategy.</p> <p>Q How have the launches for Innovate and Integrate Innov8 and Integ8 panned out and have there been any challenges? A The Innov8 curriculum has produced data showing an increase in attendance from 20% to 93% in some cases, improving behaviour and good progress in Maths and English. It is not a panacea and has not been without its challenges but the positive comparison with previous mainstream classes which are now proceeding without incident cannot be underestimated. However, it is early days. The Integ8 project involves after school courses for the community. This has been well attended so far and a NHL Experiential Week is planned.</p> <p>Q How does the Innov8 curriculum differ from the mainstream curriculum? A Maths, English and Science are taught in ability groups irrespective of age. There are 2 to 4 vocational options along with work experience placements and project challenges.</p>	
5	Pupil Premium Statement	
	This was approved by governors via email prior to the meeting.	
6	Review KS4 and KS5 exam results	
	<p>As Progress 8 figures for KS4 results have now been published (although it is not yet known how Progress 8 score has been produced), then based on this, NHL can say that their KS4 exam predictions based around FFT are different to the Progress 8 predictions. Neither NHL or AL expected Progress 8 to be at -0.001 or essentially zero but was expected to be at 0.2, prompting the question as to whether or not NHL are setting targets which are stretching enough.</p> <p>As a result, we can say that in English for example, where results appear to be low, there is uncertainty around the veracity of the data. We conclude that it isn't appropriate to have a knee jerk reaction as we have a strong English department with outstanding practitioners and results are likely to improve next year.</p> <p>Q When will the finalised Progress 8 data be published? A Mid January</p> <p>Q What themes exist across subjects? A Not many but there is very good granularity for specific areas of learning which require improvement and this is different to previous years.</p> <p>Q is it still the case that the biggest determinant of outcomes is attendance? A During the pandemic, this link was broken as some students with poor attendance achieved very well. However, we will continue to focus on attendance.</p> <p>Thanks to TH who left the meeting at 6.40pm.</p> <p>RS joined the meeting at 6.40pm.</p>	

	<p>There is a sense of relief on receipt of the KS5 exam results as this is the first set of exams taken since the pandemic and the teacher assessed grades were not only in line with the results but were an improvement on 2019 results. Although on a par with the national average, the school has performed well compared to other comprehensives. There has been a focus on creating an atmosphere of study through critical mass and although the Year 13 has been smaller, it has been a cohort well matched to the demands of KS5 study. Although 25 students were lost over the Summer, having tracked them all, they all went on to apprenticeships that were better suited to their abilities.</p> <p>Q Are we recruiting for KS5 with too low GCSE grades? A Perhaps in 2021 this was the case as teachers were generous in awarding good grades to that cohort.</p> <p>Q Do we have a figure for value added A About 0.03 which is perhaps a little disappointing as the results seemed very good.</p> <p>Q Will 2022 students increase or reduce the number of university applications? A 2022 university applications are likely to reduce as some students opt for the apprenticeship route but this is not a negative as they may be more suited to this pathway.</p>	
7	Year 12 recruitment and key priorities for Sixth Form	
	<p>Q Analysing the data for student numbers entering the Lower 6th, is there a reason why students don't choose Netherhall? A A whole section of students choose to go to Hills Road and the Sixth form cannot compete with their offer and some students 'want something new'. However, middle ability students often say 'I've enjoyed school, why do I want to change?' so some are choosing to stay – about 72% in this category. Some faculties are better at retaining their students eg History seem to be doing something different and bring applicants every year so need to analyse this further.</p> <p>Governors recognised the efforts of the school to understand the marketplace in retaining and attracting sixth form students.</p> <p>Q Will the changes to the Stagecoach routes affect recruitment to the Sixth form? A We don't think anyone will be affected but we will continue to monitor this.</p> <p>Q How did you create the future strategy for the Sixth form? A We needed to consolidate our progress as numbers have grown. We are going to be using an admissions app in order to improve the process and ensure a slick and professional service.</p> <p>Thanks to RS who left the meeting at 7.05pm.</p>	
8	Risk Register update	
	<p>The Risk Register had been circulated to governors prior to the meeting.</p> <p>The safeguarding risks have been reviewed and updated for changes in policy but risks had not deteriorated as a result.</p> <p>AL has a centralised funding model for the allocation of SEND resources but this may need to change as SEND need is affecting finances across the trust.</p>	

	<p>Q Is there a risk associated with the lack of long term financial planning on the part of AL as the lack of a spending surplus is not regarded as good financial forecasting by governors.</p> <p>A All schools are facing a financial black hole. GM would meet with CT and report back to governors preferably before the next meeting on 6th December with a visit report on the key financial challenges facing the school.</p>	<p>CT/GM</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Governance items</p>	
	<p>The Code of Conduct had been circulated to all governors prior to the meeting and was approved by all governors present. All governors to ensure that they signed the Code of Conduct online.</p> <p>SL joined the meeting at 7.40pm.</p> <p>The Safeguarding Policy had been circulated to all governors prior to the meeting and was approved by all governors present. The following was however noted:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A governor abstained from approving the Safeguarding Policy on the basis that it was too long. It was noted that the length of the policy is linked to the many statutory requirements involved. • Although SM is trained in safer recruitment, she is leaving the LGB in December and governors were encouraged to complete the training on the National College website. However, it is noted that no governor sits on a recruitment panel without a staff member who is safer recruitment trained. • SL drew attention to section 6.2 which discusses when school facilities are used by other organisations eg lettings. These requirements need to be revisited to ensure that the correct policies and procedures are being followed. <p>SL was thanked and left the meeting at 7.45pm.</p> <p>DB joined the meeting at 7.45pm. The Behaviour Policy had been circulated to all governors prior to the meeting.</p> <p>The Behaviour Policy had been updated to reflect the requirements of the STEPS training which DB had attended in the Summer Term but other than this, there are no substantive changes and the policy was approved by all governors present.</p> <p>Q How is the Hobbs Centre progressing this term?</p> <p>A There have been some bumps along the road this term. Four students are attending, two of whom are working well. The remaining students are less well engaged in spite of the efforts of the excellent HLTA involved.</p> <p>DB left the meeting at 7.55pm.</p> <p>Q What is the Tranquility app?</p> <p>A It is an app being trialled at NHL by AL which intends to collect data regarding student experiences in the school community, how they are feeling and issues arising which can then be used to adapt PHSE programmes and assemblies to better support students and target specific areas for their support.</p> <p>Q What is a Mobility co-ordinator?</p> <p>A This is a new post aiming to develop and monitor the environment and curriculum for students who are mobile to track and monitor interventions and assess their progress.</p>	<p>ALL</p>

	<p>The Health and Safety Policy had been circulated to all governors ahead of the meeting. It is a centralised policy requiring no changes and was approved by all governors present.</p> <p>Link Governors were agreed as follows:-</p> <p>NO – SEND</p> <p>PBS – Pupil Premium</p> <p>EW – Careers</p> <p>GM – Finance</p> <p>Safeguarding governor tbc</p> <p>Can all link governors be prepared to feedback at next LGB as to next steps.</p> <p>Many thanks to RC who is leaving the LGB to pursue other projects. Her commitment and expertise will be missed. RC thanked governors for their support and offered to complete a handover with the new safeguarding governor.</p> <p>AL has reserves in a central pot which will be used to support the cost of energy across the trust. Next agenda – financial challenges</p> <p>The caretakers house is likely to sell for around £500k. AL has agreed funds can be used for capital only and will fund refurbishment of the science laboratories.</p> <p>Governor recruitment has been proceeding and there are 4 expressions of interest from parents. An online Q and A clinic with SM, NO and PBS will take place on 31st October. A letter to staff will also go out soon requesting expressions of interest in the staff governor role. Information is also going out regarding interest in the trust appointed positions. Up to 14 governors are permitted on the LGB but parents must not make up more than half of the total number of governors.</p> <p>SM, NO and PBS have met regarding handover of the chair's role.</p> <p>SM will send out any other governance updates via email.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>RC</p> <p>GM</p> <p>SM</p>
10	AOB	
	None	
11	Date and time of next meeting	
	LGB – 6 th December 2022 6 – 8pm via Zoom The meeting closed at 8.27pm.	

Items for Future Meetings	
Meeting	Item
LGB	Link governors to feedback on next steps for their subject area Financial challenges facing NHL

Chair's signature.....

Action Log			
ITEM	ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBILITY
8	Visit report on key financial challenges facing the school	November 2022	GM
9	Sign off Code of Conduct and other required policies	December 2022	ALL
9	Handover with new safeguarding governor	December 2022	RC/?
9	Email out any further governance updates	November 2022	SM

Rolling Action Log			
ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBILITY	UPDATE
Check with RGL that SEND policy and SEND statement have been reviewed	December 2022	NO	Outstanding - awaiting response from NO
Produce Register of Business Interests	July 2022	JG	Completed September 2022
Feed back to AL forums about quality of AL central policies	Next forum	SM/JG	Completed September 2022
Feedback to KJ lack of training resources	Autumn 2022	SM	Completed September 2022
Send out Learning Link details	September 2022	JG	Completed September 2022
Check access to The National College	September 2022	JG	Outstanding – awaiting response
Clarify impact of AIP	July 2022	CT	Completed September 2022
Consider how to share AL governance forum information	Autumn 2022	SM	Completed September 2022
Confirm with AL responsibility for budget approval	July 2022	SM	Completed September 2022
Complete skills audit	July 2022	ALL	Completed September 2022
Circulate dates of next years' meetings once confirmed by SM	September 2022	JG	Completed September 2022

Chair's signature.....

Date.....21/2/23