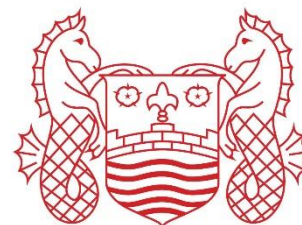


The Netherhall School and Oakes College Local Governing Body Meeting Minutes



04 October 2023 in IT Boardroom 6pm

Governors present

Paul Bullen-Smith (PBS Co Chair), George Bucknall (GB), Noah Crew-Gee (NCG), Ellie Wood (EW), Claire Hunter (CH), Yair Doza (YD), Peter Monteath (PM), and Michael Tamvakis (MT), Chris Tooley (Principal)

Others Present

Rob Syposz (RS), Janet Goldsworthy (Clerk)

The meeting was quorate throughout.

	ITEM	ACTION
1	Acceptance of Apologies for Absence N Odgers (previous engagement), H Edwards (annual conference), E Winchester (prior engagement)	
2	Declarations of Interest with regard to agenda items None and no changes.	
3.	Agree minutes of last meeting and matters arising not on this agenda The minutes of 28.09.2023 were approved with no amendments.	
4.	Principal's report including review of key risks Key points of note:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school continues to grow from 1182 (September 2022) to 1268 (September 2023), largely due to the increase in Year 7 and 300 students now in the Sixth Form. Each year group is almost full and there is a waiting list in all year groups. There will be a further form of entry into Year 7 in September 2024. This is all positive for the school and future funding. • The number of exclusions is falling and there have been only 2 so far this year. This is due to the hard work of the staff which is having an impact. • There are 3 key risks causing an issue: recruitment, finances and behaviour. <p>Staffing: only one internal applicant so far for the Head of English. The school is advertising for 2 posts in Health and Social Care, Deputy Manager for D of E and a SIMS Manager.</p> <p>Finances: the financial position is positive over the next few years. However, threats do exist – agency staff costs, cost of living and inflation and increasing EHCPs. AL's broader financial position is also less strong as utility costs and inflation have resulted in a reduction in reserves from £3m to £1.5m. All schools have been requested to make costs savings totalling £1.25m and schools in surplus may be required to support schools in deficit.</p> <p>Behaviour: this is a national concern and although NHL are making progress, it remains a concern.</p> <p>Q What would happen if a MAT runs out of money? A The DfE would ask another MAT to take on the MAT in deficit.</p> <p>Q Are the issues relating to behaviour related to the family causing concerns last year?</p>	

	<p>A No not specifically. Capacity at faculty level has been increased to handle behaviour issues and specific interventions have had more success at this level.</p> <p>Q Are the 2 new SENDCOs completing the SENDCO qualification?</p> <p>A Yes</p> <p>Q Is the number of SEND pupils increasing?</p> <p>A Yes there have been instances in Year 7 and at Oakes where the need for SEND is not disclosed on application but only on acceptance of a place.</p>	
5.	Student achievement and outcomes	
	<p>Key points of note for Oakes College:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progression in 2023 can be compared most easily with progression in 2019. • The cohort for 2023 has been challenging. • FSM, PP and SEND pupils performed well. • The school needs to ensure that this support is replicated across the school. • It is clear that in order to perform well, a cohort requires a critical mass of pupils who are conscientious and want to do well. • In terms of sixth form, all students except 4, were offered their first choice at college/university, some students who were keen to start work changed their minds and wanted to go to university. • Feedback from first year university students confirms that they feel well prepared. <p>Q Would it be an idea for some students in Years 9, 10 and 12 to talk to apprentices?</p> <p>A Yes – good idea!</p> <p>Q Is there a reason that Human Sciences performed well but core subjects not as well?</p> <p>A Human Sciences have more critical mass whereas perhaps the cohorts in the core subjects are not large enough.</p> <p>Key points of note for GCSEs:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In spite of the national picture of a reduction in achievement, NHL had their best year ver which is very positive. • The FFT value was 0.26. • Highlights were added value of 0.5 in Maths, PP pupils performing well and Hobbs and Alvin students all achieving well. • Graphic Design and Health and Social Care underperformed and unusually, Drama results had negative value added. 	
6.	Stakeholder review	
	<p>Results from the student survey were shared with governors in a report which was distributed prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Q What are the numbers in brackets?</p> <p>A The numbers in brackets exclude the answer 'don't know'</p> <p>Q It appears that 35% of pupils have not engaged in extra-curricular activities. Are there any further details on these students?</p> <p>A Further analysis would be required.</p> <p>Q Could parents offer to run a club?</p> <p>A This is a possibility but any parent would require a DBS check and a member of staff present.</p> <p>Q Is bullying an issue in school?</p> <p>A Reported levels of bullying are low but sometimes it is the perception of bullying rather than the reality. KM has presented assemblies on bullying, the students are appreciative of the safe corridors initiative and a bullying champion has been appointed.</p> <p>Q How is staff morale?</p>	

	<p>A The majority of staff remain positive and morale appears to be good compared to the rest of AL in spite of the national trend of low morale. Achievements were celebrated on the first day back but there could possibly be more sharing of success in future. Any decision taken is always assessed for impact on staff and workload. The school's strongest asset is its staff and their support of each other.</p> <p>Q Are there different routes available to ensure staff are able to raise issues? A Yes but it may be worth re-iterating this to staff: union representatives, heads of faculty, head's open-door policy. Another idea may be to have a session once per term with staff to have constructive conversations.</p>	
7.	Review of AIP/SIP 2022-2023 and update on strategy for 2023-2024	
	This item will be discussed at the next meeting	
8.	Update on curriculum blueprint review	
	<p>The blueprints are meant to be used to set expectations and achieve consistency across AL schools. Progress against the criteria will be assessed and high, medium or low assurance of this judgement is given. AL will review the blueprints annually. NHL judged that it had embedded the majority of the expectations but with low assurance so further work needs to be done here.</p> <p>Q Would it be useful to start to collect documented evidence as the basis for our judgements? A Not at this stage as this would increase the workload and at this point, the blueprints are simply being used as a basis for discussion.</p>	
9.	Pupil Premium report	
	The Pupil Premium statement had been circulated prior to the meeting and is updated every quarter. It contains anecdotal comments supported by statistical data. Currently, attainment by PP pupils is increasing and the gap has narrowed over the last few years, largely due to the school culture and the positive environment.	
10.	Sixth Form marketing and recruitment	
	<p>It's felt that the school requires a new USP in order to differentiate itself from other sixth forms in the area. It is envisaged that it will be difficult to attract students to the sixth form over the next few years but in the medium term there is likely to be a glut of students seeking a place in sixth form. It is important for the school to persuade students what The Oakes can do for them. In spite of the improvement in the application process for NHL this year, only 18 students have been enrolled.</p> <p>Q Has the school considered employing a marketing consultant? A This can be considered. The school have also discussed moving the timetable for 10am until 3pm to accommodate students.</p> <p>Q Has the school considered asking students themselves about what options would be attractive? A Yes but pedagogically, this would not be good. Students liked the thought of a 10am start but timetabling science would be an issue. The school are aiming to resolve this by July 2024.</p> <p>Q Is there a scenario where you advertise a higher offer but accept on an individual basis? A Possibly but the school doesn't want to deter students. It may be possible to market vocational packages of subjects but this needs to be explored further.</p>	
11.	Governance items	
	<p>PBS would progress governor recruitment once the results of the skills audit had been shared with him.</p> <p>The RSE policy was approved subject to the word 'homo' being replaced by the word 'homophobic'. JG to email Jim Hill.</p> <p>The link governor reports would be added to the agenda planner.</p> <p>The safeguarding report was approved.</p>	<p>JG</p> <p>JG</p> <p>JG</p>

12.	Reasons to be cheerful	
	The refurbishment of the new school library is now underway. This was funded by a local foundation trust and not from the core school budget. There are plans to open the library after school and staff it with students from The Oakes College.	
13.	Date, time and venue for next meeting	
	6pm 30 th November 2023 IT board room	

The meeting closed at 20.10.

Items for Future Meetings	
Meeting	Item
LGB 2	Review of AIP 2022-2023 and update on strategy for 2023-2024

Action Log			
ITEM	ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBILITY
11	Share results of skills audit with NO and PBS	ASAP	JG
11	Email Jim Hill amendment to RSE policy	ASAP	JG
11	Add link governor reports to agenda planner	ASAP	JG

Rolling Action Log			
ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBILITY	UPDATE
PP report to be reviewed and discussed by governors at the first meeting of the Autumn Term 2023.	September 2023	TH	Completed October 2023