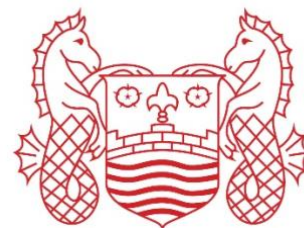


The Netherhall School and Oakes College Local Governing Body Meeting Minutes



09.10.2024 in IT Boardroom 6pm

Governors present

Chris Tooley (CT), Paul Bullen-Smith (PBS Co Chair), Nicky Odgers (NO Co Chair), George Bucknall (GB), Heather Edwards (HE), Yair Doza (YD), Peter Monteath (PM), Lauren Shields (LS) and Ambili Nair (AN).

Others Present

Tom Hunter (TH) and Janet Goldsworthy (GP)

The meeting was quorate throughout.

	ITEM	ACTION
1	Acceptance of Apologies for Absence	
	Apologies - Michael Tamvakis (work conference) accepted by all those present.	
2	Declarations of Interest with regard to agenda items	
	None and no changes.	
3.	Minutes of last meeting and matters arising	
	The minutes of the LGB meeting on 18.09.2024 were approved with no amendments.	
4.	Achievement outcomes	
	<p>TH updated the committee on GCSE outcomes and results Key points of note:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior attainment for this cohort was very low in comparison to previous cohorts and was described as significantly negative • This may be the last year that Progress 8 scores will be used as there was no EYFS or SATS data for the next 2 years. • Progress 8 score was slightly lower than the previous year largely due to the low prior attainment for the cohort. • The issue of a number of students achieving a zero score has resurfaced this year and the school is looking at ways to avoid this next year. <p>Q It would be helpful to know the percentage of pupils who are significantly below for prior attainment last year and also what this percentage has been historically A The data on this is not given – only the statement significantly positive or negative for prior attainment Q What measures are being put in place to ensure that pupils do not achieve a zero score? A It tends to be pupils in Hobbs or Alvin who achieve a zero score but in fact this year it has been those pupils who did not actually attend the exams. The purpose of the interventions will be to support these pupils in turning up to the exams. Q Is it that that these pupils need different exam access arrangements? A It is difficult to get the evidence required for different exam access arrangements since these pupils tend to be non-school attenders too and are therefore not in school.</p>	

	<p>Q It appears that the same issues as last year have continued for English Language?</p> <p>A This is true as outcomes for English Language have been lower than English Literature for the last few years. This will be picked apart by the English Faculty.</p> <p>Q Can mock exams help in this regard?</p> <p>A Yes as this trend was also seen in the mock exams.</p> <p>Q How closely to target grades align with final grades awarded?</p> <p>A Teachers do not appear to be overpredicting. Media is a significant concern and English Language is ½ grade different.</p> <p>Q It appears that the percentage of pupils achieving grades 5 to 9 is 5% higher than the National Average?</p> <p>A There are very few subjects which performed below National Average although Media is a concern. This is good given the lower attaining cohort.</p> <p>Q Does the school use the flightpath to predict grades?</p> <p>A Yes – a target grade is set in Year 7. Grades appear to be 1/5 higher than targets although this could be skewed by the higher attainers.</p> <p>Q What will be the actions for Media?</p> <p>A For each subject, the Faculty lead will analyse the results alongside the exam board analysis and will present any changes in the curriculum to SLT. On occasion, there is a coursework issue but this may not be the case for M-media where there are a number of issues to be addressed.</p> <p>Q The coursework subjects seem to be at the bottom end of achievement. Does this need to be addressed?</p> <p>A Care must be taken to ensure that we do not act on a trend that is inaccurate. It is probably better to work on a subject by subject basis and analyse which component of the exam is it that is causing an impact on outcomes. Sometimes there is a ‘type’ of student who chooses coursework subjects because they struggle with exams.</p> <p>Q Is there a network across the trust for each subject where staff can access advice and guidance?</p> <p>A Yes and this connection across the trust has been useful in the past.</p> <p>Many thanks to TH for his presentation.</p> <p>As regards the Curriculum Executive Summary, each school selects a level of outcome for it’s curriculum from the blueprint. For Netherhall, there may be some changes in outcome level to be actioned post Ofsted. The rigour in the selection of the level is often sourced from DC when he visits the school.</p>	
5.	<p>Review of SIP ‘Bright Futures for All’</p>	
	<p>CT gave a summary of the current SIP and his ideas moving forward:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current SIP format had worked well and was digestable • The section on ‘belonging’ was very well received and is to be rolled out across the trust • The section on the Pride Pledge will be removed • Plans for the SIP for the next 5 years include 6 ambitious targets • SLT and CT reflected on the last SIP and its priorities over the Summer • The question now is what needs to be done over the next 5 years, what process is needed to ensure continuous development and greater ownership and how is this going to be achieved, • There should be feedback to parents on what has happened, what has been achieved, the impact and what is going to happen moving forwards. • The focus now is the next formation of the next strategy for the next 5 years. <p>The following key ideas are noted:-</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributed leadership amongst SLT has gone well and the same process should now be disseminated to middle leaders to ensure a greater capacity for change • The governors ideas for strategy seemed to align well with that of the school and SLT • The ideas for a passport for Year 7 pupils was well received – what does a Year 7 pupil need to do/know in order to feel like they belong at the end of Year 7 • KM will be setting up a ‘listening campaign’ utilising all methods of communications to celebrate achievement and impact and decide on what to do next. • There will be a student census with a range of questions addressing the students’ lived experience • There will be a parents’ questionnaire, listening zooms throughout the day looking at what is causing pressure for parents and what are their expectations of the school • There will be a focus group for staff looking at common threads • A fundraiser is being employed in January to investigate funding sources with a target to raise £250k by the end of their first year. <p>Q What are the timescales for the next strategy document? A KM will be producing a paper by the end of the week beginning Monday 14th October. The data to support the strategy will be available by half term and then the school will have 6 months to determine the 6 strands of work.</p>	
6.	Link governor visits	
	<p>HE had completed a safeguarding visit and KM needs to approve the visit form before it is distributed to the LGB for the next meeting. HE had delivered an excellent presentation to staff on safeguarding which had been very well received. Thanks to HE.</p> <p>Rob Syposz will present feedback on 6th form results at the next LGB meeting along with a presentation on the curriculum for the 6th form. 370 families had attended the open evening for the 6th form which was a great result.</p> <p>LS had completed a link governor visit on attendance and there are 3 key areas of focus:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Truancy within the school day, the process for which needs to improve • The phone home strategy which is having an impact over time • The rewards for improvement in attendance need to be changed as opposed to rewards for achievement <p>Q Why should 100% attendance be rewarded? This should be an expectation and not an option. A The trust is working on attendance. Although Netherhall has the lowest attendance across the trust this is due to the difference in their measurement of attendance rather than the actual figures. Internal truancy is an issue and the reasons for this need to be unpicked.</p> <p>Q Are the low attenders SEND/PP/girls? A Yes</p> <p>Q What is Ed Class? A Similar to Alvin but with teachers who are not known to the pupils.</p> <p>PM explained that the PP statement and report was almost ready to be uploaded to the school website.</p>	KM

	<p>JF mentioned some key strands of the PP funding:- Lexonic programme – used to support literacy and improvement in reading age which has on occasion increased by 36 months Day to day needs – art folders, music lessons and trips Access to books Attendance of PP pupils has improved by 2 percentage points from last year</p> <p>Q Hs there been any change in the split of funding? No – not significantly Q Who oversees PP plus spending? A PP plus spending is supervised in the same way as PP spending</p>	
7.	Governance items	
	<p>PBS will update all governors by email on recruitment, succession planning, training and link governor roles. PBS mentioned that NO and himself would be leaving as governors at the end of 2025 and there will be a need for existing governors to step up to become chair of governors.</p>	PBS
8.	Reasons to be cheerful	
	<p>The school has sold the bungalow for £675k, the proceeds of which will be spent on toilet refurbishment throughout the school. If there are funds left over, the refurbishment of the staff toilets would be considered. The 'porridge' initiative at breakfast time had been very well received and 80 pupils had been involved. Q Are the pupils registered for porridge? A No but there are cameras so numbers of pupils attending can be checked.</p>	
9	AOB	
	None	
10	Date and time of next meeting	
	26 th November 29 th January 20 th March 13 th May 2 nd July	

The meeting concluded at 20.15pm.

Items for Future Meetings	
Meeting	Item
LGB	Educational Visits policy to be approved in Autumn Term 2024

Action Log			
ITEM	ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBILITY
6	Approve safeguarding visit form	October 2024	KM
7	Email governors regarding governance items	October 2024	PBS

Rolling Action Log			
ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBILITY	UPDATE