

**THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL GOVERNORS**  
**Minutes of the Student and Community Committee Meeting**

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

**Time:** 6pm  
**Place:** The Wingfield Meeting Room  
**Present:** Debbie Youngs, Helen Thorne, Andy Williams, Andrew Hawkins, Rachel Martin, Eerke Boiten, Elaine Baldwin  
**In attendance:** Helen Kerr, Eugene Spiers, Linda Brunt (part), Eleanor Shergold, Student Charity Committee Representatives (part) – Mollie, Clare, Beth-Louise  
**Apologies:** Sarah Bergg, David Whewell, Roger Bishton

17/16	<b><u>Apologies</u></b> The apologies were received and agreed	
18/16	<b><u>Declaration of Pecuniary Interests</u></b> Governors were reminded to declare these as necessary.	
19/16	<b><u>Minutes and Matters Arising from previous meeting</u></b> 11/16 – Sarah Marriott to be invited to next S&C. Show my homework and length of time students are expected to spend on homework – faculties have agreed on quantity, with one or two queries left. Information to go out this term. Time allocated is recommended time it should take. 12/16 – Terms of Reference to be addressed at next S&C. 13/16 – Counselling waiting lists – HKE provided figures for DY regarding waiting lists. DY to circulate. Registers – AW to discuss with MGU as inaccuracies and missed registers still occurring. Has been discussed by SLT.	ES    DY  AW
20/16	<b><u>Student Charity Committee</u></b> Fundraising for different needs each term. Will be sending a questionnaire to all students to promote ownership and support. Fundraising for needs such as the migrant crisis as well as supporting students in the context of an opportunities fund. ESP – staff have also expressed interest in an opportunities fund for students. Committee thinking through how they can make this work, with staff and student fundraising having a % allocated to the opportunities fund which students could then apply to. Fundraising ideas discussed. Committee looking for governor feedback. DY fed back that she thinks this is an excellent idea, all governors gave their approval and advised a chat with FSI about administration of the fund and informing parents to ensure transparency. ESP to bring to SLT. EB – to have clear demarcation of what the funds are for – e.g. not for school uniform or items that should come out of PP funding or 6 <sup>th</sup> form bursary. Committee invited to attend S&C and feedback on progress at a later date.	ESP  ESP
21/16	<b><u>Head of Sixth Form’s Report on Points from the School Improvement Plan</u></b> <b>Post 16 students make an active contribution to House activities and support students learning -</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6<sup>th</sup> form students attend a House assembly per week as role models to the younger students. They can be used by Heads of Houses in these assemblies.</li> <li>• Every year 12 student delivered a ‘top tips for exam revision’ seminar to year 11 students in November. This included resources to take away. Feedback positive.</li> <li>• Year 12 students are required to undertake up to 2 hours of community work a fortnight – some examples – 65 students are involved in supporting teaching and learning across the school, 4 students run extra-curricular activities at JOG, 6 students are currently involved in feeder primary schools, the hope is to build on this. Others volunteer outside of school. This develops skills and experience to feed into students UCAS applications.</li> <li>• After the mocks some 6<sup>th</sup> form students in Greenfield will be mentoring YR 11 students, particularly in maths and science.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student leadership – Yr 12 students are playing a fundamental role in leading and in membership of the Committees co-ordinated by ESP.</li> <li>• Inter-House charity events and social events are about to start, led by Senior Students.</li> </ul> <p><b>Enhance the Quality of Provision and Effective use of Independent Study Time</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilities have been improved with 3 dedicated rooms in Wingfield for 6<sup>th</sup> form use including access to 58 computers, though many opt to bring in their own devices and access Wi-Fi.</li> <li>• There are also other areas that the students like to use.</li> <li>• This is working well as currently there is a small Yr 13. The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of refurbishment should also help.</li> <li>• An increasing number of students stay on after 3 pm to work.</li> <li>• These areas are not supervised so noise disruption is an issue in the study areas at times, with one room in particular being an issue. Some staff try to work in the study areas or go through the rooms from time to time but they are not manned by staff. DY suggested a designated quiet area. ESP/LBR to consider this.</li> <li>• There has been resistance from students about losing ‘social’ space, though the plans for the new kitchen have gone down well.</li> </ul>	ESP/ LBR
22/16	<p><b><u>Prevent Self Assessment</u></b></p> <p>EB expressed concern regarding internet freedom and privacy with seemingly simplistic measures being used to tackle complex problems. Internet filtering and measures already in place at JOG discussed. Concern expressed about the potential to stigmatise versus other forms of extremism not being addressed. The curriculum needs to keep people open minded in balance with the need to promote safeguarding that protects individuals from whatever they are at risk from. DY asked what freedom JOG has in this assessment – HKE – Prevent has to be applied as part of JOG’s safeguarding policy, though there is some freedom to adapt the training to the school’s needs with a range of film clips being available to use in the session. Extremism likened to grooming. Staff will continue to encourage open and informed discussions in school, in the context of continuing to support the vulnerable in need of safeguarding. Young people need support, not labelling or stigmatisation. Referrals under Prevent are with the young person’s knowledge and agreement, as opposed to referrals to the MASH team, which are not voluntary. DY asked which existing policies need to be reviewed. HKE Safeguarding. DY - Spiritual, Moral, Social &amp; Cultural Education and E- Safety will also need to be considered. RE reviewed by MPE.</p> <p>1 hour training session with governors due – ES to check if this can be included in the governors Saturday morning session, but time thought to already be allocated to other things. Also possible to invite governors to sessions at school. HKE gave assurance that JOG is taking this forward in the best way possible.</p>	ES
23/16	<p><b><u>Feedback on Points from the School Improvement Plan</u></b></p> <p><b>Develop the House Point System so that Positive Behaviour, Attitudes and Engagement are Promoted through Healthy Competition</b></p> <p>The top 20 boys and top 20 girls from years 7, 8, 9 had an assembly before Christmas to reward their attitude to learning. They watched a movie together. There are plans to expand on these low cost celebrations and awards with contact with parents via a letter home to share the achievement. A score of less than an average of 2.5 in attitude to learning leads to intervention. There are rewards and celebration assemblies at the end of each term.</p> <p><b>Ensure differentiated CPD for dealing with low level disruption, linked to TEEP, is available for all staff</b></p> <p>There have been two faculty CPDs for science and maths in particular related to behaviour, also individual sessions and learning communities have addressed the topic of low level disruption.</p> <p><b>Further develop systems for monitoring the progress of students with personalised curriculum packages</b></p> <p>BRH will feedback to CL&amp;ES on this point.</p>	

24/16	<p><b><u>Behaviour and Safeguarding</u></b></p> <p>Safeguarding – the number of children on a CAF is relatively static.</p> <p>There are 41 students on the waiting list for counselling, which is normal for this time of year with increasing exam stress as the year progresses.</p> <p>HKE is part of a working party looking at establishing a Thrive Hub in support of the emotional and mental health of young people in a project being piloted by the council. This would provide funding which can be used to train staff to deliver parenting courses, training to enable staff to support anxious and vulnerable students more effectively and the possibility of a CAMHS worker being shared among the participating schools. The John Bentley school has offered to share CSE training. The next meeting will take place at JOG on 2<sup>nd</sup> February.</p> <p>Behaviour – the average behaviour for learning score is about the same, just above three.</p> <p>Attendance remains a high priority. The EWO has issued a significantly higher number of Fixed Penalty notices with a more assertive approach. Attendance surgery days have been held including a specific day focused on EAL students with support from a Polish TA to translate. Attendance for the whole school currently sits at 93.9%. Attendance in year 10 is particularly low. Persistent absence now starts at 90%. A governor asked if Melksham Oak has better attendance given that it is a secure site, HKE – attendance is better, but still a problem. SHI to be invited to April S&amp;C, which will have a focus on attendance.</p> <p>Registers continue to be a problem. DY asked what is being done to ensure that these are robust. The requirement is that these are done first thing in the morning and in the afternoon. 237 have been missed this year to date. This is addressed in staff briefings as well as MGU writing to the staff concerned. EB suggested that it should be part of performance management. To be followed up at next S&amp;C.</p>	ES
25/16	<p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p> <p>AW enquired about sick note procedures for PE in order to clarify a couple of concerns. ESP – staff know and involve students appropriately if they have a sick note – for example promoting leadership and assessment skills</p> <p>AH observed that exclusions at JOG are very low, below the national average, more so for girls.</p>	

**Meeting closed at 8.15pm. Next meeting Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**