

THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL GOVERNORS

**Minutes of the Curriculum, Learning and Educational Standards Committee Meeting
Tuesday 8th March 2016**

Time: 6pm
Place: The Hub
Present: Liz Summerson, Rachel Martin (part), Andrew Hawkins, Matt Palmer, Peter Ramsay, Ben Rhodes, Debbie Youngs, Eleanor Shergold
Apologies: Eerke Boiten, Kevin Eames

24/16	<u>Apologies</u> Apologies were agreed and accepted.	
25/16	<u>Declaration of Business Interests</u> Governors were reminded to declare these as necessary.	
26/16	<u>Minutes and Matters Arising</u> 19/16 – Teachers workload working party – SGR not available due to commitments to Ten Tors, but has shared his views. 19/16 – Quality of PE equipment being compromised by storage issues – this has been raised with Resources and a course of action agreed. 20/16 – 6 th Form proposed curriculum – BRH updated governors. Governors asked questions to clarify. MPA asked about AS and A2 – BRH will clarify. 21/16 – Raise online – Non uniform days thought to cause a higher level of absence – BRH shared statistics re student attendance. A definitive answer was thought to be difficult to ascertain due to the variables involved – e.g. it is also the last day of term. Two houses earn the privilege through achievement and attendance. AH will look at the statistics in more detail and report back. 22/16 – Year 7 assessment – governors made suggestions for improvements regarding the length and language of the document, which was updated accordingly. Those attending the parents evening had given positive feedback. 23/16 – MFL – BRH has been exploring the reasons why some Pathway 1 students are struggling with the option of taking a MFL. The vast majority of P1 students will take a MFL – a small number have been allowed to not take this up given parental concern and personal circumstances. Governors discussed the balance between allowing for a personalised curriculum alongside the need to consider maintaining a balanced curriculum and the impact on the EBacc figures. To consider with VLO how to give students greater awareness of the potential opportunities that an MFL opens up. BRH – faculty reviews are currently looking at schemes of work and how to adapt them.	BRH AH LS
27/16	<u>Terms of Reference</u> Reviewed and updated.	
28/16	<u>SEF</u> Governors discussed the areas from the SEF highlighted by SLT as requiring improvement Trowbridge is 2nd out of 20 Wiltshire areas for deprivation – to check with MGU/SNI if this is based on current data. Disadvantaged students – <i>‘The use of pupil premium and SEN funding is effective, ensuring that the skilful deployment of staff and resources delivers good or improving outcomes for pupils’</i> JOG is used to demonstrate good practice, but this is still not having enough of an impact. Governors asked if there is a particular factor that is having an impact on outcomes, but BRH responded that there are many different factors, rather than one particular factor. PP and low ability boys – not closing the gap sufficiently. BRH recommended that governors discuss the situation with HKE and LHA to gain a fuller picture. Employing staff to work with PP has had an impact.	ES ALL

	<p>Years 7, 8 and 9 – governors highlighted the need to invest in these year groups sooner rather than later, to ensure that support is given at the right time. Governors are able to support critical challenge through CL& ES.</p> <p>Feedback – this is moving in the right direction, though there are still inconsistencies.</p> <p>Parental engagement – this is developing – the vast majority of parents have signed up to Parentmail and this has progressed throughout the year.</p> <p>Attendance and impact on outcomes– certain year groups (e.g. Yr 10) have a larger % of persistent attendance issues. The school is working on this and has appointed a full time Social Worker. Governors asked about registers – BRH reported that there has been progress in this and the situation is going to be addressed more firmly. He commented that it is particularly important that staff quickly report the absence of the most vulnerable students are if they are found to be missing from class.</p> <p>Conduct (use of aggressive or derogatory language) – the need for consistency when addressing this was discussed – applying the behaviour for learning strategy was highlighted.</p> <p>SEN – The ILD is good, with a great nurture group. JOG has just appointed a new SENDCO.</p> <p>Outcomes – there is still a need to improve but will not have a clearer picture until September.</p>	
29/16	<p><u>Deputy Headteacher’s Report – Feedback on points from the School Improvement Plan</u></p> <p>Rapidly close the achievement gap between students vulnerable to under-achievement (Pupil Premium / SEND / alternative provision) and their peers (1.3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data for closing the gap – key performance indicators – BRH circulated the most recent data prior to the meeting. • Mocks are currently being marked – English is being marked externally. • Concern for Yr 10 as a number of subject predictions have dropped with coursework not being completed. The expected trend is that this will pick up. • This is the last year of early entry – subjects targeted for early entry have generally been successful in the past. <p>Ensure effective differentiation exists in all classrooms (2.4)</p> <p>Ensure high quality homework and independent learning is used to enrich, extend and enhance students’ learning in all year groups, including Post-16, across all subjects (2.5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MGU has provided a ‘Feedback FAQ’s document’ for teachers to help clarify expectations around marking and formative assessment. This was created based around staff voice. A governor has made comments and fed back to BRH. • Homework and teaching and learning policies will be reviewed this term. <p>Extend and develop a curriculum at all key stages that maximizes and supports the progress of all students regardless of starting point (4.4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As discussed previously in the meeting. • BRH updated governors on KS4 options – the individual consultation process has begun. • P16 – The steering group are meeting fortnightly to ensure effective development of the partnership. The first governance meeting will happen this month. 	LHA
30/16	<p><u>AOB</u> There was no other business.</p>	

Meeting closed 8 pm. Next meeting Tuesday 3rd May 2016.