

THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL
Minutes of the Curriculum, Learning and Educational Standards Committee Meeting
Tuesday 2nd May 2107

Time: 6 pm
Place: The Hub
Present: Kevin Eames (chair), Liz Summerson, Louise Hamilton, Andrew Hawkins, Linda Brunt, Matt Palmer, Ben Rhodes
Apologies: David Whewell, Rachel Martin, Eleanor Shergold

Agenda Item	Actions Agreed	Who
36/17	A member of CLES will attend the next RAT meeting	BRH
36/17	Notes on Accelerated Reader will be shared with CLES members by email	KE
37/17	KE and LH to arrange a meeting with ABA in May	LH
37/17	KE and LH to attend Directors of Learning Conference on 12 June	KE/LH
37/17	LH to attend Heads of House literacy meeting	BRH/LH
37/17	AH and LH to attend a Monday DLs team meeting	AH/LH
38/17	CLES to be informed about curriculum plan for new Year 7 intake	BRH

33/17 Apologies

Apologies were agreed and accepted.

34/17 Declaration of Business Interests

Governors were reminded to declare business interests as necessary.

35/17 Key Stage 5 Update

Raise achievement at P16 further so that all subjects exceed the progress expected nationally

Three areas were covered in this update: current tracking; the partnership with Clarendon Academy; and next year's curriculum.

1. Current Tracking

LBR (Director of Sixth Form) presented governors with current information re Y12 and 13 from tracking points 3 and 4.

- AS Level data from SISRA is looking positive for A-E and A-C but on the low side for A-B. This could be partly down to tracking anomalies in Chemistry and RE that have been resolved in the Ready Reckoner data. LBR will visit teachers to check that all have tracked using live data, and to see what can be done to raise the attainment of every student. All subjects except Geography (Sig-) and Law (Sig+) are in line with National Average. Value Added data suggests that all subgroups performing well except EAL subgroup (2 students).
- A Level data from SISRA shows lower tracking for A*-B and A*-C, but this includes BTECs. The Level 3 Extended Diploma is performing below the national average but this has worked well for a cohort of 12 girls who have gained the equivalent of 3 A Levels (except one leaver who has 1.5 A Levels), and who have gained valuable work experience. Most are going on to primary teaching or nursing; case studies have been written for this group.
- At A Level, every subject is performing in line with National Average. Overall VA is -0.2, which could be due to lack of teacher confidence due to the changes to some courses.

2. Partnership with Clarendon Academy

BRH and LBR discussed the success of the partnership with Clarendon during its first year. BRH has been pleased with the rigorous approach to quality assurance, and to the strength of the reporting from the JOG steering committee.

The Partnership Approval Plan has been improved since the Review. The biggest challenge facing both schools is staffing e.g. no teachers of Chemistry are in place for next year. There is some uncertainty as a result of the change in leadership at Clarendon, but the new Headteacher plans to meet with the Head of Clarendon Sixth Form on Friday to discuss next steps.

Governors mentioned the need to work out financing arrangements with Clarendon going forwards. This will be taken on board by Resources once numbers for next year have been finalised.

Good work is happening in terms of tracking vulnerable groups and ensuring a robust support system. Since the Review, the two SENCOs have met and are working collaboratively to ensure that exams access arrangements are effective across the two sites.

There is still a mismatch between the data systems used by each school, but this may change as Clarendon joins a new MAT.

Some CPD time is protected for both schools: there is more scope to meet and work together.

The next stages of the Partnership will be to embed the systems and continue to monitor QA with annual reviews for QA purposes.

According to student voice, year 12 students are very happy with the partnership.

3. Next Year's Curriculum Offer

Arrangements for next year's curriculum offer were discussed by LBR and BRH.

- All subjects will have 10 hours of curriculum time per fortnight instead of the current 9 hours, as students will study 3 A Levels over 2 years. AS Levels will only be available in Maths and Science, as students struggle to make the transition in these subjects. If there are students who are struggling in other subject areas, AS will be considered so that they can leave Year 12 with a qualification.
- Discussion about offer for current Year 11 based on interviews and recruitment. Sociology - students will go to Clarendon as this is proving most cost-effective model. Clarendon students will come to JOG for Business Studies. RE - location of teaching still under discussion based on staffing fluctuations. BTEC sport - JOG will lead on Single and Clarendon will lead on Double.
- Vocational options discussed. BTEC Health and Social Care - offering Single and Double options but all students have a back-up option as uptake not looking strong. BTEC Performing Arts - also a tentative offer, as may not run if HSC doesn't recruit.

LBR made the point that the national picture is changing with regard to Year 13 - fewer are applying to university (our year 13 - 65/90 have applied), so there will be a need to ensure that students don't become NEET. More unconditional offers from university are leading to less motivation from students in some cases.

LBR left the meeting.

36/17 Minutes and Matters Arising

Minutes approved.

BRH to email date of RAT meeting to members so that at least one governor can attend.

KE queried whether his notes on AR have been circulated; these were sent to ES on 7 March. KE will circulate to members of the committee.

37/17 DH Report - feedback on points from the School Improvement Plan

Whole-School Literacy

Improve the delivery of whole school literacy so that all students are exam literate.

All aspects of ABA's (Director of English/Literacy) report were discussed:

1. Standard Programme of Literacy Years 7-10: Discussion of ABA's plan to use release time in Term 6 to work on cross-curricular literacy 'buy-in' by meeting with subject representatives. KE and LH would like to meet with ABA to discuss her future plans for whole school literacy. Ideas of Debra Myhill ('Grammar for Writing') and Geoff Barton ('Don't Call it Literacy') were discussed as potentially useful sources of information.
2. Cross-curricular Literacy Books: While the rationale behind this was praised, some concern was expressed that these books will not be seen as meaningful to students if they are not being marked or monitored in lessons across the curriculum. BRH invited all members to attend the Directors of Learning Conference on 12 June, where there will be a specific focus on cross-curricular literacy. It was suggested that KE and LH could try to meet with ABA before this and potentially assist with input.

3. Accelerated Reader: Governors were concerned about the prospect of discontinuing AR with Year 8 based on a single piece of data; BRH assured members that this is still just a proposal. Tutor time reading was discussed; BRH invited LH to attend a forthcoming Heads of House meeting to discuss how this time can be better utilised to promote a whole school reading culture.

Action - KE and LH to arrange meeting with ABA in May KH/LH
Action - KE and LH to attend Directors of Learning Conference on 12 June KE/LH
Action - LH to attend Heads of House literacy meeting; BRH to email date BRH/LH

Closing the Achievement Gap

Rapidly close the achievement gap between students vulnerable to under-achievement (disadvantaged / SEND / alternative provision) and their peers

Current attainment data for years 7-11 was presented by BRH, focusing on where intervention is working and where impact is yet to be seen. The following points were discussed:

- Vocational subjects are doing well in Year 11 and strides are being made in Science due to new staff leading KS4. There is still a sizable gap in GCSE subjects, and this is the area being targeted by academic mentoring intervention. Part of the gap between DLs and non-DLs is likely to be due to the decision to promote EBACC subjects, but vocational success shows that this part of the offer is working well for DLs. Motivational mentoring is occurring during tutor time for DLs.
- Issues were identified in Year 10, where intervention is not having enough impact on BTEC. DLs are aware of this. 30 students have been identified as being priorities for the academic mentor in Term 6.
- Academic mentor will also be working with an identified group of Year 7 students in Term 6, as well as assisting ESP with transition for the most vulnerable disadvantaged learners (DLs).

Question asked about the DP girls who had under-performed in the Maths mock; BRH explained that groups have been rotated to address this, and that TRA (HLTA) is working with targeted students.

BRH invited LH and new DP link governor AH to attend a DL Monday team meeting as soon as possible.

Action - AH and LH to attend Monday DLs team meeting to be updated on intervention AH/LH

38/17 AOB

Nurture Group - A concern was raised that governors did not know that a decision had been made not to run a Nurture Group for the incoming Year 7. BRH explained that this decision has been made very recently due to the provisional roll for this year-group being higher than expected. Members were assured that more information about the curriculum and groupings for next year's intake would be shared at CLES as soon as planning has been finalised.

Action - CLES to be informed about curriculum plan for new Year 7 intake BRH

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm. Date of next CLES meeting Tuesday 20 June 2017.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

*Final RAT meeting this year is Yr 10 RAT (3) on 12 July. This will be a hand over meeting from BRH to ELY and her team in regards to the work that has occurred this year, looking at the Yr10 summer mock exam results and planning the start of Yr11