



## ACADEMY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024  
 Time: 4.45pm  
 Venue: Priestnall School

Clerk: N Burgess  
 Present: M Farrar, R Howarth, P Clarke, H Eckhardt, T Clarey, K McKnight, L Burrige, A Morrison, E Warrington, C Brown and C Nevin

Action	Initials
Governors to report any changes to their Register of Business Interests to the Clerk	All
PDC training to be rearranged for the start of ACM4 meeting	NB
Governors are reminded to send their completed record of link visit to the Clerk	All
Governors are asked to complete GDPR training as soon as possible and send their completed certificates to the Clerk	All

### Agenda – Part 1 - Presentation from B Peck and students regarding school logo

Category	Item	Notes	Action
1	Governance Arrangements	<p>B Peck and 4 Student Council members attended to present to Governors the work they had undertaken to re-design the school logo.</p> <p>Students presented the work they had completed so far, including the consultations with future parents, local educationalists, school leaders and discussions at Student Council meetings.</p> <p>Students felt they wanted to have a new identity to mark the change to Laurus Trust. They also wished to retain the blue blazers as part of the uniform.</p> <p>Students felt it important that the 4 Heatons and links to the local area were represented within the logo.</p> <p>Governors were shown the designs the students had worked on and approval was sought to move forward with the proposals. The next steps would then be to discuss the uniform roll out and communications to both parents and staff. It was also discussed the need to reduce uniform costs for parents, and that there would be an option to add the new logo as a badge on older blazers.</p>	

			<p>Governors thanked students for their presentation and the work they had undertaken. Governors commented they really liked the logo, which links to the local area, whilst also retaining the school's individual identity. Governors discussed that the roll out of the new logos would need to be done over a period of time to avoid excessive additional costs to parents. Governors <u>approved</u> to proceed with the progression of implementing the new logos and for communications to parents and staff following this meeting.</p>	
		Apologies	There were no apologies for this meeting.	
		AOB items	<p>C Nevin was welcomed to the meeting. CN is a Laurus Trust Trustee.</p> <p>CN discussed the Governance structure operated within the Trust. A document was circulated to reflect the structure of Governance trust wide.</p> <p>Priestnall Academy Committee were welcomed onboard. Governors were thanked for their time and commitment in undertaking the role of Governor. The Trust has Academy Committees at each school to ensure local representation and that there is a link and relationship with each individual school, the students and the community. Meeting dates are set one year in advance and there are 4 meetings per year.</p> <p>The remit of the Academy Committee is to focus on the students and attainment. The Scheme of Delegation is a vital document which details the accountability of the AC.</p> <p>CN also explained to Governors the roles and remits of the Members and Trustees within the structure.</p>	
		Register on Business Interests	Governors were asked to report any changes in their record to the Clerk.	All
		Minutes of previous meeting	<p>Minutes of the meeting held 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 were <u>approved</u> as a correct record of the meeting.</p> <p>Matters arising:          GDPR training will remain on the agenda for Governors to complete asap          Governor and Trustee Conference held in November 2023 had proved useful to the Governors who had attended          PDC training requested by Governors will be done at</p>	NB

			ACM4 meeting in June Governors are reminded to send their completed Link Visit proformas to the Clerk for retention	All
		Membership: Recruitment Update/Succession Planning	CN informed Governors that the Trust were continually looking to recruit Governors and that Priestnall AC was a priority.	
		Scheme of Delegation	Governors attention was drawn to the financial scheme of delegation section which had been updated following the November meeting of the Finance and Resources Trust Board committee.	
		Trust Board update	Governors received a summary report of the September 2023 Trust Board meeting and had no further questions.	

2	School Performance & Accountability	Review Head of School Report	<p>EW and TC attended to present sections of the report to Governors. It was noted that the report data was prepared for the December meeting which was subsequently postponed.</p> <p>Y11 data is from the mock exams which students took at the start of November and the predicted grades. The data is currently under review again this term. In terms of the targets, we would expect the figures to increase as we go through the year. There is a significant amount of intervention available to all students. This is a good cohort of students with good prior attainment. The quality of teaching and learning has improved and this is having an impact on the students.</p> <p><b>Q – How much does an individual cohort of students influence the Progress 8 outcome?</b>  A – Massively, this could be due to attendance, or SEND need specifics. There are normally around 50 students in a year group with SEND. For half term 1 there was a very encouraging figure for our young people and their outcomes.</p> <p>For staff this is the first time of predicting outcomes and they can err on the side of caution. The mock exam results give us more accurate data to work with.</p> <p>Behaviour was discussed by Governors. Leaders are pleased with how behaviour is improving and the difference this has made. The students know there are clear expectations and boundaries which early on led to an increase in suspensions, this is now declining.</p> <p>Of the 85 suspensions given this has been for a total of 52 individual students. There have been 3 permanent exclusions. Leaders acknowledge that permanent exclusion is always a difficult decision to reach, but they are fully confident in the decisions made.</p> <p>In terms of the data for suspensions it was discussed that there was an increase in half term 1, but that this was now decreasing.</p> <p><b>Q – Does the data include internal exclusions?</b>  A – No, only formal fixed term suspensions?</p> <p>In terms of suspensions by sub groups FSM is a big focus. The school always consider any sanctions or barriers and work with the students, families and outside agencies.</p> <p>Year 8 was noted by Governors as the most challenging</p>
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			<p>year group, as identified by the data. Governors were informed that for year 10 many of the issues were outside of school and there was work to be done in the community.</p> <p>The reasons for suspensions were discussed and included persistent disruptive behaviour, verbal abuse and bullying. Leaders have had a big focus on bullying as a number 1 priority and have been able to pinpoint issues and follow up.</p> <p>Positive behaviour points were reviewed and Governors noted that year 7 are way ahead than other year groups with 11664 points.</p> <p><b>Q – In terms of positive behaviour points, is there a way for staff to award the points and communicate to the students what they are being awarded for – students do not always know what they are for?</b></p> <p>A – We always let the student the reason if there is a negative behaviour point given. We have made this a focus for staff as students need to understand the link with their behaviour.</p> <p>A Governor commented that the feedback from students regarding the change in behaviour is noticeable and tangible. Students feel that SLT are very visible. Leaders commented that a significant amount of time has been invested in building relationships with the students. This has also been helped by the Pastoral Team and the team around the year group, who are able to liaise with parents on a regular basis.</p> <p><b>Q – In terms of permanent exclusions is there is a link with SEND – do you look at the support in place?</b></p> <p>A – Yes we do and this is included in the SEND team provision. We have 4 SEND Leaders in school and they review the behaviour with the relevant Head of Year. We are able to see who is struggling and what is currently in place. SEND support plans and appropriate interventions can then be implemented.</p> <p>Attendance data at the time of the report was tracking at 93.1%. This is above national average, but the school tracks against the other schools in the Trust, as opposed to local or national average.</p> <p>Attendance is a huge focus which requires continuous review and monitoring. We are working to integrate some of our students back into school. As a school we have numerous processes and procedures in place to</p>	
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			<p>view the attendance of all of our students in school. We are planning to have attendance data available to staff at parents evening so that they are able to review with parents/carers.</p> <p>FSM and SEND students attendance is lower than we would like, compared to other Trust schools, and this is something we are working closely on. The Pastoral and the SEND team work closely to review individual cases and can convene At Risk meeting which can also involve outside agencies.</p> <p>We also undertake monthly year group attendance meetings. We look at the data to early identify any potential issues. Attendance is an issue we are working on continuously.</p> <p>Governors were updated on Safeguarding measures within school. The report included the key personnel with responsibility for safeguarding and how this is structured within the school.</p> <p>All staff in school have access to CPOMS to be able to report any safeguarding concerns.</p> <p>Governors were updated on the safeguarding training all staff had received at the start of the academic year, and also the plans for the remainder of the year.</p> <p>M Farrar is the Safeguarding Link Governor and meets EW half termly to review safeguarding. MF commented that he was reassured to see the level of recording on CPOMS which was available to leaders to be able to follow up on any issues identified.</p>	
		Ensure delivery of school curricula and assessment in line with Trust approach	RH verbally confirmed the delivery of the school curricula and assessment in line with the Trust approach.	

3	Governor Monitoring	Policies – undertake school level reviews and note phase/Trust level policies	Governors <u>approved</u> the following policies:  Attendance policy Biometrics policy	
		Ensure curriculum policies (eg Religious Education and Relationships, Sex Education) Behaviour and Welfare are in line with statutory guidance	RH confirmed that the school policies are implemented in line with statutory guidance.	
		Safeguarding and SEND Link Governor updates	M Farrar has attended a Safeguarding link visit with EW and LFO.  LB has attended a SEND link visit.  KMc will be attending a link visit with JWO to review Pupil Premium.	
		Monitor Pupil Premium, Catch up and Sport Premium spending to ensure it improves the attainment of eligible students	The Pupil Premium Strategy Statement was circulated to Governors prior to this meeting.  The statement has been uploaded to the website and will be reviewed following the validated data being published.	
4	Governor Development	Review Trust Training Plan	Governors were asked to complete the GDPR training as soon as possible and to send their completed certificates to the Clerk for retention.	All
		Minute any training undertaken by Governors since the last meeting	There were no updates to training given.	

5	AOB	KS4 curriculum offer	<p>Leaders informed Governors of the proposed changes to the KS4 curriculum offer. The proposal is that the number of option choices for students to select is reduced from 4 to 3 subjects. This would increase the guided learning hours in these subjects from 6 to 7 per fortnight. This change also allows additional learning time to be allocated to English, Maths and Science. This model already works very successfully in all other Trust secondary schools.</p> <p>The EBacc entries will not be increasing to the levels in other Trust schools but this will happen over time. Governors acknowledged the need to improve the Ebacc entries whilst noting that this would take time.</p> <p><b>Q – Will this change be for the current year 8?</b>  A – We are currently looking at year 9. Groups are set and we would encourage students in the top sets to select a language as one of their option choices. Leaders believe languages to be important and part of students future beyond year 11.</p> <p>Following discussion Governors <u>approved</u> the proposed change to the options offer and subsequent GCSE numbers going forward.</p>	
7	Meeting Dates:	To note	<p>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 4.45pm  Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 4.45pm</p> <p>Please inform the Clerk, as far in advance as possible, of any meetings you are unable to attend.</p>	

#### Impact of Meeting / Key Outcomes

Members of the Student Council attended to present their proposal for the updated school logo
C Nevin, Trustee, attended the meeting to discuss the structure of governance within the Trust
Governors reviewed the Head of School report
RH confirmed the delivery of the school curricula and assessment in line with the Trust approach
Governors approved the Attendance policy and the Biometrics policy
RH confirmed the school policies are implemented in line with statutory guidance
Governors received the Pupil Premium Strategy Statement

Meeting closed at 6.30

M Farrar  
Chair of Academy Committee  
18.03.2024