

THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL
Minutes of the Student and Community Committee Meeting
Tuesday 14th June 2022

Time: 6 pm
Place: The Hub and via Zoom
Present: **In person**
 Jo Trigg (JT) (chair), Amanda McClean (AM), Martin Sandford (MS), Helen Thorne (HT), Eleanor Shergold (Clerk) (ES)
Via Zoom
 Pete Gear (PG), Gemma Pugh (GP)
 Holly, Toby, Cameron (Y8 Students)

Advisers: **In person**
 Helen Kerr (HKE), Linda Baines (LBA), Sara Ambrose (SAM)

Apologies:

Agenda Item	Actions Agreed	Who
80/22	Meeting dates to be confirmed for next year	HKE/ES
81/22	To check the Friends Facebook account is clear that it is not the school's account	SAM
82/22	To share Working Together to Improve School Attendance document	SAM
86/22	To ask the PBSC Manger to write a guide to the PBSC spreadsheet totals	HKE
86/22	Governors to give a steer on which aspects of behaviour they would like covered	ALL
87/22	To have a summary of student welfare concerns data for 2021/22 in September	HKE
89/22	To update agenda plan for 22/23	ES
91/22	Governor postcards to be sent	JT

76/22 Apologies

There were no apologies.

77/22 Declaration of Business Interests

Governors were reminded to declare business interests as necessary.

78/22 Student Leadership and Student Voice – Y8

Cameron, Holly and Toby were welcomed to the meeting. They gave feedback on questions provided in advance.

Does JOG have enough variety around extra curricular activities? Is there anything you would like to see added? All three would like to see more variety – there is a lot of expressive arts and sports. The latter seems to overlap so they would like to see them more spread out and to have more faculty-based activities like history and geography added.

How well do you think the school deals with any incidents of bullying? Feedback included the following

- Examples of personal experience where bullying had been dealt with well
- Feeling safe in terms of how it was dealt with
- Feeling unsure about where to go if being bullied – that it should be talked about more and reinforced

There was a discussion around what is in place – talk to a member of staff, use the comment box at reception or in the library or submit an online form. The conclusion was that the comment boxes need to

be better advertised and more widely available.

HKE – peer ambassador training is due to take place soon. Some students would rather talk to one of their peers than a member of staff. The training will cover strategies that ambassadors can use including how to support others to talk to a member of staff.

Students were of the opinion that this was a good idea but that there also needs to be a forum where information can be shared more regularly and given a higher profile so that the information is spread to all year groups. Possible options discussed.

Would you recommend the school to others and if so, why?

All three said that they would recommend JOG to others – it is an amazing, welcoming and inclusive school which gives great opportunities.

There are still some issues with students being disruptive, perhaps not realising how important school is. HKE talked about the impact of the pandemic with 2 years of school life being disrupted. Some students liked being at home. She would like to attend a wider council meeting and perhaps unpick some of what is happening.

Holly, Toby and Cameron were thanked for attending and left the meeting.

79/22 Equality Objectives – End of Year Review

To increase the extent to which all pupils, including in particular those with protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act, feel valued and confident, and in consequence more likely to achieve their potential

To increase the level of pupil voice by extending our traditional school council to include a fair representation of all pupils in school, and in this way to foster good relationships in the school between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not

Student voice – an audit of equality, diversity and inclusion has taken place. In terms of representation on the Student Council the process is democratic. There are 2 tutor group reps on the year councils. From the year councils there are 2 reps from each year on the school council. The process is diverse in terms of democracy but it does not always lead to inclusion re diversity and protected groups. **Governors asked how representatives are chosen, whether people put themselves forward for consideration.** LBA confirmed that this is the case. **It was thought that there may be more students who would be willing to be reps if they were asked.**

There are additional committees where students' thoughts and views can be heard – equality & diversity, minority & ethnic students, LGBT+ and a young carers group. Groups with student voice but not necessarily on the council.

LBA – consideration needs to be given to where the gaps are in the school council at the start of the year so that the council reaches out and thinks about how to ensure that diversity is represented.

80/22 Meeting Dates for 22/23

A discussion took place around meeting dates for next year. HKE to look at the calendar for the year and revise meeting dates accordingly.

Action – meeting dates to be confirmed for next year

HKE/ES

LBA and GP left the meeting.

81/22 Minutes and Matters Arising

40/22 – SAM and PG have discussed Friends of JOG and Friends funds. Closing the account seems to be relatively straightforward. There is a desire to keep the Friends Facebook account going. This does not have

any moderation or input from the school, which is a concern. SAM will follow this up to ensure that it is not branded as if it belongs to the school.

09/05 Resources & Audit – an action from the recent site visit was for S&C to discuss action taken as a result of graffiti expressing far right extremist views. HKE – a prevent referral was made.

The minutes of 26 April were agreed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

82/22 Attendance

Attendance report circulated in advance of the meeting.

JOG continues to track above the national. Persistent Absence remains high but the school has made headway and this is down by 3% compared to the September to April figures. This is as a result of letters home and raising awareness of PA. The minibus continues to go out on Fridays, collecting 10 students who have a pattern of being absent on Fridays. Incentives discussed – specific awards/opportunities to celebrate that would only be available on Fridays.

SAM shared data from FFT (Fischer Family Trust) which is representative of the top third of schools nationally. JOG's attendance data is comparable. This is reassuring as the school continues to navigate a post Covid world and emotionally based school avoidance.

SAM is reassured that the absence policy is robust and fair, working in the interests of students, maintaining high ambition and accountability for all. **Governors noted the significant improvement in PA and asked about benchmarking.** The IDSR will capture attendance from January to April. SAM has worked out Covid absence for that period, which had a significant impact. There was a discussion around this. **Governors noted that it is going to be difficult to understand the impact of Covid on results for individuals and for the school.**

SAM and PG have met and discussed 'Working Together to Improve School Attendance' which becomes statutory in September. There is a very clear, greater expectation for the local authority to be more proactive in supporting schools. SAM said that there is nothing new in the document that the school is not already doing.

Action – to share document

SAM

SAM left the meeting.

83/22 Parent Surveys

The survey has been sent out and the results will go to full board later this term.

84/22 Equality Objectives – End of Year Review

To increase the extent to which all pupils, including in particular those with protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act, feel valued and confident, and in consequence more likely to achieve their potential

Students feeling valued and confident – the student survey will be used to understand the baseline for this objective and to make further plans. The survey has gone out to KS3 and KS4 and students who will be encouraged to complete it in ICT lessons.

85/22 Peer on Peer Abuse Action Plan

There is a further working party meeting due to take place in July. Things are ticking along. The anti-bullying ambassador training day has been arranged and will take place soon.

86/22 Behaviour and Bullying

Report circulated from PBSC Manager in advance of the meeting.

Incidents – PE Kit – some students have worked out that this is a way of getting out of PE. Uniform – HKE has bought more stock items. Shoes are a predominant issue at the moment. PSK has allowed school to issue a uniform note for up to a week to allow time to buy items needed. Medical – in absence of a medical person this may be students who have needed a quiet space if feeling wobbly.

Some of the students spending time in the PBSC are waiting on a diagnosis, e.g., ADHD. With no EHCP there is no additional funding. Alternative provision discussed. It is hoped that there may be more options when the school joins EQUA.

Truancy – this applies to a small number of students. HKE gave an update on new systems introduced this term.

Governors asked for a guide to the spreadsheet totals. The leading reasons per year group would be good to see as well as the % of students per year group.

Action – to ask PBSC Manger to write a guide to the spreadsheet totals **HKE**

Action – governors to give a steer on which aspects of behaviour they would like covered throughout the year

PG left the meeting.

Governors asked if there is any correlation between things that have happened in school that day and PBSC attendance. HKE said that there is not. She has also looked at various factors including the time of day that students are sent there. The timing of the school lunch break was discussed. **Governors asked about student opinion on this.**

HKE is giving consideration to the location of the pastoral team and year leads with a view to moving things around.

87/22 Safeguarding and Student Wellbeing

Data circulated in advance of the meeting.

Governors would like to see how the figures have changed throughout the year. HKE and LBA are in the process of writing a job description for a mental health practitioner for P16, shared with KS4.

Sonia (PBSC TA) is Thrive qualified and is undergoing further training.

Action – to have a summary of the year for September S&C **HKE**

88/22 Stability Report

There was no update due to staff sickness. The latest report was shared at full board in May.

89/22 S&C Agenda Plan for 22/23

Current agenda plan circulated. The following amendments were agreed

- Policy reviews to be added
- Group representation to be added
 - Young Carers – to invite SHI to November meeting
 - BAEM and E&D – to invite MLE to January meeting
 - LGBT+ and Rainbow Award – to invite SSC to January meeting

Action – to update agenda plan for 22/23 **ES**

90/22 Policies

Parental Code of Conduct – approved.

91/22 Governor Postcards

This was discussed and agreed.

92/22 AOB

JOG will be running a summer school again this year. This is good news and an invitation will be sent to every Y6 student due to attend the school in September as well as Y5s who are considering attending JOG. This will include free meals and is all funded by the school.

The meeting closed at 8 pm. Date of next Student & Community Meeting TBC

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____