

THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL
Minutes of the Curriculum, Learning and
Educational Standards Committee Meeting
Wednesday 9th November 2022

Time: 6 pm
Place: The Hub and via Teams
Present: **In person**
 Andrew Hawkins (AH) (chair & note taker) David Whewell (DW), Daniela Coy (DC)
Advisors **Via Zoom**
 Linda Baines (LBA), Abbie Lanng (ALA), Vicky Marshall (VMA)
In person
 Ben Rhodes (BRH)
Apologies: Martin Sandford (MS)

Agenda Item	Actions Agreed	Who
13/23	Equality objective snap shot of data required	BRH
17/23	Upgrade SEND representation on school website	BRH
17/23	Check if offer of a replacement dog has been investigated	BRH
21/23	To send governor postcard	DC

11/23 Apologies

Apologies were agreed and accepted.

12/23 Declaration of Business Interests

Governors were reminded to declare business interests as necessary.

13/23 Minutes and Matters Arising

5/23 It was noted previously that NEAs (the assessed course work element of KS5 studies) required closer progress monitoring, assurances were secured that a schedule had been formalized

7/23 Data presented in relation to the Equality Objective '*To narrow the gap between boys and girls in English KS3 and KS4 results*' has not yet been clarified. **Governors suggested a fresh snap shot be provided at a future date with a detailed explanation of trends**

8/23 Clarification of which documents are Policies or procedures. Prior to meeting BRH offered a list, which was agreed and will be passed on to NRE

The minutes of 27 September were agreed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

14/23 Progress – Tracking point 1 current Y11

ALA provided tables and analysis before the meeting. Compared to their position in Y10 tracking point 3 (Y10 TP3) the position of Y11 TP1 has in general worsened, only Humanities (from a strong positive position) and Science (from a medium negative position) showed any improvement. Current P8 for Y11 is -0.14. ALA was reasonably confident of TP accuracy. **Governors were curious to reasons why the situation had declined.** ALA explained that national guidance with regard to 2023 exams was now explicit, indicating grade boundaries would be closely aligned to 2019 (pre-covid) performance and TPs must reflect that reality. Also, it was cautioned that it was early in Y11 and there had been some departmental variation that has already led to training, deemed to be of "high quality" by BRH, at Department Head (DL) and Middle Leader (ML) level.

Governors questioned how the Y11 situation could be improved.

Maintaining and improving Quality of Teaching was considered the primary intervention – teaching to the top which means modelling to grade 9 and scaffold down. Also changing the focus of Period 6 (P6) to support particular students and broadening access to the National Tutor Program to any student identified as benefiting from access to it. The P6 changes followed student and parent voice surveys. It was felt that P6 was becoming too broad encompassing an unnecessarily large number of students and potentially stifling the development of independent study skills in the most able.

At a departmental level it was recognized that several departments would benefit from closer line management and more consistency with their approach, and this is ongoing. Art, Astronomy, Photography and Textiles will pass through their first exam cycle this coming summer, and there are new specification introduced in BTEC tech qualifications, all providing JoG with the challenge of accurate tracking and well focused teaching.

Longer term solution included, a greater focus at KS3 to break the cycle of fire fighting at KS4, of which the appointment of a KS3 Mentor is part, and the continual evaluation of our curriculum offer to meet the needs and aspirations of the students.

15/23 Past Y11 Results

ALA confirmed that the initial data shared in the KS4 Results Report mentioned in (5/23) had been confirmed, by the process of Tables Checking. Therefore Progress 8 (P8) remained at +0.11 **which governors were pleased to hear**. ALA noted that not all schools had been so accurate.

16/23 SEND Update

VMA supplied two reports prior to the meeting. These clearly described the provision offered and the strategies used. The success of the department, and potentially one of its biggest risks, were reflected in the increasing number of students attending JoG with EHCPs (Educational and Health Care Plans) from a wider geographic range. Current numbers in Y7 and Y8, 10 per year group, are almost double any other year group, whilst early enquiries from Y5-6 are high and inter-year transfers and assessment/reassessments will also increase our current numbers. Assurance was given that risks associated with expansion, are managed by ensuring that any acceptance of EHCP students is appropriately funded and that JoG has sufficient staff/skills in place. It was noted that Wiltshire has been prompt with financial support.

70% of SEN (Special Educational Needs) and ECHP students experience autism. The trend was up in terms of numbers and variety of need. Retention, recruitment and training of staff will be key to securing and growing JoG provision in this area.

There was discussion about the facilities available to SEND. The physical isolation of the buildings were seen to be beneficial in creating a safe haven particularly for the nurture groups (Y7 and Y8), but they are cramped around exam time, and some are very dilapidated. Fudge the cat won commendation as a “great calming influence”. **This led governors to question whether Obi the dog had been replaced, as an offer had been made to JoG of a replacement.**

Integration of SEN students within the school and the determination of JoG that all teachers are teachers of SEN students, was seen to be very positive. **When questioned**, VMA confirmed that teachers did step up to this responsibility and that the department offers regular training and support to aid staff in this regard.

An observation was made that our current web site does not fully reflect JoG SEN activity, suggesting this needed upgrading.

The area of SEN, EHCP and Alternative Provision (AP) are very important to JoG as a fully inclusive school. It is an area in great flux with AP having been increasingly difficult to access. Governors were told of Wiltshire’s desire to move to a “Resource Base” model of provision that, if our application were successful, could see numbers rise significantly. VMA saw this as a great opportunity. **Governors highlighted the need to control any risks associated with this including demands on**

leadership, staff and the potential need for new buildings. Funding in this area is significant, each student place attracts £6,000, and additional top up funding, dependent on need, ranges from approx. £2-16,000.

SEND Information Report and SEN Policy discussed and agreed.

17/23 KS5 Learning Cycles

Having been delayed by Covid, LBA described the extension of Learning Cycles into the sixth form. Several benefits were enunciated: staff focus on KS5 planning; increasing partnership and co-operation in the typically paired teaching practiced at KS5; and student familiarity/confidence in the learning routine. BRH supplied before the meeting 2 examples from Physics and Spanish for governor attention.

18/23 KS5 Curriculum Offer

Prior to the meeting LBR submitted the curriculum offer and entrance requirements for Sixth Form entry 2023. In total 20 A Levels and 6 BTEC/Vocational subjects. This is truly representative of a "broad and balanced curriculum" offer. Sixth Form options evening was on 10th November. It is uncertain if all will recruit sufficient numbers to run. "T" Levels were not offered, the heavy work experience element and local college provision were seen to be more suited to these.

The KS5 Curriculum Offer provides progression routes for most KS4 options. Of note was the dynamic adjustment in Music, changing from A Level to BTEC Level 3 Music Performance judged a better fit to our current Y11 cohort.

Current and future challenges to the KS5 offer include, staffing of Law and Business Studies.

19/23 KS4 Curriculum Offer

ALA provided the KS4 Curriculum offer documents before the meeting. Compulsory examined subjects are: English x2 (Language and Literature), Maths and at least Double Science. Participation in PE, RE and PSHE is also compulsory, but maybe non-examined. There are 22 optional subjects which include the other elements of EBacc. **The breath of this offer was commended by governors.**

Astronomy course, new last year, is oversubscribed. Great care must be taken in recruiting to Triple Science as experience shows weaker students may not benefit from this selection.

20/23 Policies

SEND Information Report 2022/23
SEN Policy

Both agreed as above.

21/23 Governor Postcards

This was discussed and agreed.

22/23 AOB

There was no further business to discuss.

The meeting closed at 7:40 pm. Date of next CLES meeting – Wednesday 18th of January 2023.

Signed: _____ Date: _____