

**THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL**  
**Minutes of the Student and Community Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**Time:** 6 pm

**Present:** **Via Teams**

Martin Sandford (MS), Gemma Pugh (GP), Sophia Oleszynski (SO), Jenson and Deni (Y7 Students)

**Advisers:** **Via Teams**

Helen Kerr (HKE), Sara Ambrose (SAM), Linda Baines (LBA)

**Apologies:** Amanda McClean (AM), Daniela Coy (DC)

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Actions Agreed</b>	<b>Who</b>
48/23	Meet with y7 students from School Council to follow up points below	HKE
49/23	Progress list of useful outside agencies and align these with EQUA	SAM/GP
50/23	Consider some strategic alignment with EQUA over Attendance	SAM
51/23	Refer EQUA alignment issues raised today to FGB	MS
55/23	Check once more through policies before adoption at FGB	MS
56/23	Governor postcards to be sent	MS
57/23	Uniform Consultation forms to go out w/c 13 <sup>th</sup> March	HKE

#### **46/23 Apologies**

Apologies were agreed and accepted.

#### **47/23 Declaration of Business Interests**

Governors were reminded to declare business interests as necessary.

#### **48/23 Student Leadership KS3**

Jenson and Deni from Year 7 were welcomed to the meeting. Broadly the same questions were asked as had been used with KS4 and KS5 students. How could rewards for positive behaviour be developed and improved? What does the school do well? What do you like about coming to school? Do you feel safe and happy and do you have access to a trusted adult? What could school improve upon? Would you recommend John of Gaunt?

Answers – “Lack of rewards in the mid-range of positive behaviour points”. “More gift cards for less than 300 points please”. “Can we buy food with points”? HKE agreed to see students on Friday to follow up in detail after checking with Business Manager. “School has a good behaviour policy and dedicated teachers”. “We enjoy learning, have friends and feel safe and happy”. “Work is harder than primary school and we feel challenged”. “Lot of safe open spaces”. “Well prepared for my transfer starting in year 5”. Concerns noted were high canteen prices and some unhygienic toilets.

Deni and Jenson left the meeting.

#### **49/23 Minutes and Matters Arising**

33/23 School Council continues to discuss reward points and today’s students had consulted before this meeting with year 7 Council.

34/23 Charities and other outside agencies discussed again. Healthcare changes were occurring and staff have incomplete knowledge of outside agencies. Alignment with EQUA make this an ongoing issue. Carried forward.

34/23 Toilet changes for unisex, safety and hygiene on going issue, with R&A, and Full Board.

34/23 Interventions map complexity discussed, but not presented today.

43/23 Staff Code of Conduct ratified at this meeting.

44/23 Postcards had been sent as agreed.

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

## 50/23 Attendance

Attendance report circulated in advance of the meeting. This showed an absence pattern consistent with FFT schools since Christmas, overall very slightly worse than FFT at 90.4% compared to 90.9%, However, our illness dip in week 15 had been sharper than FFT. There was some inconsistency in our Persistent Absence data where we were 2% adrift of FFT at 29.1% compared to 27%, with more marked PA concerns in year 8, 10 and 11. This has improved from 29.9% reported in January though. Government has put this firmly back on the agenda. State school average PA is 27.8% but this may not be accurate as only 2/3 of schools currently send in this data. We have issues to be resolved over data protection before sending this data to DFE. **Governors asked if our significant rise in EHE (Elective Home Educated) were included in absence data.** This and any missing from education do NOT show, and would worsen figures if included. We currently also have 5 girls noted as unfit for education by CAMHS, and Governors and SAM discussed reasons for continuing Post-Covid absence issues, and emotionally based school avoidance.

On a positive staffing note the partnership with new EWO is going well, but sadly we have just lost our new school attendance officer. The need for both pastoral and administrative skills makes the latter a difficult post to fill. **Governors suggested possibly working and aligning with EQUA and having a strategic MAT approach to attendance.**

*N.B Governors can still read 'Working Together to Improve School Attendance' which became statutory last September. This raises the expectation for the local authority to be more proactive in supporting schools. SAM previously said that there is nothing in the document that the school is not already doing.*

## 51/23 Character Education

The nature and importance of Character Education was explained again by SAM, describing how school shared values are communicated and taught. The aim to secure Kite-mark for Character Education has been paused however as it is another item which is due for possible alignment with EQUA, and there is a lot of additional signage and extra admin to pass an inspection to gain the award.

SAM left the meeting.

## 52/23 Behaviour and Bullying

It had been agreed with PG and HKE before the meeting not to provide extra data this time, but to have an overview discussion. Behaviour issues, notably in year 11, remain significant and the usual expectation of compliance and focus with this group has not materialised. Of the 1500 referrals to the support centre so far this year, over 1/3 are from year 11, albeit a core of repeat offenders. 25% of PSBC referrals have SEN, and 17% are PP. Suspensions are much higher than usual with swearing at staff a major cause for referral to PSBC. Within PSBC a new approach with separate dedicated behaviour and safeguarding team specialisms is being trialled. Too much reactive behaviour work is in danger of displacing proactive support work and mentoring.

Capacity in PBSC and ways to reduce time spent there were discussed, with all day detention to be avoided where possible. Although disruption free learning is important, the abdication of behaviour management and the de-skilling of teachers to manage behaviour themselves, in their own classrooms, was discussed again. A staff briefing on Behaviour and Safeguarding is planned imminently by HKE. Parenting Orders and lessons for parents on taking responsibility for anti-social children remains high on our agenda.

**Governors asked about support for more serious behaviour, verging on low level offending.** Use of PCSOs and Youth Offending Team occurs, and those at risk of anti-social behaviour are subject to THRIVE and SWIFT interventions, including a new targeted category of “at risk outside of the home”. Full map of interventions to be shown to Safeguarding and Behaviour Governors at next visits. Value of morning welcome discussed, as this is also an opportunity for some poor behaviour at the start of the day.

The teaching of acceptable behaviour, citizenship, and community cohesion remain as challenges alongside core values and Character Education at John of Gaunt. Anti-Bullying Policy agreed with no changes.

### **53/23 Safeguarding and Safeguarding Audit**

Data circulated in advance of the meeting. See spreadsheet. Limited discussion today due to priority given to behaviour issues, but large number with mental health and medical (y11) and vulnerable (y8) are notable concerns. 14 in year 11 on Alternative Provision, and growing numbers EHE present an extra safeguarding concern. Changing of recording system to CPONS discussed.

Positive feedback received about John of Gaunt systems from Wiltshire Right Choice, Q&A Safeguarding training session, reported back by MS. This year’s comprehensive audit was submitted in good time.

Also, on a positive note 3 PEPs completed this week for 3 Children in Care, and all were exceeding and above their targets.

### **54/23 Stability Report**

Data sent out before meeting identified the 40 Starters and 40 Leavers since September including 16 Starters and 18 Leavers since Christmas. **Governors asked about difficulties for the 5 starting during Year 11, which was seen as less than ideal.** Also 11 EHE Leavers noted. Students have moved, in some cases from being persistent absentees to EHE to avoid fines. Also some students had gone back and forth from EHE to attending sporadically. Reasons for, and impact of these changes were discussed.

### **55/23 Policies**

Staff Code of Conduct, Anti-Bullying and Online safety policies all circulated before this meeting and all agreed today with no changes. Governors to please check policies once more before next FGB and their adoption. A simpler summary appendix for the On-line safety is still needed however.

### **56/23 Governor Postcards**

This was discussed and agreed. To send to Shannon Silcocks for work in establishing and growing the Breakfast Club – see AOB. Also, to JMA and SSC for completion and achievement of the Rainbow Award.

### **57/23 AOB**

Various up and coming training courses mentioned, and the options of Governors attending EQUA, Wiltshire Right Choice, and national training programmes was confirmed.

Uniform consultation to go ahead, with forms to go out to parents, staff, pupils and Governors from Monday 13th March.

Breakfast club now up to 15-20 students per day, largely thanks to Shannon Silcocks. Location in the Intervention Room in PSBC discussed. This location may deter some, but it is a calm environment and Breakfast Club would not work as well in the canteen.

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm. Date of next Student & Community Meeting Wed 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_