

THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL
Minutes of the Student and Community Committee Meeting
Tuesday 18th January 2022

Time: 6 pm
Place: Zoom
Present: Pete Gear (PG) (Vice Chair), Martin Sandford (MS), Helen Thorne (HT), Amanda McClean (AM), Eleanor Shergold (ES) (Clerk)
Advisers: Helen Kerr (HKE), Linda Baines (LBA), Sara Ambrose (SAM), Mark Perraton (MPE)
Apologies: Jo Trigg (JT)

Agenda Item	Actions Agreed	Who
39/22	Circulate the Character Education Kite Mark application when completed	SAM
40/22	To discuss Friends and Friends funds further	PG/SAM
43/22	To read positive environment guidance	ALL
44/22	To share assembly PowerPoint	HKE
48/22	E-safety policy to be agreed by email if possible	HKE/ES
48/22	Deadline for admissions policy reviews to be clarified	HKE
49/22	Governor postcards to be sent	PG

35/22 Apologies

Apologies were agreed and accepted.

36/22 Declaration of Business Interests

Governors were reminded to declare business interests as necessary.

37/22 Student Leadership and Student Voice KS3

Ava and Mohammed were welcomed to the meeting. Students from different year groups attend S&C to ensure that student voice is heard by governors. Ava and Mohammed were asked to give feedback on the following questions – how has settling in to the school been for you, what could we do better and what do we do well.

Settling in to the school has been a great experience. Having a sibling at school makes it easier. PGL brought friendships together. **Governors asked how students had found finding their way around the school.** The biggest worry was that JOG is bigger than primary schools. Once they got used to this it was fine and easier to navigate.

In terms of what the school could do better – it would be good to have more after school clubs that don't just focus on sports. **Governors asked what type of clubs.** Debating, maths, for example.

The school could improve on reassuring new students that they know the systems and parents & students well – e.g., a video to reassure students. HKE asked LBA if she could borrow Y7 and Y8 students to talk further about transition. This was agreed.

In terms of the atmosphere in school – the school environment is good and feels safe. The CCTV helps with this. One of the downsides is the unisex toilets – when students are crowded in there with lots of talking it can feel intimidating.

The rewards system was thought to be very effective, helping students push to do well and gives confidence that when people are disturbing others that it will be dealt with. It can be annoying if a teacher doesn't award points when they said they would, but most of the time it works well.

HKE – Class Charts has the capacity to allow parents to award reward points but this has not been enabled. It could be used to note when students are doing exceptional homework, etc. HKE asked students for feedback. It was noted that some parents may not use it at all and some may abuse it. Practicalities discussed.

Eva and Mohammed were thanked for their input and for joining the meeting.

LBA and students left the meeting.

38/22 PSHE - RE

Sex and Relationships Education at JOG document circulated in advance of the meeting.

MPE was invited to the meeting to give an update on how the school has built the new DfE requirements for SRE into the curriculum. MPE has re-written schemes of work and created a good mapping exercise.

Today's children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. The DfE guidance is around preparing students to be safe and healthy and how to manage their academic and social lives. The guidance was made statutory in 2020, not just within PSHE but across the curriculum. Due to Covid schools were given 3 extra terms to implement the guidance.

MPE – the school is ahead of the game in terms of SRE. The spiral curriculum in PSHE building upon what has been covered in previous years. MPE gave an overview of the content of SRE across the year groups, how it is covered in other subjects and adjustments that have been made to the curriculum to cover the new guidance. Most of the changes relate to Y11 – LGBT relationships and gender identity. Consent has been raised by Ofsted recently. MPE outlined how this is covered.

A letter was sent to parents during the first lockdown, this is also on the school website.

Future plans include writing content on consent for Y7. MPE is looking at age appropriate resources for this. He would like to work with primary schools to address gaps due to online learning. HKE and MPE are to discuss the parents evening in July – addressing SRE content across KS3 to KS5.

Governors asked how cross curricular links are monitored. MPE – the guidelines are clear that SRE needs to be covered across the curriculum, not just in PSHE. The matrix shows how this is done, mostly in PSHE, RE and science, but other things are covered in other areas of the curriculum as per the document shared with governors. MPE is confident that the school addresses everything that should be included.

HKE – MPE has done an incredible job putting together an easy guide – researching good practice, competence and confidence of teachers. One of the biggest challenges in delivering a quality curriculum is that the school is having to use non-specialist teachers to deliver PSHE. Staff are doing well and feel supported. MPE is giving guidance and input into lessons and has done some training focusing on tricky questions.

SAM gave an update, that the issue re non-specialist staff had been discussed at the SLT meeting today. There will be job adverts coming out soon.

39/22 Minutes and Matters Arising

21/22 – the Character Education Kite Mark application will be circulated when it has been completed

25/22 – MS first Safeguarding Audit visit on 14th December looked at Single Central Records processes with EBA and also included interviews with HKE and SHI covering a wide variety of safeguarding procedural issues

The minutes of 15 November were agreed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

40/22 Friends of JOG

SAM and PG gave a brief update. Pre-pandemic there were robust attempts at recruitment. A couple of

discos had taken place. The pandemic enforced non-essential contact in schools to cease. All parents' evenings have been held remotely. It was suggested that Friends could be relaunched in a digital format.

Governors were of the opinion that until it is possible to meet in person this could be time consuming.

PG said that there are some funds involved and that this needs to be clarified.

Action – PG and SAM to discuss further

PG/SAM

41/22 Attendance

Attendance data circulated in advance of the meeting covers the autumn term – September to December. SAM – there is a slight caveat to this in that how the DfE is tracking attendance is very different to how it was pre-pandemic. This is now recorded on a bi-weekly single day.

Attendance for the whole school was above the national average for the autumn term in 2020/21 – 91.3% in comparison to 87.7%.

Attendance dips on a Friday – this is followed up by SLT at the beginning of the week – supportive conversations like back to work meetings. This has had some impact.

At present persistent absence seems enormously high, particularly when compared to pre-pandemic data. Currently the DfE is not using that language. If Covid is taken out of the equation the school is still in a relatively stable position.

Emotionally based school avoidance – changes in routines are particularly challenging for SEN students. On the 16 December the national SEN/EHCP student attendance was 74% - JOG 87.7%, so above the national.

Governors asked whether the dip on Fridays reflects specific year groups or if this is across the board.

SAM said that this dips 2-3% for all year groups. The school is working on this with students and parents – scrutinising and challenging.

Governors asked if students are absent at home or out and about in the community. SAM – the truancy call is an automated system triggered if a reason for absence not given by 10am. If this does not get a response then the school will carry out a home visit. **Governors asked about students at risk in the community – gang involvement, crime, etc.** HKE – the pastoral team have a good handle on this and the team meet with SAM every week. Often there are additional safeguarding concerns that the school is aware of.

SAM left the meeting.

42/22 Alternative Provision

HKE – the situation with alternative provision is ongoing in that there is not enough availability. HKE and PSK are tasked with QA. Arrangements in place with the college are good. VMA does the QA for Larkrise Farm. All of the bases are covered. Ofsted may ask for contact number, they may have a phone call.

The only other real option apart from a managed move is Academy 21. Often those most at risk are those disengaged and this is an online resource. They do take a register and send detailed reports.

SAM and HKE share reasons and timetable how best to meet needs. The government requirement for 25 hours – intensive tuition sometime mitigates shorter timetable provision.

43/22 Positive Environment

Link to guidance included for governors to read – to follow up at later meeting.

Action – all to read positive environment guidance

All

44/22 Safeguarding and Student Wellbeing

Data circulated in advance of the meeting.

HKE – the biggest issue with everything is that the need is higher than the resources available. The school continues to work well with local resources.

Peer on Peer Abuse – the working party is amazing and is a focus of the School Improvement Plan, making sure that the subject is on every agenda – e.g. PSK's talk at the start of term, HKE's update at the staff briefing this morning. HKE shared a PowerPoint – anti bullying available in a student friendly format with a particular section on peer on peer abuse accessible to both students and parents. HKE has also taken an assembly.

Action – to share assembly PowerPoint

HKE

There will be a separate video on consent and peer on peer abuse for the 6th form, targeting feedback from JDU re student voice.

HKE has carried out student voice with girls and shared some of the feedback given, particularly around girls not feeling safe. Boys' student voice has also taken place. Students want to be able to talk to other young people – the school is working with the Princess Diana Memorial Trust who will do the training for this. The school wants to include what students say is needed, not just cover requirements.

The school has been awarded the antibullying alliance silver award.

Governors asked about the data shared around Mental Health, numbers increasing up through the school years. HKE – the threshold for CAHMS is so high and the impact of the pandemic can't be underestimated. For Y11 the last non-traumatised school year was Y8. Students arrived back completely overwhelmed. Constant headlines are unhelpful.

The school counsellor is brilliant. HKE has asked her to do some small group work and other intervention.

45/22 Stability Report – Leavers

Data shared. This will be a focus item at the next S&C meeting.

Currently the school has over 300 first choice applications for September. PAN has been raised from 267 to 270. This is in comparison with 170 students leaving Y11.

As always many of the starters and leavers relate to managed moves or friendships. HKE has no concerns that school hasn't met its responsibility or addressed the issues. HKE makes sure every situation is interrogated to make sure the school is not missing anything.

46/22 Behaviour and Bullying

Report circulated.

Students visiting PBSC – HKE is drilling down into this, who is spending time there. For repeated students HKE is meeting with parents setting behaviour improvement plans.

Before Christmas the member of staff leading the PBSC left. The post is currently being advertised. The vacancy is impacting intervention. One of the PBSC staff has done primary school Thrive training, the school is paying for her to upgrade to secondary Thrive.

Behaviour in lessons continues to be good with a small number of students having a big impact. HKE – we have to drill down to get the right input in place.

Positive behaviour tracking – the number of reward points being given has dipped. HKE has sent a reminder to teachers.

47/22 Equality Objectives

This is currently with SLT.

48/22 Policies

Policy spreadsheet – S&C policy dates reviewed.

Medical Conditions, Behaviour and Uniform policies – HT proposed acceptance of all 3 policies, AM seconded the proposal.

E-safety – it was agreed to accept the policy by email if possible, if not the policy will come to March S&C.

Admissions – policy needs to be reviewed to clarify ranking. Deadline 24th March – HKE will clarify this as the date falls between the next S&C and board meeting.

Action – to clarify deadline for admissions policy

HKE

49/22 Governor Postcards

It was agreed to send postcards to the students who attended tonight's meeting.

Also, to MLI – supporting all sorts of things including transition and forest school, a real backbone of the school. To NLE, receptionist who does a fantastic job. And SNI – the glue that holds the school together. MPE – who is very positive, goes above and beyond, works hard. SGR – Ten Tors. NMA and EBE for putting together the online Christmas concert.

50/22 AOB

There was no further business to discuss.

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm. Date of next Student & Community Meeting – Tuesday 1st March 2022

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____