

THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL
Minutes of the Student and Community Committee Meeting
Tuesday 1st March 2022

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

Agenda Item	Actions Agreed	Who
53/22	To circulate the Character Education Kite Mark application when completed	SAM
53/22	To discuss Friends and Friends funds	PG/SAM
53/22	To read positive environment guidance in advance of April's meeting	ALL
55/22	Governors to be updated on Character Education	SAM
59/22	Year to date information to be included in starters and leavers data	HKE
61/22	HKE to contact the LA for advice re Admissions Consultation ES to send consultation criteria to HKE	HKE/ES
62/22	Governor postcards to be sent	JT
63/22	To write a letter to be sent to all year 6 students	JT
63/22	To circulate the enhanced transition booklet	HKE

51/22 Apologies

Apologies were agreed and accepted.

52/22 Declaration of Business Interests

Governors were reminded to declare business interests as necessary.

53/22 Minutes and Matters Arising

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

40/22 – Friends of JOG and Friends funds – update carried forward

43/22 – governors to read positive environment guidance in advance of April S&C

The minutes of 18 January were agreed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

54/22 Equality Objectives

Updated objectives circulated for governor information. Progress will be reviewed at the end of the year.

55/22 Character Education

SAM will circulate an update later in the week.

Action – governors to be updated on Character Education

SAM

56/22 Peer on Peer Abuse

The working party is going really well and is trying not to do too much at once. HKE shared the posters that are being used in the campaign. Two staff briefings have taken place, making sure that staff are really clear on the definition of peer on peer abuse. There is also an ongoing campaign with students. EAD is looking

at the Princess Diana Memorial Trust ambassador programme. Student voice has been really interesting and the See it, Hear it, Say it assembly presentation included the opportunity for students to vote on which logo to use.

This leads on to the start of the poster campaign, each poster highlighting what staff can do and what students can do. The campaign has been extended beyond Peer on Peer Sexual Abuse to include all forms of bullying. The posters will be displayed across the school and include information on how to report concerns. The campaign links to assemblies and tutor time activities.

SSC and KPO have nearly finished updating the antibullying policy, the POPSA element will be in a format accessible to all students and parents.

A question was raised about a recent incident that had taken place in the community and whether the policy extends to the wider community and liaison with other schools. HKE clarified.

Governors recognised the huge amount of work that is taking place across every element of the school and were impressed with the posters.

57/22 Attendance

Updated attendance data circulated in advance of the meeting. This will be a focus area at April's meeting. Governors were advised to contact SAM with any questions about attendance meantime.

58/22 Safeguarding and Student Wellbeing

Data circulated in advance of the meeting.

The new PBSC manager started today. He has real potential and will be able to further support intervention.

One of the biggest problems is around accessing services to support students. The school is seeing an upsurge in safeguarding concerns re domestic abuse. This was expected coming out of lockdown and this is what the team are seeing.

HKE is a member of the Contextual Safeguarding Network and finds the information sharing meetings useful.

The safeguarding audit was postponed by the LA due to Covid and should be ready for April's S&C.

Governors asked about the large number of students with mental health issues and whether the school should be spending some of its reserve if this is a major area of unmet need, whether more resources could be put in place. HKE – the problem is not always the money but availability of resources that would add value. **This is regularly raised in Resources & Audit, whether there is further support that the school could invest in.**

Further discussion took place around alternative provision. HKE said that this also goes back to her previous comment around the availability of resources. The school meets with every student/parent to carry out a review of their needs. There is no statutory definition as to what full time education is. What they need to have is access to the equivalent education of someone attending school, although it's not possible to offer the same breadth. There is no education provision beyond what the school is already accessing. The school offers bespoke targeted provision. Laptops are provided where needed. Every student on alternative provision has at least bi weekly check ins to make sure that they are supported and that their needs are met. There is no alternative provision for KS3.

59/22 Stability Report – Starters & Leavers

Data shared in advance of the meeting.

There have been more starters than leavers this term. HKE said that every week there is speculative contact from parents. For the first time the school has a waiting list for the September intake. Appeals are already

coming through.

Governors asked for year to date information to be added to the termly update. This will help put the data in context. For governor information, HKE said that managed moves can skew the data but agreed to the additional information being added.

Action – year to date information to be included in starters and leavers data

HKE

60/22 Behaviour and Bullying

This will be a focus area for April S&C.

Governors asked if the animals that the school has have a positive impact on student wellbeing, including students who struggle with being in school. HKE – they have a huge impact. Some students only manage to stay in school because of Forest School, for others their safe space is visiting the animals. There are several students who will walk the dog when they are angry. The work that MLI does with Forest School is amazing. He also does a lot of work supporting transition.

61/22 Policies

Admissions – governors asked a question about PAN. HKE clarified.

After a time of discussion around the proposed changes it was agreed to leave in the over subscription criteria for 6th form and to amend it to reflect the admissions criteria for all students. HKE will contact the LA to see if the consultation can still go ahead. ES will send the consultation criteria to HKE. Due to time constraints information will be communicated this week re the proposed changes and the consultation withdrawn if necessary.

Action – HKE to contact the LA for advice. ES to send consultation criteria to HKE

HKE/ES

Complaints Procedure – governors asked questions to clarify. Agreed after a time of discussion.

Online Safety – there was a time of discussion around the length of the policy and the risk of important information getting lost in the detail. The policy has had to change dramatically due to changes in Keeping Children Safe in Education and online teaching. It was suggested that roles and responsibilities could be added to an appendix. Currently the appendix contains a letter to parents and a summary of parent and carer responsibilities.

Parental/carers signatures were also discussed. The information will go out with Y7 packs and can be sent to all other parents in different formats. Asking parents/carers to sign retrospectively would be a huge undertaking but the information can be sent out with encouragement to get in touch with any questions.

Governors asked about the principle message that the school wants parents to take on board. HKE – to encourage responsibility for students' own personal devices and use of the internet at home. The need to be mindful of cyber bullying and the use of social media. Appendix 1 and 2 will be sent to parents. **Governors appreciated the huge amount of work that had gone in to writing the policy.** Policy agreed.

6th Form Code of Conduct – agreed.

62/22 Governor Postcards

Governor postcards discussed and agreed.

63/22 AOB

September intake – the school has made 260 offers with 10 EHCP places. HKE asked if governors could send a letter to all year 6 students to welcome them, addressed to the child rather than the parent. **Governors agreed to this.** HKE will forward the booklet used for enhanced transition.

Action – to write a letter to be sent to all year 6 students

JT

Action – to circulate the enhanced transition booklet

HKE

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm. Date of next Student & Community Meeting – Tuesday 26th April 2022

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____