

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF GOVERNORS' QUALITY & ASSURANCE
SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2010**

PRESENT: Trevor Jones, Steve Uden, Geoff Otley, Anne Jeffrey, Fiona Polnyj,
Chris May, Alistair Day, Angie Dabbs (joined meeting at 4.55)

Trevor Jones welcomed everyone to the new sub-committee meeting - this is to be used to monitor and evaluate school performance.

1/10 APOLOGIES

John Hancock, Jo Brake, Lesley Proctor, Richard Hollis.

2/10 ELECTION OF CHAIR

Geoff Otley agreed to act as acting Chair for this meeting. Chair to be elected at next meeting owing to absentees.

3/10 TERMS OF REFERENCE (previously circulated with Agenda)

Terms of Reference amended and approved (copy herewith).

nb The future of the School Improvement Partner role and of the science specialism are currently in doubt following changes to government policy.

4/10 RESULTS ANALYSIS

KS4

Trevor Jones circulated analysis sheet and reported on the KS4 2010 results. Overall 2010 results are a consolidation of the 2009 results and the improvement over the last few years. These now provide a new baseline for further improvement. There is a slight dip in some benchmarks but an improvement in others. There had been a significant underachievement of boys and it was felt this was caused by problems of behaviour and the culture within the cohort. Another issue was the proportion of A*-A grades that had been achieved. Some subjects had experienced difficulties with long term staff absences.

In assuring on-going improvement the school has developing intervention strategies in place to address the issues and the signs are encouraging. The English results were very encouraging and this does have a knock effect on other literacy based subjects. History had also performed extremely well. There are now more robust internal assessments taking place within Y10 and Y11, together with better revision strategies and shared best practice between departments. Teaching & Learning is also improving. Huge improvements had been made in the ethos, behaviour and cultural aspirations within school and with the ongoing development of middle leadership. Overall, the school is still going in the right direction with incremental improvement expected over the next few years.

KS5

Following a sixth form intervention strategy over the last 2 years to drive forward expectations the results for 2010 had continued the improvement in 2009, and represented a very good performance. Again, strategies are in place to further improve these in 2011.

Geoff Otley congratulated staff on the performance.

5/10 PROGRESS TO TARGETS

Chris May circulated an analysis showing estimated grades by subject leaders based on current performance and information sheet showing what is happening in individual subjects. These are being used to ensure subject leaders have action plans in place to address problems of underachievers.

It was suggested that all subject leaders should get copies of these documents. The data at this stage is encouraging for the 2011 results.

Chris May circulated "99 Booklet" and "The Class of 2011" sheet. Intervention strategies are being put in place and these include working with parents and mentoring students. A Raising Achievement Group is to be re-established to drive forward Maths and English with individual students targeted very specifically. Other strategies include sharing good practice between subject areas, and peer support between subject leaders. Tracking My Progress booklets are being used to help students work towards their individual targets.

The Government's key performance indicators are likely to change over the next 2 years, but there is no doubt that English and Maths will be central, and the school must respond to that.

5.10 pm Fiona Polnyj left the meeting.

6/10 ATTENDANCE

Alistair Day presented a report which had previously been circulated. Several factors did impact upon attendance figures but a range of strategies were put in place and these did improve throughout the year. A target of 94.6% has been set for 2010-11.

7/10 IMPACT OF NEW BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING POLICY, INCLUDING EXCLUSIONS

Alistair Day presented reports which had previously been circulated. Following a review of the Behaviour for Learning Policy, several new strategies have been put in place including use of an Isolation Room, Senior Leadership detention and senior staff and some middle leaders being timetabled to patrol school and to go into lessons. A report on exclusions will be a standing Agenda item for the QA Sub-committee meeting. Initial hard and soft data indicates a significant positive impact this term on behaviour and culture.

8/10 IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Trevor Jones reported on the Improvement Plan, which had been previously circulated. The document, especially the "rationale", summarises where we are focusing our time, energy and resources in driving the school forward.

9/10 SIP REPORT

Trevor Jones and Geoff Otley had met with Joy Bond looking at targets, results and strategies. SIP indicated that her role would likely to be disappearing and there would no longer be separate funding for Specialist Designated Schools.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 16 MARCH, 2011, 4.00 pm E3

Meeting closed at 5.50 pm