

The Swanage School

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STUDENT COMMITTEE

Held on Wednesday 3 May 2023

Present: Isobel Tooley (Chair), Tanya Hamilton-Fletcher, Adam Hines, Jenny Maraspin (Headteacher), Jessica Starmer

In Attendance: Kay Lawton (Deputy Headteacher), Sophie Weld-Davies (Clerk)

Item		Action	Lead	By
STU 5.1	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Hannah Etherington			
STU 5.2	Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest			
STU 5.3	Minutes of the Last Meeting The minutes from 8 th March were approved			
STU 5.4	Matters Arising & Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Citizenship Policy has been approved by Chair's action and the website has been updated 'Not at TSS' - a link has now been added to the front page for laptops and there will be a whole school assembly after the next half term to launch it and will need to be a frequent feature of assemblies alongside E-Safety and social media 			
STU 5.5	Progress Review: Y7-11 <u>Data Review</u> JM presented the data the governors received before the meeting, a mixture of assessment scores and predicted grades. For Year 11, JM overall was not displeased with the data, but it is always a concern if the value-add or progress figure is negative. JM highlighted the following subjects. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Science – in comparison to last year's data all the subjects have improved. AH noted that he has recently been awarded the role of lead practitioner for science; as part of this role he has looked 			

<p>at current and historic data for science, and it seems that this year's cohort is making better progress at this stage than the previous cohort had. JM informed the governors that extra revision sessions had been put on by the science teachers at weekends and in the Easter holidays.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English tends to be negative before exams and then improves however KL reported that she is finding this Y11 a polarised year group possibly due to post covid issues and there seems to be a concerning lack of urgency to revise. • Music – there are only 3 or 4 students who have opted for the Music GCSE from next year. The GCSE groups have been very small for a number of years, and students who do not already play a musical instrument have not tended to do well. Harry Peake does have a vision for music, including that it should have a higher profile in KS3 (Key Stage 3). The governors would like a discussion on whether it is viable to continue as a GCSE option, and whether it should this be placed on next year's SDP (School Development Plan), although by discontinuing it, a governor pointed out that this now would make music only available to those who could afford it as an extra-curricular lesson. JM would like to continue for two more years to see if there is any improvement in the amount of student opting to take this as a GCSE • PE – the NEA's have been submitted and the results upheld by the moderator. JM would like to acknowledge all the work that Connor Butler has done with the help of John Gregory. • PRE – this is the last year of PRE being a compulsory GCSE. Looking at the predicted grades and in response to a question from the governors, JM confirmed that it is not too late to withdraw some students from the exam, and that the school would consider on a case-by-case basis whether this would help students to achieve better grades in other subjects. <p>Overall, JM is cautiously optimistic, noting that student engagement seems to be the major concern rather than inadequate teaching and it would be interesting to see if this is comparable to other schools' experiences with this Y11.</p> <p>Progress 8 for Y9 & Y10 is looking positive. A governor commented that Y9 looked a more mixed set of results by subject, so it was difficult to see if the pastoral curriculum was having an impact. KL went on to report that attendance has been difficult and there needs to be more hands-on work for the pastoral side so changes will be facilitated. The governors looked at the contextual information for each year group and agreed that the different years had very different characteristics. It was noted that there is a remarkably high number of Pupil Premium students in Y9 and an increased number who had a low prior attainment.</p> <p>There was a discussion about combined science groupings for future years, the different groupings that have arisen as a consequence of option choice arrangements made for historic year groups and the</p>	<p>For Summer2 agenda</p>	<p>JM with HP</p>	<p>For Summer2 agenda</p>
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	<p>merits of mixed ability groups. AH commented that having a mixed group can work as an incentive to the students who are less engaged. Governors expressed a concern that disengaged students could potentially adversely affect the achievement of other students, but staff members present stated that this did not seem to be an issue.</p> <p><u>GCSE planning</u> Intervention and support have already started. The school will be putting a revision timetable in place again, this has been completed and will be given to students soon. Students will be expected to be in school for these sessions.</p>			
STU 5.6	<p>Review and improve the school reporting system JM completed a review for the recent FGB and was happy that student feedback in the reports is helping in a positive way.</p>			
STU 5.7	<p>Continued Development of the whole school Pastoral Curriculum The additional HOY for the foundation/ transition phase has now been appointed. KL highlighted the following issues from her report. Communication has improved between the HOY's and Crew Leaders since January, but there are still some SharePoint issues with materials, and crew leaders are creating supplementary materials to use. The Y7 and Y8 students' digital portfolios have been added to SWAY and these include work completed in Crew time as well as work done in PHSE, Food Tech and DT. This will be started in Y9 & Y10. There are still some IT issues, issues with differentiation and still not enough of a shared approach with some leaders going 'rogue' and not everyone is using the tracking system that Dan Ringrow has developed. Crew leaders who are not getting the outcomes that are expected will now be getting extra support. In response to a governor's comment on the amount of work to be covered in Crew time and whether it is realistic, KL responded that as well as 4 sessions during the week, the pastoral curriculum was also covered in assemblies, reading days and pastoral days. KL responded to a governor's question by explaining that a skills builder is a platform for developing skills with 10 skills getting assessed at different levels throughout the students' time at school. This records the students' progress and is integrated with careers. The school has also been researching different levels of project-based qualifications such as FPQ and HPQ. By introducing FPQs, which is an individual learning project, the students could be awarded the equivalent of half a GCSE. Most of the work could be completed in Y8 with the work then being</p>			

	<p>submitted in Y9. However, the individual learning project which is usually completed in Y8 has not run this year, and JM is finding out why this is.</p> <p>Governors were pleased with progress, and that there is a good understanding of areas for future focus.</p>			
STU 5.9	<p>E-Safety</p> <p>Governors noted the updated E-safety report</p> <p>There needs to be more sessions on the safe use of social media. A current trend on Instagram is for pictures to be taken of students and then posted on Instagram groups which is concerning especially as some students may not be allowed to appear on social media at all. The Senior Leadership Team have some idea who is responsible and is confident that it is not a student from the school. Incidents involving mobile phones have been reduced but outside influences remain an issue.</p>			
STU 5.10	<p>Children Looked After</p> <p>The Committee received the annual CLA (Children Looked After) report from Mandy Sands and were happy with the work that has been done.</p> <p>After discussion, it was agreed that results for CLA students should not be separately reported given the small numbers of such students. This will be removed from the Looked After Children Policy and the updated will be sent to the Chair for approval by Chairs action</p>	Update the Policy	Clerk and Chair	By end of May
STU 5.11	<p>Home School Agreement and Parent Pledge</p> <p>JM asked for an additional sentence regarding phone usage at the school. This was approved by the committee for inclusion in the version to be issued for 2023/24.</p> <p><u>Home Learning Policy</u></p> <p>JM has proposed some changes to the Home Learning policy, but the detailed changes have not yet been made. The committee approved these changes in principle, and the policy would be circulated and approved by Chairs action once completed.</p>	<p>JM to arrange implementation of the updated parent pledge.</p> <p>JM to draft the updated version and circulate.</p>	<p>JM</p> <p>JM</p>	<p>In time for 2023/24 issue</p> <p>By end June</p>
STU 5.12	<p>Policies</p> <p>Attendance Policy – there was no policy in the meeting pack. The Chair asked that the changes should be sent to the governors and for review then approved by Chairs action</p>	JM to organize and circulate	JM	By end June

	Child on Child Abuse and Sexual Violence Policy – this had been approved subject to minor changes at the FGB, and so the committee did not need to consider this policy.	the updated version.		
STU 5.13	Deliver an Outstanding PE Curriculum The committee wished to note how pleased they were with the number of upcoming fixtures for this term			
STU 5.14	Effectively implement the new Creative Media Production KS3 and KS4 curriculum The Chair had asked for a summary of the training for staff. JM reported that Digital Garage will provide training for two days after half term for 5 key teaching staff with the teaching staff from the Level 2 course at Bournemouth University there too. Following this there will be a trainee from Digital Garage present 1 or 2 days a week for three-months to help within the classroom.			
STU 5.15	Any Other Business There was no other business			
STU 5.16	Confidentiality The committee were happy that there were no confidential minutes			
	Next Meeting The meeting closed at 7.10pm The next meeting is to be held on 5 July 2023			