

The Swanage School

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STUDENT COMMITTEE**

Held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 5.30pm

**Present:** Isobel Tooley (Chair), Jenny Maraspin (Head Teacher), Jessica Starmer, Hannah Etherington

**In Attendance:** Kay Lawton (Deputy Head Teacher), Margarett Corben (Clerk)

Item		Action	Lead	By
STU 6.1	<b>Welcome</b> The Chair thanked the Head and Deputy Head for attending on Strike Day.			
STU 6.2	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Apologies from Tanya- Hamilton-Fletcher and Adam Hines.			
STU 6.3	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> No declarations of interest			
STU 6.4	<b>Minutes of the Last Meeting</b> The minutes from 5th May were approved			
STU 6.5	<b>Matters Arising &amp; Actions</b> Pupil Premium Strategy Statement to be updated by Jenny Maraspin (JM, Head Teacher), there are 2 items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check payment to attendance officer</li> <li>• Chrome books to be added to the Pupil Premium strategy</li> </ul> Refresh CSA training, any issues have been identified for training and support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Directors of Learning will lead a session on Curriculum Support Activities at one of the September Inset days. Report back to Autumn 1 meeting to confirm this action is completed.</li> </ul>	Update matters	JM  Directors of learning  Clerk	End July  Autumn 1 Agenda

	Of the other items, two had been completed and can be removed from the log (SEND report and Use of 'Not at TSS'); two are on the agenda for this meeting (Behaviour report and Mental Health update), one is on the agenda for the FGB and so only one of the current matters arising will carry over to the next academic year.	arising log		Autumn I Pack
STU 6.6	<p><b>Progress Review</b></p> <p>JM updated the committee on the key messages from the Data Drop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 10 Progress 8 grades are +0.17 which is better than previous years at this stage. Science is still the biggest concern, with Biology -0.73, Chemistry -1.12, and Physics 0.21. Biology teaching will have additional support in place for the next academic year. Maths is good at 0.02. Next year Maths and Science will be brought together under one Director of Learning and supported by the Lead Practitioner for Science to implement effective strategies consistently.</li> <li>Year 9 is positive and has a strong year group. Progress 8 Grade is +0.24 Although English grades look respectable, it will be important to keep an eye on those on moving into Key Stage 4. As for Year 10, Science will be a focus to improve the grades as Biology and Chemistry are an issue. Science will be ongoing in the School Development Plan (SDP). Currently Music and Drama are looking good.</li> <li>Year 7 &amp; Year 8 look good overall.</li> <li>GCSE exams saw a good turnout. Leadership is optimistic the school will see an overall improvement in grades as everyone has worked extremely hard.</li> <li>GCSE results due on 23<sup>rd</sup> August for staff; students will receive results and governors will receive a summary on the 24<sup>th</sup> of August.</li> <li>JM reported that the work done over the last couple of years to improve teaching in the Sciences should start to be seen from the GCSE results this year.</li> <li>Science Improvements for 2023/24 – Starting with the group moving into Year 10 next year, the timetable will include 12 hours of combined Science or 15 hours Triple Sciences every fortnight. 18 students have chosen Triple Science out of 68 students going into Year 10.</li> </ul>			
STU 6.7	<p><b>School Development Plan Review: 'Effectively implement the new Creative Media Production KS3 and KS4 curriculum'</b></p> <p>JM reported to the committee the impact the new creative media suite is having on the students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Animation in Year 7 &amp; 8 has been going well</li> </ul>			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JM showed the committee an animation that the students have been completing. This showed the planning, research, story boards and how they are developing and improving their skills. The students have achieved impressive results and have been enjoying the subject. A governor who is also a parent noted how extremely positive the students were about this subject.</li> <li>• Next term a cartoonist who has worked on Marvel and Beano will be coming in to teach storyboard creation.</li> <li>• Next term Years 7/8 will be moving from Sway to Google Site to improve their digital portfolios.</li> <li>• Year 10 have been familiarising and improving their camera skills, this has increased students' confidence.</li> <li>• Year 10 NEAs: The moderator was pleased with the student's grades. There were some very high marks. This year the assessments were written but next year there is an opportunity to use other media like podcasts or video.</li> <li>• Creative Media Production is extremely popular as a KS4 choice – for next year 10 there are 3 groups.</li> <li>• There has been a steep learning curve for both the students and staff but now they feel confident with the teaching format. It was noted that the current Year 10 may need to have longer or extra sessions as they have not had the benefit of learning techniques throughout KS3.</li> <li>• Digital Literacy has now been moved into Project Based Learning for Year 7 and 8; this will use Photoshop and illustrator to learn graphics. PBL curriculum time will increase from 6 hours to 8 hours per fortnight to accommodate this. Food, DT, Art, and Media Production can utilise these skills throughout creating projects.</li> <li>• All the committee would like to thank all the staff for their hard work in this subject.</li> </ul> <p>The Chair noted that this SDP objective had been successfully achieved.</p>			
<p>STU 6.8</p>	<p><b>School Development Plan Review: ‘Continued Development of the whole Pastoral Curriculum’</b></p> <p>Kay Lawton (KL) provided the committee with a summary of the reports. A governor noted that technology had caused issues for the pastoral team and asked if Sharepoint had been sorted. KL reported that this is now done through Teams and is working well.</p>			

	<p>There was positive feedback on the topics covering mental health, masculinity and role models. Some crew leaders needed additional guidance, and KL noted that a lot of good materials had been sourced as the year went on.</p> <p>The Pastoral Team has a detailed action plan for next year. JM updated their job description for 2023.</p> <p>All the pastoral lead meetings have been planned with a strong agenda in place. The pastoral leaders have Action Plans to which they can be held to account.</p> <p>The Chair noted that this SDP objective had been successfully achieved.</p> <p>Looking ahead to next year, KL will be having some planned absence and Kate Todd-Forbes has been appointed to cover KL role. Kate is currently working as TSS (The Swanage School) tutor and school improvement partner. She has a good approach to teaching and will be an asset to the team.</p> <p>The committee discussed recruitment to replace planned retirements of members of the school's leadership team, including the timing of advertising and the job description of each role.</p>			
STU 6.9	<p><b>School Development Plan Review: 'Deliver an outstanding PE Curriculum'</b></p> <p>JM reported that the PE objectives on SDP have been achieved. The moderated grades for Year 11 have all been high. The students have high praise for the PE teaching staff.</p> <p>A governor congratulated the TSS sports ambassadors who supported Swanage Primary on their sports day. The students conducted themselves wonderfully.</p> <p>The Chair noted that this SDP objective had been successfully achieved.</p>			
STU 6.10	<p><b>SEND</b></p> <p>The committee were very encouraged by the anonymized Case Study, showing the SEND provisions in place for a student with physical disabilities. The school is making appropriate adaptations for this student and governors wished to pass on their congratulations to Marie Beresford, the school's SENCO, for her hard work.</p>			
STU 6.11	<p><b>Attendance report</b></p> <p>Governors noted that attendance had dropped off since the previous meeting. The processes for feeding back to parents in response to poor and improved attendance were being followed, but it</p>		JM	FGB

	<p>was not clear if this was effective. JM had been encouraged last term as there was an upward trend but in May attendance dropped, and it is unclear why. Currently, attendance is around 90%. Dan Ringrow the attendance lead, has been consistent in his monitoring of the students to improve attendance. Strategies include adjusting lessons to integrate returning students in school. Also, home visits, regular letters, and fines, working with parents and students, parents are usually supportive but may be struggling with students themselves. Multi-faceted reasons why students may not be attending. Year 9 and year 10 are the most challenging years for low attendance. The committee asked whether more information could be provided about whether increased absence was attributable to specific year groups, a small number of non-attenders or any other patterns.</p>	HT report to FGB to include more breakdown of absence		
STU 6.12	<p><b>Behaviour Report</b>  The report on behaviour was shown as a slide show by JM.  Level 4 and 5 are serious behaviour incidents; Level 4 now include a new category of 'Late to School', which makes direct comparison with previous periods more difficult. Level 4 disruption and disrespect have increased, and Level 5 incidents may have levelled off after an improvement early in the Spring Term. Low-level disruption in year 8 with repeat offenders is being monitored, and managed by changes to groups and use of the HUB.  Leaders have identified a lack of consistency within the teaching staff when dealing with bad behaviour. This has been the subject of a recent INSET day training for staff based on DFE research on best practice approaches to deal with behaviour both good and bad.. Governors asked when the new strategies would start to be implemented, and KL responded that this would be mainly from September, but that already there was focus on the positives to encourage good behaviour, including rewards which include crew points to weekly assembly celebrating all areas of good behaviour. JM and the committee agreed that the school culture needs to emphasise good behaviour, students' behaviour better with staff who are consistent and have a better relationship. A governor noted that good knowledge of students' circumstances outside school could often help to put minor behavioural issues into context and enable sensitive resolutions.</p>			
STU 6.13	<p><b>Mental Health report</b>  This item was deemed confidential and minuted separately.</p>			

STU 6.14	<p><b>Pupil Premium Case Study</b></p> <p>Pupil Premium (PP) case study for a Year 7 student with middle prior attainment was positive, TSS is maintaining a good level of learning and support. The new HUB area will be used for students on Pupil Premium. The committee would like to continue with the Case studies as it highlights the information more clearly.</p>			
STU 6.15	<p><b>Policies</b></p> <p>The committee discussed some changes to the Behaviour &amp; Exclusions Policy these include adding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A reference to abuse and threatening behaviour in line with DFE (Department for Education) guidelines</li> <li>• Informing Social workers and virtual school heads if a student was excluded or looked after.</li> </ul> <p>KL felt that the policy did not require any radical changes, but there were a few things she would like to discuss with JM. JM is waiting to hear from the pastoral leads on their recommendations based on a review, The pastoral leads will have this information before the end of term. Once this has been done JM will circulate the policy to the committee.</p>	SLT to circulate final draft of Behaviour and Exclusions policy to the committee before the end of term	JM/ KL	July 2023
STU 6.16	<p><b>Music</b></p> <p>JM updated the committee on next year's Music plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KS4: Only 2 Year 9 students have chosen KS4 Music. This has been timetabled for next year so that the Year 10 and Year 11 students are taught together. HP would like to improve take-up of KS4 music and work towards a more modern approach to music production; this needs to start with KS3.</li> <li>• KS3: Music Specialist Dorset, has been into the school to discuss curriculum with Harry Peake (HP). Currently the students are using Band lab on the Chromebooks to create music and based on the Music Specialist's recommendations, HP would like to teach the students to play the instruments that the school already has instead of just digital technology to create music. A governor commented that the school could offer taster music lessons to encourage students to learn an instrument. This is already implemented</li> </ul>			

	<p>at primary level. Governors asked what the current barriers are and JM responded that it is mainly administration time, HP to require additional support with this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JM plans to add Music to the SDP for next year to ensure that the Music Curriculum is improved</li> </ul>			
STU 6.17	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>There was no other business</p>			
STU 6.18	<p><b>Confidentiality</b></p> <p>Item 6.13 was deemed confidential</p>			
	<p><b>The meeting closed at 7.30pm</b></p> <p><b>The next meeting will be held on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023</b></p>			