

## MINUTES OF THE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING

**Held on Thursday 10 October 2024 at 6pm**

**Present:** Michael Smethers, Nicky Mitchell, Ajay Joshi, Andrew Stanton, Mark Fitzgibbon, Jez Farmer, Jane Walker-Smith, Clare Hawkins, Tim Moss, Annie Thomson and Angela Farrance

**In attendance:** Jo Wiles (Governance Professional)

<b>1. Apologies for absence</b>	No apologies received.  Mr Atterton joined via Teams for his item 12.	
<b>2. Election of Chair</b>	All unanimously approved Mr Smethers as Chair of the Curriculum Committee for the academic year 2024/25.	
<b>3. Election of Vice Chair</b>	Mrs Hawkins was unanimously approved as Vice Chair of the Curriculum Committee for the academic year 2024/25.	
<b>4. Declarations of interest</b>	No further declarations of interest confirmed.	<b>ALL</b>
<b>5. Confidentiality</b>	Colleagues are reminded that minutes remain in draft until they are signed off at the next meeting and should therefore not be shared before signing off, nor the content discussed outside of the meeting.	<b>ALL</b>
<b>6. To receive any other business</b>	No items notified.	
<b>7. To receive any correspondence</b>	No items notified.	
<b>8. Minutes of the previous meeting</b>	The minutes of the meeting held on <b>Thursday 2 May 2024</b> , had been previously circulated, these were approved.  The signed copies of the minutes will then be placed in the school file.	
<b>9. Matters arising from the Minutes</b>	<b><u>Post 16</u></b> Mr Fitzgibbon reported that he will bring the new proposed KS3 assessment and Home Learning to the next meeting. <b>Action: MFN</b> <b>This item was carried over to the next meeting.</b>	

<p><b>10. To review and agree the Curriculum Terms of Reference</b></p>	<p>The terms of reference were circulated prior to the meeting for review.</p> <p>A discussion took place around the inclusion of an item on the impact of recruitment and the ability to deliver the current curriculum. <b>Action: ATN to review wording and amend.</b></p>	<p>ATN</p>
<p><b>11. Princes Trust Overview</b></p>	<p>Mrs Kelly attended the meeting to provide an overview on the Princes Trust offer and advised that it will be renamed the Kings' Trust.</p> <p>Mrs Kelly informed that there are currently 32 students registered across KS4 and the offer is inclusive for students with EHCP's, EAL and SEN.</p> <p>Mrs Kelly advised that the delivery of the programme is flexible and is working well to reengage some students. The programme works around students building self-confidence and then being able to apply this confident approach to learning to the wider curriculum.</p> <p><i>How are students selected?</i> Mrs Kelly responded that is offered depending on student pathway and rapid progress.</p> <p>If there are students that are interested in the programme then a review would take place as to what pathway is the best route on an individual basis.</p> <p><i>Do we partner with other schools?</i> Mrs Kelly advised that they have made links with others schools that offer the programme within Hertfordshire and leaders meet to moderate each other's work, share best practice.</p> <p><i>Are you having to invent lessons, is there a plan to follow?</i> Mrs Kelly responded that a one size approach does not fit all, there are a set of objectives and are able to create and adapt lessons, there are also resources available to support in the delivery of certain focus areas.</p> <p><i>How do you measure progress?</i></p>	

	<p>Mrs Kelly responded that they are constantly moderating the work that is carried out against objectives.</p> <p>Have you found an improvement in attendance? Mrs Kelly responded that they have seen an improvement in attendance.</p> <p>A discussion took place that it would be interesting to review the impact on how they are managing across the rest of the curriculum.</p> <p>Mr Smethers invited Mrs Kelly to attend the meeting in a years' time to provide an update.</p> <p><i>Mrs Kelly left the meeting at 6.20pm.</i></p>	
12. Post 16 Update	<p><i>Mr Atterton joined the meeting via Teams to present his meeting at 6.20pm.</i></p> <p><b><u>Attendance</u></b> Mr Atterton informed that there are 107 students in Y12 made up of 14 external applicants and 94 existing Marlborough students.</p> <p>Of those that left Marlborough following GCSE results, 7 students went to other sixth forms and 17 students who double applied, most went to college to study subjects that were more niche.</p> <p>Year 13 currently has 118 students with 4 year 14 students.</p> <p><b><u>Consortium</u></b> Mr Atterton advised that numbers were more inline this year with: Students In – 32 Students Out – 31</p> <p>What courses in the consortium are students undertaking? Mr Atterton informed that some of the students out are due to timetable clashes and some are for courses that are not offered such as fashion, textiles and Economics.</p> <p>The biggest intake of students are from Heathlands and Townsend for students attending subjects across the board.</p>	

	<p><b><u>Destination highlights</u></b>  72% university  4% apprenticeship  24% work force</p> <p>Preparation is underway for post 16 information evening and further work around what the offer for students will look like next year in terms of BTEC courses.</p> <p>Mr Atterton reported that Y12 students have settled well and has been the smoothest transition he can recall.</p> <p><i>In future, with Townsend expanding their offer for sixth form will that reduce our intake for the consortium?</i>  Mr Atterton responded that it is hard to predict and it will take some time for this to be embedded and notice a difference.</p> <p><i>Is there certain subjects that we should consider offering going forward to not lose students to others in the consortium?</i>  Mr Atterton responded that they constantly review numbers and the curriculum offer. Some subjects are particularly difficult to recruit for and numbers of uptake fluctuate each year, the cost of new subjects can be high to introduce but they will continue to review.</p> <p><b><u>Results</u></b>  Mr Atterton reported that an average of C- which was just short of a C, was a good performance from this cohort.</p> <p><i>Mr Atterton left the meeting at 6.40pm.</i></p>	
<b>13. Results Breakdown</b>	<p><b>Year 13</b>  Mr Stanton presented his report detailing a summary of the results for Year 13 students.</p> <p><i>When do you set target grades for A levels?</i>  Mr Stanton responded that these are set at the start of year 12.</p> <p>Mr Stanton explained that the report shows the grade achieved being less than the target grade in some cases as</p>	

	<p>the targets do not take into consideration changes that may affect a students performance.</p> <p><i>Do these results include those students that attend subject at other school in the consortium?</i></p> <p>Mr Stanton responded that students from Marlborough attending another school in the consortium for a particular subject still remain Marlborough students and we would report on their overall results.</p> <p><i>Do you receive feedback from students studying at other schools?</i></p> <p>Mr Stanton advised that regular observations do take place at the Consortium schools and the HT regularly meet to review to quality assure.</p> <p>Mr Stanton informed that Psychology is a high entry subject and for other school's students need to achieve a grade 6 or 7 at GCSE. The Marlborough approach is different and allow students achieving a 5 at GCSE to apply for the course.</p> <p>Talent mapping for subjects where there are standalone teachers is a concern to maintain consistency and expanding the offer for students.</p> <p>Mr Stanton advised that the school challenged art and photography moderation and that a re-moderation took place on Tuesday this week. The school are still waiting to receive confirmation on whether these students will have a grade change.</p> <p><b><u>Year 11</u></b></p> <p>A summary was presented to all providing data for this year along with a comparison against other years.</p> <p>English results were not as expected and a new head of faculty has been appointed this year.</p> <p>Ms Thomson assured that any negative residual on the report have been addressed and an external MFL review has just taken place to work towards securing grades that students are working at. There has also been changes made in the science department.</p>	
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***When do you expect to see an impact of changes in English?***

Ms Thomson responded that she is confident the impact will be shown in results this year. There is a walk through mocks on modelling good practice coming soon.

Recent targeted learning walks for Y11 lessons took place and across the board teaching was outstanding in English and are now looking at how this can be assimilated across other faculties.

Discussions have taken place around increasing robustness to improve the quality of teaching and learning. Revision classes and mentoring has taken place earlier in the year to support in preparation for the summer exams.

***What is morale like for staff?***

Ms Thomson responded that last year was a tough year and have focussed on raising standards and reintroducing some of the good practices that were established before covid that seem to have lost their way. There is also increasing complex student needs coming through each year, which is considerably challenging.

***Is Morale a concern?***

Ms Thomson advised that the Appraisal process has been reviewed and adapted to enable more conversation. There are 110 clubs running in the school by staff to share their expertise and passion and highlights the commitment and dedication of staff.

Mr Stanton advised that for the next 2 years there will be no progress 8 data, due to Covid and students not having any progress data to compare against.

Mr Stanton presented the overall progress which was showing at -0.06. Shadow data was also presented with the removal of students with persistent absences which would then move overall progress 8 score to 0.04, highlighting the impact of some students on the overall data.

SEND students achieved progress 8 of 0.32, which was a great achievement.

	<p>Ms Thomson reported that this best practice will be replicated for higher ability students and pace of delivery is being reviewed to ensure consistent challenging is being applied.</p> <p>Students with an EHCP performed exceptionally well and governors passed on their appreciation to staff for their hard work and dedication.</p> <p>A summary for high, middle and low ability students was presented and highlighted the progress 8 for high ability boys where further challenge and work will be carried out to support them in improving their outcomes.</p> <p>Action Planning was circulated to all and Mr Stanton advised of new strategies that are being put in place including the appointment of a student engagement worker to support with engaging harder to reach students, particularly boys.</p> <p><i>Feedback on learning?</i></p> <p>Ms Thomson responded that they are allowing the strategies time to embed and will know more once the first round of PPEs have taken place.</p>	
<b>14. Key Stage 3 HL and Assessment</b>	To be carried over to the next meeting.	
<b>15. Review Risk Register</b>	This will be reviewed at the next meeting.	
<b>16. Policies for review</b>	<p><b><u>Assessment, Recording and Reporting</u></b></p> <p>No changes were recommended.</p> <p><i>All recommended for ratification at the next FGB meeting.</i></p> <p><b><u>Examinations</u></b></p> <p>No changes were recommended, procedures have been updated.</p> <p><i>All recommended for ratification at the next FGB meeting.</i></p> <p><b><u>Target Setting</u></b></p> <p>No changes recommended.</p>	

	<p><i>All recommended for ratification at the next FGB meeting.</i></p> <p><b><u>Curriculum</u></b></p> <p>No further updates were recommended.</p> <p><i>All recommended for ratification at the next FGB meeting.</i></p> <p><b><u>Home Learning</u></b></p> <p>This item will be carried over to the next meeting.</p> <p><b><u>Careers Education Policy</u></b></p> <p>No changes were recommended.</p> <p><i>All recommended for ratification at the next FGB meeting.</i></p> <p><b><u>Collective act of reflection</u></b></p> <p>Have we ever withdrawn a student?</p> <p>It was agreed that this has not happen this is led by the parent requesting for the student to be withdrawn. Wording to be updated.</p> <p><i>All recommended for ratification at the next FGB meeting.</i></p>	
<b>17. To receive any other business</b>	<b>No items notified.</b>	
<b>18. Date and time of next meeting</b>	<b><u>Wednesday 27 November 2024 at 6.00pm</u></b>	
<b>19. Close of meeting</b>	The meeting ended at 7.50pm	

Signature.....

**Michael Smethers**

Chair of the Curriculum Committee

Date.....