



<p style="text-align: center;">MINUTES OF THE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING</p>

Held on Wednesday 27th March 2025 at 6pm

Present: Michael Smethers, Ajay Joshi, Mark Fitzgibbon, Jez Farmer, Jane Walker-Smith, Angela Farrance, Will Dean, Richard Atterton

Apologies: Nicky Mitchell (Sabbatical Leave), Annie Thomson, Andrew Stanton, Costa Veggas, Clare Hawkins

In attendance: Jo Wiles (Governance Professional), Kevin Henshall (Head of Faculty – MFL)

1. Apologies for absence	Apologies received and approved for Nicky Mitchell, Annie Thomson, Andrew Stanton, Costa Veggas and Clare Hawkins. No apologies received for Rebecca Lonsdale and Tim Moss.	
2. Declarations of interest	No further declarations of interest confirmed.	ALL
3. Confidentiality	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.	ALL
4. To receive any other business	No items notified.	
5. To receive any correspondence	No items notified.	
6. Minutes of the previous meeting	The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 23rd January 2025 had been previously circulated, these were approved. The signed copies of the minutes will then be placed in the school file.	
7. Matters arising from the Minutes	No actions outstanding.	



8. MFL Development

Mr Henshall provided an update on the MFL department and advised that all staff are able to offer the teaching of two languages up to A Level.

He informed that he has undertaken a Spanish GCSE which enabled him to understand the current process and further supports in him being able to moderate students work effectively. CPD is actively encouraged throughout the team with other staff upskilling in assessment and moderating.

All noted that strong French performance results were achieved last year. Spanish results were not as expected, and this has been scrutinised.

Spanish speaking results remains robust and observing this to support in increasing with the French speaking which has taken a dip with French writing results a real strength and learnings are being shared to improve writing results in Spanish.

This has supported in developing an action plan and Mr Henshall reported that they have now seen improvements and retrieval practice being embedded.

There has been an increased uptake to KS5, 5 students taken up French with 2 students studying Spanish.

An update was provided around the importance of trips and KS4 trips to Normandy and Andalucía where students are challenged to speak the target language for the duration of the trip.

Positive feedback received from the Ofsted learning walk.

Challenges with year 8 due to some students opting to drop MFL going into KS4 in year 9. Currently looking at introducing AQA UAS certificate qualification to encourage uptake.

PPE results for Y11 were positive and lunch time revision clubs are in place alongside twilight classes after school to support.





Noted that students with additional language are encouraged to study and the school provide support in terms of private examination entry.

Can you provide an update on the recent external review that took place?

Kevn responded that an ex Headteacher came to the school and interviewed all members of the faculty along with a full range of students.

They reported that the team were supportive and enthusiastic. Areas of recommendation included home learning. As a result, a review has taken place and there is a variety of learning methods and homework is now set on a weekly basis.

It was noted that some students are not completing home learning.

Are the same students completing home learning for other subjects?

Mr Fitzgibbon responded that there are some students who did not engage and advised that the school are reviewing the whole school home learning offer.

Are there some parents actively discourage home learning?

Mr Fitzgibbon responded there are some parents that have informed the school that their child will not be completing home learning.

Latin is now on the curriculum with 19 students studying Latin.

With sign language now being taught at the school is there any plan to offer as a GCSE in the future?

Mr Fitzgibbon informed this was implemented to undertake level 1 in BSL but the school are keen to deliver an opportunity to offer GSCE in the future.

Do any of the students attending from Heathlands study a MFL at A level?





	<p>Mr Atterton reported that there currently aren't any students from Heathlands studying MFL at A Level but are hopeful that there will be some uptake in the future.</p> <p><i>How do you keep staffing focussed and not becoming to comfortable, given the team has been in place for some time?</i></p> <p>Mr Henshall responded that linguists are always looking at the next big hook, AI is potentially an exciting opportunity to explore how to embed this into the curriculum for further support.</p> <p>All thanked Mr Henshall for his presentation and he was invited to attend next year.</p>	
9. Post 16 Update	<p>Mr Atterton informed that Dr Becky Francis has released an interim report, where the key message is evolution not revolution. There will be some small changes indicating that she is favour of vocational qualifications such as BTEC with a course work based path for students.</p> <p>A levels will still be the gold standard, with T Levels being defunded but not removed.</p> <p>There is likely to be reform over the vast content currently required to strip back to allow an in depth focus rather than a broad focus.</p> <p>EBACC squeezing of the arts but has impacted technology and will be monitoring to see how this develops.</p> <p>Mr Atterton informed that aged 16-19 student performance benchmark data is back following covid and invited all to take a look at the department of education benchmarking data. The performance of the school was 0.5 which was average and reminded all that the sixth form is not as selective as others with a focus of maintaining an inclusive ethos.</p> <p><i>Have you lost many high performers at GCSE who choose to then leave to study elsewhere?</i></p> <p>Mr Atterton reported that most high performers to continue to study at Marlborough in Y12 and Y13</p>	





	<p>Attendance can be more challenging for older students.</p> <p><i>Do sixth form students need to attend every day?</i> Mr Atterton replied that there is flexi tutoring where students have one morning a week timetabled where they can start at 11am, but they do need to attend every day.</p> <p>Mr Atterton reported that 91 students made university applications this year and advised that there will be a change in university applications for the upcoming year with the personal statement requirement changing to 3 guiding questions rather than a requirement to write an open 4000 words.</p> <p>Making strong progress in recruitment for next year with 130+ internal applications and 50+ external applications and working hard to make the school the first choice option.</p> <p><i>Is there preparation of understanding the cost of university?</i> Mr Atterton advised that there is a pastoral team that provide support and provide learnings on how to survive at uni.</p> <p>Y11 student have had the opportunity to experience sixth form and Mr Atterton reported they will also be offering to Y10 students in the summer term.</p> <p>MLO in February if continues is 0.62 which was very positive.</p>	
<p>10. CPD Twilight Inset Feedback</p>	<p>Mr Fitzgibbon advised that there was a CPD twilight inset that took place on 10th March with a focus on teaching and learning on identified needs.</p> <p>The sessions involved different workshops led by a specialist and started with a ted talk from Rita Pierson on "every kid needs a champion".</p>	





	<p>The workshops delivered included steps to consider for modelling which included Metacognition for high quality answers, Climate for learning, creating confident learners, and how to engage and elevate and steps for success.</p> <p>Mr Fitzgibbon advised that the session proved to work well and from the evaluation received the feedback from staff was positive.</p> <p><i>Will this twilight session take place again?</i></p> <p>Mr Fitzgibbon responded that insets are rolling throughout the year and the twilights are short and focussed and they will look to hold a session in a similar format going forward.</p>	
11. KS3 Option Evening Update	<p>Mr Fitzgibbon informed that positive feedback was received from the recent Y8 option evening.</p> <p>Mr Fitzgibbon advised that he currently teaches most of Y8 and knows the students really well, this knowledge along with the data from Mr Stanton is received which is then reviewed by SLT to support in the setting of classes for next year and reminded all that pathways are not enforced and discussions do take place.</p> <p>ATOM is predominately EBACC, Proton pathway is with the removal of a MFL and Neutron includes 10 hours of the Kings' Trust.</p> <p>Natural history GCSE is on the radar for future years and there are discussions around adding more subjects in the future, particularly for popular subjects at KS5 such as economics and sociology.</p> <p>Mr Fitzgibbon informed that 19 students have opted to take Latin with 16 students taking Classical Civilisation, Statistics and Further Maths was introduced last year and 14 students have opted this year which is positive growth.</p> <p>There are usually only 6 spaces for students to study Hair and Beauty at Batchworth but they have agreed to take an additional student which means all student that opted have secured a place.</p>	





	<p>All were pleased to note the high uptake for Technology subjects as this has previously been an area of concern.</p> <p><i>This year group has 242 students, approximately how many are in each pathway?</i></p> <p>Mr Fitzgibbon advised that there are 10 students in neutron and then there is an approximate split between atom and proton.</p> <p><i>Currently there is an X and Y in terms of timetable will this change?</i></p> <p>Mr Fitzgibbon advised that options are on choice and not behaviour, some subjects are mixed and some on ability.</p> <p><i>The school offer a 3 year Key Stage 4, how do you think this works?</i></p> <p>Mr Fitzgibbon reported that it is something that is always reviewed and may change in the future but currently is working well.</p>	
12. KS5 Options	<p>Mr Fitzgibbon advised that following the recent KS5 Options, Computer Science and Drama will not be running at KS5 next year.</p> <p><i>Was there many students who took drama at GCSE?</i></p> <p>Mr Fitzgibbon advised that there were 2 classes.</p>	
13. Y11 Update	<p>In Mr Atterton's absence Mr Fitzgibbon provided an update. SLT have met with HOFs to seek if any further support is needed, learning walks for Y11 was positive with good quality teaching evident.</p> <p>A letter has been drafted to parents to offer advice and support for over the exam period which will be sent before Easter.</p> <p><i>What were the results like following the recent PPEs?</i></p> <p>Mr Fitzgibbon advised that there was a substantial improvement from PPE 1 to PPE 2 and further work is being done to make marginal gains were possible.</p>	
14. Review Risk Register		





	This item to be carried over to the next meeting.	
15. Link Governor	<p><u>Maths Link Governor</u></p> <p>Ajay advised that he has been in contact with Gill and will arrange a meet after Easter</p> <p><u>Science Link Governor</u></p> <p>Jez informed that he has met with Graham and reported that staffing was stable. Following the visit there have been a couple of staffing changes and successful recruitment.</p> <p>Mr Fitzgibbon reported that he performs well and meets with head of English and Maths weekly where they share strategies for best practice.</p> <p><u>English Link Governor</u></p> <p>Angie advised she met with Shona head of English before February half term and had the opportunity to observe three lessons. It is clear there is a long term strategy.</p>	
16. To receive any other business	<p>Report card from Y9 and the MLO was explained clearly at the recent parents evening and insights provided were helpful.</p> <p>A discussion took place around the importance of articulating the process to ensure that it is user friendly for parents to understand is key.</p>	
17. Date and time of next meeting	<u>Thursday 12th June 2025 at 6.00pm</u>	
18. Close of meeting	The meeting ended at 7.50pm	

Signature.....

Michael Smethers

Chair of the Curriculum Committee

Date.....

