

MINUTES

Summer term 2018 meeting of the Quality & Standards Committee

Held at Beamont Collegiate Academy on Tuesday 18 June 2018, 6pm

Present:

Jane Griffiths JG
Paul King PK
Howard Platt HP
Clare Roper CR
Carolyn Williams CW
Sheila Yates (Chair) SY
Neil Pearson NP

In attendance:

John Carlin (Penketh High School)
Angela Grace (Penketh South Primary School)
Tim Long (Bridgewater High School)
Andrew Moorcroft (Beamont Collegiate Academy)
Bev Scott-Herron (Sir Thomas Boteler CE High School)
Kirsten Riley (clerk)

JC
AG
TL
AM
BSH
KR

Observers:

Governor Observers (Beamont Collegiate Academy)

1. Welcome

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Absence/Apologies

The clerk confirmed that apologies were received from V Briggs. There was no contact from A Topping.

The committee **accepted** the absences.

3. Declaration of personal interests

Committee members were reminded of the requirement to declare any interests, pecuniary or otherwise pertaining to the meeting. No personal interests were declared.

4. Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 January 2018 were confirmed as a correct record.

a) Matters Arising

In discussing the absences from the previous meeting, C Williams advised that she attempted to attend the meeting however could not get into the building and sent apologies via email. The committee **accepted** the apologies.

AM noted that a committee member had asked that minutes from the meeting with the Regional Schools Commissioner on 30 January 2018 be circulated; AM confirmed that he now has a copy of the minutes and will circulate.

Action: AM to send minutes from the meeting with the Regional Schools Commissioner on 30 January 2018 to clerk for circulation.

The chair asked that the committee agree for their initials to be included in the minutes, rather than be referred to as a committee member. The committee **agreed** to the change.

5. Score Cards

a) Update on the SEF

i. Beamont Collegiate Academy

Overall judgement: Good

AM reported that the RAG rating is 'green'. This judgement was validated during the Ofsted inspection in June 2017. It is hoped that improvements have been secured during the academic year with regards to ensuring high quality delivery of EBacc subjects to ensure consistently strong outcomes.

The improvement of progress in key groups has been positive; this will continue to be a long term objective.

ii. Great Sankey Primary School

Overall judgement: Good

In V Briggs' absence, AM reported that the focus areas for Great Sankey Primary School are to further improve Age Related Expectations (ARE) in KS2 Combined (Reading, Writing and Maths), and to increase Greater Depth (GD) in KS2 maths. The cohort is less able than last year however the feeling is that progress and improvements will be made. SATs results have not yet been confirmed.

HP and governor observers arrived at 6.05pm

iii. Penketh High School

Overall judgement: Requires Improvement.

JC reported History is an area of concern due to curriculum mapping in Year 9, along with an absent head of department.

JC reported that he is confident that there will be secure performances in Maths and English and improvements in other key areas.

SY asked if Science is still an issue. JC confirmed that Science remains a problem however there is now a stable teaching team. Changes have been made to the leadership structure within the department for the next academic year.

AM advised that JC has been challenged during the current academic year due to the lack of leadership team. The objective for the year was to have a stable leadership team in place by September 2018. There is now an experienced team in place for September 2018 that will support further improvements in school.

JC informed the committee that there has been a significant structure change in all aspects of the school. He highlighted that it was vital to have a solid platform in order to make improvements. JC feels that the changes will have a positive impact over the next three years.

SY noted that it had been discussed in previous meetings that appointing a deputy was not a priority. **SY asked** why this had now taken priority. JC explained that it was important to have capacity in the leadership team. AM confirmed that the successful appointee will be moving from Beamont Collegiate Academy to Penketh High School. SY acknowledged the positive cross Trust working.

CW asked if pupil numbers had been confirmed for September 2018. JC confirmed that there are 156 pupils coming into Year 7 in September 2018.

SY asked if there were still vacancies within the governing board. JC advised that there are currently two parent governor vacancies. It was agreed by the full governing board in June 2018 to advertise for parent governors in September 2018 due to the new intake of parents.

SY asked if conduct at lunch time has improved. JC confirmed that the school has chosen to complete a consultation exercise with parents about changing the school day in order to hold enrichment activities at lunch time. The school would like to move from 3 separate lunches to 1 lunch.

SY acknowledged the positive changes within Penketh High School.

iv. *Penketh South Primary School*

Overall judgement: Good

AG reported that the current Year 6 cohort have generally been a weaker however their attainment is similar to last year.

AG reported that ARE and GD for KS1 Combined have increased. Teacher assessment for KS2 has also increased.

Governance has improved following the appointment of HP as co-opted governor. The governing body has a very experienced skill base. HP reported that the quality of governors at Penketh South is impressive.

The budget for Penketh South has not yet been agreed at this stage. HP informed the committee of the issues with the contingency charges within the budget. Further information has been sought.

v. *Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School*

Overall judgement: Requires improvement

BSH reported that the RAG rating is primarily 'red' as she is not prepared to change these due to the outcomes from 2016-2017. Following self-reflection the local governing body agreed that it be scored as 'amber' rather than 'green'.

BSH advised that significant improvements will be made in progress and attainment; the TCAT school improvement support has been invaluable. BSH reported that further improvements are required. There are concerns in respect of Geography and Science; while there will be improvements, work continues to take place with the Specialist Leader in Education (SLE). There have also been some staffing changes. There have been significant improvements in both English and Maths.

SY asked if the school currently has a full complement of staff. BSH confirmed that there is a full complement of staff; feedback about how the school sells its visions and values is positive. Pupil numbers have increased from 93 to 125 for the September 2018 intake. **SY asked** how many pupils will leave the school in July 2018. BSH confirmed that 126 pupils will leave the school.

As a governor for the school, JG reported that the Full Governing Board discussed changing the overall RAG rating to 'amber' however BSH wished for the areas to be secure before increasing.

BSH reported that improvements need to be made for finance; she highlighted that providing the correct curriculum, with the best teachers, does come at a cost.

vi. *Bridgewater High School*

Overall judgement: Strong good/outstanding

TL acknowledged that the designated provision and a cohort of pupils with special educational needs do affect results and attendance.

SY asked if the school is likely to have an inspection. TL advised that the school has not been inspected in 6 years and believes the school is better now than it was when previously judged as outstanding.

TL explained there is focus to maintain, and in some areas slightly improve on, the strengths within school.

SY asked if the TCAT peer reviews have helped to identify areas for development. TL acknowledged the TCAT peer reviews have been helpful however there were some areas where the school was seen to be over generous.

SY asked when the sixth form will close. TL confirmed the sixth form will close at the end of the next academic year.

vii. *Priestley College*

Overall judgement: Good

In Matthew Grant's absence, AM reported that an inspection is anticipated. The committee were informed that achievement rates for colleges are published much later and results were found to be better than expected. If the predicted achievement rates for 2018-2019 are achieved, it may be that the judgement is moved to outstanding.

Progress has been made on targeted subject areas which suggest an improved ALPs score for 2018.

SY reported that as an outstanding college, Priestley have been selected to pilot T Levels from 2020.

b) Priorities for Improvement

The committee were provided with written summaries of the priorities for improvement and the key challenges moving forward for each academy.

6. Performance against targets

The committee were provided with tables outlining the results from 2017 and the predictions for 2018.

a) Primary Schools

Great Sankey Primary School

AM reported that projected data indicates that performance for KS1 will be in line with targets and consistency will be maintained at Greater Depth (GD) compared to 2017.

Projected data indicates that ARE for 2018 may appear lower than 2017 data however the Year 6 cohort is less able than last year. The cohort has performed well therefore progress should be positive.

Penketh South Primary School

AG reported that moderation continues to take place within school. Targets for KS1 may have been over ambitious.

ARE and GD for KS1 Combined scores are positive.

AG reported she is confident that figures will be an improvement from last year, particularly with KS2 combined scores for ARE.

b) Secondary Schools

Beamont Collegiate Academy

AM reported that predictions indicate that science outcomes should improve significantly to be in line with FFT 20. English performance is strong, with a likely FFT score of 5.

Geography and Maths outcomes will improve to be in line with FFT 50 and significant improvements have been made in. Following positive feedback from the History exam, it is hoped that there will be further improvements.

Open bucket subjects have performed strongly again this year.

Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School

AM reported that data has been validated externally and improvements in teaching and learning will hopefully lead to improved outcomes. The school has been receptive to all support offered at all levels. Improvements have been made in the management structure and staffing is more stable.

A key challenge is progress and attainment in Geography, Science and open bucket subjects; this will be addressed in September 2018.

Penketh High School

AM reported that attainment at Penketh High School has been steady with improvements in some subjects. Staffing is more stable with new middle and senior leaders. Climate and culture within school has improved.

Bridgewater High School

AM reported that performance has been strong across EBacc subjects and will be in line with FFT 5-20.

SY asked how the Regional Schools Commissioner would respond to the differences in schools outcomes. AM advised that the Regional Schools Commissioner has an interest in the overall Trust rather than the collection of individual academies. **PK asked** how the approach with regards to support will be affected. AM explained that item 7 would focus on the support available.

c) Post 16

Priestley College

AM reported that last year 16-18 groups performed well against national figures, while 19+ courses and Level 2 were below national figures. It is hoped for an improved Alps figure for 2018-2019 at A2. It has been a positive year for Priestley College.

7. School Improvement team structure and priorities for 2018-2019

a) School Improvement Team Structure 2018-2019

AM presented the school improvement team structure for 2018-2019 to the committee. There will be a stronger focus on developing teachers and leaders in order to facilitate longer term improvements.

The school improvement team structure is significantly larger than the current structure. A number of colleagues have been deployed or seconded across the Trust in order to facilitate school improvement.

AM reported that the English Leads from all academies met to produce a 5 year curriculum plan at secondary level. This will involve standardised assessments from Year 7 to Year 11 and will identify strengths and weaknesses much earlier on. This information can then feed into CPD from the Teaching School that all colleagues benefit from.

This approach for school improvement will be much more proactive and developmental.

b) TCAT STSS arrangement for 2017-2018

JC reported that he has been very well supported as a new headteacher in charge of a school where rapid improvements are required. JC informed the committee that he has received support from the Central Executive Team and the wider TCAT family.

PK asked if there was any work being undertaken with regards to the transition from Primary through to Secondary. AM advised that he is the Secondary representative of a transition bid that the local authority have put forward. If successful it will have a massive impact on the transition from Primary to Secondary. AM reported that AG is leading on the foundation subjects at primary level.

SY asked if all school improvement activities will be delivered by TCAT staff. AM confirmed that the activities will be delivered by TCAT staff.

SY recommended that the subject leaders group present feedback in a year's time to discuss their views. AM reported that leads have acknowledged that sharing workload is beneficial. AM recognised that the progress around collaborative working has been substantial though it may not be quantifiable.

JG asked if the cross Trust working is taking place in all subjects. AM confirmed that all subject leads across the Trust are working together however the English leads are the most mature group.

8. Pupil Premium

AM informed the committee that the V Briggs completed a TCAT Pupil Premium Grant Report. The report provides an overview of the current barriers in schools and the strategies that are being used across the Trust.

The Pupil Premium team are due to meet in September 2018 to develop a more focused network. The team will focus on Pupil Premium spending and impact. The team will develop a consistent approach to monitor information across the Trust.

HP reported that there is currently £1.1 million within Pupil Premium funds for TCAT.

CW asked if it would be possible to have a table that outlines how the Pupil Premium funds are shared, perhaps using a percentage for each school.

Action: Future reports to outline how Pupil Premium funds are allocated across the Trust (using percentages).

PK asked if individual schools could report on the impact of their pupil premium spending. SY highlighted that schools have different numbers, and different needs; strategies that work in one school may not work in another.

AM reported that Beamont Collegiate Academy were identified as a good practice case study due to the school's work with disadvantaged pupils. AM presented to Regional Inspectors and the Regional Schools Commissioner about the support pupils receive.

Within the Pupil Premium report, it states that pupils are not able to purchase set texts; **SY asked** why pupil premium would not be used to support pupils' in accessing the relevant tools.

Action: V Briggs to respond to SY query – "why is pupil premium not being used to support pupils' in accessing the relevant tools".

9. SEND

The committee noted the minutes from TCAT SEND Hub meetings on 1 February 2018 and 26 April 2018. SEND representatives are developing a sense of what happens in each school and what the issues are. SEND representatives have discussed peer reviews in relation to SEND. There is now a local authority strategy in relation to SEND peer reviews that will support the good work of this powerful group.

AG informed the committee that Penketh South Primary School and Great Sankey Primary School recently had SEND peer reviews with the local authority. Both were very positive and beneficial.

10. Any other business

The committee were informed that TCAT has been asked to take part in a HMI Research Project; this involves visits into individual schools to determine their thoughts about being part of a MAT. The schools will not be named during reporting, and will not be judged.

The HMI will meet with the headteacher, governors and middle leaders. The following are due to receive a visit:

- Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School
- Great Sankey Primary School
- Beamont Collegiate Academy
- Priestley College

11. Proposed future meeting dates

The following dates were **agreed**:

- Autumn 2018 – Tuesday 9 October 2018, 6pm (Beamont Collegiate Academy)
- Spring 2019 – Tuesday 12 February 2019, 6pm (Beamont Collegiate Academy)
- Summer 2019 – Tuesday 11 June 2018, 6pm (Beamont Collegiate Academy)

The meeting closed at 7.01pm