

MINUTES

Spring term 2018 meeting of the Quality & Standards Committee

Head at Beamont Collegiate Academy on Tuesday 30 January 2018 at 6pm

Present:		In attendance:	
Claire Roper	CR	John Carlin	JC
Sheila Yates (<i>Chair</i>)	SY	Bev Scott-Herron	BSH
Howard Platt (<i>Vice Chair</i>)	HP	Vicky Briggs	BV
Jane Griffiths	JG	Andrew Moorcroft	AM

Part One – non confidential business

1. Welcome

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Absence/Apologies

The clerk confirmed that apologies were received from P King.

There was no contact from N Pearson and C Williams.

VB understood that N Pearson did not believe he was on the committee.

Action: Clerk to discuss Quality and Standards Committee membership with N Pearson.

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

a) Matters Arising

There were no matters arising within the minutes.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 17 October 2017 were confirmed as a correct record.

b) Action Log

The chair confirmed that all actions have been completed.

5. Ratify Terms of Reference

Committee members acknowledged that the recommended changes were accepted by the Trust Board on 15 November 2017.

VB asked that A Topping (a governor at Great Sankey Primary School) be invited to attend future Quality and Standards Committee meetings.

Action: Clerk to add A Topping to the membership of the Quality and Standards Committee.

6. Performance Review

The Executive Report on Academy Performance for 2016-2017 was circulated to governors. The report is an annual review of performance of the MAT and the schools within.

AM advised that a meeting took place with the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) on 30 January 2018; he, T Long and M Grant attended. The meeting focused on the interrogation of data and outcomes, along with strategies for school improvement. It was found that the RSC is unable to provide funding to those schools within the Trust that require significant support. There is an Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) Efficiencies Advisor that can provide assistance in saving money.

Committee members were informed that the RSC would like to see a collective analysis across the MAT rather than on a 'school by school' basis; they would like to see how the Trust itself is making an impact.

The RSC highlighted that the report should focus more on the hard data, however it was emphasised that the soft data is important to the Central Executive Team and the Trustees.

AM reported that the RSC recognised there has been a lot of progress in a short space of time.

A committee member asked if there would be an opportunity to bring a Primary representative to the next review with the RSC. AM confirmed that a Primary representative will be invited.

A committee member asked if the meeting was formal. AM confirmed that the meeting was formal and minutes were taken. **A committee member asked** if the minutes will be circulated to Trustees. AM understood that Trustees would receive a copy of the minutes.

Committee members were pleased that the RSC has endorsed the plans for future expansion.

A committee member asked if there will be a score card equivalent for the whole Trust. AM confirmed there will be a set of KPIs for the Trust which will be reported upon and AM will explore a trust score card, along with a data tool.

7. Score Card Autumn 2

- a) Great Sankey Primary School

VB explained the areas for development for Great Sankey Primary School. It is anticipated that progress will be positive this year. Reading attainment and progress is encouraging and has increased by 20% since last year.

VB confirmed that Finance has been RAG rated as amber; D McGuire has discussed the possibility for a consultation with regards to the hours of teaching assistants. **A committee member asked** if VB had any concerns. VB outlined that the school faces a potential deficit moving forward which they are working on with the finance team.

VB highlighted that writing and maths progress at KS2 is a target for the school. Upper KS2 is strong and autumn assessments were on track.

b) Penketh High School

JC highlighted the data for Penketh High School.

There have been significant improvements to modern foreign languages and slight improvements for Science. JC expressed concerns about history; there is now a strong team in place to mitigate the impact of previous poor delivery. A huge amount has been undertaken to drive school improvement at Penketh High School with a tangible improvement in marking and feedback.

JC advised that an area of development will be to improve the proportion of pupils achieving EBACC.

A committee member noted that the progress 8 score for the autumn 2018 review is -1.08. JC advised that this grade is 'working at'; traditionally this grade will often be lower than what is achieved in the summer.

The school continues to improve communication with parents; two events have taken place to bridge the gap between home and school. There has been some apathy amongst pupils over the last four years however pupils appear to be responding to the changes within school. A mock results day was arranged with a noticeable difference in the pupils' attitude.

A committee member asked how JC is responding to the support from the Trust's school to school improvement. JC explained that the support network is fantastic. He has not only received support for himself, but has also had finance director's support given the school's financial difficulties.

A committee member asked who is supporting the school with the finances. JC confirmed that A Lang (Bridgewater High School) and D McGuire (Priestley College) have been supporting the school with financial matters. The school are on target to pay back what monies owed. **A committee member asked** how long it will take to pay this back. JC advised that the school has until 2019 but it is hoped that the majority will be paid this year. 2019-2020 is set to be financially difficult therefore it would be beneficial to pay back what is owed before this time.

A committee member asked if JC will be appointing a curriculum deputy. JC advised that the current Senior Leadership Team structure is a changing picture however there are other priorities to focus on. Staff have been fantastic with the changes that have taken place and improvements can be seen.

AM highlighted that there is no expectation for the school improvement to happen in 12 months; significant improvements may take 2 to 3 years. AM was reassured that the RSC do look at the longer term.

JC advised that while the Year 11 cohort is receiving substantial intervention, improvements must be made throughout the school.

c) Sir Thomas Boteler High School

BSH reported that she reflected on the previous score card, and has met with the Senior Leadership Team about where they feel the school should be. While many of the areas within the score card have been 'downgraded' she now feels this is a good grounding to move forward.

BSH highlighted that there are a significant number of hurdles to overcome; the plan is to focus on those areas that will have significant impact.

BSH presented the data for the autumn review. The progress 8 measure is a concern (-0.918). BSH advised that there are 4 pupils who do not attend school; with those pupils removed from the data it is a much more positive picture (-0.72). The school continues to support these pupils and they have the appropriate provision in place for their needs.

Great strides have been made in certain areas; English language was a significant concern therefore the English team have worked closely with the team at Beamont Collegiate Academy. BSH made the decision to change exam boards to AQA for Year 11. BSH highlighted that being part of TCAT has provided an opportunity to work with experts who can facilitate rapid change.

Year 10 and 11 Science has also moved to the AQA exam board to be in line with TCAT schools. B Dunne (lead practitioner) is working with Sir Thomas Boteler to ensure the correct resources are in place.

BSH advised that there is a significant amount to change in a short space of time and she values the support that has been provided.

JG acknowledged the tremendous amount of work taking place at Sir Thomas Boteler High School.

The main area of focus is around precision teaching to ensure students are 'exam ready'. Rapid School Improvement meetings are taking place to ensure middle leaders are held accountable.

AM recognised that staffing is being addressed in school to ensure teachers are in the right place; discussions have taken place with regards to how the school can grow capacity to support fundamental improvements.

BSH informed the committee that the school will have a deficit budget next year due to pupil numbers therefore she is looking at strategies to save money and still retain the best teachers.

AM explained that departments across the Trust are willing to share knowledge and moderate as peers.

A committee member noted that there are concerns with pupil numbers; the committee member suggested that this could be something for the Trust Board to look into.

AM reported that further developments should be made with regards to marketing and the recruitment of pupils. The committee discussed that other schools have increased their PAN to the detriment of schools within TCAT.

It was noted that Penketh High School's building requires attention and work. A committee member noted that Priestley College do well to keep an old building looking good and it may be worthwhile for JC to discuss this with M Grant.

d) Bridgewater High School

In T Long's absence, AM reported that Bridgewater High School are self-assessing as 'outstanding' however the leadership team believe some areas that may be brought to 'good' during an Ofsted inspection as they are on the cusp. A peer review has taken place.

The 2017/2018 cohort are slightly less able than the 2016/2017 cohort however were still significantly above average on entry; attainment is expected to be high. The main concern at Bridgewater High School is progress in Maths as it is not as good as other subjects. As the cohort is small there is also an issue with regards to data for disadvantaged pupils. Pupil numbers for Year 7 are positive.

A committee member suggested that it would be worthwhile bringing staff from Bridgewater into those schools that may require additional support. This is already happening in Maths & Humanities.

e) Priestley College

In M Grant's absence, AM reported that Priestley are self-assessing as good. These judgements were validated through the peer review.

The main concern during 2016/2017 was progress at A Level; this is the focus for Priestley College. There is a plan for a restructure to support quality assurance and teaching and learning.

A committee member reported that they had attended a conference for Sixth Form College Association. The Minister was complimentary of Priestley College and noted that the formation of TCAT is a shining example of community development. Committee members acknowledged the encouraging feedback and suggested that the Minister's words be used within the TCAT prospectus.

f) Beamont Collegiate Academy

AM reported that Beamont Collegiate Academy are currently self-assessing as good. There are no concerns with this judgement as it was validated by Ofsted during the inspection in June 2017.

Data for 2017/2018 is positive when comparing to national averages.

There has been an improvement in Maths for 2017/2018. The school is in line with Fischer Family Trust (FFT) estimates. There is consistent strong performance in English with improved performance in history. The school is close to being in line with FFT for geography, this is a strong improvement compared to last year.

AM highlighted that the figures presented for modern foreign languages are no longer valid as groups have been reshaped following the first mock exam.

Attendance and persistent absence are on track in relation to targets. There have been no permanent exclusions.

Pupil numbers for Year 7 are oversubscribed (232 first choices against the PAN of 180). A committee member acknowledged that pupil numbers are positive. AM advised that all pupils are local.

A committee member asked if AM feels the school has given as much intervention to lower years as they have to Year 11. AM advised that work undertaken further down the school is having a better impact as there is less to catch up on; Year 11 are receiving a high amount intervention given the time constraints.

8. Performance against targets

Item 8 was addressed during item 7.

9. School Improvement Activities

AM provided an updated document that outlines the arrangements for each institution. This offer continues to be reviewed and updated.

AM highlighted that the following institutions have a higher level of support that include regular keep in touch/leadership support meetings:

- Sir Thomas Boteler High School
- Penketh High School

JC expressed that he was very pleased with B Dutton's consultancy support.

AM highlighted that Sir Thomas Boteler's two deputy headteachers are receiving support from colleagues at Bridgewater High School and Beamont Collegiate Academy.

10. Pupil Premium

Following a request to have Pupil Premium as an ongoing agenda item, VB has met with colleagues and have devised a three strand focus:

- Academic
- Wellbeing
- Enrichment

Data, common barriers and current Pupil Premium plans will also be monitored across TCAT. Further information will be presented at the next Quality and Standards Committee meeting.

Action: VB to present Pupil Premium information at summer 2018 Quality and Standards Committee.

It has been identified that there is a national gap between disadvantaged pupils and non-disadvantaged pupils.

VB advised that the Central Executive Team have recently met with 'Children's University' and 'The Warrington Wolves Foundation'. These discussions may lead to further support for children within the Trust, particularly pupil premium children.

AM highlighted that the RSC requested that there be a nominated Pupil Premium Trust Board Member. The committee **agreed** for SY to be the Pupil Premium Trust Board Member. The role of the Pupil Premium Trust Board Member will be to consider the effective use of the Pupil Premium funding by the Academies.

11. SEND

AM informed the committee that the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Coordinator at Beamont Collegiate Academy will lead the SEND group; a meeting is due to take place with all the Trust's SEND leaders to review data and to develop strategies to address any issues within the data.

Action: SEND information to be presented at the summer 2018 Quality and Standards Committee.

12. Any Other Business

There was no further business reported.

13. Proposed future meeting dates

Summer 2018: Tuesday 8 May 2018 at 6pm.

The meeting closed at 7.16pm