

Curriculum + Standards Committee Meeting

AGENDA

Thursday, 28th April 2016

Blenheim Centre @ 17:30 pm

Committee:	Mr H Aswat, Mrs J Fox [Committee Chair], Mr E Ravat, Ms S Vickers [Headteacher], Mr M Gora, Mr A Megahy, and Mrs C Geisler.
Apologies:	
Guests:	Mr A Kang, and Ms J Foster, and Mr A Chopdat (both for their presentations)
Minutes:	Wolfgang Schonenberg

Agenda Items	Actions
<p>1. Apologies for absence</p>	<p>JPF There were no apologies and no declarations were made.</p>
<p>2. <u>Presentation from Head of English and Head of Maths</u></p> <p>Jo Foster (English) spoke first. Governors received a statistical breakdown of years 11, 10, 9, 8, and 7 data at assessment point 3. (AP4 has now been collected but is currently being tested and validated before being shared). Some 64% of year 11 learners (67) are reaching 5 A*-C. On 3 LOP progress, 75 learners have reached 75% with another 37 making (37%) making 4 LOP. This year 101 learners are included (96%) in the English progress measure. Nearly 89% of learners are heading for an A*-G grade of which 62% will be A*-C and 5.7% A*-A. JF explained that there is a lot of effort going into narrowing the gap between disadvantaged and non disadvantaged learners (currently stands at approximately 20%). Twice a week the current under achievers are withdrawn from non GCSE PE for extra tuition. In year 11 there is a group of 8 boys who are new to UBHS but they are catching up well. We now have 2 bells in the afternoon. At 15.00 the first goes and years 7-10 leave. Year 11 is retained for the second bell at 15.15 when learners are "rounded up" for specific booster groups for another hour. This is done Monday to Friday.</p> <p>Looking at the new grades and their potential boundaries all schools are still relatively "in the dark" as nothing conclusive has been released nationally and schools are planning their own systems. Staff are still wrestling with "life after levels" and this is the same for primary schools too. We as a school undertake a lot of moderation in order to boost staff confidence and accuracy in their</p>	

assessments.

Q. In respect of the current year 11 how do you see them compared nationally, in line or better?

A. In English they should be in line. Nationally levels of progress should be split 70/30%. We are above that at 75% . Many boys have done well especially higher up the grades. This was not the case last year where the progress of the More Able was a key development priority for us.

Q. For the current year 10 do we know how the curriculum changes will be graded?

A. We attend AQA meetings, but these do not yet tell us any gradings, or points cut-offs. Additionally, in English the amount of work for staff and learners has increased. In the past exam questions would be based on a literature theme within a work, now it can be on any aspect of the work/book, so preparation is more time consuming.

Q. In respect of SEND pupils and the more able pupils, how prepared are you to support these groupings?

A. We liaise with BGHS SENDCo so that we are jointly addressing learner needs. We have and are making the necessary changes in year 7 so that any shortfall has a longer time frame to be resolved reducing pressure on the affected learners. We also have good links to our feeder schools via BBEST. Whereas learners came in with an average score of 4B they will now come in on an average score of 100 points if they are Secondary Ready.

Q. How has Going for Gold helped with the more able boys?

A. It has moved a lot of the “silver coasters” through extra efforts into gold. By raising aspirations we have enlarged this sub-set.

Q. And finally how good and excellent teachers do you have?

A. Out of the 4, 2 are good and 2 are outstanding.

The Chair thanked both Jo for the departments' great work in raising standards.

The meeting then turned its attention to Maths which Mr A Chopdat led on.

Overview and year 11

The maths team is now fully staffed with subject specialists. Every cohort and sub-group benefits from this and over time this will feed through into the results. The new curriculum affects the current year 10's who now sit 3 papers instead of the former 2. The current year 11 had similar KS2 results to last year's group so their GCSE results should be broadly similar. A*-C and 3 LOP is currently slightly lower and being addressed. Most indicators are up. Extra tuition is applied mornings and afternoons with weekly tests on a Thursday. All staff stay behind and are fully involved. More learners are entered for the higher paper this year with only 5 entered for the foundation paper. The March mocks saw an **improvement of 3 levels of progress due to our targeted interventions**. For the first time this year 20 learners entered the UK Intermediate Maths Challenge which helps the learners' analytical skills. Overall results for disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged are broadly similar. The team are working on closing this gap.

Year 10

This year group is making better progress than last year's group but they are affected by changes to the exam qualifications. Grades have been replaced by a number with a former ok C now a 4, whilst a good C will be a 5. Papers have also increased from 2 to 3 so more effort will need to be demonstrated. Both foundation and higher papers have become more challenging. The GCSE course started for this group in year 9. By the start of year 11 we will have covered the syllabus and will then be concentrating on reasoning, interpreting, and communicating. We do have new text books to help but no existing former exam papers or grade boundaries.

Year 9

GCSE has started here with the new text books and high quality teaching for all groups. This year group has a strong top group.

Year 8

Another strong top group of which 40 learners will be entered into the UK Maths

<p><u>Junior Challenge.</u></p> <p><u>Year 7</u></p> <p>Theoretically the strongest yet year group with the highest KS2 results. When they reach year 11 the department will be firing on all cylinders with the new curriculum.</p> <p>Q. Will we be hitting our targets with year 11 pupils?</p> <p>A. Yes. The only sub-set that needs additional attention is the group working towards A*-C.</p> <p>Governors took away the data reports to analysis at home. SV thanked AC for going “miles above the expected standard” to help his department and the learners to achieve their full potential.</p>		
<p>3. <u>Minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2015</u></p> <p>These were approved and subsequently signed by JPF.</p>		
<p>4. <u>Matters arising</u></p> <p>There were no matters arising from these minutes.</p>		
<p>5. <u>New Assessment Systems</u></p> <p>SV shared out a handout which described how UBHS is transitioning from the previous Levels assessment system to Life after Levels. Again, it was largely for governors to take home and to digest. It is hoped that this helps to explain aspects of the new teaching and examining changes brought on by the Government.</p> <p><u>Progress 8</u></p> <p>This is one of the two new measures coming into effect this Summer (2016) and 60% of the overall measure/score will come from the core subjects, English, Maths, and Science. Nationally 80-90% of learners will be expected to follow the EBACC</p>		

route. This is a very big ask for UBHS which had many learners following other routes due to their interests and their talents. 8 subjects need to be offered but we are hoping to provide 10 so that learners can exercise a degree of choice. In September we will be moving from 1 hour long lessons to 50 minute blocks offering increased choice and better learning/retention.

Secondary Ready

Nationally there is a debate about how secondary ready year 7 learners will be. We anticipate some 25 out of an intake of 110 will not be ready and will need additional support in English and Maths. Extra learning time for this group will come out of French, PSHCE, and ICT time.

Life after Levels

SV has already explained the proposals and changes to year 9 parents and they this was well received. Nationally all primaries are now free to devise their own assessment system and no “best” method had so far come through. UBHS looked into a number of models and after testing some and by working with BGHS will be jointly piloting a new system. This will move to the 1 to 9 scores together with a + and a – depicting:

- mastered (1+)
- secured (1) , and
- emerging (1-).

We are working through the BBEST pyramid so that learning becomes more fluid and builds on earlier successes.

KS4 target setting and conversion from grades to numbers

All year groups will be moved from grades to a numerical value (1-9) for tracking, intervention and dialogue with parents. A good pass will be 5 and this will be the EBACC success criteria.

Pedagogy for linear exams

Departments are working on developing emotional resilience and mastery of key concepts with regard to teaching and learning skills. Wednesdays CPL sessions are now focused on this.

Increased emphasis on SPAG in exams

<p>As previously discussed spelling, punctuation and grammar and now every teacher's responsibility and we are up skilling staff in this area.</p>		
<p>6. <u>Progress Update</u></p> <p>SV began by informing that the assessment point 4 data has been collated, but that it is currently being validated, and therefore not to hand for this meeting. Once done however the data will be shared with governors.</p> <p>A report depicting updates on the quality of teaching was given out for governors to take home and to digest. The data depicted in this report matched the data discussed earlier in the meeting during the presentations.</p> <p>Q. What subjects will come out the highest this year?</p> <p>A. I will email out our predictions for 2016. In any case the target is split 70/30. Regarding say history and geography these two subjects will achieve our highest ever results.</p> <p>Q. How do our results compare locally?</p> <p>A. Although last year PE marking was an issue across North Kirklees, PE remains the area of greatest concern. Our boys do not appear to be that interested in sporting activities outside a bit of cricket.</p>		<p>School to share out AP4 data.</p> <p>School to email out 2016 subject predictions.</p>
<p>7. <u>Achievements</u></p> <p>The AP3 data was shared out again. AC had earlier mentioned that some boys had undertaken a national Maths challenge. SV informed that boys had also taken part in a Science challenge and come 3rd. The boys were only beaten by the two neighbouring selective grammar schools (Heckmondwike and North Halifax)</p> <p>One of our specialist leaders in education is training Heckmondwike Grammar School staff on effective marking and marking for progress.</p> <p>The UBHS BBC Schools news report is now on our website.</p> <p>Jo Cox MP will be taking a class of boys to Westminster raising their profile and</p>		

<p>aspirations.</p> <p>The clean up for the Queen went well and the Interact Club is moving forward with fundraising activities.</p> <p>JF and JW have totally transformed our SEND provision making a serious impact.</p> <p>Q. Will we be having head boy elections again?</p> <p>A. Yes the boys are currently writing their programmes and speeches.</p> <p>Q. Will there be any more SLE coming through?</p> <p>A. The accreditation itself is a time consuming process, but we have several staff members who would make good leaders, but I need to speak to them first before the next application round.</p>		
<p>8. <u>Committee Terms of Reference</u></p> <p>The Chair informed that the recent MAT conversion had taken priority and that this item was still outstanding. Governors agreed that it was appropriate to readopt last years' terms of reference which were the standard Kirklees ToR for this committee (page 31 of Committee Matters).</p> <p>Governors adopted the ToR.</p>		
<p>9. <u>AOB</u></p> <p>Q. Has banning mobile phones in school made a difference to behavior issues?</p> <p>A. Yes it has. If found mobiles are confiscated and not returned. Parents are then asked to come into school where we can explain the policy and hand them back.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 19.12 pm</p>		

<p>10. <u>Date of next meeting</u> –</p> <p>Governors briefly discussed the absence of a next meeting date and agreed to consider this and the other dates at the next FGB meeting on the 23 June.</p>	ALL	
<p>11. <u>School copy</u></p> <p>That no part of these minutes, agenda or related papers be excluded from the copy to be made available at the School.</p>	JPF	