



HECKMONDWIKE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Full Governing Body Minutes

Time & Date:	Tuesday 19 March 2024 – 5.00pm
Venue:	In school
Governors Present:	Michele Brooke (MB) Derek Cross (DC) – Chair Sue Doubell (SD) David Hall (DH) Mohammed Hans- (MH) - via Teams – Left at 6.00pm Jonathan Hodgson (JH) – Arrived at 5.35pm Ross Oxby (RNO) Matthew Pinder (MP) Nick Stokoe (NSE) Lalit Suryawanshi (LS) Mark Tweedle (MT) Keith Wilson (KW) – via Teams Peter Roberts (PDR)
Non-Voting Attendees:	Natalie James (NJJ) Nicky Thomas (NJT) Richard Tipler (RGT) Simon Taylor (SAT) Jody Dunn (JDN) – Clerk
Meeting Quorate:	Yes

1. Welcome & Apologies - DC welcomed all to the meeting and advised that no apologies had been received. JDN noted that JH would be arriving late.
2. Declarations of interests – none.
3. Minutes of previous meeting / sub-committee minutes

Previous meeting - MP highlighted two slight amendments to be made on page 2. The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting.

F&R - MP give overview of the F&R meeting and what was discussed and decided.

C&S – KW updated the board on what was discussed at the C&S meeting, noting in particular the staff well-being update provided by Shereen and the Entrance Exam discussions that would be picked up later in this meeting.

4. Executive Summaries

Safeguarding, Attendance & Behaviour

SAT drew governors' attention to the Attendance, Behaviour and Safeguarding executive summary and gave a brief overview, highlighting some points for governors to note including the results of the recent anti-bullying survey and the reduction in the number of suspensions in comparison to this point last year. A robust discussion was had around some of the points to come out of the survey.

Governors queried the persistent absenteeism in Y12 and 13, noting their concern. A discussion was had around this, with SAT providing some information as to what strategies have been implemented in an attempt to address it. Further discussion was had around the processes in place and the correlation between negatives, detentions and absences.

Governors thanked SAT and he left the meeting.

Student outcomes

Starting with the Y11 data, RGT highlighted some points to note in the data provided and informed governors that the school is on track for some great GCSE results and in a great position. Discussions were had around the SEN students within the cohort and it was noted that the results of the PP students were very encouraging. Governors asked about intervention and revision sessions during the Easter break and what the retention rate of the current y11's into sixth form is looking like.

RGT then moved on to talk about the y13 data. He advised that the results are not where he would want them to be, but there are some signs of progress in some subjects. He gave some comparative data and informed governors of the response plan for those students who are underperforming to be implemented following the Easter break, and noted his thanks to staff for responding so well to the plan.

Deliberations were had around the various categories of student groups and the potential reasons why some groups underperform, as well as the measures in place to address these. Governors asked is the school measures the impact of targeted support and how the information could be used to reflect on its effectiveness. Discussion was had around ALPS, the 'What If' tool and the difference between mock exam grades and predicted grades.

Robust discussions were then had around the option of doing 3 or 4 a-levels, and the viability of those subjects where there are only a small number of students studying them. A discussion was also had around the inconsistency of the Further Maths paper purposely being harder.



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Governors asked about the external reviews that had been commissioned earlier in the year, noting that they had not yet seen the reports. JDN advised she would put these on Governorhub. This led to a conversation around the internal subject reviews, with NJT giving a brief update as to how these were going. It was suggested that a Subject Review update be given at the next C&S meeting.

Remainder of Executive Summaries

DC noted that all of the summaries should have been read in advance of the meeting and asked if anyone had any questions. Governors asked multiple questions around the Sixth Form summary, particularly around the 2024 recruitment process and the new staff appointment. Governors also asked questions about appeals, which led to a robust discussion regarding recruiting local children to sit the exam and the catchment area. Governors agreed that this is something to seriously consider moving forward and asked about current communication streams with local primaries. MB suggested that the school should be looking to inspire local children to sit the test much earlier.

The item was concluded with a discussion around the presentation of the executive summaries and the amount of information that is in them. It was agreed that the highlighting of changes needs to be more consistent across the summaries.

5. Entrance Exam Provider

RGT explained that he had taken this proposal to change the supplier of the entrance exam to the C&S committee, but they had asked to be provided with more information before making a decision. For the benefit of the full board, RGT talked them through the rationale for change in detail, before opening up to questions. Robust discussions were had around the test provider, the various aspects that make up the and test, how it is administered and marked etc. There were lots of deliberation, with all governors giving their opinions. PDR confirmed that he and the senior leadership team were in favour of the change. The item concluded with a unanimous vote in favour of going ahead with changing the supplier in readiness for 2025 entry.

6. NGSA

PDR updated governors on the recent developments with the Northern Grammar Schools since the decision was made not to form a MAT. He advised that the schools continue to work closely together and many CPD meetings across departments have taken place. He

informed governors that the collaboration has been formalised by the formation of an alliance, the Northern Grammar Schools' Alliance (NGSA). He noted all the information was in the paper provided and asked if governors were happy for the school to publicise the alliance via the school website and a letter to parents. Governors were in agreement to go ahead.

7. SIP

PDR asked if governors had any questions regarding the updated plan that they had been provided with. MT asked PDR if there were any areas that were a concern to him, leading to a lengthy discussion around the Sixth Form. PDR noted there has been significant improvement since the inspection almost 2 years ago, however there is still a long way to go in order to get where we want to be. The board discussed the various challenges faced with students entering the school at Year 12 and PDR confirmed other grammar school sixth forms face the same issues.

JH suggested that the school start to use the BRAG system, as opposed the RAG, which adds a further category to identify a difference between when an action is complete and on track. PDR was open to the idea.

8. FGB work plan - FYI following a governor request.

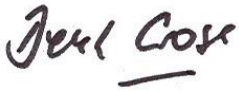
9. Policies for approval

The following policies were approved:

- ECT Policy
- SEND Information Report and SEN & Disabilities
- Complaints Policy

10. Meeting review - JDN carried the meeting review. Nothing raised.

Actions		Who
1.	Make amendment to previous minutes as MP suggested	JDN
2.	Share external review reports on Governorhub	JDN
3.	Add subject review update to next C&S agenda	JDN
4.	Implement BRAG rating system in SIP	PDR

Governance Requirement: Minutes signed as true and accurate record of the meeting.	
Signed: 	Derek Cross Chair of Governors