



QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Governors Achievement and Curriculum Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 07 February 2018

6th Form Conference Room at 4.30pm

PART ONE MINUTES

Committee members	Attended/ Apologies	In Attendance	Attended/ Apologies
Kayte Parlevliet (KP)	Attended	Lyndsay Watterson (LW)	Attended
Sue Perason (SP)	Attended	Shane Richardson (SR)	Attended
Mark Bland (MB)	Attended	Jo McBride (JM)	Attended
Peter Burke (PB)	Attended	Jill Cutler (JC)	Attended
Gila Yalarakis (GY)	Attended	Clare Scanlon (CS)	Attended
Linda Neill (LN)	Attended	Kay Gresty (KG)	Attended
Mike Graham (MG)	Attended		
Sue Pearson (SP)	Apologies		
Ben McGrath (BM)	Apologies		

Apologies and welcome

Apologies were received from Sue Pearson and Ben McGrath.

Item 1: Minutes of Achievement & Curriculum Meeting held on 9 October 2017

Minutes were agreed to be a true representation of the meeting and were formally accepted by Governors.

Item 2: Matters Arising/Actions from meeting held on 9 October 2017

- SP to complete a Declaration of Interest form – Done

Item 3: Curriculum Offer KS4 and KS5

JM explained that there had been preliminary discussions with the Year 9 students regarding the open bucket options for 2018. JM confirmed that there are 90 students in the year group and that QPHS would be offering options in four option blocks, each covering 5 hours of teaching per fortnight. JM added that triple science would be in an option block for 2018 and that core science would reduce from 10 hours to 9 hours.

Q: MB asked if triple science goes in to an option block would students be doing one less GCSE.

JM confirmed that the separate scientists would be taking one less GCSE than the other students.

Q: MB asked and if there had been much interest in film studies?

JM explained that students at this stage were unsure of what film studies entailed and added that the content of the course would be made clearer as we moved through the option process.

CS explained that students in Year 11 had been surveyed and the current course offer in Year 12 had been reviewed. CS added that from 2018, QPHS would be offering a foundation year. CS explained that in 2017, students wanted to stay at QPHS but had not met the entry requirements and that we had identified a 'gap in the market' that now carries funding.

ACTION: CS to send copies of the proposed 6th form option blocks to Governors.

Q: MB asked if the foundation courses were all one year courses.

CS confirmed that they were. LW added that no other local educational establishment was offering this option at this time.

Q: PB asked how many students did the school need to opt for these courses to make this work financially?

CS replied that the school needed 10 students and that last year 17 students who wanted to stay at QPHS had to leave to go to alternative educational establishments (as they did not achieve the minimum entry requirements for the 6th form). LW commented that this foundation year allowed students to build confidence and mature and that QPHS needed to invest in this initiative in order to see if it would be a viable option moving forwards.

Item 4: Curriculum Model 2018-2019

JM explained the curriculum proposal for 2018/19 and presented a document which showed how the QPHS proposed model compared to other CWAC schools.

Q: MB asked the reason why QPHS had only 6 hours allocated to science at KS3 whilst other comparative schools had allocated more (6-9).

LW explained that most schools were on the lower end of the 6 to 9 hour allocation and additionally extra provision had been put in to KS4.

ACTION: JM to upload document showing school by school comparison.

JM explained that in the 6th form, QPHS would be offering 4 option blocks. JM added that KS5 would offer a broad and balanced curriculum within the financial constraints of the school. JM explained that each subject would be allocated 9 or 10 teaching hours per fortnight and that some subjects would offer joint linear teaching across the two year groups.

CS added that this offer is on-going and fluid until May 2018 and that option blocks may alter, depending on demand.

Q: PB asked if all classes in the 6th form would be taught across two year groups.

JM explained that this was more suitable to certain subjects, for example photography and art, but maths was a modular subject and therefore this initiative would not work.

Q: PB asked about the implication on class sizes.

CS explained that most KS5 classes had 10 or fewer students, therefore the maximum class size could be 20 students. CS added that some schools had already moved to this model.

Q: PB commented that students might prefer slightly larger class sizes and that this helped with engagement and interaction.

LW agreed that it could encourage students to work together and challenge each other, creating a mentoring environment.

Q: MB asked if the school were happy with the allocation of hours between the core subjects at GCSE and also if the CLs were satisfied with the allocation.

JM explained that CLs would be consulted.

Item 5: Policies

JM presented the Curriculum Policy to Governors. This policy was agreed.

JM then presented the Examinations Policy and Procedures to Governors, drawing attention to Appendix 1. JM explained that the JCQ had changed the policy concerning non-examined assessments, stating that schools must change the way in which they operate. JM explained that now, when the assessments are marked, the students must be given their scores allowing them to request a review of marking. JM added that students now had to be given time to challenge and ask for independent verification, which implicated greatly on timeframes. JM added that she was not sure if all schools had picked up this change in procedure.

Q: MB asked if QPHS have an internal member of staff who monitors the procedures.

JM explained that the Examinations Officer had identified this change in procedure.

JM recommended that the Policy is approved by Governors and that the procedure is taken to SLT for further discussion. JM added that the procedure could be brought to the next FGB meeting for approval. This was agreed by Governors.

ACTION: LW to raise this issue at the next Trust Heads Meeting.

Item 6: AOB

There were no items for AOB.

Date of the next meeting: Wednesday 13 June 2018 at 4.30pm