

**Additional Strategic Priorities and Projects Meeting
20th April 2020
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
6pm**

Notes

Governors Present :	Mick Baker, Jane Dickson, Alison Frost, Les Gunbie, Vanessa Hickey, Matt Hillier, Reg Hook, Jennifer John, Dick Knight, Millie McDevitt, Jane Pegler Jenny Poore (Chair), Bronagh Shevlin, Haydn Stride,
Officers Present:	Teresa Dee (Clerk)
In Attendance:	Roshan Dias

<u>Discussion Items</u>	
1	<p>Introduction The meeting was held as an additional meeting for the discussion of strategy relating to the school response to coronavirus COVID 19. The meeting was held by web conferencing via Zoom due to the implementation of social distancing. Guidance from the National Governors Association on business continuity and holding virtual meetings in challenging circumstances had been circulated in advance. The meeting focussed on the five recommended business priorities outline in the guidance.</p> <p>NGA Guide</p> <p>Governors not in attendance – Rosie Reekie and Derek Swindells.</p>
2	<p>Business Critical Decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget discussions continuing with changing priorities in light of changes to school operation. • Carried on appointing including two one year fixed term contracts to English department. • The schools budget would be considered at the scheduled meeting on 4th May with a further budget plan at the end of the week. <p><u>Questions from Governors</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was the update on those staff on hours only contracts? Had exam invigilators been advised that they would have been required for summer term? • If resits of exams allowed in autumn the fees would need to be paid. <p><u>Responses to Governors Questions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification on what to do regards furloughing staff not yet received. • Pressure was on to pay exam fees now; the school would not normally pay for resits under appeal and by then the students would be off role
3	<p>Care for children who are vulnerable with EHCP Plans, the children of key workers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School opened over Easter with no students in attendance , only one in school on first day of summer term prompting staff to phone those in care. • Twenty vulnerable students had been supplied with a laptop on loan. As they were able to access work from home this may have led to reduced physical attendance at school. • Trend of non-attendance, did that mean there was a gap in provision either academically or pastorally? <p><u>Questions from Governors</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had a provision been made for the students affected by poverty? • Do the children at risk get any support from the local authority? • What transition arrangements would be put in place for those students starting at the school in September?

- If doing the CAT tests the school would need to get them booked in soon.
- Where there is a social worker in place there is an expectation that the child would be in school , would it be possible to have data on the numbers that fall within that category and what has happened with each.

Responses to Governor Questions

- Five students with poverty issues had attended before Easter and four who did not have IT equipment had been provided with laptops to enable them to safely learn from home . The option to attend school remained open to them. Take up by eligible students to attend school was low across the city at secondary level.
- Children under a social worker would continue to get support and regular contact. There had been one student where the social worker had made contact and the parents had advised that they wanted them at school yet they had not attended. In this case the school followed up to ensure safety of the student.
- The Local Authority view was that vulnerable students should be in school and the school was making regular contact . There were no real concerns about individuals welfare though generally there were concerns about mental health and wellbeing of all students and adults due to being in lock down situation.
- Without knowing when school would reopen it was difficult to finalise transition plans. It was possible that year 7 would be in for two days and that CAT tests would be completed early on to get baseline data.
- CAT tests available online with very quick turn around on results.

ACTION - Data on those students under social care to be provided.

- 4 Issues arising from how the building currently being used and remote working of staff**
- Health and safety issues on the Local Authority updates , Governors would like assurance that action was being taken to mitigate risks,

- 5 Support to Parents and Carers to help educate children at home**
- Learning for summer term had been planned by the leadership team over the Easter break via Zoom. Meetings. Learning to be less focused on revision than it had been during the initial period of lockdown and more directed to new curriculum,
 - Stringer learning gateway currently being used to deliver majority of teaching. There had been some technical issues requiring the IT department to redirect time to rectifying these for the start of term. Development of teams therefore delayed. It had become apparent that Investment was required in IT. This would be built into the school's development plan.
 - Some live teaching was being trialled by science department for year 10 via webinars , maths were being trained up and English department were to use Loom for video lessons.
 - Office teams to be used by the leadership team with roll under consideration for teachers though there was some reluctance from unions regards live teaching due to the juggling home commitment, such as teaching own children that many staff members would be facing.
 - Heads of department were being given time to explore the resources released by the Oak Academy before adapting for their teams for delivery.
 - Parental feedback had been that some of the emails from staff were too long leading to a move to more succinct emails on a weekly basis.
 - One parent had expressed concern that the school was not completely set up for online learning and in response an online meeting was to be held to explain the challenges faced by the school.

Questions from Governors

- What plans were in place for delivering other subjects to year 10?
- How were year 11 being supported?

Responses to Governor Questions

- PE were doing YouTube lessons that seemed to work quite well, drama and art had put efforts into the practical aspects of the course. Geography had put all resources on the SLG. The online resources from Oak Academy did not include option subjects. One of the issues was with the students that were not engaging so support staff had been directed to make contact with a key group of students in year 10 to ensure they are making progress. The clearest plan was for year 10 with year 7 to 9 on SLG. Office teams had been planned for roll out in September.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transition resources available for year 11 and students directed to suitable websites. A virtual meeting with college heads was being held. Work had commenced on putting together gradings and ranking students.
<p>6</p>	<p>Monitoring the wellbeing and welfare of students, staff and stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was a pressure on teaching staff and SLT to deliver quality online learning. <p><u>Comments and Questions from Governors</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers might face emails from year 11 parents about gradings , what guidance had been provided to them? The National College had held a webinar for mental wellbeing which was recommended, one issue coming from it was that schools should develop a bereavement policy . Were the school mindful of this.? It was important that the Headteacher's was supported with workload and any concerns <p><u>Responses to Governor Comments and Questions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The response on gradings would be centralised at the school with all queries directed to one person. Some guidance regards bereavement had been posted to WAVE and was under consideration. The leadership had been strong and supportive of each other and support from Governors was welcomed. <p><u>National College Webinar - Wellbeing</u></p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>a) Free School Meals Changed over to the government scheme for vouchers which got overwhelmed and created delays and extra work for the school.</p> <p>b) Staff Attending School Advice had been sought from the Local Authority (LA) about local guidance that those members of staff living with someone who had received a "shielding" letter should stay at home and not attend school as this affected a member of senior leadership. Responses from LA generally taking up to ten days.</p> <p>c) Reporting COVID and Reopening School In terms of reopening the school there was a plan being put in place. There was an issue that in the absence of testing it was not known what students or staff were infected. The school had no PPE having given it away and whilst social distancing would be attempted operation of the canteen would provide particular challenges.</p> <p>d) Thanks The Headteacher and his colleagues were thanked for the good work in challenging times acknowledging that circumstance were particularly demanding on the leadership team.</p> <p>Meeting ended 6.52pm</p> <p>Date of next meeting – 4th May 2020 – Papers for distribution by 27th April.</p>