



HARROGATE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

Minutes of the Local Governing Body of

held on Thursday 28 November 2024 at 5.30pm

Present: Mr A Lindley (Chair), Mr N Renton (Headteacher), Ms J Watson, Dr J Featherstone, Mr D Hurcomb, Mr C Howard, Miss O Charles, Mrs A Meacher

Apologies Dr T Stowell
Also present: Miss K Smith

Minute No.		Action
LGB 1	1. Apologies Apologies were received from Dr Stowell.	
LGB 2	2. Minutes of the last meetings The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.	
LGB 3	3. Headteacher's Report Mr Renton advised Governors about the sad loss of Liz Hutton who was a Sixth Form student. We said no to all press today and referred media outlets to our website statement. Mr Twitchin held an assembly for our Sixth Form students today and delivered this with exceptional compassion. Student numbers There have been three leavers who have gone to independent schools. These are all specific cases and there is nothing of concern. Y11 destination report The number of HGS students entering Sixth Form is slightly lower than historically. We have an increased number of students who have gone to Harrogate College. This has been the correct progression for these students. In the last two years, 70% of our Y11 cohort have gone onto our Sixth Form. Y13 destination report 290 students applied to university which is 80% of the total cohort.	

There was the highest number of successful applications to Oxbridge. There is an increase in students doing STEM which is positive as well as an increase in humanities.

In terms of regions, the majority of our students go to northern universities.

There have been more students taking up degree apprenticeships and they are very competitive. This is an increasing shift in the numbers of students applying. Many students are applying for both apprenticeships and university to keep their options open. We need to support students with degree apprenticeships, particularly for disadvantaged students, so we are adapting what we do to support. To help students in this process, we have introduced an apprenticeship afternoon, similar to the medical conference.

There have been 30 students taking GAP years.

Data Dashboard

We have a very aspirational target for Y13 which will be very challenging. Realistically, 65% at A*-B would be excellent. There is still a gap with students new to the school. Teacher estimate grades reflect more accurate predictions post pandemic.

There has been significant activity following the most recent assessments with each subject area having an action plan. Mr Twitchin has been asked to focus on subjects with large cohorts. There are interventions already taking place and Y13 are working hard in the final weeks before mocks. There has also been parent evenings and revision support.

Suspensions

The suspension rate is the lowest that we have seen. We have worked hard to support students and Miss Smith has been ensuring that suspensions are used as a last resort. We have introduced a weekly spotlight to focus on particular students, helping staff better understand students.

Mr Renton explained how Miss Smith presents the spotlight about children's lives. This has empowered staff and helped them develop their strategies with these students, in and outside of the classroom.

A Governor explained that at the head student lunch, Sixth Formers had explained how they were supporting younger students. It is really positive and younger students really value this input.

Attendance

Attendance is higher than the national figure and persistent absenteeism has dropped. There are many activities going on, for example attendance challenges and we are constantly working on this area. Mr Renton said that the figure is stronger than last year, and we are aiming to add 1%.

Safeguarding

As per the Headteachers report, there are 35 children who are child in need. Miss Smith explained the additional information in the report to give a clearer picture.

Alumni

Mr Renton reported on the reunion of the Class of 1974.

A Governor asked if there any other events planned? Mr Renton confirmed that there are no reunion events currently in the calendar. These tend to be organised by ex-students.

Staff Leavers

This has been a challenging time in terms of absence and leavers. This has created difficulty to find replacements for these areas at this time of year. Schools are not currently in the cycle of recruitment.

The Programme Leader for Music has made the decision to step away from teaching in January and a temporary lead has been appointed.

Recruitment and retention are a significant challenge in the running of schools at the moment, which is partly why we have been involved in the flexible working project.

Finance

We are projecting a £100,000 surplus at the end of this year. We have just budgeted for the Wolfson project and for the changing rooms upgrade. The cost of the latter will be made up by £20,000 from the school and the PTA will add another £20,000. Our reserves would be £800,000 at the end of this year.

The following year, the projected deficit will be £220,000. We are looking to reduce this figure.

The Department of Education has an expectation that schools should have reserves of 5-8% of their total income. This is inflated for HGS due to the additional income through the Computing and Maths hubs.

The money due to Rossett is for the 30 additional students that we took last year. We will update Governors with these plans once they are in place.

A Governor asked why the change from 5-8% of GAG to 5-8% of total income. Mr Renton advised that this is to make schools more financially viable.

A Governor suggested that our budget is usually conservative so there may be an uplift at the end of the year.

A Governor challenged the calculation on the forecast v budget.

IT update

IT coverage is much more settled in school. Access points have been updated and the IT team are continuing to work on this.

The IT review has not started yet and this will happen when the new Trust Chief Operation Officer starts in January. We have not appointed new IT technicians yet, pending the review.

Mr Rant
to check

	<p>A Governor challenged by asking if the IT support for mocks had improved. Mrs Meacher reported that there had been some improvements. The BTEC exams are more complicated and there are various requests in with IT for January.</p> <p>Mr Renton confirmed that the Deputy IT director has been in school and working hard to make improvements.</p> <p>A Governor asked if the situation was better or good. Mr Renton advised it is better but there are still glitches. The IT response is much improved.</p>	
LGB 4	<p>4. Policies for approval</p> <p>Curriculum, Learning and Assessment Attendance Bereavement First Aid Medical Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural</p> <p>The above policies were approved.</p> <p>A Governor asked if the Emergency response procedure should include fire.</p> <p>We have done an invacuation this term and will do a fire evacuation before the Christmas break.</p>	Should fire be included in the Emergency Response Plan
LGB 5	<p>5. Chair of Governors report</p> <p>The Chair had nothing to report.</p>	
LGB 6	<p>6. Link Governors</p> <p>A Governor reported on the success of the recent Careers fair. There were 65 stands and it was well attended.</p> <p>The careers provision is exceptional as evidenced by the recent renewal of the Careers Standard award. Mr Renton confirmed that the report is exceptional.</p>	
LGB 7	<p>7. Risk register update</p> <p>Mr Renton drew Governors attention to the issues around staffing in particular subject areas. We are trying to mitigate these risks.</p>	
LGB 8	<p>8. Self-evaluation card</p> <p>This is a new document that all the schools in the Trust have been asked to compete. It covers many areas of the school and as a SLT, we have been through the document thoroughly. It is good to help Governors know the school and ask questions. It is pleasing that there are a number of areas where we can share knowledge and our practice.</p> <p>A Governor asked if completion of the document had revealed anything that the school did not already know. Mr Renton advised that the document is a useful summary but did not reveal anything that we didn't know.</p>	

	A Governor asked if we talent manage with other schools. This has happened to a lesser extent and there are ad-hoc arrangements in place. The Trust are currently working on a new people plan and Mr Renton is supporting with this.	
LGB 9	9. AOB None	
LGB 10	The next meeting will take place on Thursday 6 February at 5.30pm at Harrogate Grammar School.	

Actions

LGB3	Mr Rant to check budget calculation
LGB4	Should fire be included in the Emergency Response Plan?