

## Thomas Alleyne's High School, Uttoxeter

Minutes of a meeting of the Learning and Standards committee held remotely (via Zoom) on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 at 5.00pm.

### **Present:**

Mr M Prescott (in the chair), Mr J Davey, Mrs B Davies, Mr T Hollins, Mr M Osborne-Town.

Mrs J Rudge (Headteacher)

### **Also in Attendance:**

Mrs A Maingay (Deputy Headteacher)

Mrs R Lindsay (Assistant Headteacher)

Mr J Mitchell (Assistant Headteacher)

Mrs H Major (Assistant Headteacher)

**Apologies:** Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Cruddas (chair), Mr A Barton, Mrs L Perry.

An apology was also received from Mr R Sheldon, clerk to the governing body. In his absence, Mrs Lindsay had kindly agreed to minute the meeting and governors thanked her for doing so.

### **185. Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest relevant to agenda items.

### **186. Minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting of the Learning and Standards committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020 had been previously made available to governors in Office 365.

It was resolved –

That the minutes of the meeting be received and approved as presented.

### **187. Matters Arising:**

#### a) Minute 176 – Fortnightly Assessments

Mrs Peers to be asked to share details of assessment policy with Learning and Standards on Teams. The impact of the assessments will be shared with Governors in the Headteacher's Report to Governors.

#### b) Minute 178 – Environmental Committee Report

Mr Osborne-Town shared an update from Mrs Young about the committee as below:

*The Eco Committee have made a great start.*

*They have completed their action plan and we should be able to submit our application for Bronze award in the next two weeks.*

*They were asked to join the Biodiversity committee of the town council and from there have been invited to be involved in a steering group and have been asked by the council to prepare a press release on what they have achieved in the school over the last year; requested further bike sheds, requested the buses have their engines turned off when*

*dropping off and picking up students from school, requested an environmental area for wildlife within the school grounds and to have identified an area of land for tree planting. All of these points work towards the Bronze award and also the creation of a notice board within school to keep students and staff updated.*

c) Minute 179 – Health and Safety

Mrs Rudge explained approaches to wearing masks in toilet spaces and around school. It was agreed that staff would encourage students to wear masks rather than making it compulsory unless further guidance was received from the DfE.

**188. Teaching and Learning update:**

Mrs Lindsay gave an update on the arrangements for virtual learning and a report was presented which summarised actions from September. This included CPD sessions, approaches to pedagogy, planning work for absent students and how staff can teach remotely if they are isolating. Learning walks for compliance and monitoring of teaching and learning were also explained. Mrs Lindsay explained the NQT programme which was currently underway.

Discussion explored how cameras are being used in classrooms and the two video packages for staff training on Teams provided by Mr Pollitt and Mr Cartwright. Additionally, discussion considered changes to methodologies in classroom teaching to take into account reducing reliance on paper and text books and favouring PP, although some new opportunities were being presented with technology to support live plenaries and AfL.

Questions were asked about whether student voice had identified any issues with specific subjects and Mrs Rudge suggested that a Google form be used with HOD to determine where the gaps were in learning and if further support was needed.

Further questions were asked about staff well-being and Mrs Rudge explained that staff were affected in different ways and this was monitored by SLT.

Mrs Maingay explained that more information had been provided about the National Tutoring Programme and 40 students would be identified in each subject below to receive support:

English, Maths, Science, History, MFL.

It was resolved –

- i) That governors thank the headteacher and members of the senior team for their work to date.
- ii) That the Teaching and Learning team present information about departments and gaps in learning.
- iii) A matter arising on National Tutoring Programme will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

**189. Covid impact on Teaching and Learning.**

Mrs Rudge presented the student absence summary. The autumn term has an average of 93% attendance and that 3.5% of attendance had been affected by Covid-19. Mrs Rudge presented a tracking document which is updated daily by the Admin Team, and which

highlighted that, on average, 36 students are affected each day. 29 members of staff have isolated since the start of term and there have been 3 positive cases (2 on site)

**190. Post-16 update – initial assessments:**

Mrs Dodd presented the Y13 tracker and explained that HODs had evaluated student engagement and attainment at the end of the summer term; progress prior to and during remote learning. Students were RAG rated and safeguarding concerns were also noted. 117/134 – 87% graduated to Y13. Interventions for the red and amber groups were explained.

Mrs Dodd explained that Y12 had started taster sessions during remote learning in April 2020. The sixth form attainment on entry is lower than in previous years due to the CAG process in the summer. FFT targets are to be used for the current Y12 and will be available in the next two weeks.

It was resolved –

That Mrs Dodd be thanked for her work on this analysis.

**191. Pastoral update:**

Mrs Major presented the Ross House update, explaining some changes to systems of recording callouts, SEMH support, meetings with external agencies and that 4 students have had repeat exclusions. She explained a range of strategies that were used to support student in these cases. Mrs Rudge explained the context of one student who was currently home educated, however, the details of this student were anonymised.

It was resolved –

That Mrs Major be thanked for her report on Ross House and that governors thank her for the work she was doing.

**192. Safeguarding update:**

Mrs Maingay presented trends analysis on the safeguarding report, she explained that some face to face work was in place over the summer and that interventions are in place for specific students. 93 concerns have been recorded since the return to school, mostly with regards to anxiety, mental health and emotional issues. She highlighted that the SSAs have undertaken further training to support the mental health of students.

It was resolved –

That governors thank Mrs Maingay for her work on this with the Safeguarding Board.

**193. Policy Review:**

The following policies had been previously made available in Office 365 and the headteacher confirmed that most policies were as previously approved and with minor alterations highlighted:

- Attendance and Punctuality policy
- Peer on Peer Abuse and Youth Sexual Imagery policy

It was resolved –

That the above policies be received and approved.

**194. Any Other Business:**

- a) The Governors thanked the SLT for attendance at the meeting and their work as a team. Mrs Rudge explained that the school was currently functioning but that there were many factors that make it potentially fragile. Systems are frequently evaluated.
- b) Mr Prescott to email Mr Pollitt and Mr Cartwright to thank them for their work on the Online teaching and learning training package.

**195. Confidentiality:**

Governors were reminded about the need for confidentiality with regard to a number of documents discussed during the meeting but it was agreed that there was no need for any of the issues to be recorded in a confidential appendix.

**196. Consideration Given to KPIs:**

KPI 4 – Governors provide challenge and hold the headteacher and other senior leaders to account for the improving quality of teaching, pupils’ achievement and their behaviour and safety

Evidenced through the full discussions, and challenge, around actions taken by the school to strengthen teaching and learning in response to the challenges of Covid-19. This included continuing to develop remote learning programmes to support students not able to attend school. (Minute 188).

KPI 10 – Governors are taking appropriate action to ensure their responsibilities towards staff well-being are being met.

Evidenced throughout the meeting with governors asking questions around staff well-being due to Covid-19 and in taking any decisions to strengthen teaching and learning the impact on staff well-being was taken into account.

**197. Date of Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Learning and Standards committee was to be held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 5.00pm.

Signed.....  
M Cruddas

19 January 2021  
Date.....