



Minutes of the meeting of the Secondary Local Board of

Hessle Academy

Tuesday 14 September 2021 at 5.30pm



THE CONSORTIUM
ACADEMY TRUST

Shaping Positive Futures

PRESENT:

Mr M Benson (Chair, MB), Mr G Burley (GB), Ms N Gaddu (NG), Mr V Groak (Headteacher, The Hessle Academy, VG), Mr A Haynes (AH), Mr R Lambert (RL), Mrs J Linwood (JL), Mr K Nicholson (KN), Miss K Staveley (KS)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr S Jarman (Assistant Head, SJ), Mrs J Meir (Assistant Head, JM), Mrs L Price (Deputy Head, LP), Mrs G Stafford (Clerk to the Trust, GS)

Throughout these minutes a question is indicated by Q followed by the initials of the questioner and a comment is marked by C.

01 WELCOME

MB opened the meeting by welcoming everybody to the first meeting of the academic year. NG was welcomed back after time off and everyone was asked to introduce themselves.

02 PRESENTATION: Students' experience during Covid

Four Year 12 students had been invited to describe their experience during Year 11 through the pandemic. All felt that they had been supported well throughout. Online learning during the first lockdown was a challenge but was more fluid and smoother in later lockdowns.

Q: (MB) Did you achieve what you expected to achieve?

Yes, overall we are happy and achieved what we thought we would. We were forced to focus earlier.

Q: (MB) Is there anything significantly negative about studying at home?

The lack of social interaction was a challenge. Traditional learning is best but the quality of online learning was very good.

Q: (KN) Why did you choose Hessle Sixth Form?

The school hadn't done us wrong so we saw no reason to look elsewhere. We like the teachers.

Q: (MB) Would you have looked elsewhere if the choice of subjects wasn't available?

Yes, but we found that all our courses were available across the Sixth Form Consortium.

Q: (GB) How do you find travelling between sites?

Seamless.

Q: (Have you seen anything good at Wolfreton or Cottingham that is not available here?)

No

Q: (MB) Is there anything that Hessle could do better for students across the school?

No

The students were thanked and wished well for their Sixth Form years, leaving the meeting at 5.40pm.

03 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No conflicts of interest were declared for this meeting. All governors had checked their

previously submitted details declared on the personal details form and the pecuniary interest form and either signed to confirm the details were still correct, or updated their records.

04 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Miss J-M Quinn.

Resolved: Consent was given for the absence of the above governor..

05 LGB MEMBERSHIP

It is the annual duty of an LGB to elect their Chair. MB reported he was content to stand for another year. All Governors approved this appointment.

Governors were asked if they would like to be considered for the position of Vice – Chair. AH volunteered and was voted into the position.

Resolved: The Hessle LGB positions for 2021/22 were agreed to be as follows:

Chair: M Benson

Vice Chair: A Haynes

Careers Link: K Nicholson

DSEN Link: J Linwood

PP Link: N Gaddu

Safeguarding Link: A Haynes

06 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2021 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

07 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

07a ACTION: KN as Careers Link to carry out student voice around career aspirations - to complete autumn term

07b ACTION: MB as PP Link to arrange a visit with Jo M to discuss PP strategy and how the LGB would like to see catch up funding presented

07c ACTION: VG to share the Governor group email address (hhs governors@hessleacademy.com) with staff should they want to raise issues - complete

07d ACTION: GS to circulate the link for Governors to view the ASCL presentation on how GCSE grades are awarded - complete

07e ACTION: Additional column be added to the subject specific progress table showing size of cohort - carried to the December 2021 meeting

07f ACTION: Two Governors have completed Safer Recruitment training – this to be reflected on the Safeguarding Report - carried to the December 2021 meeting

07g ACTION: Trust aggregate attendance to be included in the next Attendance Report - carried to the December 2021 meeting

07h ACTION: Trust data to be included in the Strategic Termly Report as much as possible to allow for comparisons - carried to the December 2021 meeting

07i ACTION: All Link Governors to conduct a visit and complete the Governor Report Form - see minute 11

07j ACTION: M Benson, G Burley, K Nicholson and R Lambert to complete at least one more NGA module before the end of the academic year. Action written off – all Governors will be asked to complete the Safeguarding 2021 module.

08 AWARDED RESULTS SUMMARY

08.1 Key Stage 4 (N.B National figures taken from 2019 – last formal assessments)

- Centre assessed grades – very robust system used with a double checking system used for grades used.
- Only one potential appeal received
- 3 subjects had been externally sampled: English Language, English Literature and BTEC Engineering
- Leadership priorities 2019/20 had been supporting students through the lockdown, tweaking the curriculum and keeping school open as much as possible
- Standard Basics (English and Maths 9-4) 71% (2020 was 69%, national 2019 65%)
- Strong Basics (English and Maths 9-5) 52% (2020 was 46%, national 2019 43%)
- EBacc entry 50% (2020 was 47%) Standard pass 31%, Strong pass 21%
- EBacc pass rate 30% (2020 was 32%, 2019 national average 25%)
- Progress 8 +0.65 (2020 +0.14, national 2019 0), Progress 8 DA was +0.44
- Attainment 8 49 (2020 47, national 2019 47). DA attainment 45
- Girls outperformed boys in attainment and progress
- English Language at 9-5 56% (national 2019 51%), English Literature at 9-5 58% (national 2019 62%) and Maths at 9-5 59% (national 2019 49%)
- Successful GCSE subjects: Business progress 1.53, Computer Science 2.39, Geography 1.11 and Photography 1.13.
- Successful Vocational subjects: TEC Sport 1.01
- 180 in Year 11
- Priorities this year: Disadvantaged, High Ability and boys

C: (MB) Well done everyone – these are fantastic results. Two years ago we asked for the Head of English to present her plans for improvement and results have improved. English was also part of the external check which verifies this improvement.

JM: Yes, we are very pleased but we know that these results need to come out of formal assessments too, not just CAGs. The improvement in Maths and English needs to be sustained.

Q: (KN) No appeals is great – how does this compare with other Trust schools?

JM: I know of at least one that has received several appeals.

Q: (MB) What are your subjects of concern?

JM: Music and French.

Q: (MB) Do you have plans in place to address these concerns and if so, what are they?

JM: Yes, we have SEFs coming around and will put in plans following the November mock exams.

Q: (JL) Will you follow the ASCL standardised testing period of exams in December?

JM: We will go ahead in November as there is a lack of certainty around this.

Q: (JL) We learnt that there was a good uptake for Computer Science revision classes and the progress index is really good at 2.39. Will you encourage a bigger uptake for extra revision sessions in other subjects?

JM: There was very good uptake in not just Computer Science, but also English. Yes, we need to do more across the board to encourage uptake.

Q: (KN) Why do you think Computer Science, Business, Geography and Photography results were so good?

JM: There were also other successful subjects. Children pick the choices that interest them.

VG: There is also very high quality teaching and we have a strong KS3 / KS4 pathway. There is never just one reason – another reason is luck. We may have been lucky that we focused on certain questions for example.

It was agreed that a leader from Music or French would present their plans for improvement in the March meeting.

ACTION: Subject Leader in Music or French to present plans for improvement in the March LGB meeting

08.2 Key Stage 5

- Small year group of 48
- Most students got their first-choice university, no appeals received as yet
- % achieving A*A 29.5% (21% 2020) – below national but up on 2019
- % achieving A*B 58.1% (57% 2020)
- 100% pass rate, average grade B-
- Overall VA +0.42 A Level
- Pupil Premium students (6) achieved a VA of +1.07
- VA Applied General +0.94
- Vocational: Pass rate 100%, 90% achieved Distinction * Distinction
- Successful subjects when VA considered: Further Maths, Computer Science, Textiles, BTEC Sport, Biology and BTEC Applied Science
- Subjects requiring attention: Photography, Spanish, Geography, Sociology and Psychology
- Year 13 Destinations: 81% went to university (20% to a Russell Group university). There were no unconditional offers this year
- Year 12: 84 students with 90% of the top 20 students retained
- Focus of SEFs – continue with strong outcomes, development curriculum and analyse the performance of travelling students

C: (VG) The performance of travelling students is a historical issue. Travellers don't tend to perform as well as home students and there is an issue over accountability. Lots of work has been done at Sixth Form and Headteacher level and we all now hold our teachers to account for the performance of all students in their class, whether their 'home' is Hessle, Cottingham or Wolfreton.

Q: (MB) Do you have any significant concerns for this year?

SJ: Psychology – it's a large group. Monitoring visits had to stop due to Covid but have restarted now.

C: (MB) Does the increase in the Year 12 cohort present a greater risk as focus is more spread, and could there be a risk of outcomes falling?

SJ: No. There has been a lot of debate about size of cohort related to outcomes. Small cohorts may not have the same level of interaction but teachers are buzzing with the increase in numbers this year.

Q: (AH) Why has the Year 12 number increased so much?

SJ: We are retaining a large proportion of a bigger Year 11 group. The switch to year tutor groups has helped, as Year 11 are in their own group and we can focus conversations to them about our Sixth Form.

VG: H Lawes, working alongside SJ, know from Year 10 who is suitable for Sixth Form and give them advice and support. Some students are more comfortable staying in a familiar environment and we are now at a retention rate of 45%.

09 LEARNER RETURN TO SCHOOL BRIEFING

- LFT – 50% students tested at the time of the meeting. Seen 20 positive cases
- Face masks optional
- Increase in numbers as 247 in the Year 7 cohort and 180 left in Year 11
- 15 new staff
- Consistency and routine drilled into students with strict uniform checks daily - led to calm environment
- Raising standards of uniform – especially skirt length and shoe quality
- Retained split lunches as felt school was calmer
- Attendance averaging 94%
- Behaviour good with defiance over petty incidents being the most common reason for a sanction

C: (KS) I agree, students have settled in well. The reason for the behaviour is due to them not being around each other socially and defiance escalates. The school feels organised and calm.

C: (NG) As a parent of a Year 9 student, my plea is to please continue with the checks on uniform. It is all about attitude and to have routine and strict boundaries is good.

VG: We will continue; we are prepared for some defiance and we know that during some periods of the year it will be harder to retain the standards but we are aware and very determined.

Q: (MB) Is there anything concerning you since the return?

VG: Attendance.

Q: (NG) What are the reasons for attendance dropping?

VG: Our proportion of persistent absence is above national. The PA students tend to be the ones living furthest from school.

10 GOVERNOR LINK VISITS

KN had carried out a visit to look at English mastery 12 July 2021. Positive visit. No further questions.

All Governors to email their contacts within school, carry out a visit and complete the Visit Form.

ACTION: All Link Governors to carry out a Governor visit with their school contact.

11 GOVERNOR TRAINING AND SUPPORT

- KCSiE 2021 – Changes to this guidance will be circulated with the minutes
- NGA Safeguarding module – has not yet been released by Learning Link. GS will advise when it becomes available and Governors are expected to complete before Christmas
- Ofsted training – to be held 15 September at Wolfreton 6-8pm
- Skills audit – an NGA skills audit will be circulated with the minutes. All Governors to complete and return ASAP as this forms training plans

ACTION: Governors to complete the 2021 Safeguarding: A Governor's Role

ACTION: All Governors to complete and return the NGA skills matrix

12 POLICY REVIEW

The following policies had all been reviewed and approved virtually:

- Access to Education

- Food in the Academy
- Provider Access
- Status Changes on SIMs
- Vision and Values

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 19 October 2021, 5.30pm

14 AOB

Staff Governor Position

The Clerk informed the Board that KS's term as a Staff Governor comes to an end 25 September 2021. As this position has to be open to all staff members, expressions of interest had been invited. Two staff members had come forward and KS would like to stand again so there will therefore be a ballot.

15 ACTION POINTS

- 15a ACTION: KN as Careers Link to carry out student voice around career aspirations (minute 07a)**
- 15b ACTION: MB as PP Link to arrange a visit with Jo M to discuss PP strategy and how the LGB would like to see catch up funding presented (minute 07b)**
- 15c ACTION: Additional column be added to the subject specific progress table showing size of cohort (minute 07e)**
- 15d ACTION: Two Governors have completed Safer Recruitment training – this to be reflected on the Safeguarding Report (minute 07f)**
- 15e ACTION: Trust aggregate attendance to be included in the next Attendance Report (minute 07g)**
- 15f ACTION: Trust data to be included in the Strategic Termly Report as much as possible to allow for comparisons (minute 07h)**
- 15g ACTION: Subject Leader in Music and French to present plans for improvement in the March LGB meeting (minute 08.1)**
- 15h ACTION: All Link Governors to carry out a Governor visit with their school contact (minute 10)**
- 15i ACTION: Governors to complete the 2021 Safeguarding: A Governor's Role (minute 11)**
- 15j ACTION: All Governors to complete and return the NGA skills matrix (minute 11)**

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions to the meeting.

The meeting closed at 6.57pm