Minutes

Present: Helen Arnold, Colleen Lehane, Lucy Lewis, Roger Mann (Chair), Mike Gordon, Lucy Scott, Simon Peyton-Jones, Erinn Heggan, Donna Hubbard-Young, Kath Hutchinson, Suz Izzard, Mary Sanders, Liz Bradbury, Tim Spencer

1.   Apologies
John Hipkin, David Williams, Luke Tunmer, Shahida Rahman

2.   Declaration of interests
None declared

3.   Minutes of last meeting 21st May 2019
Minutes agreed

4.   **Matters Arising**
None

5.   Presentation English & Media: Alison Bigglestone, Head of English and Rob Parkinson, Head of Media and Film
Alison presented on English studies and Rob presented on the Media and Film curriculums.
Q – Can you say a little more about the study of theory in the English curriculum? A: E.g. Propps narrative etc.
Q – When do students attend the GCSE lectures? A: Lunchtimes.
Q – Do you still do the speaking exam? A: Yes it is now called the Spoken Language Endorsement, which sits outside the GCSE English Language qualification and is graded: pass, merit or distinction.
Q – What is your biggest challenge? A: To marry and promote a love of literature whilst still preparing students well for the exams.
Q – How do you promote a love of learning? A: Making time for genuine conversations about reading, sharing personal choices etc.
Q – Is there more space for promoting 'global moves' in English in KS3? A: Yes initially whilst we were getting to grips with the new KS4 specifications KS3 was perhaps a little more conservative but now we are confident with what is required at KS4 we are adapting KS3 to take more risks.
Q – Are there any issues with some students not being able to access trips e.g. theatre? A: Culture Vultures accesses free tickets for disadvantaged students, all students go to the theatre in year 7, school supports students who wish to go on a trip and can't afford it, all students are enabled to go on a trip when it forms a compulsory part of the course.
Q – What sizes are the cohorts? A: Example cohort size - 37 in Media Studies, 12 in Film studies. There has been a reduction in the uptake of Media.
Q – Is there a broad ability range in Media/Film? A: Hugely so, the full range of ability. Very proud of the strong results for disadvantages students whose performance in related subjects e.g. English is weaker.
Q – What is the link between photography? A: Very close cross over, also strong links to psychology, sociology etc. which makes it an excellent transition subject.
Q – In film studies are students making their own material? A: Yes students create practical work in order to be able to apply theory to.

6.   Ethos and Values: Mike Gordon, Assistant Head
Action: To be circulated by Mike Gordon

7.   Exclusion and attendance data: Colleen Lehane, Deputy Head
Action: To be circulated by Colleen Lehane before 24th July 2019.

8.   SLT report: Lucy Scott, CEO
Q – How is the new build? A: New building is in full use, builders are now working in the old kitchen area and the old science block. The building has been very well received by students and staff.
C – It is great to see there is an opportunity at the end of term for parents to tour the new building.

Q – The Computing Hub is exciting, can you say some more? A – Selected as one of a small number of Computing Hubs across the country. The designation comes with a significant amount of money but with it a significant commitment to support computing education across the region. We are waiting to hear more specifics and will update again next academic year.

Q – Is there anymore you can say about homework, shared platforms etc? A: There has been a meeting with the web developers which Roger (Chair) attended and the developers have gone way to make improvements which will go live in September. In terms of sharing student work we stopped using SeeSaw due to cost and tried a lower cost option this year which we are not satisfied with.   From September 2019 we are going to use a parent app to share student work – more information to follow.

Q – Is there an update on the Cambridge Maths School? A: Still in the pre-opening phase, temporary accommodation is currently being explored.

C – We share your frustration over the amount of work that went into the bids for Godmanchester and Wisbech. A: We need to think carefully about how we engage with the free school process in the future.

Action: Richard to update on timescale for seeing drafts of the website changes before they go live.

9. **School funding and income generation: Roger Mann (Chair)**
Roger outlined the current financial difficulties nationally which are further compounded for Chesterton by the difficulties faced by the sports centre which will mean a lower contribution to the school next year. Q: What can we do about it?

LS outlined what is currently being done re income generation:
- Potential Language school booking – to be confirmed
- Gala performance evening in September to showcase spaces to be hired
- Counselling room for hire – potential customer tbc
- Hosting international students in school
- Martin Russell's role has been changed to focus on income generation with a target for next year of 70K

Q: Should we ask parents for financial contributions?
- Letter has been sent out to all parents asking for any ideas re income generation which has yielded no responses. (LS)
- Chair of PTA has suggested a wish list might encourage parents to donate money.
- Parents would feel more comfortable in contributing to something specific and it would be more palatable than asking for a donation towards a child's education (LB/LL)
- It is understandable to feel uneasy to ask parents for donations however we need to be realistic that at the moment staff are spending their own money on resources etc and it is not fair or sustainable. 1000 families x £200 = £20000 (SPJ)
- Income generation is an important way forward as we need certainty rather than adhoc donations (LS)
- Is there merit in creating a working party group? (LB)

Action: SLT to pursue income generation options. Topic to be returned to at the end of the autumn term to review and consider further action required.

10. **LGB self-evaluation and planning: Roger Mann (Chair)**
Roger referred to the list of questions circulated before the meeting.
Q: How is the link governor initiative going?
- DMA LGB has a standing item on the agenda to feedback on visits and all visit reports go into the local hub for everyone to read.
- A few years ago the CCC visits worked really well so rather than changing them perhaps they just need prompting.
- Goodwill and intentions are there just needs prompting.
- One prompt would be for a link visit to take place linked to forthcoming agenda items.

Q: Is the meeting schedule for next year appropriate?
- C: There feels like there is less opportunity to drill down without separate meetings for T&L, Pastoral.
- C: Combined meetings are better for those who couldn't sit on multiple committees.
- C: Reduced meetings support staff by requiring less of their time.
- C: Timings of meetings is difficult to work for everyone, 3.30 is chosen to support staff but may limit the number of governors who are available.
- C: Recruitment is needed for 3 governor posts.
- C: Proposed timetable of topics is excellent.

- C: Thank you to Helen Arnold whose term as governor is coming to an end, Helen's contribution has been invaluable and we hope it won't be goodbye forever.

Q: Any other comments?
- C: Constant challenge for governors is being able to challenge when you don't know what you don't know. New style CET reports with key questions linked to each area of responsibility will help govs challenge leaders.
- C: Govs are experiencing, similar to SLT, the challenges of maintaining outstanding which is harder in many respects than moving from good to outstanding.
- C: Chesterton and DMA are lucky to have their respective governors, it is not a given that schools have such engaged and committed governors.

11.   AOB
- Roger thanked everyone for their contributions this year and thanked staff for maintaining outstanding.

12.   Date of next meeting
Tuesday 15th October

Q – Question, A – Answer, C- Comment