



## Minutes of the Meeting of the Academy Improvement Board Virtual Meeting at 4pm on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021

**Present:**

- Mr P Bell – Chair
- Mrs H McClurg –Principal
- Mrs H Thornton – Vice Principal
- Mr A McKinnell
- Mr G Gomersall
- Mrs A Halhead
- Mrs C Marney – Clerk to the Board

### 1. Apologies

There were no apologies

### 2. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

### 3. Minutes and Matters Arising

Minutes from 30<sup>th</sup> June have been approved and but not yet signed by the chair as a correct record.

The Chair welcomed the new members of The Board and everyone briefly introduced themselves. It was noted that Lyndsey Newby had decided to resign from the Board and the Chair asked the Principal to send a letter of thanks for her services to the school over the years, the Principal agreed to this but did ask the Chair to speak with Lyndsey to see if she would reconsider as there were now more members, which would mean less pressure on individuals.

### 3. Principals Report

The report had already been shared with the Board, the Principal read through the report and invited questions from the Board. The Principal discussed attendance and explained that it is down on last year, although this seems to be the picture in all schools and we are still slightly better than the National Average. There have been a further 15 cases of Covid since the report was shared with the Board but the Principal feels that this could be more as uptake on testing is low. The Principal explained that she had tightened up on the Attendance Policy and it was more robust. The Board agreed that this was the right thing to do.

Students behaviour is challenging, particularly in year 10, there has been an addendum added to the policy for this group of students. The Board questioned the homework sanctions, the Principal explained that there will be a focus on homework and uniform this term, staff and students need to be reminded to record homework in their planner, they have got out of the habit of doing this.

Student numbers are a worry, they are low in Year 7 and have been going down for the last three years. There has been a massive recruitment drive, all primary schools have been visited, social media is up and running and primary students have visited to take part in Dance, PE Art & Ceramics, French and Technology, we have also trained staff and primary school staff on our Climbing Wall, we are hoping that these students will see coming to MBA as a natural progression. We do not feel that we could do any more and will just have to wait and see. We are pleased with the Sixth Form recruitment.

The current Year 7 are the weakest cohort that we have ever had, we are starting a Phonics programme as some of these students have a reading age of Year 2 students.

**Action: The Board asked for this to be a standing item at future meetings to have regular progress meetings on Year 7.**

The head discussed the recent SIP visit, there were no surprises and nothing that we did not already know. Teaching and Learning briefings now take place on a Friday morning, the use of Synergy is an issue with regards to Safeguarding and we are moving to CPOMS, this is being rolled out to staff after school on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November.

The Principal discussed staffing, we are fully staffed but have advertised for a Pastoral Vice Principal, we have had lots of applications but are not interviewing any of the candidates. This will be re-advertised at a later date.

NHS Covid Vaccinations have taken place in school and about a quarter of the students were vaccinated. The Board questioned if there will be another session but there will not as Vaccination Centres are being set up for young people outside of schools.

### **TLR Restructure**

The three year protection of TLR's are coming to an end in December. The proposal for the new TLR's are LAC, Trips, Early Careers Mentors and ITT Mentor. The Board approved these TLR's as it was agreed that there will always be a need for them. The contracts must set out clearly defined roles.

### **TAG's**

The Principal explained that these are not actually real results, she acknowledged that staff worked very hard under extremely difficult circumstances but they are not truly reflective of an exam situation. The TAG's did show up a clear warning for us as disadvantaged students were still 1 grade below their peers. A discussion will be held at SLT regarding this on what intervention can be put in place, starting from Year 7.

### **Policy Reviews**

The Principal had shared new Policies with the Board and asked them to approve them. The Board agreed to the new policies although just wanted some wording changing on the Behaviour Policy regarding exclusions and staff pictures adding to the Safeguarding Policy, once this is done they can be put on the Website.

### **Trips**

The Principal asked the Board for approval on trips, these trips have been checked and all they are all aligned to the curriculum.

10<sup>th</sup> February – 13<sup>th</sup> February Sixth Form Trip to Auschwitz. 43 students are going on this trip, the Board questioned insurance against Covid, the principal assured the Board that this was written into the trip and is fully refundable. The Board agreed this trip

20<sup>th</sup> October – 25<sup>th</sup> October Year 10 Barcelona trip 43 year 10 students. The Board agreed this trip and were pleased that trips were taking place again.

### **SIP Headlines**

The Principal read through the SIP headlines which had already been shared with the Board. The principal to share the full plan with the Chair.

### **Confidential Items**

There were no confidential items discussed.

### **AOB**

Term Dates for 2022/2023 were agreed by the Board

All recommendations for pay progression were agreed by the Board

The Board agreed that the next AIB meeting on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December will be held face to face in school.

The meeting ended at 5.15pm