

Newton Abbot College Local Academy Committee

Minutes of the virtual meeting held on **15th March 2022**

Present: Linda Caunter (chair), Christine Candlish (Appointed Governor), Amy Grashoff (Staff Governor Headteacher), Cathy Hooper, (Parent Governor), Marina North, Appointed Governor), Sarah Wilkinson (Staff Governor).

Apologies: None

Also Present:

1. Apologies for absence: **none**
2. Department to present: **History.**

Resolved: This was deferred to the May meeting. This was because of miscommunication and lack of coordination. Clerk to put on May agenda.

3. **To agree Minutes of the last meeting held on 18th January 2022.**

Resolved: All agreed minutes of the last meeting. CH asked about the safeguarding review. AG explained that it goes on each meeting and any additional updates gets put on when it does. There were no comments to the safeguarding review.

4. **Declarations of interest and recording of any business interests.**

Resolved: None

5. **Matters Arising from minutes of the last meeting (not listed below)**

CH spoke about using acronyms and the amount that is used in minutes. She finds herself googling some to get the meaning and has asked if these could be clarified when it comes to reports.

Resolved: Clerk to put an acronym table on minutes for clarification.

6. **Headteacher written report:**

- LC started by thanking AG for how detailed her report was. AG spoke about how she has been speaking to staff and getting feedback, spending quality time to get to know the staff. LC spoke about how the values are being promoted in the college. Spoke about maybe having visual reminders around the college. Possibility of in classrooms, around the halls and surrounding areas.

Outcome: AG to look into this for the future.

- LC asked about how covid has had an impact on students and how this has affected the behaviour of the students. AG explained the consequences of having lockdowns, school closures and the impact on the students. Also, other services that provide support to students. The restriction that was placed on all services by not having face to face support and how a lot of changes was implemented within each service. Since the school has reopened and services have been slowly coming back to more structure this has impacted student support. The support students receive are becoming more involved and restrictions are being lifted to provide more service and increasing support. This is having a positive impact on student behaviour.

Resolved: Monitor the progress in these areas of the report.

- LC asked about the awards and what the students do to achieve these. AG provided some typical examples of how students are able to achieve the college awards e.g., cake sales, fundraising, hard work in lessons, helpful and showing kindness to others within the community.

Resolved: This is to continue.

- AG talked about the impact covid has had on the staff and the issues that has arisen from the changing government guidelines and the steps that have needed to be in place to accommodate these. The 1 to 1 have suffered to a degree but this is now improving. LC praised AG regarding how the 1 to 1 has been achieved, regardless of the setbacks suffered.
- SW asked AG about the impact this has all had on staff. AG explained that she has been getting to know staff, speak to them about the implications covid has had on them as staff and people.

Resolved: This is to be monitored and adapted when needed.

- LC spoke about staff absences and the impact this is having on all other staff and the college. It has been very hard to source agency staff to cover staff absences due to covid and the policies other agencies have in place. AG explained how they access what is needed each day and monitor.

Resolved: AG explained the possible need to send year groups home for one day in the coming week/s and to access this based on staff absences. AG explained that the year11 examination groups will not be included in that decision. This is to be actioned when needed. The updated attendance report will be on the next meeting agenda to reflect any changes that have been implemented.

- LC enquired about the relatively low attendance figures for year 10 and 11 and asked AG if this was being addressed. AG confirmed that interventions are in place for absences in these year groups.

Resolved: AG and other relevant staff to monitor and to continue using suitable interventions to address the attendance problem. Covid, however, has also contributed significantly to the absence figures.

- LC spoke about learning walks. These are staff observing students in class or out in other areas. This is to monitor behaviour and to see what can be implemented to help students who need it. LC praised how this could be a positive link for staff and students.

Resolved: LC spoke about a possible student council. AG to investigate this as a possible action. MN spoke about how governors could contribute to behaviour walks as well.

- DSL: LP to step into this role after Easter 2022.

7. Budget:

Nick Hill provided a financial report and located it on SharePoint for Governors review.

Resolved: It was agreed and noted that the budget was very positive.

- 8. Safeguarding:** CH to meet with LP in the week to discuss matters. CC achieved the Level 3 safeguarding course. All members of the meeting congratulated her on this achievement.

Resolved: Nothing to update.

9. Policy: NAC outdoor activities:

AG explained that the policy was updated (with particular reference to Health and Safety) in order to implement the Devon County policy changes. CH asked if parents and students would be able to see the relevant parts of this policy, with a view to increasing their awareness of expectations.

Resolved: AG to investigate this further.

10. AOB: CEIAG policy: This was updated.

Resolved: This was all agreed. CH asked if there could be a full heading to explain what CEIAG means.

CC praised how fantastic the careers fair was.

LC asked AG to pass on her praise for the arts staff and to congratulate them for their hard work in obtaining the Arts Award. All congratulated SW as well.

Resolved: Governors are to congratulate JP for her role in this as well.

It was agreed that the following items were confidential by reason of the disclosure of personal and or business information. The meeting moved into Part 2 and is minuted separately.

Signed: Linda Caunter..... Dated...30.03.2022.....

L Caunter
Chair

The meeting commenced at 6pm and finished at 7.47pm

Key to common acronyms

NAC - Newton Abbot College
HR- Human Resources
DC- Dawlish College
HT- Head Teacher
DCC -Devon County Council
SLT – Senior Leadership Team