

Batley Multi Academy Trust

Meeting of the Batley Girls' High School (BGHS) Local Governing Body

Held at BGHS on Thursday 26 September 2019 at 6:00pm

Part A

GOVERNORS PRESENT:	
Pamela Pickles (PP) (Chair)	Janice O'Hanlon (JOH)
Ahmed Vali (AV) (Vice-Chair)	Michelle Barker (MBa)
Jean May (JM)	Stephanie Holt (SH)
Carole Sallery (CS)	
GOVERNOR APOLOGIES:	
Sajid Ghani (SG)	Fozia Riaz (FR)

IN ATTENDANCE:	
Julie Haigh (JCH) (Co-Head)	David Cooper (DC) (Co-Head)
Helen Sheldrake (HRS) (Deputy Head)	Laura Bland (LB) (Clerk)
Inam Laher (IH) (Observer)	

1	Chair's Welcome	Action
	<p>The Chair opened the meeting and thanked all for attending the first meet of the 2019/20 academic year.</p> <p>PP extended her thanks, on behalf of the LGB to Inam Laher who was an observer at the meeting, with a view to officially joining the board.</p>	
2	Apologies for Absence, Consent and Declarations of Interest	
	<p>Apologies had been received from Sajid Ghani and Fozia Riaz, with consent.</p> <p>PP confirmed the meeting was quorate.</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
3	Representation	
	<p>The resignation of Jonathan Barber had been received, effective 13th June 2019. The board expressed their thanks to Jonathan for all of his commitment and efforts and IT WAS AGREED the Chair would contact Jonathan directly to express the board's thanks.</p>	PP

	<p>Governors AGREED to re-elect PP as Chair of the LGB for a further two year term.</p> <p>The term of office for Samera Khalil had come to an end (31st August 2019). The board expressed their thanks to Samera, who had agreed to work closely with Dave Cooper and the Careers team going forward.</p>	
4	Minutes of the LGB Meeting held on 20 June 2019	
	IT WAS AGREED that the minutes should be approved as a true record and these were signed off by the Chair.	
5	Matters Arising	
	Governors AGREED to attend in-house training on the new Ofsted framework on the 17th October at 3:00pm. Governors were invited to arrive at school from 2:30pm to try and avoid the end of the day congestion/traffic.	ALL
6	Governance	
	<p>IT WAS AGREED to adopt the new code of conduct, which will be distributed and signed at the November meeting.</p> <p>PP asked all to complete the governance skills audit (hard copy provided) by the November meeting.</p> <p>PP reminded all to declare any conflicts at the beginning of the meeting.</p> <p>JCH informed all each school's terms of reference were under review.</p>	ALL
7	Co-Heads' Report - Focus on Outcomes	
	<p>Governors were directed to the key priorities listed and the SEND support students as a key area.</p> <p>JCH and DC summarised the key points from the Co-Heads' report, noting the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DC added recruitment figures for Year 12 had improved in comparison to last year. 2. Funding of over £80k had been received for the Change project. 3. Numerous changes to staffing - these are additional opportunities for staff to develop with no financial implications for the school. <p><u>Key Stage 4 Outcomes</u></p> <p>HRS distributed a summary document to Governors and discussed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strong 3 year trends for A8 and P8. ● Overall P8 = +0.681%, however this figure is subject to change. ● Over 76% attainment for Basic 4+ (English and Maths combined) and over 57% attainment for Basic 5+. ● Disadvantaged P8 = +0.546. ● All buckets are significantly positive. 	

HRS directed all Governors to the Key Lines of Enquiry (sub-group and subject variation) summaries and explained those areas and subjects would be a key focus.

HRS added Latin, in particular is a key focus, however HRS explained this cohort was the first cohort to complete the course, and following very detailed analysis of the results, there is a strategy in place for 2019/20.

Whilst the disadvantaged progress score was incredibly positive, HRS noted the additional work needed with regards to SEND support students. These students do not have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and mostly require mental health support and many students were recently identified.

HRS also added, the cohort for Year 11 was significantly smaller than the previous year (by 11%) and the impact of a positive or negative result is greater. This also applies to the disadvantaged cohort, however that does not fairly reflect their needs.

Governors were invited to ask questions.

Qu. The Y11 cohort had high APS on entry, but did not make as much progress as the previous year (unvalidated data); can you account for this?

A. HRS felt all possible intervention methods for HA had been put in place, but for this academic year grades 8 and 9s in all subjects will be a focus.

Qu. ICT have completed a brilliant turn around, but Computer Science have not mirrored this increase, why not?

A. ICT and Computer Science are unrelated subjects. Computer Science is heavily maths-related and in hindsight, some students have opted for a subject that isn't best suited to their academic ability. In addition, Computer Science has only been a subject for 3 years and numbers nationally for this subject have dropped.

Qu. ICT numbers have also dropped significantly over the last 3 years, should we now be encouraging the take up of this subject?

A. Similar to the above, some students have opted for a subject that isn't best suited to their academic ability. The courses have also changed.

Qu. Has there been much intervention with regards to the disadvantaged gap?

A. This is a constant work in progress and we will continue to monitor and review. Last year, we planned home visits to include the student and family. School also purchased the correct equipment students required to meet their needs. The progress and attainment gap have all narrowed for the disadvantaged students as a result of these interventions which is very pleasing.

Qu. Was there much engagement from families during the 'home visit' intervention?

A. Yes, it has been very well received and there has been positive engagement from families. There has also been a joint approach from Deputy Heads, covering the pastoral needs as well as the focus on outcomes. This has proved successful.

Key Stage 5 Outcomes

DC referred to the summary document circulated prior to the meeting and explained, following results the previous year, there had been a number of strategies in place for the 2018/19 academic year, which had had a strong impact across the board for KS5.

- For Academic and Applied combined, APS per student was 80.39 in comparison to 78 last year.
- There was a dip in A* - E grades, however an increase in A* - B and A* - C grades.
- A Level ALPS grading stands at 3, a significant improvement from last year (5).
- Approx 50% of subjects are operating at the top end of the ALPS grade. The target for next year is 60%.
- Overall, Applied Subjects results were significantly positive, with 7/8 subjects falling into categories 1, 2 or 3 (with 1 being the highest).
- DC noted the progress made in IT, from an 8 to a 6, however noted there was still work to be done.
- Two subjects achieved a grading of 1 and fall into the top 1% of results nationally.

Governors were invited to ask questions.

Qu. Results for Humanities at GCSE and A Level are both down in comparison to last year. Are there issues within the department that need to be reviewed, in particular History?

A. Coursework delivery and exam preparation is being reviewed at KS5 with a view to tightening up the level of freedom students currently have. There is also a national expectation to cover more in History than previously, but in the same amount of time which has shown amongst the results.

Qu. Is it financially viable to deliver some subjects with just 1 and 2 students?

A. Subjects have been and are being reviewed and in light of this Economics at KS5 will no longer be a subject course and has been replaced by Applied Business Studies which has had a greater uptake.

Governors were also made aware of a wider piece of work that is currently being undertaken by a member of staff in relation to the financial viability of subjects.

SH suggested subject areas that have been highlighted as focus areas should be a main focus for Governors during their school visits. IT WAS AGREED this would be a focus and discussed further at the Ofsted framework training.

Qu. Are we covering subjects students actually want to take?

A. Yes, a considerable amount of research has gone into looking at this and we believe the programme we offer is appealing to students, however there are some influential factors that we cannot control, that we believe have attracted students elsewhere.

	<p>Qu. Are we attracting many external applicants for Sixth Form?</p> <p>A. Approx 25% are external applicants and we have 205 students currently on roll.</p>	
8	Safeguarding Update	
	<p>The new Family Psychologist role is going well and support offered to families and students had, to date, been effective. In addition, the new Healthcare Support Worker who has a wealth of knowledge from previous posts in the NHS has settled in well.</p> <p>An issue in relation to epipens had been flagged and it was noted this is an issue nationally, which will JM will continue to monitor.</p> <p>JCH/DC to check the procedure re: students keeping epipen on their person.</p> <p>Governors were made aware of a letter received recently re: Brexit and food and medical provision in school and it was AGREED JCH/DC would update Governors as and when appropriate.</p> <p>An additional training package for Safeguarding had recently been purchased and is proving very useful. It is accessible for all MAT schools should they wish to purchase it on top of their current membership with the provider.</p> <p>JM to continue monitoring CPOMS and will review in November.</p>	<p>JM</p> <p>JCH/DC</p> <p>JM</p>
9	Compliance Update	
	<p>LB confirmed there had not been any comments/feedback from Governors regarding the below policies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Whole School Marking, Assessment and Feedback Policy IT WAS AGREED to pass with no amendments. 2) Provider Access Policy IT WAS AGREED to pass with no amendments. 3) Governor Visits Policy and Guidelines IT WAS AGREED to pass with no amendments. <p>JCH asked ALL to review the updated Curriculum Policy and feedback any comments to LB ahead of the November meeting.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
10	AOB	
	<p>PP reminded ALL Governors to complete their pen portrait. An electronic template form was accessible via their email account.</p> <p>PP asked ALL Governors to make LB aware if undertaking a school visit to ensure forms are completed as per the timelines in the new policy.</p> <p>JCH reminded ALL Governors to submit any interest in becoming the Artsmark lead to JCH.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p>

	<p>DC told ALL the school will submit an application to achieve the Leadership Parent Partnership Award, which will involve Governor engagement. ALL agreed this was positive.</p> <p>DC added he and the team were in the final stages of collating evidence for the SMSC award.</p> <p>As a result of the various bids the school submits, Governors raised the possibility of looking at recruiting or developing a bid writer role in-house. JCH/DC noted this.</p> <p>Governors asked JCH/DC to reiterate road safety awareness messages across whole school after Governors has been made aware of a number of incidents around the front of school.</p>	<p>JCH/DC</p> <p>JCH/DC</p>
11	Date of next meeting	
	Thursday 21st November - 6:00pm.	