

The Swanage School

Student Committee

Wednesday 3 July 2024, 5.30pm held remotely on Teams

Minutes

Present: Isobel Tooley (Chair), Hannah Etherington, Jenny Maraspin (Head), Sophie Weld-Davies, Tanya Hamilton-Fletcher
 In Attendance: Sarah Percival (Clerk), Kay Lawton (Deputy Head)

Item		Action	Lead	By
STU 6.1	Apologies for absence Apologies were received from Jessica Starmer, Adam Hines and Phil Ashby.			
STU 6.2	Declarations of interest There were no declarations of interest			
STU 6.3	Minutes of the Last Meeting The minutes and confidential minutes of the meeting held on 8 th May 2024 were approved.	Publish	Clerk	
STU 6.4	Matters arising and actions <u>Young Carers on Arbor</u> - this is already a drop-down choice in the Arbor options menu and now needs to be utilized, which Steph Humby (Young Carers Champion) and Anne-Marie Burr (Safeguarding) will do. [5.40Hannah Etherington joined the meeting]	Complete		
STU 6.5	School Development Plan End of year reports were received in the meeting pack on three topics and the following were noted: I. <u>Step up Teaching and Learning</u> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Directors of Learning (DoL) have successfully delivered resources for this objective to staff through Friday 5 and after school sessions. All teachers now use Retrieval/ Starter activities which are popular with students. This part of the objective has been achieved. 			

- Visualisers are used for modelling, sharing good practice within departmental CPD for specific subjects. This will continue into next year.
- Elaboration and Oracy will be developed next year. This focuses on creating meaningful discussion and analysis using subject-specific language and adding detail through open questions.
- The Head noted her appreciation for all the hard work that the DoLs and Lead Practitioners have put into the high-quality research-based resources that have resulted in excellent CPD provided to staff.
- 8 teachers have taken part in Iris 1:1 coaching with Kate Forbes. This has had a very positive impact on their teaching. The feedback from staff on seeing their own development is very powerful and will be included in future CPD sessions.
- 1:1 development meetings between DoLs and teachers have been effective.
- The DoLs have done particularly well in working with Y11 on interventions, revision sessions, exams and 1:1s. However, this is not sustainable for DOLs in the long term and there will need to be a change for next year.
- It was noted that it was important to focus on depth of objectives in the SDP, rather than trying to cover more, so that objectives could be fully achieved. For this reason, the focus during this year has been on retrieval starter activities and modelling (and not on elaboration and oracy). The committee were happy with what has been achieved this year.

2. Targeting Aspirations:

- The focus this year has been on research. Danni Drodge has been researching target setting and how it might best be used at TSS as part of her Masters. This approach is understood to have a particularly positive impact on 'coastal coasters' and lower socio-economic groups. Based on her recommendations and research, a strategy will be implemented and embedded next year, so this objective will be carried forward to next year's SDP.
- FFT benchmarks were used for pilots. These conversations motivated students into taking ownership of their targets and

	<p>enabling them to understand exactly how they could reach their aspirations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A governor asked how the outcomes might be demonstrated at the end of next year. JM expects to see students taking ownership of setting and achieving their own targets and for this to come through in student comments in their termly summary reports <p>3. <u>Duke of Edinburgh:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Deputy Head reported that this had gone well, with more students taking part this year. • There has been a great sense of achievement and the students involved have experienced success and adventure, rising to challenges and developing new skills. • A governor commented that a hidden benefit, especially for students who need additional support, was the impact on community engagement which had been very positive, giving students the feeling of value and purpose. • Due to funding issues, DofE has been put on hold for the next academic year. (There are costs associated with registering students for the award and also in staffing the curriculum time.) It may be run as a club, and it is hoped that there will be capacity for it to return in the future. • The Chair asked the Head to pass on thanks to Robyn Dennis and Julia Tratt for their valuable input on running DofE successfully this year. 		
<p>STU 6.6</p>	<p>Progress Review Y7-10 from June assessments</p> <p>The data was included in the meeting pack and the Head reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The grades for Y7, 8 & 9 are quite optimistic in one subject area. The governors were satisfied that there is a robust plan in place for support. • Computer Science- there has been one specialist teacher and a lot of work on improving this subject. Combining this with Creative Media Production has been successful: students are engaged and they enjoy programming and filming. • The new Deputy Head (Richard Foster, RF) is an expert with 4Matrix and the school is getting the online version. RF will work with the Data Manager so that the progress information can be better utilized and linked with behaviour and attendance. • Science: students have previously had separate teachers for each of the Science subjects, but the science team may consider a change, so the 		

	<p>students have one Science teacher who is more accountable for their group. It is hoped that Science GCSE results will show improvement following the School Development Plan (SDP) objectives to improve this subject area this year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that there is a marked gender divide in some subjects, particularly essay-based subjects. A Literacy objective could be considered for the SDP next year. Data shows more boys need greater support in Literacy. There should be focus on higher achievers, as well as lower grade students. • IDL is used in the SEN department to give students who are flagged up in reading assessments, a personalised programme to work through. <p>[6.40 Kay Lawton joined the meeting]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next year’s timetable allows for extra Literacy support for those students who need it, instead of French (and this will be timetabled in the same science group so the science teaching can include appropriate focus on specialist words for science). • The misconception that struggling with literacy equates with low ability, is a barrier that must be challenged. The school is aware of this issue and is working to address it. The bigger Hub space, IDL programme, targeted support and an understanding of help with structuring tasks for students with dyslexia are all making a difference. • Kay Lawton’s approach (the Method) is an excellent effective strategy for teaching English, which she has passed on to TSS staff and it will continue to be used. 		
<p>STU 6.7</p>	<p>Link Governor Reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mental Health- the Link governor had met the Designated Safeguarding Lead and enclosed her report in the meeting folder. The Link governor for Safeguarding commented that CAMHS is being redesigned with more local input which the DSL is monitoring as it is a challenge to access this support. It would be helpful to have the 3 different categories of self-harm explained in future reports. <p>[6.55 Tanya Hamilton-Fletcher left the meeting]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. SEND – the Link governor (Sophie Weld-Davies, SWD) had met with the SENCO (Marie Beresford, MB) and her report was in the meeting folder. 		

	<p>SWD was impressed with MB and commented that she was an asset to the school. SWD is satisfied that all the legal requirements are covered. In September, there will be 22-24 students with EHCPs and 6 staff to work with them, focusing on the core subjects. Personalised 'passports' are being introduced within TSS, which, alongside regular meetings between MB, students and parents, will pick up any issues and this targeted approach will be more than just a check-in on EHCPs. Equine therapy will be dropped for next year, due to funding issues, as the grant for it does not cover all the costs, such as transport. The Chair thanked SWD for her input.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The next part of this item was deemed confidential (see separate minutes). <p>3. e-safety- no concerns to report. Link governor to meet with DSL & report to next meeting</p>	TM to meet DSL	TM	Autumn 1
STU 6.8	<p>Risk Register: Mental Health trends</p> <p>The committee received a report in the meeting pack via the Link governor for mental health. Numbers were smaller than they might have been, since there is an increase in engagement with social workers, but there has been an increase in self-harm. There is a lot of support and mentoring in place for these students to break out of the negative cycle. Although it is difficult to access specialist support (Mind can only be accessed through GP referrals and CAMHS has a high threshold for access), it was noted that the Designated Safeguarding Lead is excelling in her role: she is determined and resourceful in finding free support and is very knowledgeable, so is the best possible in terms of supporting students. It was thought that the number of serious cases seemed stable compared with previous years.</p>			
STU 6.9	<p>Policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drugs and Substance Abuse and Behaviour Policy- to be reviewed to include information on vapes in response to recent complaint recommendations- to be circulated and approved by Chair's action. Literacy- APPROVED Preventing & Tackling Bullying- APPROVED subject to the following changes- add Child on Child as linked policy; change The Good Book references to Positive Progress Sheets Relationships & Sex Education- APPROVED 	<p>Update and circulate</p> <p>Publish</p> <p>Make changes & publish</p> <p>Publish</p>	<p>JM/ AMB Clerk Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>	Summer 2

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curriculum- to be circulated for approval by Chair's action 	Update & circulate	JM	Summer 2
STU 6.4	<p>Matters Arising and Actions (This item had been held back until Kay Lawton was present) <u>Pastoral report- Attendance</u>- persistent absentees are typically taken into account in Crew attendance figures when there are assemblies to celebrate Crew attendance.</p>	Complete		
STU 6.10	<p>Committee self-evaluation Asked whether the committee had been effective in holding the school to account for items under their remit, the Head said there was a balanced level of scrutiny and challenge. It was a good reflective process, even though producing reports for governors is a lot of work. The Chair thought that honest answers were given even with difficult questions and appreciated the open relationship between the governors and school leadership team. It was agreed that Attendance Data should be a standing item on the agenda for the Student Committee next year, due to the work needed in this area and the correlation with achievement. An objective for attendance is likely to be included in the school development plan for 2024/25.</p>	Add attendance data to annual planner- standing item	Clerk	Autumn 1
STU 6.11	<p>Any Other Business This was Kay Lawton's (Deputy Head) last Student Committee meeting before her retirement. The Head thanked her for astounding teaching which had added a vast amount to the school's progress and had a positive impact on many students' lives. The Chair congratulated her on her contribution to leadership and the wider skills she had used to enhance cross-curricular work. The Head and Deputy have been an excellent team, leading the school together. KL thanked the committee for their comments and said it had been a privilege to be at TSS for the end of her career.</p>			
STU 6.12	<p>Confidentiality Part of item 6.7 was deemed confidential</p>			
	<p>Next Meeting The Chair thanked the committee for their contributions throughout the year. The meeting closed at 7.40 pm The next meeting will be held 25th September 2024 to include:</p>			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SDP objective review• GCSE results review• Pupil Premium funding• Risk Register review• Link Governor report – e-safety			
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