

The Swanage School

Minutes of the Student Committee Meeting

Wednesday 25 September 2024, 5.30pm

Present: Isobel Tooley [IJT] (Chair), Hannah Etherington, Jenny Maraspin [JM] (Head), Sophie Weld-Davies, Adam Hines, Carol Platteuw, Phil Ashby
In Attendance: Sarah Percival (Clerk), Richard Foster [RR] (Deputy Head), Tim Marcus (e-safety Link governor)

Item		Action	Lead	By
STU 1.1	Apologies for absence Apologies were received from Jessica Starmer & Tanya Hamilton-Fletcher. The Chair welcomed the new Deputy Head, Richard Foster, and new governor, Carol Platteuw, to the committee			
STU 1.2	Declarations of interest There were no declarations of interest			
STU 1.3	Minutes of the Last Meeting The minutes and confidential minutes of the meeting held on 3 July 2024 were approved	Publish	Clerk	
STU 1.4	Matters arising and actions <u>STU 5.9 e-safety Link governor report</u> - the Link governor gave a verbal update. The Designated Safeguarding Lead has spoken to 2 students who have been using their Chromebooks to search for inappropriate subjects and reminded them that their searches are monitored. The DSL will write a letter to parents to highlight the legal ages of various online platforms. The Link governor will provide a full report at the next meeting, using the e-safety questionnaire which was used last year. Governors were reminded of the school's policy on phones at school.	Report to next meeting	TM	Autumn 2
STU 1.5	GCSE Results Review The Head gave a full report on the results, alongside data analysis, which was included in the meeting pack. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were good results in many subjects and it was pleasing to see the improvements in subjects that have been focus objectives in the School Development Plan. 			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Senior Leadership Team are aware of issues in some subjects which had lower than expected results, and these were discussed in depth at the meeting. <p>[5.53pm Hannah Etherington joined the meeting]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Head is confident that the necessary strategies are in place, or being introduced, in order to address the issues. This includes looking at standardization of moderation with other local schools; new staffing arrangements; using SLT to facilitate learning walks for subjects which are timetabled as a block; early intervention and small group work; more effective use of TA expertise; more focus on 1:1 support for less experienced teachers; better analysis & use of assessment data to inform target setting, intervention and grade prediction. The possibility of offering PE or Food & Nutrition as BTechs, instead of GCSEs, and whether this would be a better option for our students, is being considered. This will be reported to the next meeting in the KS4 options item. 	BTech options to be considered	JM/RR	Autumn 2
STU 1.6	<p>Attendance</p> <p>The Head reported on the data for the first few weeks of term, which was provided in the meeting pack.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The attendance level is below national and is lower than last year at this time, but is thought to have been affected by a sickness bug that has been prevalent recently. 7.2% are persistent non-attenders, most of whom are unlikely to change due to their personal circumstances and serious long-term issues. A new role of Inclusion Officer has been created and this is working well. The Inclusions team meet regularly and are working hard to address issues and escalate these through Dorset Council's process when necessary. Incentives used to encourage attendance include awards and celebration assemblies. It was acknowledged that there is a national problem with resilience, post-covid, and that there is a trend of parents believing that children can catch up online. The school continues to share data with parents regularly, showing the correlation between attendance and results. A governor who is a parent noted that this is useful as many families would not know there is such a clear link. 			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although Dorset Council has the ability to issue fines for unauthorized absence, this is rarely put into practice, and is often not seen as a deterrent. It was noted that it is important to channel energy into establishing good attendance habits with the incoming Y7s. 			
STU I.8	<p>The following item was taken early [7.05pm Tim Marcus left the meeting]</p> <p>Link Governor Reports To receive reports on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>e-safety</u>- this was reported at STU I.4 <u>Pupil Premium</u>- The Link governor gave a verbal report. 27% of Y7 are Pupil Premium, which is the lowest of the school year groups. Historically, there has been a -0.6 gap between PP and non PP attainment. A high proportion of non-attendees are also PP students. The Link governor is comfortable that appropriate resources are used to support PP students including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> intervention, especially in English & Maths priority for next step careers meetings to instill aspiration and ensure support focus on improving attendance & engagement Challenge Week activities to reduce cultural disadvantages SDP Targeting Aspirations objective to help build self-belief and resilience <p>The Pupil Premium Statement on the website is due to be updated. This will be a full tri-annual review and the Pupil Premium support will be considered in the context of the KS4 options to be reported at the next meeting, along with the Annual Report.</p> <u>SEND</u>- the Link governor will arrange a meeting with the SENCo before half term, in order to allow time for the needs of the new Y7s to be established. A full report will be given at the next meeting 	Report to next meeting	AH/ JM/ RR	Autumn 2
		Report to next meeting	SWD	Autumn 2
STU I.7	<p>School Development Plan</p> <p><u>Targeting Aspirations</u></p>			

	<p>PowerPoints of recent staff CPD sessions, based on recommendations from Danni Drodge's Masters, were included in the meeting pack. Governors were impressed to see the high standard of these resources. Recommendations would be implemented through mentoring opportunities in Crew time, changing the language used to refer to 'minimum expected grades' based on assessment data and ensuring teacher expectations have an impact on students. The Deputy Head explained that he is working with the Data Manager to ensure data is understood and the best use of it is made by teachers.</p> <p><u>Step up T&L</u> This year's SDP and some draft Curriculum Development Plans were included in the meeting pack. The CDPs feed into the SDP and will be completed shortly. These are very focused and support what the departments are aiming to achieve. The governors noted that plans for one curriculum area were missing. JM assured the governors that this had been received and will arrange for it to be added to the meeting pack and to let governors know.</p>	Add the missing CDP plan	JM/ Clerk	ASAP
STU I.9	<p>Pupil Premium Funding Reported at STU I.8</p>			
STU I.10	<p>Risk Register The committee reviewed the risks under their remit on the Risk Register and considered whether any new risks should be added. The risk of students not applying to the school due to the perception of it being a special needs school was discussed. Suggested mitigations included clear communication that TSS encompasses all students; celebrating publicly destinations and achievements of former pupils; marketing the school effectively at primary schools from Y4 upwards. It was agreed this risk should be passed to the Internal Scrutiny committee to add to the Risk Register.</p>	Refer new risk to Internal Scrutiny committee	Clerk	Autumn 2
STU I.11	<p>Parent Survey There has not been a recent survey but one will be arranged to go out before half term.</p>	Arrange Survey before half term	JM	Autumn 2
STU I.12	<p>Any Other Business A governor asked about training in understanding 4Matrix. The Deputy Head will invite governors to the upcoming school CPD session on 3rd October.</p>		RR	
STU I.13	<p>Confidentiality No items were deemed confidential.</p>			

	<p>The meeting closed at 7.35pm.</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on 13th November 2024 to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report on SDP objectives• Review KS4 options• Assessment Information & Data- plan• Pupil Premium Annual Report including PP Strategy-to publish on website (31st Dec)• Link governor reports- Attendance; e-safety; SEND• Review of Parent survey• Attendance- data & actions summary <p><u>Policies to review:</u></p> <p>Assessment, Target Setting, Recording & Reporting</p>		