

**NEW MILLS SCHOOL
QUALITY OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Date:	Tuesday 3rd November 2020 at 6.00pm	
Venue:	Zoom (online meeting)	
Present:	Jeremy Poulter (JP) (Vice Chair) Freda Rashdi (FR) (Chair)	Parent Governor Parent Governor
Apologies:	Felicity Wicks (FW) Michael Shew (MS)	Co-opted Governor Co-Opted Governor
Absence:	Kate Axford (KA)	Independent Governor
In attendance:	Alison Barker (AB) Caroline Jesson (CJ) Ed Salter (ES)	Head of School Head of School Clerk

The meeting did not meet its quorum, it begun at 6.15pm

AGENDA ITEM 1	WELCOME
Discussion:	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The meeting did not make its quorum. No decisions or actions can be made or recorded.

AGENDA ITEM 2	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Discussion:	Apologies were received from FW and MS. KA absent.

AGENDA ITEM 3	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA
Discussion:	None

AGENDA ITEM 4	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING 22nd SEPTEMBER 2020
Discussion:	The minutes were accepted as an accurate record.

AGENDA ITEM 5	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MINUTES
Discussion:	Item 4: FR will scan electronic signature and sign off the minutes to ES Completed Item 7: FR to make suggested ToR amendments for next meeting Completed Item 11: FR will check Michael is happy with his link governor role Completed

AGENDA ITEM 6	ADOPTION OF TERMS OF REFERENCE
Discussion:	The terms of reference were shared on screen and discussed. FR will make some changes; the adoption will have to be agreed at the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 7	ATTAINMENT AND PROGRESS DATA – ALL STUDENTS: Y11 & Y7
Discussion:	<p>CJ provided an overview of Attainment and Progress report. Highlights include:</p> <p>Year 11:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very Good progress. • The school looked at students who need intervention and where grades can be improved, right down to individual student level. • the Maths data may be down to a new department head and their understanding of the importance of their role on QA. AB is very impressed overall with how the new Maths head has begun. • Sciences and Humanities forecasts are markedly lower. The teaching staff are new and are relying on last years' data as they do not know the students well. • Inclusion team are coming up against difficulties with students and attendance. <p>Year 7:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CATs data is for baseline information that cannot be coached, to tell the school more about the teaching need the students might have. With no KS2 results they are relying on the CATs more than they would. • Year 7 are below average across the board. 33-35% are below average, compared to 23% nationally. This is not surprising due to time off school. • The school will benchmark the students after the centre assessments to get a better idea of how to close the gaps and judge where the students are. <p>Q: Is the national average accounting for the time of school as well? A: Yes</p> <p>Q: What observations are there over the gaps the school have identified? A: The focus was on years 8-11 to identify a learning lack, to be used as a diagnostic for teachers to give them information, not data. A year 7 assessment showed three quarters drop off in literacy. The longer the students have been with the school, the less time they are taking to catch up. (e.g. year 9 are catching up quicker than year 8.)</p> <p>Q: Is there any news on exams? A: There will be a full suite of exams, it will just take place a little later than usual.</p>

AGENDA ITEM 8	SUBJECT OPTIONS
Discussion:	<p>CJ gave an overview on subject options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held a virtual assembly for children and letter sent home to parents to let them know the structure of the year. • New mills spread's this process out longer than most schools to give students more time to make their decision. • A virtual information evening will go live next Tuesday. Teachers will explain courses over voicemail, and this will go on the website. No opportunity for questions, children are being told to ask teachers questions in school. • The school try to steer away from recommending a subject, it is about the student's choosing the course best for them. They do provide forecasting grades to aid their decision. • At Christmas they ask for an expression of interest from with 5 options in order of preference. <p>Q: Do parents get the reports before the EOI forms are filled out? A: Yes</p>

CJ will provide the detail of option blocks to the QE committee after Christmas.

AGENDA ITEM 9	QA OF TEACHING
Discussion:	<p>AB provided a presentation on this and requested feedback from governors to factor into a programme for the year, which will be light touch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Very strong results based on CAGs• Denied an exam 'bounce' from a more complex cohort in 2019.• Staffing is stable for teaching. Staff take some time to embrace new practices, but that is countered by stability.• Not as much opportunity to drive CPD as all the time is taken up with being COVID aware.• Faculty implications – Maths:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Continuing high threshold for higher tier entry but deliver higher curriculum earlier and to more students.- Working on getting students to engage in independent learning.• English:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Greater focus on preparation for Language Paper 2.• Ebacc:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Focusing on disadvantage and Humanities.• Open Faculty:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Gender gap in achievement.- Gap between PP and non-PP students <p>AB outlined the QA schedule for the year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The school were up to date with SD, SEND, Maths, EBacc SWOT presentations for governors and were scheduled to give English SWOT presentation before lockdown happened, which curtailed governor input in the process for the year. <p>The school have been looking at a different QA model for this year and have just completed a pilot, which AB and CJ felt was a success. It cannot be done this year, but perhaps next year would be an option. AB presented this new curriculum review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not an Ofsted 'deep dive,' they do not want to just please Ofsted, New Mills want to be a high standard for the students.• Identify an area for review.• Identify area of enquiry.• Immersive critical enquiry rather than reductive inspection.• Triangulating evidence of leaders, teachers, students.• Discursive and collaborative rather than observational and passive.• Embeds school values into our QA process.• Embeds student development within our Curriculum Review process.• Methodology devised closely with Russ Barr/ School improvement Service.• Positively received by staff who underwent the process <p>The issues that prevent the school from implementing this right away is that the process involves additional people coming into school which isn't an option right now. To bring 2 people into class to observe would make it logistically impossible to still observe social distancing rules.</p> <p>AB believes that currently they need to remain with their SWOT process, for the year. She does believe the above outlined process would be beneficial in the future.</p> <p>AB noted that some of the practices are already going ahead and some can be included, although none of it is formal.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student voice is still going ahead and is very impressive. • Inclusion (SEND) teachers have a reasonable idea of student engagement following lockdown catch-ups. • Top down RAGG is continuing. <p>AB proposed to keep the SWOT model for this year and for faculty team leaders to meet with Governors.</p> <p>Q: How would governor observations take place? Virtually? A: Yes, for now, ideally in April they may be in a position where in-person visits are an option.</p> <p>Q: Is there an opportunity for faculty team leaders to produce a SWOT report for governors to digest and then have a meeting, rather than be provided an update live? A: This is a good idea. It might help provide a lighter touch governor approach as well.</p> <p>Q: Can governors look at the new model at the end of the school year? A: Yes, and it would be suggested that governors came just for the day.</p> <p>AB suggested they start with English SWOTS, then EBacc, then Open or Maths.</p> <p>FR will send the QA proposal to FW for chairs action.</p>
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AGENDA ITEM 10	ANY OTHER BUSINESS
Discussion:	<p>BTech policies need to be agreed annually. It has to go through a governors committee meeting and go through FGB</p> <p>This will go through chairs action and cannot be discussed at another committee before the December deadline.</p> <p>Chair thanked AB and CJ for their presentations and being so thorough.</p> <p>English invites next time. AB will BCC FR into these.</p>

AGENDA ITEM 12	DATE OF NEXT MEETING
Discussion:	The next meeting date is Tuesday 12 th January 2020

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.38pm