



MEETING OF THE QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMITTEE

MONDAY 23rd OCTOBER 2017, 9.30 AM – 11.00 AM

CRICKHOWELL HIGH SCHOOL

MINUTES

Attendees / Non-attendees: Mr A. Fryer (AF), Mr H. Jones (HJ), Mrs J. Parker (JP), Mr S. Roberts (SR), Dr G. Williams (GW)

Name – denotes Governor not attending

1.0	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from HJ.	
2.0	Minutes of the Last Meeting / Matters Arising The minutes of the last meeting were accepted and there were no matters arising.	
3.0	2017 Examination Results Review GW reported that the SSSP results are now in and are similar to our provisional figures. GW presented a table detailing an overview of GCSE 2017 results, highlighting the following points: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The L2 threshold has gone down slightly by 0.5%. Unbeknown to us, the NVQ qualifications now are equivalent to half a GCSE, hence the reduction in the L2 threshold.• CSI is the same but it may increase once we get BTEC Science in.• The Capped Wider Points Score is higher.• A*/A figures are not yet available.• Exam reviews have been conducted for some subjects. Most of those subjects which under-performed last year have improved this year.• RS Short Course, Welsh and Science have under-performed this year. A discussion was held about the results. JP reported that teaching staff are more data savvy now and realise the impact data has on accountability. Data is very much embedded into performance management reviews. JP stated that Welsh Government guidelines on early exam entry has now changed with the result that the first exam entry will count towards the measure. AF said there's also an economic issue here with WJEC being concerned about the reduction in exam entries in England and the resultant effect on revenue. This point was discussed further.	

	<p>GW said we now receive documentation from ALPS. This is a system brought in by Powys County Council to monitor sixth form performance in every school as compared with other schools in the UK.</p> <p>GW tabled a single subject report for Biology and explained the concept behind the reporting mechanism: red zone = performing well, white zone = average performance, blue zone = under-performing.</p> <p>GW tabled an ALPS all subjects report, which showed that the vast majority of our A level subjects are performing at either average or well, with only 5 subjects under-performing. The report was discussed.</p>	
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Budget Implication for the Next Three Years</p> <p>JP reported that the budget situation is ongoing and that a more detailed paper needs to be prepared for County highlighting funding issues, signed by both the Chair and Vice-Chair.</p> <p>With the problems that have recently been highlighted in Child Services in Powys County Council, it is highly unlikely that more funds will be forthcoming and therefore new build plans need to be submitted by half term. AF recommended that an official complaint be made to County regarding the lack of funding as compared to other schools.</p> <p>JP requested permission from the meeting to send out sponsorship letters to local companies and this was granted.</p>	
<p>5.0</p>	<p>Core Visit One</p> <p>JP reported that we've received verbal confirmation that CHS is once again categorized as a 'green' school.</p> <p>JP stated that it may be necessary to contract in additional help to prepare the school for the Estyn inspection and requested permission to do so. Permission was granted.</p>	
<p>6.0</p>	<p>Curriculum Changes Donaldson</p> <p>JP reported that the new curriculum 'Big Questions' are progressing well and positive feedback has been received from teaching staff.</p> <p>We've brought cultural literacy in as a significant part of the Passport of Opportunity and Experience.</p> <p>A meeting with the Directors of Learning will soon be held to review the whole curriculum.</p> <p>AF highlighted that there's work to do to ensure master marking at half term links in with the Big Questions and asked if resources were in place for this. GW said there weren't really any resources as such but that staff are given the time need to produce them.</p>	

<p>7.0</p>	<p>Reporting and Recording Go4Schools</p> <p>JP stated that AH now takes the lead on data and is progressing with silver and gold targets using the Olympic theme. Staff have all been given deadlines for milestone marking to be in by and these will be sent out to parents at half term. Targets vs workload will be open for parents to view in November.</p> <p>Show My Homework Update: JP said this is an expensive system costing £3k per annum. A less expensive option would be to move to the Show My Homework App when this becomes available at Christmas. It will continue to be accessible online. JP requested permission to move over to the app and this was granted.</p> <p>SR asked if historical data would continue to be available once we've moved across and GW replied that it would.</p> <p>JP said that because we continue to track student performance, everyone now realizes the importance of this kind of data.</p>	
<p>8.0</p>	<p>Targets For 2017 - 2018</p> <p>GW reported that we've received the documentation in from ChC but now need to review Powys data before we make any decisions.</p>	
<p>9.00</p>	<p>QA Calendar Update</p> <p>GW reported that the new calendar has now been published. We're working through the master marking process currently and Faculty reviews are well under way. The focus of the meetings with each Faculty Head is the Faculty calendar.</p>	
<p>10.0</p>	<p>New Estyn Framework</p> <p>JP reported that there is a need for Governor training as there have been several changes and recommended that a briefing document be prepared for each stage of the process and circulated to Governors.</p>	
<p>11.0</p>	<p>Inclusion</p> <p>JP stated the new Wellbeing Officer is already a huge asset. Because we're a much larger school we've implemented a policy of zero tolerance of bad behaviour.</p> <p>We're seeing an increasing number of child protection referrals. Securing help from either Social Services or CAMHS is proving difficult due to their own work overload.</p> <p>We're also seeing more self-harming issues out of school with students presenting to us with needs relating to their circumstances.</p>	

The meeting ended at 11.05 am.