



**MEETING OF THE QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMITTEE  
MONDAY 25<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2018, 9.30 AM – 11.00 AM  
CRICKHOWELL HIGH SCHOOL**

**MINUTES**

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

Name – denotes Governor not attending

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>  Apologies were received from AF. The meeting was chaired by JP.	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Minutes of the Last Meeting / Matters Arising</b>  JP reported that the Estyn report is due later this week. We've submitted two complaints to Estyn. SF asked if these had resulted in any success. JP replied that they had not.  The project 'Save Our Oceans' is in progress and the students are thoroughly enjoying it.  We've had some additional training for Go4Schools.  The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate representation of the meeting.	
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Core Visit 2</b>  GW advised the meeting that there would not be a Core Visit 3 this year as we've had an Estyn inspection. JP said that although the Core Visit 2 was very successful it doesn't seem to tie up with elements of the Estyn report. However, our Estyn report is good. We'll focus on areas for more able and talented students and set up an action plan to address the issues raised by Estyn.  Estyn have added in the recommendation that we must sort out our finances with a robust plan. It is our responsibility to do this and not County's.  The Assessment for Learning Policy is being reviewed and we'll be refining our milestone marking for the next academic year. There are some specific areas with MAT that we're looking at and some work with ERW that AH will take on. We've reconfigured the portfolios for the SLT and will present them at the full Governors meeting next week. We've tried to include all aspects of the new curriculum.  At a recent meeting with DB, he implied that his secondment will come to an end at the end of this year.	

	<p>JP raised the issue of the recent article in the County Times on financing for Powys schools, in which the blame was laid squarely on the schools and not County. A discussion ensued. JP said an action plan would be prepared for the full Governors meeting next week in response to the Estyn report, incorporating a finance action plan.</p>	
<p><b>4.0</b></p>	<p><b>New Curriculum Changes for the Summer Term</b></p> <p>JP advised the meeting that we've set up a save the oceans plastic waste protocol with Years 7 and 8 students and staff have been exploring inspirational teaching and learning in line with the new curriculum for Wales. This has generated a range of opportunities to work with external agencies, such as the Marine Conservation Society. We'll be writing to Powys catering to request that in September we wish to be a plastic-free school. We've got some sponsorship from Dwr Cymru Welsh Water for water bottles and we'll put more water fountains around the school. The vending machines in the sports centre are an issue as they're at odds with our plastic-free protocol, so we'll need to review this.</p> <p>The new options for Year 9 have been brought in. A couple of parents have requested triple Science. Business French has been cut but we're running all other subjects. Students will be given a full month in September to determine if they're happy with their options, after which they'll have to stay with their choices.</p> <p>Some curriculum changes have been made to align with the performance measures, the full picture of which will be presented at full Governors. In essence, the main performance indicators for the current Year 10 is the best of English, Maths and Science. There's 6 on top of that and we can include Welsh Bacc, although we also have to report separately on that. The capped 9 will be split into thirds and Welsh Government will calculate what the potential is of your top and bottom thirds and how many will drop out of subjects. In Key Stage 3, there'll be no more levels from this summer onwards. We'll be reporting for National Literacy Tests for Years 7, 8 and 9 and will also be thoroughly checked for our Key Stage 5 data.</p>	
<p><b>5.0</b></p>	<p><b>Reporting and Recording Go4Schools</b></p> <p>GW reported that all the reports for Year 7 have been done and will be published later this week. They seem to have been accepted by parents in general, bar a couple of queries on the reporting process. The use of Go4Schools and emails is working well with only one or two requests for paper copies. We now need to ensure we have accurate email addresses.</p> <p>Recording on Go4Schools is becoming more consistent with AH on board checking the data. For next academic year, we're looking at having points in the year where we'll do a snapshot of the data from Go4Schools that's open for parents to see. Staff can change it, but as far as parents are concerned, it'll be the same until the next snapshot comes up. These snapshots will be roughly every half-term.</p> <p>JP said we'll refine the Assessment for Learning Policy with feedback we received back in April. There is however a mismatch between what the policy requires and what the staff believe. Some staff have stated that they don't wish to mark that often, but they have to mark at least once every half term and they have to mark assessment pieces and professional standards must be maintained. We'll</p>	

	<p>complete our work on our marking policy and the Assessment for Learning Policy, which will go out for consultation next week. The plan is that instead of reporting milestone marking to parents, we'll be reporting a 'currently working at grade', so parents can see where the issues may be.</p> <p>SF asked what the way forward would be for staff who find the marking too onerous. JP replied that we must maintain our professional standards and ultimately it could result in a disciplinary issue. A discussion ensued.</p>	
<b>6.0</b>	<p><b>Targeted Predictions for 2018 - 2019</b></p> <p>GW reported that we've got the beta key skills confirmation that their happy with our marking. We identified about 35 of those. We're hopeful for similar results for GCSEs to last year. JP said we hope that this year's GCSE students will be on par with last year but are envisaging a slight dip. There are fewer MAT students and more appearing as borderline ALN. Also, bear in mind that there is no BTEC Science this year and no vocational courses. Welsh Bacc will be better. The hope is that we'll be about 85%.</p> <p>Our attendance is down slightly this year from 96% to 94.9%, due largely to parents taking more holidays at Key Stage 3.</p>	
<b>7.0</b>	<p><b>QA Calendar Update</b></p> <p>GW said the QA calendar was updated for Estyn and has quality assured most aspects of the school.</p> <p>JP said we're looking at changing the system slightly for next year and NT will be taking it over next year, as GW's portfolio will be also changing. We'll have a new plan in place for September. JP gave a vote of thanks to GW for all his work to date.</p>	
<b>8.0</b>	<p><b>Action Plan Update</b></p> <p>JP reported that the SIP will be formally reviewed during July. Our action plan will change in line with the Estyn report and we'll need to revisit our finance plan. We've had no announcement from Powys County Council about the Fair Funding Formula. We received a letter from Powys County Council advising us that although they owe us £348k, this will not be paid. It's time we went public on these issues and a separate meeting with Governors will need to be held to progress this. SR stated that we need to challenge the professional standards and abilities of Powys County Council.</p> <p>JP said we need to do another three year recruitment plan.</p>	
<b>9.0</b>	<p><b>Inclusion</b></p> <p>JP reported that we now have a Year 11 student on board with very specific needs. We're monitoring his progress but we're not being funded for him. SR said that we need to tackle these issues more robustly and state firmly that if we can't provide the correct support for such students because we don't have the funding, then we can't take them, without putting them at risk.</p>	

<p>JP said we have 157 students joining us potentially in September, although confirmation has not been received as yet for all parents. We're full in all other year groups. We're concerned about space and the new build.</p> <p>We're concerned about the numbers of students being drawn to Hereford College. SF said that of the parents she has spoken to on this issue, Science seems to be the issue.</p> <p>JP stated that AH and CJ are in place to oversee sixth form and Progress Leaders have been appointed for Years 12 and 13, namely Bethan Haggerty and Catie Gilbert.</p> <p>We held a service for TB last week. GW said the service went well and it was felt the students appreciated being able to go back once more.</p> <p>JP said that a non-uniform day will be held with blue denim as the theme – a personal favourite of TBs. We'll fundraise for the Bobath charity, which provides physiotherapy services for TB's brother. Ongoing support is in place for those students who need it.</p>	
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The meeting ended at 10.35 am.