

PRIESTNALL SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND STANDARDS SUB COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: 19th June 2017 Time: 5.00pm

Venue: The School

GOVERNORS PRESENT

Mr P. Page (Chair), , Mr J. Cregg (Headteacher), Mrs D. Smith, Mr. K. Thompson,

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr T. Clarey, Associate Member (Deputy Headteacher)
Mrs S Arthur Careers and Post 16 (part)
Mrs J. Gartside Director of Transition (part)
Mrs G, Stephens Minutes

APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Mrs S. Mansfield; Mr M Young; Mr A.Patel;, Mr J Patton; Dr D Smith

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Approved as a true record

2. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising

3. TRANSITION STRATEGIES AND LINKS WITH PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Julie Gartside, Director of Transition, explained her role to the Governing Body and also explained how transition and primary links were implemented.

The presentation included research on how transition from primary to secondary school had been associated with attainment being held back or even reversed and that schools should direct their attention to the academic dimensions of transition and that emotional issues surrounding transition were less significant.

More recent research had in fact challenged that conclusion. There is now recognition that schools could address any “dip” in attainment by working more closely with children and their families, as well as primary schools and that social and emotional adjustments to secondary could not be separated from academic performance.

Julie Gartside outlined her role as Director of Transition which includes transition planning and event organisation.

The following are some of the transition strategies used at Priestnall School:

- Termly Cluster meetings with feeder primaries attended by Headteacher and a member of the SLT with responsibility for Primary Liaison - Jackie Evans, Assistant Headteacher
- Jackie Evans liaises with departments in school to ensure they work closely with Y6 teachers to ensure that assessment techniques are universal. This is done by moderating examples of work so that all primary schools are working to, and awarding, the same levels for the same standards,

- Maths, English and Science departments have had regular meetings with Y6 staff to discuss the Year 7 curriculum. Maths department have explained the “mastery” approach to primary teachers and the Science dept. held a “Flash Bang” for some of our primaries to support British Science Week
- MFL have been in the forefront of liaison with local primary schools offering Twilight French lessons to year 5/6. These classes were in fact taught by Priestnall’s language ambassadors.
- Additional Curriculum Support morning for parents/carers, this year taking place on 5th July.
- Celebration of Reading Assembly with Primary students and parents arranged as part of the Literacy Strategy. This event is organised by Sue Arthur.

The above list is not exhaustive as there were numerous opportunities to engage with primary teachers, students and their families and these opportunities will continue to be developed.

The presentation will be circulated with these minutes.

Q from a Governor: Can the academic dip be the result of not much work being undertaken after KS2 SATS followed by a long break during the Summer holidays?

The drop may be partly due to this but it was generally felt in primary schools that the students worked hard up to and including their SATs that they recognised a more relaxed approach towards the end of term might be beneficial to the students.

Q from a Governor: Would a workbook handed out to students to complete during the holidays be beneficial?

It might be worth looking at putting something on the school website but this would have to be a voluntary exercise

4. PROGRESSION TO TRAINING AND FE DESTINATIONS

Sue Arthur presented an overview of the careers, training guidance available to students at Priestnall School. Prior to 2012 careers guidance was a shared responsibility with Connexions which was funded by the government. In England responsibility for careers guidance has now been placed firmly with schools who have a statutory duty to secure independent careers guidance and also provide a programme of careers education. In house support must also be combined with independent external sources for advice and guidance to meet legal requirements.

CEIAG (Careers, Education, Information, Advice and Guidance) is the strategy used to ensure that this part of the curriculum is delivered in line with current guidance.

The work starts in Y7 looking at “all about me”. In Y8 this is developed by looking at their skills and what might have changed from Y7 and students begin to think more about what they are good at and what they enjoy. By the time they arrive in Y8 and 9 there is further skills development and students are able to use a software platform which begins

to match skills and work preferences and allows them to expand their horizon. This platform is linked to live data of jobs information, predictions and salaries.

Y9 look at their GCSE options. Colleges and external agencies, including Apprenticeship Ambassadors, are invited into school

Y10 is a particularly busy time when students start to look at the best route for Post 16. This is done via DLD, Careers Fair, information sessions for instance looking at A level study and the skills they will need. The school also arrange taster sessions at local colleges.

Y11 there have drop in sessions, colleges come in and we look at CV writing skills.

The school's aim is to develop a programme which is inclusive and which will help our young people to gain knowledge, understanding, skills, attitudes and attributes required to make informed choices and to challenge stereotypes. All of this develops enterprise and employability skills.

The majority of our students go on to College. Although apprenticeships have been very hard to get into this is now becoming a growing area due to the apprenticeship levy.

The power point will be circulated with these minutes.

The Governors thanked Julie Gartside and Sue Arthur for their detailed and informative presentations.

Julie Gartside and Sue Arthur left the meeting.

5. GOVERNOR LINKS

Deferred to next meeting

6. POLICIES

- i. **Attendance Policy** – approved. To Full Governing Body for ratification
- ii. **Preventing Violent Extremism policy** – approved. To full Governing Body for ratification.

7. AOB

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.15pm

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