

SHOREFIELDS TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE

Standards Meeting

Monday 11th July 2011

Minutes

In Attendance:

Mr P Killen (Chair)
Ms A Dearden
Mr R Alsoraimi
Ms A Ismail
Mrs R Owens (Clerk)

Apologies:

Mr R Parry

Guests:

Mr L Wilson
Mr I Young
Mr T Bousfield
Mr D Muirhead
Mrs J Lockhart
Miss S Eastwood
Miss K Coaker

Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes from the last meeting of the Governors' Standards meeting held on 12th May 2011 were verified as a true record and approved.

Matters Arising

No matters arising.

KIPP Visit to Houston

- A number of teachers from Shorefields gave a presentation about their recent visit to KIPP schools in Houston and discussed their findings with the Governors .
- Governors asked questions regarding consistency. It was explained that consistency of approach played a large role in KIPP's success and this was something the school will benefit from.
- A Governor asked about the amount of parental support. It was explained that home visits are used and found to be valuable.
- A Governor asked about the diversity of EAL in the KIPP schools and she was informed that this differed in each school depending on the catchment.

- The importance of rewards and sanctions in KIPP schools were discussed. Governors were informed in the next academic year a new points system is to be introduced at Shorefields so that students can earn points and build rewards.

Outstanding Teaching and Learning

I Young outlined the Outstanding Teaching and Learning Programme which has been used this year. 8 members of staff have been on the course, all have evaluated it positively and their teaching has improved. The programme is costly but having a very positive impact. Governors agreed to the costs of rolling the programme out over the next 2 years.

I Young presented a Standards Report to the Governors.

- The report outlined progress throughout the school based on the latest data collection and areas of concern which will be investigated
- Expectations for current year 11 results were shared with reasons why the A*-C figure will drop this year
- A Governor asked if the variability of attainment across subjects could be explained and I Young informed her that there was an inconsistency of levelling that exaggerated the variability in curriculum areas.
- I Young informed the Governors that the new Management Information System has allowed staff to share levels and compare across areas. This has led to a greater understanding and should result in more reliable levels in the future.

A Governor asked about the sharing of good practice within the school and it was agreed that shared lesson observations and the use of videos where appropriate would be valuable

Progress

Literacy

L Wilson provided a report on the progress of literacy development in the school. This included regular testing of reading ages and an outline of some strategies used within the school for example Accelerated Reader.

- A Governor asked what the progress has been in reading and about the school library. She was informed that the library had been significantly improved and 600 additional books had been purchased.

Governors asked about the progress made in reading ages over the past year and L Wilson informed them that:

- There has been no real improvement in the overall reading ages above chronological age.
- The proportion of students that have reading ages significantly below chronological (more than 2 years) reduced on a yearly average of approximately 20% .
- An increased number of children are reading for pleasure.

- There has been a greater uptake of books on loan from the library

Homework

L Wilson spoke about the school's need to improve the amount and standard of homework being given to students. Currently homework is not being dealt with well by the school

Governors suggested that middle leaders be invited to Standards meetings in the future.

Ethos and Aspirations

Governors were updated on a number of events aimed to support the school and raise aspirations

Climbing the Mountain

Year 7 students were recently taken on a trip to Moel Famau to emphasise that the route to success like a mountain climb is often characterised by stumbles and minor pitfalls. The students understood that in the same way a successful mountain climber needs a team they need to be part of a team to ensure success.

Year 6 Taster Day

- This has taken place over the last few years and students are given an insight into school life in a secondary school. The students undertook CAT tests to ascertain their levels in the morning followed by a play and an assembly in the afternoon.
- Every child was given a book to read and this will be returned at the summer school in the first week of the summer holidays.

Summer School

- L Wilson stated that the summer school had been introduced so that students continued with their literacy studies throughout the holidays. The Governors felt that this was good idea as it would keep learning alive.

AOB

- The Headteacher will be attending an Education Endowment Fund meeting in London on 12th July. This is a new independent charity dedicated to raising attainment of disadvantaged pupils in the world's most challenging schools
- Dates for future meetings were requested – R Owens will check the school calendar and propose some draft dates.

Meeting closed at 6.15pm

Signed:

Mr Paul Killen

CHAIR OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Date: