



Tomlinscote School Academy Quality Council Meeting

6.30pm, Monday, 15th March 2021, via Zoom

Attendees: Rebecca Davis (Chair), Colin Cavan (Vice Chair), Rob Major (Principal), Rebecca Barnes, Helen Ellis, James Gardner, Giles Johnson, Rebecca Jukes, Sara Long, Heather O'Connor, Nikolina McKenzie.

In attendance: Chris Taylor (Assistant Principal), Jo Munroe (Clerk)

Meeting convened at 6.30pm.

1. Standing Items

- Apologies: None
- Declaration of interests: None
- Approval of AQC minutes from 8th February 2021.
- Actions from previous minutes
 - GJ advised that following investigation of the anti-bullying programme, he is comfortable that it is substantial. GJ will provide a further update at the May meeting to suggest how anti-bullying can be monitored by the AQC. It was agreed this is an important element of Safeguarding and therefore an important focus for the AQC.

2. Principal's Update

(To enable CT to leave early the TAG element of Principal's Update took place prior to the Chair's update)

CT provided a presentation on Teacher Assessed Grades. New material is not being taught to allow learners time to focus on the assessments. Following assessments, grades will be uploaded to individual exam boards. Final instruction on this has not yet been forthcoming. It was acknowledged that there will be a high administrative burden on staff even once the assessments are completed. Grades will be independently audited to ensure consistency across schools.

The AQC thanked RM and all the staff for all the additional work that has been/will be required.

3. Chair's Business

- The AQC noted the AQC Terms of Reference and no suggested amendments were made.

- The AQC noted the Trust Gift and Hospitality Policy, recognising its applicability to all AQC members.
- RD has attended the Trust Curriculum Meeting (minutes of this meeting have been circulated), as well as the Trust Board Meetings. Frimley CofE Junior School is due to join the Trust in April.
- RD visited the School to observe the COVID testing system in place and was very impressed. The testing was carried out in a very calm and organised manner, the students were very well behaved and the staff and volunteers were incredibly supportive of all of the students.
- JG has discussed student development and career planning with Helene Livesy. The Prospect Careers Service has remained open and accessible to pupils throughout lockdown.
- RJ reported that there is a transition meeting due to take place 23 March with local junior schools, Tomlinscote and Vince Scannella, Director of Education at TPT.

Action All: Consider taking on the role of Safeguarding Lead

Action RD : Allocate areas of the QIP to AQC Members

4. Principal's Update

Reopening has gone smoothly despite the requirement for testing. Support staff have been a huge help with the testing programme, as well as parent volunteers. The majority of students have settled back into school well and all are wearing facemasks. Attendance levels have been similar to this time last year. Just under 400 postcards have been sent by students to say 'thanks' to teachers.

Dance was offered this year as a Y9 option. However, only three students opted for this subject and therefore it will not be part of the curriculum in September 2021.

Admissions are going well and the School expects to be full in September. New recruitments include Head of Biology, Head of Physics and a Biology teacher. Interviews are taking place for a new Spanish teacher.

The Costa Rica trip has been cancelled and the Y11 skiing trip will not be taking place in 2022. However, a prom has been booked for July.

5. Safeguarding

Student counselling provision has been increased through two additional counsellors. The waiting list has now reduced to 21 with 22 open cases. Wellbeing afternoons are being continued and are welcomed by pupils.

Some staff are finding it difficult to teach and manage a class while wearing a mask. The staff wellbeing programme is continuing.

6. Calendar

- 6.30pm, Monday 10 May 2021
- 11.00am, Tuesday 22nd June 2020 Trust Advisory Forum
- 6.30pm, Monday 5 July 2021

Meeting closed 8.30pm