



Tomlinscote AQC

6.30pm, Monday, 10th May 2021, via Zoom

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

In attendance: Helen Rushby (Assistant Principal), Tony Ryles (Frimley Junior AQC Chair), Kate Thomlinson (Clerk).

Meeting convened at 6.30pm.

1. Standing Items

- Apologies: Colin Cavan (Vice Chair),
- Declaration of interests not previously declared: None
- Approval of Minutes: Minutes from 15th March 2021 approved.
- Matters Arising:
 - GJ to investigate the effectiveness of the anti-bullying programme – see item 2.3
 - AQC Roles – see item 3.3
 - Allocate areas of QIP – item 3.4

2. Safeguarding

2.1 Safeguarding at Tomlinscote and 2.2 Safeguarding Report

Helen Rushby provided a concise presentation on this wide ranging topic, including an example of what a typical day might involve for the TS Safeguarding Team. The team currently consists of five members who work closely together. The close knit nature of the team is very beneficial to staff wellbeing. It was noted that it is often difficult to define the boundaries of safeguarding responsibility between home and school. When children, who are known to the Safeguarding team, leave the school, careful consideration is given to the handover of care.

PSHE materials are currently under review to include the wide-ranging issues arising from the 'Everyone's Invited' campaign. From September Y8's will receive an additional weekly PSHE session to take place period 6 on Fridays.

The counselling waiting list has come down from around 46 pupils this time last year to 23 pupils currently, despite steady, if not growing demand. This has been due to two new councillors starting and the additional support has been hugely welcomed. An additional day of counselling per week would enable a further six children to be seen and a funding request for this will be made to the Trust.

TS currently collaborate with local schools and the police, meeting termly to discuss Safeguarding issues. Within TS restricted Safeguarding information is shared with other staff members using CPOMS.

All AQC Members thanked Helen and her team for all their work in this difficult area.



2.3 Effectiveness of the Anti-Bullying Programme and Effective AQC Monitoring

GJ presented his findings from the investigation into the effectiveness of the anti-bullying programme and review of the anti-bullying policy.

It was confirmed that:

- There has been an increase in students being sent for referral, this is because students can no longer be sent to sit in another lesson due to COVID restrictions.
- The majority of students have settled back into school life well following lockdowns but for a small minority, already exhibiting challenging behaviour pre COVID, lockdowns have led to these behaviours worsening.
- A dedicated anti-bullying day is held for Y7s, this took place in October. The anti-bullying programme is then continued throughout the school via assemblies and PSHE.
- Staff will attend unconscious bias training in September

The AQC Members thanked GJ for his thorough investigation. RM confirmed that this work and the consequent recommendations would feed into the anti-bullying audit currently taking place.

2.4 Attendance

Attendance is currently at 95.1% which is roughly in line with last year. There are 28 pupils of particular concern. Y11's have been given study leave which counts as unauthorised absence. This may have an impact on attendance for Ofsted but the SLT decided granting study leave was in the best interests of pupils. This decision was fully endorsed by the AQC.

2.5 Actions Required/Consequences to be followed up after the meeting

Action: HR/KT to arrange a date for bespoke Safeguarding training for AQC Members.

Action: GJ to share his data with AQC Members

Action: GJ to liaise with Helen Rushby so that the anti-bullying policy is updated to reflect current practice

Action: RM to investigate including anti-bullying training into pastoral programme for parents.

Action: RD to discuss with TPT the possibility of Trust-wide anti-bullying training to ensure a Trust wide approach

3. Chairs Business

3.1 Matters arising post circulation of the agenda

The recent yellow sock social media discussion was considered by the AQC.

3.2 Update on Councillors' actions since last Meeting

CC and NM met with Helen Rushby to discuss the Anti-Bullying Award.

RJ has met regularly with Helene Livesey to discuss Y6 Transition.

3.3 Reassignment of Roles within the AQC

- RD thanked HOC for fulfilling such a large number of roles within the AQC (Safeguarding, Pupil Premium and SEND). HOC will now focus on Safeguarding.
- GJ has agreed to become the Equality and Diversity Lead
- Two people are required to cover SEND and a further volunteer for Pupil Premium



3.4 Review and Allocation of Responsibilities with the QIP

It was noted that monitoring of QIP will become easier once COVID restrictions have been lifted. Communication within the AQC was encouraged to avoid duplication of work.

Action: RD to confirm roles before the next meeting

Action: KT to set up an accessible spreadsheet referencing where to find AQC documents

Action: KT to circulate SAfE details

Action: All to look at current QIP and consider methods of monitoring relevant areas.

4. Principal's Update

RM thanked the AQC for their feedback on the Centre Policy which has now been submitted. Students have completed one assessment week with the second week taking place next week. The AQC agreed upon the importance of clear parental communications with regards to assessment results.

TS is providing a summer school for current Y6 pupils who will be joining in September. This will take place during the last week of the summer holidays and will involve academic and enrichment activities.

There were no questions following circulation of the Leadership Report.

Action: RM/RD to discuss upcoming decision on releasing results of Y11 internal assessments

Action: RM to circulate brief introductory material regarding the work being done with Y10 prior to the next AQC meeting, when this will be the focus.

5. Any Other Business

JG raised the 50th Anniversary of Tomlinscote celebrations. A book will be produced later this year and the school will hold an open day when both present and past pupils can visit.

Action: JG/RM to discuss plans

6. Dates of Next Meetings

6.30pm, Monday 5 July 2021

11am, Tuesday 22nd June, Trust Advisory Forum (all Councillors are welcome to attend, venue details to follow shortly)

Meeting closed 8.40pm