



Tomlinscote AQC

6.30pm, Monday, 12th October 2020. Tomlinscote School and 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,

In attendance: Nikki Hammond (Assistant Principal), Kate Thomlinson (Clerk).

Meeting convened at 6.30pm. A Leadership Report was sent to all members prior to the meeting to facilitate discussions.

1. Apologies & Declarations of Interest

Apologies received from Nikolina McKenzie

2. Adoption of Previous Minutes

Minutes from July AQC were approved with the additional note of the role of CC as Personal Development under Item 10.

3. Welcome to New Council Member

AQC welcomed RB to the council and introductions of all members were made.

4. Ofsted Visit

RM updated the AQC on the Ofsted visit, noting that this was a research based exercise for Ofsted and no judgement would be made. Ofsted will write to parents via the school.

5. Contingency Plan and Attendance

The contingency plan was noted by the AQC. There have been no positive cases in the school. Attendance was down slightly (down between 1.5% to 2%) to 94.7%, this was due to parents keeping children away from school for longer than normal when they became ill. (A full attendance update was provided by HR and emailed to AQC following the meeting)

Questions raised:

- *What will happen with regards to this year's GCSE exams?* So far the school has been told exams will be pushed back by 3 weeks. There will be reduced content with a seemingly varied approach across subjects. The school is seeking further clarity.



6. Catch Up Funding

NH gave a presentation, giving an in-depth explanation of how catch up funding would be allocated and accounted for.

Questions raised:

- *Will the parents be advised of their child's category?* Yes
- *Is the additional teaching provision voluntary?* Staff are asked to volunteer but will be paid.
- *The school is already offering additional revision sessions for some children after school and on Saturday mornings, how can we ensure pupils and staff are not overburdened?* The school is conscious of this and a master calendar of pupils' time has been developed to ensure they are not overburdened. Staff will need to apply for the tutoring roles, their timetables will be considered in their applications. Wellbeing of both staff and pupils has considered in all aspects of both the catch up funding and revision schedule.
- *There are students who do not engage, despite the best efforts of the school. How can we be sure the catch up funding is being allocated to those who will gain the most benefit?* Students have been categorised carefully and each individual will receive a bespoke plan for them. The tutoring will be in small groups in classrooms and so tightly controlled.
- *Given the likelihood of pandemic related disruption, has this been allowed for in the catch up timeline?* There is potential for disruption, the IT system has proven itself to be robust.
- *For Y7, the biggest gap may be in their social skills, how is this being addressed?* The school are looking at programmes for this.

7. Exam Results

The extremely strong exam results were discussed. It was reported that there had been around 20 challenges to the grades, with five of these taken further. There are 25 students taking exams in November, these are mainly in Maths and English.

Questions raised:

- *How will progress be judged this year?* Progress will be difficult to judge this year as comparisons to previous years will be difficult. It will not be possible to compare schools based on this year's results as different schools had different levels of rigour.
- *Were there any students who were unable to get onto their desired courses?* There had been one case known to the school but this student had joined the course on a probationary period.



8. Councillor School Visits Feedback and Link to AQC Core Roles

AQC members encouraged to visit the school despite current restrictions.

Questions raised:

- *How have students and staff adapted to the new systems and routine?* Students have adapted well to protocols with high levels of compliance. There have been a couple of exceptions where challenging behaviour has been dealt with. The Student Voice responses indicate that an increase of double lessons is tiring.

Staff are moving around the school which makes the start of lessons tricky due to the change-over period. It also means teachers are in unfamiliar rooms. Standing at the front of the classroom without circulating around the room is also tricky. Staff do not get to see other adults as often, this means the level of peer support is reduced. This is the hardest term under normal circumstances and there is so much more to get used to. Very difficult for new staff. However, the staff do feel safe and see the student year groups bonding in a very positive way.

- *Has the behaviour of the younger pupils been affected by the lack of integration with the older pupils?* Teachers have changed their teaching style to accommodate the difference in this year's Y7. Where children are in the same classroom all day, there can be more behaviour issues. Younger pupils not a particular problem but staff are being trained in strategic behaviour management appropriate for all year groups.

Action: RM include issues outlined above in INSET day.

9. The School Quality Improvement Plan 2020-21

Action: RM to send out QIP

10. Improvements to the Tomlinscote Site

3G Pitch now operational; improvements to security have been made; vocational centre almost finished. Outside canopies next on list

11. Safeguarding Report

RM presented the safeguarding report.

Questions raised:

- Prior to the meeting a question regarding the Step by Step programme was raised. It was confirmed that this is used by the school through CAMHS.

Action: RM to query with HR if Step by Step can be accessed directly by the school

12. Children In Care Policy

The Children In Care Policy was approved by the AQC.



13. Matters Arising

RM asked members if they wished to see changes made to the Admissions Policy, noting that there would be one alteration due to a change in government policy. No further changes were proposed by members.

RM gave an update on the current staffing levels.

14. Chairs Actions

Any members who would like to discuss any matters further were invited to contact RD.

15. Dates of Next Meetings

- 6.30pm, Monday 12 October 2020
- 6.30pm, Monday 14 December 2020
- 6.30pm, Monday 8 February 2021
- 6.30pm, Monday 15 March 2021
- 6.30pm, Monday 10 May 2021
- 6.30pm, Monday 5 July 2021

Meeting closed 8.30pm.