

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WHITCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY HELD
AT THE SCHOOL ON 23RD JANUARY 2023**

PRESENT	Sian Hopkins	Partnership (Chair)
	Joyce Slack	Partnership
	Ian McIlquham	Partnership
	Max Vine	Partnership
	David Collins	Partnership
	Paul Bulpin	Community
	David Roylance	Community
	Hayley Jeans	Parent
	Ashley Collins	Parent
	Ceri Reed	Parent
	Lisa Williams	Parent
	Maria Boffey	Parent
	Andrew Davies	Parent
	Noreen Linforth	Teacher
	Jonathan Davies	Teacher
	Richards Burge	Non-Teaching
	Zakaria Oumellil	Associate Pupil
	Mark Powell	Headteacher
	Wayne Lilly	Observer (Business Manager)
	Nick John	Observer (Deputy Head)

22 APOLOGIES

Denise Kelland; David Revill; David Greaves; Cllr Jackie Jones; Scott Britt; Steve Williams; Arwen Stephens; Gareth Coombs.

23 MINUTES

Subject to the following amendment the minutes of the last meeting held on 28th November 2022 were confirmed as a correct record:-

Insert: Lisa Williams under members present.

24 KEY STAGE 4 PRESENTATION – Claire Hollings; Lauren Armstrong

Claire Hollings and Lauren Armstrong gave a PowerPoint presentation which outlined some of the mental health and wellbeing strategies in place in school to support learners with the emphasis upon early intervention in order to prevent escalation. Parents are contacted for consent for their child to be involved in this additional support. There are regular meetings with the Educational Psychologist and other professionals if further support/referrals are required. Activities include Mindful Mondays (calming activities, breathing techniques, etc) to help with anxiety; a pilot with Barnardo's on how to understand feelings and emotions; and KS5 Peer Mentors.

There are also Staff Wellbeing sessions ranging from coffee/breakfast catch up before the day starts to HR support and additional professional support through the local authority.

25 HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE – Mark Powel

A PowerPoint presentation was given. Mr Powell went through the recent pupil outcomes and how they were used to estimate (with some confidence/accuracy) the expected outcomes in Summer 2023. The Efsm figures were also discussed and the difference not just in academic outcomes but also in attendance. SLT are already looking at these figures and the growing gap.

The fall in attendance is a national issue and there was some discussion around this with governors recognising that since Covid and the recent StrepA illnesses, parents have erred on the side of caution when deciding whether to send their child to school or not. Health advice to keep children at home with the recent StrepA outbreak impacted upon attendance rates at the end of the Autumn Term. The fact that many parents are working from home was also felt to be a contributing factor. Governors were advised of the significantly higher rate of term-time holidays at present.

Whitchurch High School is likely to have an Estyn inspection in this, or the following academic year. Under the new Estyn framework schools have only two weeks' notice. There are five inspection areas under the new framework. It was suggested and agreed that a Sub Committee of governors would be set up to be fully briefed on what to expect during an inspection. Interested governors can contact, Mrs S Hopkins, Chair to express an interest.

Mr Powell outlined staff changes.

Forthcoming strikes

There are currently four strikes days planned and Mr Powell outlined how difficult it was to put any contingency plans in place as: schools won't know until the day of the strike how many teachers will report for work; and schools can't ask existing staff to cover, nor use agency staff. The local authority will advise all schools but, at present, it looks likely that every secondary school will have to close. There was some discussion about the forthcoming strike and whilst governors understood the reasons for it and appreciated that the decision to strike had not been taken lightly or easily, there were some concerns about the impact upon students and teaching. For example: students missing lessons and support; fsm students would not be able to access lunchtime meals; trying to reinforce the need for high levels and consistent attendance for young people; and longer term concerns about teaching as a career.

Estates

Science block is progressing well and looks tremendous; and a great start has been made on the MUGA.

The contract for school meals is due to finish and Mr W Lilly is progressing a the tendering process for awarding a new contract with effect from 1st August, 2023.

Budget

There have been concerns about the budget going forward in times of such austerity; the school has worked through a number of different budget scenarios ahead of the 2023/24 budget allocations. Fortunately, the local authority has agreed to fund part of the pay award and this could be as much as £250,000 at present; we have received £104,000 Post 16 funding; and £90,000 from Covid related funding. Overall this puts the school in a much stronger position going into 2023/24

26 SIP/SER

The report was agreed by Governors

27 POLICIES

The following policies were approved by governors:

- Learning Pathways Policy 11 – 18
- Protected Time and Study Leave Policy
- Brought forward from last governors' meeting:
- Word Processor Policy 2022-23 was agreed (As an exam centre we must have a Word Processor Policy)

It was agreed that the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Policy would be brought to be further considered at the next meeting.

28 GOVERNOR'S ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS

The report was agreed by Governors.

29 CONFIDENTIAL ITESM

None.

30 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

21st March 2023.

Meeting concluded.

SRHopkins

Chair of Governors