

Heaton School Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting

SUMMER TERM 2016 (Reporting on Spring Term 2016)

Date: 06/05/2016

Present - Jo Chambers- Shirley (Chair), Colin Herd, John Taylor, Heather Taylor, John McLuckie

Apologies - Tanya Farley

1. **Minutes of previous Meeting**

The minutes of the Teaching and Learning Committee held on 25/02/16 – Agreed

2. **Actions since last meeting:**

a. **Governor learning walk with focus on Independence.**

Tanya Farley and John Taylor came to school on Friday 18th March. It was Sports Relief Day. John commented that it was a very positive experience and that all students were focussed and engaged in school life. With regards to the breakfast club he noted the relaxed environment with opportunities for independence (staff giving chance for students to participate).

b. **Twilight sessions for teachers and HLTAs on Curriculum & Assessment- Using Curriculum Lead Strategic Tool**

The committee looked at some examples of the Curriculum Lead Strategic Tools which Curriculum Leaders teachers had filled in to evaluate their area, taking on information from across the school and drawing conclusions. Curriculum leads have previously not necessarily evaluated their own area across school.

Josephine Chambers-Shirley explained that we are developing more robust processes to make **evidence based judgements**. We are beginning to record a broader range of evidence to evaluate what we are good at, what we need to work on and we can demonstrate how we know.

The Strategic Tool asks Curriculum Leaders to gather evaluate in both teaching and learning by considering the following for each:-

- Continued Strengths
- Areas for Development
- Priorities for Improvement next school year

John McLuckie asked why there was an extra box for 'Further Ideas and

Inspiration' Jo Chambers-Shirley explained it was maintain flexibility and creativity so we do not miss out on good ideas that do not easily fit under the other headings.

3. Today's SIP focus targets:

- a. **To achieve outstanding progress for our students by re-establishing a clearly defined and shared vision of outstanding teaching that balances participation, independence an achievement.**

In relation to this it was agreed that the next action would be a Learning Walk and meet with curriculum lead with a focus on **participation**. John McLuckie to agree a time with JCS to come in to meet with a Curriculum lead- drama & music and to observe a lesson.

3b.

- b. Develop a well understood assessment toolkit for staff, parents and students that**

- Assess what counts for adulthood
- Demonstrates small steps of progress
- Promotes student understanding of their achievement and next steps

At this point a presentation was made by Jude Lomas, Assistant Headteacher, Assessment Coordinator, covering the following points:

- Classroom Monitor (Name of assessment toolkit to be introduced in September 2016 and which is currently being adapted by us as a school to suite our unique needs)
- Government have made changes from P-Level and National Curriculum Level descriptions to 'Assessment without Levels', different schools are responding to this new freedom in different ways
- Up until now, Heaton has used a tracking system called CASPA which gives national comparisons
- CASPA does show individual progress against targets which it sets against national data, this makes the system difficult to personalise in a robust and consistent way
- National comparisons are a questionable method for our pupils who make up a very small percentage of the population, and who have diverse needs and so it is not meaningful to compare them to each other, and there are many variables which affect their progress
- We undertake baseline assessments when students in year 7

- Problems to solve in a new system are: meaningful assessment criteria, headings that assess important outcomes for life / adulthood, demonstrates very small steps of progress at a steady pace, and fills in 'gaps' / 'jumps'
- Heaton School will set up Classroom Monitor with the following headings and all students' progress will be assessed in these areas:
 - Life-skills; Physical and Health; Communication; Friendship & Community; Understanding the World; English; and Maths.
- The strength of Classroom Monitor will be that we can track progress in the above areas for individuals and groups, the system will be ragged and you will be able to see which subject supports progress in which area, e.g. see if PE leads to progress in Physical & Health

4. Questions asked about Classroom Monitor at the meeting by governors:

- Are we going it alone with Classroom Monitor?
- It is widely used?
- Possibility of parent access

Further comments at the meeting

- Heaton have spoken to Lisburne and Valley Schools, our feeder primaries. Important to liaise with other schools. Desire is to work alongside them. This will be discussed with the two schools again following this meeting.
- Teachers have been working with the LT on this and are generally positive about the change
- Training and infrastructure changes needed for effective use (Future staff training)
- System seems to be more flexible. Can use colours for e.g. it would enable specific data to be picked out, i.e. 'How many children.....?'
- Good to celebrate quality!

5. Any other business

Since the last Teaching & Learning meeting, Last year's Duke of Edinburgh group went to Stockport Town Hall for an Evening Celebration alongside other Stockport young people receiving their awards. It was a great occasion, it has been an opportunity to celebrate our students' achievements with the wider community. Unfortunately this was the last duke of Edinburgh ceremony that the Local Authority would host. We talked about other ways of having presentation evening in the future.

6. Date of next meeting

The date for the next Teaching and learning committee meeting will be set at the start of the next academic year.