

CLYST VALE ACADEMY TRUST

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**Minutes of Curriculum, Learning & Teaching Committee meeting held at Clyst Vale
Community College in the Meeting Room 1, at 5.30 pm,
on 28th September 2015,**

Part I Minutes

Committee Attendees	Initials		Committee Attendees	Initials	
Lévon Stephan	LSt	Chair	Greg Evans	GE	Parent
Kevin Bawn	KB	Principal	Melanie Prance	MP	Staff
Paul Colin	PC	Staff	Dorothy Ruscoe	DR	Member Appointed

Apologies	Initials	Reason
Crawford Winlove	CW	Work Related

Absent	Initials

In Attendance		CVCC
Adrian Green	AG	Vice-Principal (SLT)
Dave Walters	DW	SLT
Gina Stroud	GS	Co-Opted
Jill Collins	JC	Clerk

Visitors	Initials

Minutes

ITEM NO.	ITEM	Owner	Date Due
15/16.1	<u>Declarations of Business Interests</u> None. Forms were completed by attendees.	LSt	
15/16.2	<u>Attendance/Apologies</u> Apologies had been received from Crawford Winlove.	LSt	
15/16.3	<u>Minutes of the previous meeting</u> The minutes of the meeting on 7 ^h May15 were approved by the group with minor amendments and signed by the Chair.	LSt	
15/16.4	<u>Matters arising</u> The Chair asked MP to update the group on progress with the Character Education Project. MP reported that the project is interesting. There is now a tracking pro-forma in use across the School to record activities. Years 10 & 11 have had an assembly on the topic. A resilience survey with students is being conducted. This is a useful motivation tool. KB reported on a presentation given at the start of term to staff on the topic of resilience and feedback had been gathered on the usefulness of the talk. Exeter University had given a presentation to students on 'Living Life to the Full' (Emotional Health), a legacy from the programme. There will also be an award available to students. A tracking sheet to record student activities is	LSt	

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	<p>being implemented and there is a series of meetings being held next week to progress this. LSt clarified that this topic will be discussed at the next Full Board and KB confirmed this is so.</p> <p><u>14/15.46</u> DW to update on measures introduced to improve History results. DW circulated a 3 part table and described the terminology used, how the table worked, e.g. the groupings were not discrete as figures for history were included in Humanities and therefore combined. Geography and Spanish was combined with French and shown as Modern Languages. 4LOP = 4 levels of progress indicated that results exceeded expectation. VA is not discreet for each subject. The aim was to raise the 'value added' for Spanish and History. Overall results may be 'propped up' by better performing subjects within the group. DW explained that they were looking at the margins to improve progress. LSt asked why they were combined at all and DW explained that it was because of the impact of results overall. In raise reports an overall VA will be shown. There were 6 points between grade boundaries. Results show that Business is underperforming when compared to other subjects such as English and Maths. Interventions are taking place e.g. questions are being asked about whether it is the subject overall or a class within that subject which is affecting the figures. Clear target setting from class leader early on – not waiting for results before taking action; visits to other schools which have good performance. Looking at coaching within College e.g. pairing up History with English; Looking at data. DW confirmed that SLT is very concerned about Business. GE asked how good the up take is for Business. PC responded that it is good in 6th Form. LSt asked whether dropping the subject is being considered as it has been problematic for some time. PC noted the benefits of broadening of the curriculum. DW stated that it could be a real strength if turned around. KB responded that it might be useful for inclusion in a technical award in the future. AG outlined the difficult decisions which would need to be taken regarding Business. Student retention issues are being considered. Discussion followed. LSt asked GS for her input on the importance of Business. GS felt that as a stand-alone subject it isn't hugely important as aspects of business were incorporated into degree courses in Law, Accountancy and Marketing anyway. PC noted that it added to the range and diversity of courses on offer to students and reiterated the need for a range of subjects to be available at year 10. DR outlined her experience of this subject. She felt that</p>		

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	<p>the subject is broad and some aspects of it are useful but it is important how it is taught as there is a danger of the subject becoming boring if not taught well.</p> <p>DW moved on to Modern Languages/Humanities- He stated that he is less concerned about History and Spanish, Interventions here had been accelerated but the question being asked is whether the turnaround is quick enough.</p> <p>LSt commented that Spanish had improved and GE noted that this is so but with the improvement in other subjects Spanish is still behind. AG noted the work done by KH, which had improved results. 14 students in year 11 were being closely monitored.</p> <p>LSt asked for clarification on the timing of option choices for Modern Languages and PC explained the process in detail (currently in year 10).</p> <p>DW moved on to History, stating that progress measures have risen but questions still remain regarding the speed of the turnaround. This is a challenge for SLT.</p> <p>DW summed up to say that staff are working hard on improving prediction accuracy and ensuring consistency and accuracy of data.</p> <p>GE noted the need for accurate data to be presented to parents. DW stated that he is being more forensic and dealing with the margins. SLT are not complacent and are tackling this. He offered an open invitation to Governors to come in to school to discuss the data.</p> <p><u>14/15.48</u> Outstanding – Children with Medical Needs Policy (to move to agenda for workshop on 16th November 15). Clerks note: this policy was approved at FB on 10/12/15.</p>		
15/16.5	<p><u>College Strategic Plan</u></p> <p>KB talked to this item. He clarified that the plan needs to be approved by Full Board on 8th October before it could be adopted due to the financial costs associated with it. A Full Board meeting was to have taken place prior to this meeting but unfortunately had to be postponed. The plan could still be discussed in preparation.</p> <p>KB talked to the table of priorities.</p> <p>GE noted that the strength of Middle Leaders has improved and KB agreed. He stated that the College had responded to Ofsted issues e.g. boy's outcomes, through mentoring.</p> <p>LST asked MP about Gender Gap and how CVCC compares with other schools. Discussion followed and it was felt that CVCC is not out of line with other schools.</p> <p>GE noted the impact of 'disaffected' students on the gender gap. AG responded to say that disadvantaged students fell under his responsibility as a target group and mentoring is in place for a group of boys in year 11.</p> <p>We would target 20 students, but if improvements were seen in 15, this would make a big difference. Making the</p>	KB	

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	<p>difference with a few students would improve results significantly. KB stated that care was needed not to ignore higher ability students (targeting the Character Education Grant impact). Governors agreed that the Strategic Plan was an excellent document and C,L&T would commend it to Full Board for approval.</p> <p>LSt moved discussion to the 'Schools' system and that after 3 years a review was necessary. KB noted the need for review/evaluation. MP stated that new ideas need time for consideration and reflection. There have been good things coming out of the process but other points would come out of the review, e.g. more emphasis on academic competition is required. GS noted the possibility of de-motivation for students within a Schools system if their school was not performing well. LSt noted that the system was introduced to inspire/motivate. PC noted that the system had only been running fully in the last year due to staffing issues early on in its implementation. PC noted that he would be very surprised if there were major differences between schools in terms of progress. MP asked whether staff would be represented on the review panel and PC confirmed that this would be so. KB noted the huge increase in numbers during the last 3-5 years of students with mental health problems which brought challenges and might make comparisons difficult. GE noted the need to evaluate what the schools system has delivered. DF questioned whether external funding for review/change was available and it was confirmed it is not. PC stated that the mechanics of the review had not yet been worked out. LSt moved discussion to the CPD/coaching for staff on the training day at the beginning of term and enquired as to how it had been received. MP commented that teachers are naturally resilient anyway and are a hard audience who look for practicality. There had been practical advice given on 'reflection' which hadn't suited all attendees. KB noted that the provider, Mark Solomon was an author who normally works with small groups and CVCC had been a very different audience to contend with.</p>		
15/16.6	<p><u>Latest SIP Report 17th September 2015</u> LSt noted that it was a good report, subject to the last paragraph regarding underperforming subjects of Business and History which was disappointing (as discussed in the Monitoring item). AG outlined the interventions in place to ensure that Spanish maintains the momentum to improve in the light of staffing changes to come. DF noted the application of 'best practice i.e. looking forward, to put in place preventative measures to ensure</p>	KB	

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	<p>that negative impact is mitigated.</p> <p>KB explained how the Monitoring function will be incorporated into this meeting from now on rather than being discussed at a separate meeting.</p> <p>LSt noted the need to have a decision on how we would fair in Ofsted with the possible implementation of the English Baccalaureate qualification. KB responded to say that if a decision was taken to support the EBac this will mean that study of modern languages will be compulsory. Other schools around the country were not happy with the proposals. The Ebac would impact on student choice. Should CVCC follow the government line or maintain student choice, particularly the scope for choosing science based subjects. MP noted the low uptake for MFL generally. AG stated that in terms of uptake he's not optimistic; he currently talks to all year 9 students. If the government force all students to take a language CVCC will need to make a decision on which way to go. Discussion followed on the difficulties of resourcing and language teacher recruitment.</p> <p>LSt asked whether twigh-light sessions would be helpful PC stated this was not the case.</p> <p>MP talked about the insight given to CVCC students by 12 students visiting from Spain currently, who were participating fully in lessons conversing/studying in English. This moved the discussion onto exchange visits. AG noted the trip to Paris which will run again and options for trips to Spain are under consideration. He noted that languages are perceived as a hard subject to study and unless students are competent they will struggle. The implications of Ebac were discussed e.g. financial; the range of options available; best 8 results impact. GE noted that some schools offered a wider range of languages such as Mandarin or Russian. AG stated that the first cohort of students studying these languages from Ivybridge/Kingsbridge, haven't worked through yet. KB advised Governors that Ebac results under 50% would impact on a future Ofsted grading.</p>		
15/16.7	<u>Monitoring</u> see Matters arising	DW	
15/16.8	<u>Items at the discretion of the Chair</u> None raised.	LSt	

The meeting ended at 7:10 pm

Signed by the Chair:-

Approved, as a true and accurate record of the Meeting on the 28th September 2015.

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Committee Members:

Levon Stephan

Kevin Bawn

Gregg Evans

Paul Colin

Melanie Prance

Dorothy Ruscoe

Crawford Winlove

Co-opted

Principal/Governor

Parent Governor

Staff Governor

Staff Governor

Member Appointed

Member Appointed Governor

Meeting Dates			
	28 th January 2016	Meeting Room 1	5.30 pm
	18 th April 2016	Post 16 Study Room	5.30 pm
	23 rd June 2016	Post 16 Study Room	5.30 pm