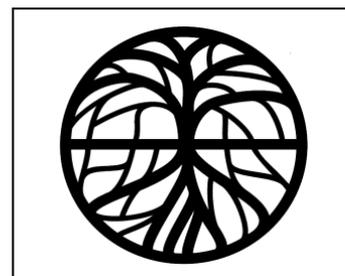


Bottisham Village College Local Governing Body Meeting Minutes



18th January 2022 at 6pm via Teams

Governors Present

- * Rikki Morgan-Tamosunas
- * Alison Brolly
- * Jenny Rankine
- * Steve Bennett
- * Hilda Buchanan
- * Heather Lander
- * Alan Sharp
- * Neil Winkcup
- * Richard Morgan
- * Ed Compton
- * Dominic Fullman
- * Rob Steed

Apologies

- * Chris Childs
- * Tina Lawton

Others Present

N/A

	ITEM	ACTION
1.	Introductions	
	BVC Chair of Governors introduced the names of all Governors to Megan Williams who recorded the minutes of the meeting on this occasion.	
2.	Acceptance of Apologies for Absence	
	Apologies were received for Chris Childs and Tina Lawton. Governors accepted these. The meeting was quorate.	
3.	Declarations of Interest with regard to agenda items	
	There were none.	
4.	Agree minutes of last meeting and Matters arising not on this agenda	
	N/A	
5.	Link Governor/Visits Reports	
	N/A	
6.	Governor Training Update	
	Chair of Governors reminded governors to undertake the annual Safeguarding training. Training log to be kept up to date along with the SCR. If Governors are offered any relevant courses via AL or external companies, they are to log them on the training spreadsheet saved on ALIS.	

	The Chair advised governors of Link Governance training that is available as well.	
7.	Safeguarding/Attendance Update	
	<p>Attendance</p> <p>Staff are keen to have closer scrutiny on BVC attendance systems and how BVC promotes attendance is part of the Colleges recovery strategy. Closer scrutiny of the attendance systems will allow staff to understand the role of attendance in their pupils education.</p> <p>Attendance has been lower than pre-pandemic but this is the same across a lot of schools. It has been more difficult identifying which pupils need attendance intervention. Some have had covid and attendance issues whereas some have had covid more than once with no normal attendance issues. BVC overall attendance percentage is at 91.98%, whereas, pre-pandemic it was 96-97%. The Pupil Premium attendance percentage is at 87.6% which isn't bad compared to other schools. The persistent absence rates pre-pandemic was at 8%, whereas, now its at 22%. The vast majority of absence still are covid related cases.</p> <p>BVC has had clear communication with parents regarding keeping their child/ren off is they display cold like symptoms and do not send them back to school until they have had a negative Covid test.</p> <p>The college has decided to expand their attendance team to offer a team approach to the attendance issues. A significant cause of lower attendance percentages have been due to pupils with anxiety. A growing number are too anxious to come to school. A phased return to college is a strategy being developed, whilst at the same time, identifying the anxiety triggers.</p> <p>Gov Q – How many pupils does the 22% and 37% absence percentages on the slideshow equate to? 22% of the cohort of students which is 22% of 1380 pupils. This is approximately a quarter of the school absent.</p> <p>Gov Q – What is the time frame of the data over? From the start of the academic year to now (Jan 2022).</p> <p>Gov Q – In regards to the big increase in lack of attendance figures, are they in line with national figures? BVC receive weekly snapshots and an attendance comparison report. This gives an average and the college does sit above local authority and national averages. Attendance challenges that the college was presented with back in 2018/2019 will be different to the attendance challenges now. Staff are working on how does BVC build pupil capacity going forward.</p> <p>Gov Q – In the last report, the upper year groups attendance figures were higher than the lower year groups but now the data shows it has switched. Can you explain why that has happened? Government have changed the guidance around attendance coding. Last academic year, the college was dealing with Covid and used code 'X' for covid related absences which discounted any attendance percentages. Any pupil now with covid are marked as 'III'. This has had a huge impact on attendance percentages this year.</p>	

	<p>Gov Q – Is there any correlation between students who were absent from college with covid but still engaging with school work remotely? There hasn't been the staff resources to monitor it but principal agrees it's a good narrative to look in to. This could be put towards the 'At Home' staff to monitor.</p> <p>Safeguarding In regards to the safeguarding action plan, there isn't anything specific to report this term.</p> <p>BVC organised a staff quiz based on how does the college know the staff understand safeguarding training. The quiz was sent to staff, the results were reviewed and published and then key areas that staff weren't sure on were followed up in staff briefing meetings. The key point highlighted after this exercise was that staff didn't know they could refer their safeguarding concerns straight to social care if they couldn't find a DSL in School.</p>	
7.	Improvement Plan for the next 3 years	
	<p>One of the key parts of the improvement plan discussed at this meeting was the potential impact of curriculum changes in the next 3 years. The curriculum has been looked at and discussions have taken place to see if the changes had been as successful as staff had hoped for 3 years ago.</p> <p>Staff have had to think about 'What resources does BVC need?', 'What timetable constraints are there?' and 'Do we have enough in the budget for changes?'</p> <p>At the core of the improvement plan is the ongoing recovery strategy post-pandemic.</p> <p>The impact on class sizes was also discussed, however, this would be a costly intervention with minimal impact. Governors were given a proposal timetable and slideshow.</p> <p>Religious Education Currently, BVC set 2 hours a week in REP for Year 7 pupils, 2 hours a week for Year 8 and 1 hour every two weeks for Year 9. There isn't currently any core REP classes for Key Stage 4 pupils, only REP as an option.</p> <p>Staff feel the REP should be more consistent in pupil timetables. Staff would like to see an increase from 1 hour to 2 hours per two weeks for Year 9's to hit the curriculum content. To enable this to happen, there will be a reduction on performing arts sessions from 3 hours to 2 hours per fortnight for Year 9.</p> <p>Gov Q – what is the main reason to add another REP lesson into the fortnightly timetable? Mainly curriculum content and because REP has lots of benefits that link to other subjects within the curriculum such as English Literature and History. It is the only subject on our timetable that has one lesson a fortnight. Teachers have found it difficult to build a relationship with a class they only see for one hour a fortnight and vice versa with pupils not able to build a consistent relationship with their REP teacher.</p>	

	<p>Governors were supportive of this plan and can see the clear connection between English and History with REP. In terms of the movement of the Performing Arts session being included as a period 6 (after college) activity, governors feel that those pupils who want to do it, will do it so it wouldn't need much promoting. REP leads into debate and challenge and it helps pupils to see aspects of the subject from different angles and with different opinions which is always a good thing.</p> <p>Discussions are currently open for the timetable review. The Principal welcomed any further comments from the governors in due course.</p>	
8.	Risk Management – Principal	
	<p>The risk register has now been passed to HT's and the principal for BVC has been trained on the new risk management system.</p> <p>The main area of risk at the moment is Covid. However, absences are under control meaning the college can open as normal. The covid outbreak risk, now a lot more pupils are in college, has increased.</p> <p>The sports centre is now open again and feedback has been good. There was a £103,000 deficit when the sports centre had to close but now there is a £50,000 deficit after only being open for 2 weeks which is good news.</p> <p>Gov Q – In terms of the risk register, how is BVC going to ensure the sports centre doesn't have to close again due to staffing issues that occurred before? We are reliant on the manager and small team within the sports centre but BVC are hoping to take on extra staff to ensure the sports centre is always staffed correctly. This costs more but it gives BVC a plan B and time to recruit if the same situation arises again in the future. AL are looking to recruit across all of the sports centre's so schools/colleges can swap staff around between the centres if staffing gets tight.</p> <p>Offering apprenticeships within the sport centre for college leavers may be useful to plan for in the future.</p> <p>The name of BVC sports centre has now changed to Anglian Learning Leisure. Free training for Year 11's are being offered so they can become casual lifeguards.</p>	
9.	How Anglian Learning is supporting BVC? Academy Improvement Review.	
	<p>There is a peer review scheduled with 2 other schools to review the curriculum and give a summary of actions, strengths and weaknesses which will be useful.</p> <p>Link governance has been discussed in the review and it has been very successful, the best link governance to be seen so far.</p>	

	<p>Although, there needs to be more input from link governors from a safeguarding and Q&A point of view.</p> <p>There has to be a strong link governor/group of governors for SEND/PP and a small group looking at colleges recovery strategy.</p> <p>AL are helping BVC with Ofsted preparation.</p> <p>The Chair asked for governors to email if they are interested in joining another link governance group and support in the areas that need governors (above).</p>	
9.	Enrichment/Trips	
	BVC are organising the activities week this year, the leaver's prom is back on and the Year 7's have a week away (Camp) in Derbyshire coming up. There has been a lot of interest in the Duke of Edinburgh although some parents are still quite nervous to let their pupils go due to, mainly, covid concerns.	
10.	AOB	
	Bottisham Parish Council has a list of complaints from neighbours to do with bikes and motorbikes being on site and former students hanging around the shops in the village being very impolite. Spot checks by PCSO's are now being actioned and BVC are letting the police know on their website every time an issues occurs.	
11.	Date time and venue of next meeting	
	Tuesday 22 nd March 2022. Chair will let governors know nearer the time whether it will be face to face or online.	

Items for Future Meetings	
Meeting	Item

Action Log			
ITEM	ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBILITY

Rolling Action Log			
ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBILITY	UPDATE
