

MINUTES OF THE ST JOHN'S SCHOOL GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2 OCTOBER 2019

Attendees	
Lt Col R Davison (MD) Mrs J Dowlen-Gilliland (JDG) Mrs E Bryson (EB) Mrs P Demetriou (PJD) Capt N Garcia (NG) Mr R Cowin (RWC) Mr J Mauger (JM) Mr L Hollingworth (LH) Mr I Ross (IR) Mrs E Kelley (EK) Mr P Dakin (PD) Mrs R Clarke (RC) Mrs C Cotter (CC) Mrs E Ford (EF) Mr A Deeves (AD) Mr T Tappin (TT)	Chairman Vice Chair Headteacher Secretary to SGC UWO Regiment/Parent Rep Episkopi Community Rep/Retired SJS Teacher Health and Safety Rep Regiment Rep Parent Rep Episkopi Parent Rep Episkopi Youth Worker/Parent Rep Episkopi Community Police Officer/Parent Rep Episkopi Parent Rep Akrotiri Parent Rep Akrotiri Parent Rep Akrotiri Parent Rep Akrotiri
Guest	
Mr J Dunbar (JD)	New Head of Maths Faculty

Ser	Agenda Point	Comments	Action
1	Introduction and welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MD opened the meeting at 1415 hrs and welcomed everybody present, including new staff EB and JD and new governors TT and EK. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as read. 	
2	Introduction from John Dunbar, new Head of Maths Faculty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JD introduced himself to the SGC and advised that his main focus is on what is best for the students and what maths skills they can develop here to help them when they move to their next school. JD reported that he has already made some changes to Y11 teaching including daily communication with his Maths team and has introduced Singapore Mastery for Maths. CC commented that the mastery approach is very good and is very similar to what they are doing in Akrotiri Primary School. JD is already working on structured revision ideas for Y10 and Y11 students, including "5 a day" – 5 questions asked each day helps student to revise. EB also added that primary school enrichment days with Y7 are very beneficial in the transition process. 	



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3	Discussion regarding new DCYP Directive 3.2.14 for School Governance Committees and roles 2019/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive was discussed by the governors. EB advised that our SGC needs some restructuring according to the new directives from DCYP, especially as we have a bigger team than is specified. MD stated that his role is to support EB and he felt that overall, the new structure specified by DCYP will be easier to manage. EB felt that more collaborative working in groups and sub-committees on priorities or initiatives for the school, eg on excellence, learning and leadership, would be a much more productive way of working. EB said that it is far better to utilise the great depth of knowledge of the SGC than to only be linked with one member of staff. According to the new Directive, EB proposed one full SGC meeting per term with other specific sub committees also being held. EB also proposed an earlier meeting time, during the morning, to enable governors to be able to go into classrooms, etc, and then meet afterwards to discuss what they had seen. It was decided in the short term, however, to maintain the status quo and also the same links with staff until necessary decisions are made concerning the SGC restructuring process. 	EB & MD
4	A reflection of Emma Bryson's first term as Headteacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EB reported that this is a lovely school and she has felt very welcomed. EB stated that the staff are very hard working and there is a sense of feeling like a family, like a team. EB is very happy with the pastoral provision, behaviour is excellent and there are plenty of brilliant opportunities available for the students. EB is working very well with her new Senior Leadership Team and her first objective is to observe how things are working overall. EB wants to discover what staff are passionate about and how things can be improved. 	
5	Headteacher's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EB reported that 6 new teachers started here in September and thanked PD for all of her support with ensuring that they arrived here on time and were all set up. EB reported that she needs to put together a case regarding improved KS5 provision, especially for more vocational subjects, but will need a lot of evidence in the form of in-house research, SGC support, student and parent voice to prove to DCYP that we need more than the 33 specialist teaching staff we already have. The cutbacks in boarding school allowance will also mean that we need to increase and improve this provision at KS5. EB will be meeting soon with Jane Myers, DCYP, to also discuss the TLR structure in school. EB felt that the new Ofsted emphasis on curriculum will help us in our argument for the need for more staff. 	All



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5	Headteacher's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EB reported that the KS4 exam results for 2019 were very good, with grades C-A* achieved being significantly above the national average. The KS5 results were also very good overall for our students of all abilities. All HOFs have had an exam data analysis meeting with EB and Alex Kerr to review these results. EB advised that student attendance needs to improve – 95% is the lowest that she would accept but last year it was only 89%. Although Attendance is regulated by the particular Local Educational Authority in the UK MD advised that the SBAA would be the equivalent to this in BFC. MD offered to provide EB with contact details for support for this in the SBAA. EB reported that she is happy with overall student behaviour and Andrew Armstrong's monitoring of this. 	MD
6	AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RC announced that she will be deployed soon for 6 months and asked what policy is in place to support the children of serving personnel. EB replied that there is no policy in place but that the respective student's Head of Year will support this once informed. EK asked if the decision this year to have mixed ability classes in Y7 is having a positive or negative effect on the students? EB advised that, like previous years, the majority of Y7 classes are mixed ability with only Maths being set based. Andrew Armstrong, Deputy Headteacher, decided to trial mixed ability classes in three more subjects in Y7 – English, Science and ICT – as part of our curriculum development which aims to set even higher expectations for all students. EB explained that extensive educational research suggests that teaching students in mixed ability groups leads to faster progress, especially for the least able and middle students as they are likely to be exposed to more challenging work. Also it shows that the best way to embed learning is to teach your knowledge and skills to somebody else, so enabling the more able to progress even further. This was also supported at the recent Headteachers' Conference and by DCYP. EB advised that, in order to avoid any confusion, she will send a letter to Y7 parents to clarify our reasons for using more mixed ability classes this year. NG reported that 2 Mercian are now in their final 10 months in BFC and asked for parents to be reminded to start applying for new schools in Weeton before Christmas. 	EB
7	Date of next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday 20 November 2019 	



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