

- Staff mentors in place (staff are willing to do this).
- Support from SENCo.

Pastoral:

- Variety to offer and using support services such as Eden Mind offering a six week course and bereavement services. It is tailored to the need of each child.
- Wednesday afternoon yoga sessions have been well received.
- Generic resources are being shared with tutors.

Miss Smith concluded that there is no quick fix and this will be an ongoing process of assessing students and putting in place appropriate support where required. Questions and comments were invited:

- *To what extent are there issues and who are the referrals coming from – the students themselves, staff, parents (MB)?* A lot of the students needing support had already been identified prior to the last lockdown which has made things slightly easier this time around. There are more staff referrals than there are from parents (VS).
- *Additionally, feel that it is important to tell students that it is not out of place to be overwhelmed and to stick with it (MB).* That is a message that is going out and will continue to relay it. On the whole the students have coped really well and those affected the worst are responding to intervention (VS).
- *Thanks for the update. At such a crucial time in a young person's life, has the impact of Covid-19 changed the ambitions of the students (JJ)?* Students are still ambitious, with a decent success rate at OxBridge / obtaining multiple university offers. There have been problems with universities, particularly with medical and vet courses and these sorts of problems are affecting the confidence of students. Additionally, there have been far more enquiries about apprenticeships. The gap year programme is currently suspended. However, the hope is to put on a really great last day and from this year and students can experience all the normal rites of passage (VS).
- *Thanks for all your work. How are you planning to help catch-up with extra-curricular activities (MW)?* The students have been very savvy, finding ways to do things virtually. The school is sign-posting events and the hope is to have these things back up and running as soon as it is safe to do so. The belief is that Sixth Form is very much an experience as an enabler for the future (VS).
- *Are there any students that have dropped off the radar (MW)?* There has been 1 student who could not continue. There are times when students can be difficult to contact but taking a tenacious approach whereby it is in fact easier for a student to simply reply to an email before they are telephoned or parents contacted. Also very grateful to staff as any issues are very quickly passed up to be dealt with (VS).
- *Has there been less inclination for students to share the pressures they have been under and is there anything would continue to do post-lockdown (CH)?* Lockdown has had the Ostrich effect on some and these students have been helped. However, these problems would still have arisen in any case. Support measures have always been in place but not

utilised as much. The increase in communication has been a wonderful thing and will keep building on this.

Mr Hansford thanked Miss Smith for taking the time to attend and that her work is appreciated and she left the meeting.

6. Catch-up Funding Update

Dr Mawson gave a PowerPoint presentation (Appendix A) which gave an overview as to how things are progressing, particularly with 'MyTutor'. In addition to the presentation, the following was highlighted:

- The 74% attendance figure reflects the fact that two students have not attended and in comparison to other schools this is quite a high attendance rate.
- Feedback from tutors enables things to be built into school lessons which will benefit all children.
- This is seen as an ongoing programme
- There has been lots of positive feedback from parents and children. This is all the more significant as there was some reluctance from some to begin with.
- Only part-way through the programme and this will roll into next year and beyond and other students will be identified.

Questions and comments were invited:

- *Have there been issues with quality and monitoring given this is external to the school (MW)?* There have been one or two issues but the feedback is usually really quick – can log in and watch the lessons. Parents are also really good at keeping in touch. Whilst a lot of the tutors are university students, they are heavily vetted and are of high quality. Connectivity can also be an issue (EM).
- *Perhaps too early to evaluate but are there any areas where you feel money spent has not worked (JJ)?* The biggest spend is on MyTutor and would not change that. The biggest frustration is those who are not attending when an investment has been made. However, the school is proactive and attendance is monitored (EM).
- *Is there going to be some more funding so that this can continue (CH)?* There will not be as much funding, but some can be carried over and can bank hours for next year (EM).

Thanks were given to Dr Mawson for her report.

7. Headteacher's Update

Mr Buckland reported that the return to school after the break is still as per the pre-Easter Covid measures as there has been no update from the Government. The challenge with this is that as things open up in the wider community, it is more difficult to maintain standards. However, the good weather has made things easier.

Uniform standards have been on hold in order to reduce stress but this is starting to be tightened up, though it is not a huge issue. Additionally, learning walks will commence again from the end of this week with a focus on how things are going post-lockdown.

In light of the 'Everyone's Invited' website and the media attention surrounding it, Mr Buckland highlighted what is in place in the school, adding that these measures are not a response to this, but have been in place for a number of years:

- Rigorous PHSE lessons and citizenship assemblies
- All appropriate policies are in place with the RSE policy was improved, updated and approved by Governors at the end of last year
- Mr Martin has arranged a special set of assemblies for Year 7 -13 on a graduated scale. These are done in single sex groups as children are less embarrassed to ask questions.

He concluded by saying this will be discussed in the Full Governors' meeting on 6th May but wanted to highlight it as it is relevant to this committee and emphasised that this is something the school has not suddenly reacted to.

Mr Bauer said that he would be interested to see what was presented at these assemblies and suggested that the school found a method to create a dialogue which could perhaps be a former student talking about their experience, as the school did on the topic of drugs. Mr Buckland answered that the issue is to change the perception and mentality on this subject, which is built into these assemblies. Mr Hansford suggested that the school did a survey that raises questions, (appropriate for each age group), to be conducted before and after the assemblies. Mr Bauer agreed that this would be a great idea for benchmarking, as did Mr Buckland. **Action point: Mr Buckland will try to look at a potential survey if time allows (assemblies are to commence next week). It was agreed to send the slides for the assemblies for the Full Governors' meeting on 6th May.**

Mr Buckland reported that there are good systems in place for the GCSE and A-Level assessment and this will be covered in the Full Governors' meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 15th June 2021, 5.30pm via Zoom.

Meeting closed at 6.40pm