



Groby Community College Governor Visit Record

Name of Governor	Tracy Oldershaw
Date and Time of visit	16.4.13 10.30am
Purpose of visit	Humanities Link Governor Meeting with the Curriculum Leader in Humanities
<p>Links with the College Improvement Plan : Review previous progress since last Link and Exam analysis visits</p>	
<p>Governor observations and comments 45 minute visit Review of Previous Link Visit: -New College rules now embedded but staff still keeping up monitoring & enforcement. -Parent /Student contracts helping to reduce behavioural issues highlighted last year. -New PSHE resources in place but will need to be updated again due to course changes. -30 new computers in place and alleviated staff/student problems with lack of resources so students no longer need to share and much quicker to use. -Restructure of dept. happening in next academic year with ICT & Business Studies moving to Language dept. This will mean 3 less staff within Humanities and makes sense geographically as these 2 subject areas were located in a different part of the College. Previous issues with space in Humanities will no longer be a problem. -2 TLR posts being created & deadline for applications this week ie. for RS and SMSC.</p> <p>Review of Exam Analysis Meeting/ Current student progress: - Interventions by Subject Leader for Sociology is working well in; Resources and planning being improved to address disappointing exam results. - Subject Leader for History employing different strategies/ concentrating on revision activities to address History result issues. -Jan results for GCSE Geography disappointing. Harsher marking from Exam Board is a contributing factor, Curriculum Leader able to evidence this by giving example cases. Formal complaint gone into Exam Board ref. Psychology results. - Resits for History and geography AS & A2 went well. - Curriculum Leader has advised staff to be stricter on entry levels for courses eg. Psychology, as literacy levels have proved to be an issue & have impacted on results. The Curriculum Leader said this is a difficult balance as staff also trying to be inclusive and give students the opportunity to succeed. Parent/Student contracts being used to assist with this problem via “probation” up to the first half term giving students the chance to prove they will work hard and therefore be allowed to stay on the course.</p> <p>Ofsted visit: The Curriculum Leader said staff well prepared and almost all staff achieved Good with elements of outstanding so pleasing result and “enjoyable” experience. Morale high within the team before and after Ofsted visit. Focus is now on preparing students for exams.</p> <p>Action Research impact?: Phase 1 completed. The Curriculum Leader said going well and now the Teacher of Geography and himself selected to go on to the Good to Outstanding part of the programme.</p>	

**My personal observations:**

- I looked in on 2 classes during my visit: Geography lesson taking place in Computer room & Business Studies lesson. All students in both lessons fully listening well and seemed to be engaged with their learning,
- All students seen during the visit smartly dressed in full uniform.
- I spoke to 3 members of the Humanities team who all seemed positive and confirmed they are now focussing on exam preparation with their students. They did confirm that the biggest challenge facing them is the Government driven changes from course work to linear exams as this will directly affect Humanities courses such as Geography. PK also saw this as the biggest challenge for the dept.
- The Subject Leader for History expressed concerns that although a teacher at Brookvale is teaching 1 History GCSE class she now has 6 GCSE classes (3 year 10 & 3 year 11) plus 1 A level group of around 18 students. The numbers of students involved means that resource preparation and marking is proving to be very demanding and time consuming. Ana was particularly concerned about how AS & A level History could be fitted into the 4 lessons allowed for them. When I asked what could be a solution to the problem both said that another member of staff (part time) would be the best solution but that funding not available for this.

Any key issues arising for the governing body

- How the impact of Government driven changes with the move to Linear exams is being managed in Humanities/ across the College and teaching/ learning adapted to ensure exam results are not adversely affected?
- CPD for teaching staff. Are external courses necessary? Beneficial? What funding is made available for them?
- How is entry level criteria for courses established to ensure balance between inclusivity and satisfactory achievement levels?
- How is the issue of pressures on AS/A2 History teaching being addressed for the forthcoming academic year?

Forward to:

Firstly to Principal for checking as draft.
When agreed to Principal's PA for circulation to governors

Follow up action

Record any action agreed by the governing body with regard to this visit.