

Groby Community College Governor Visit Record

Name of governor	Evelyne Maher
Date and Time of visit	Thursday 18 April – 8.45 am
Purpose of visit Previously agreed with the Principal	Learning walk, drop in to lessons, consultation with students (Pre 16)

Links with the College Improvement Plan How does the visit relate to a priority in the College Improvement Plan?

Governor observations and comments

E.g. How long did the visit last? What did you see? What did you learn? What would you like clarified?

Geoff Goodall and I spent two and a half hours at the college.

For me, it was the chance to do exactly the same exercise with Years10&11 as I did in November 2012 with P16 and for Geoff it was an opportunity to witness some of the teaching and to interact with the students.

After spending 15 minutes with the Principal in order to acquaint ourselves with the morning's schedule, we set off at 9 am and dropped in to 6 separate lessons: Maths, English, French, German and Science x 2.

We saw a wide range of techniques and props employed by teachers to engage with the students and make lessons more inter active and interesting. The behaviour in class was excellent throughout all the lessons, the success criteria, targets and outcomes were clearly stated.

At the end of our learning walk, Geoff and I met with 7 students from the newly created Student DRIVE T - 4 Year 10 and 3 Year 11. I had compiled a questionnaire similar to the one I used during my post 16 visit last November.

All students expressed themselves freely and made many valid contributions to the debate. On the positive side they all agreed that the staff at the college were very approachable, they liked the wide range of subjects offered by the curriculum and praised the vertical house structure. They also appreciated being free to go off site at lunchtime.

On the areas needing improvement, they listed the lack of consistency in cover teaching, the over crowded corridors and reception area at break times and eternal queuing for food, their dissatisfaction with the teaching of RS and PHSE as well as experiencing some difficulties with the organisation of PE (students with no kits, lack of space in changing rooms, too much time wasted at the start of lessons and not enough time at the end to change back into uniform).

Some of the students mentioned that they thought their targets should be reviewed at the end of every term and reset if necessary.

At the end of this meeting, Geoff and I fed back all the comments to Rob who informed us that some of the issues were already being addressed and the others would be investigated.

Any key issues arising for the governing body

e.g. The way resources are allocated, the way the school communicates, progress in implementing a key policy

As neither Geoff nor I attend the T&L Committee, I would like to suggest that some of our findings may want to be considered at one of your future meetings.

Forward to:

Principal as draft for discussion then to Principal's PA for circulation to governors