



Groby Community College Governor Visit Record

Name of governor	Dr Jacqui Shaw
Date and time of visit	Tues 2 October 2012, 10.00 - 11.30
Purpose of visit	Link governor visit to science as in follow up to exam analysis meeting

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

Focus on exam analysis, attainment, staffing and resources.

Governor observations and comments

E.g. How long did the visit last? What did you observe? What did you learn? What good practice was seen? What would you like clarified?

The visit lasted approx. 1 hour 20 mins. and was predominantly information sharing re attainment at GCSE, BTEC, and A level in 2012, to follow up of the exam analysis session. Unfortunately I was not able to attend this due to work commitments.

GCSE:

Science Core (yr 10 exam):

Yr 10 data: 62.3% gained A*-C, 16.6% gained A*/A, 98.6% gained A*-G. 65% gained A*- C in the controlled assessment. 110 of the cohort went on to BTEC in year 11.

Yr 11 data (272 students, 2011 exam): 77.2% gained A*-C, 25.7% gained A*/A, 99.6% gained A*-G,

Additional Science:

Yr 11 data (202 students): 85.6% gained A*-C, 19.8% gained A*/A, 100% gained A*-G.

BTEC:

94.2% gained the BTEC (2 GCSE equivalents). 82.7% achieved a pass, 11.5% a merit, 3 students failed due to attendance issues.

Separate sciences (students also did core and additional science, so 5 science GCSEs):

	A*-C	A*-G
Biology:	94.4%	100%
Chemistry:	96.2%	100%
Physics:	100%	100%

Overall Yr 10/11 results in science were good/very good. Students taking separate science clearly achieved very well. There is targeting of specialist subject teachers to these classes. The entry requirement for separate sciences has been raised from 6C to 6A for 2013, and students will sit core in year 10, but then separate sciences in year 11.

We discussed whether to sit separate sciences only and not take core in yr 10, but The Curriculum Leader felt this was still appropriate.

Challenges:

The new longer answer questions, moving grade boundaries, students being marked down following external moderation of course work in GCSE. Overall these contributed to the lower attainment of Yr 10 in core science than the previous year.

The courses are changing and moving to linear assessments.

There are many more students taking the BTEC, which is challenging to deliver, and not all staff are confident to take these classes. A new package needs to be purchased to support this (approx £300-£400).



A level (yr 12 and 13):

Applied Science:

Attainment by ALPS:

Yr 12, 1.14 grade 2, Outstanding (2011, 1.03 grade 4 very good)

Yr 13 0.98 grade 3 Excellent (2011, 0.89 grade 5 good)

Excellent/outstanding achievement overall, (grades B – E) some students progress from BEC.

Biology:

Yr 12: 10/15 students gained A*-C, ALPS 0.83, grade 5 good (2011, 0.6 grade 8 relatively poor)

Yr 13: 22/40 students gained A*-C, ALPS 0.84 grade 5 good, (2011, 0.87 grade 5 good)

Chemistry:

Yr 12: 7/10 students gained A*-C, ALPS 0.85, grade 4 very good (2011, 0.71 grade 7 poor)

Yr 13: 22/40 students gained A*-C, ALPS 0.84 grade 5 good, (2011, 0.85 grade 5 good)

Physics:

Yr 12: 7/10 students gained A*-C, ALPS 0.85, grade 4 very good (2011, 0.71 grade 7 poor)

Yr 13: 22/40 students gained A*-C, ALPS 0.84 grade 5 good, (2011, 0.85 grade 5 good)

Overall there is strong evidence that achievement is at least good in years 12 and 13 and has either remained the same by ALPS or improved on results in 2011.

Challenges:

The Curriculum Leader commented that the ISA is a weakness, and students need more practical sessions and more practice throughout the course to address this.

Laptops are also used in all lessons, so replacements/regular updates are essential.

Any key issues arising for the governing body

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

I would like to thank The Curriculum Leader for taking the time to meet with me and for openly sharing all information.

I am confident that there is good evidence that science is strength at Groby under The Curriculum Leader's direction and that results should be graded as at least "good" by Ofsted.

Questions:

With the increasing number of students being moved to BTEC at the end of yr 10, should college consider starting students on BTEC in year 10 based on year 9 assessment?, to allow BTEC over 2 years.

Should the boundary for separate science be raised again, to and deliver in core time, rather than "using up" an option, as Bosworth and some other local colleges do?

Forward to:

Firstly to Principal for checking as draft.

When agreed, distribute to members of TLA Committee.

Follow up action

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