

Minutes – Snowdon Village Academy

Meeting Date: 4 February 2025

Location: Engage

Time: 3.30pm

Chair:	Brigid Allen (BA)	Sponsor Councillor & Chair
	Hannah Martin (HM)	Sponsor Councillor
	Vacancy	Teacher Councillor
	Vacancy	Parent Councillor
	Vacancy	Support Staff Councillor
	Vacancy	Parent Councillor
	Catherine Hickey (CH)	Sponsor Councillor
	Deniece Dixon (DD)	Sponsor Councillor
	Aderonke Fashade (AF)	Sponsor Councillor

In Attendance:	Sue Burns (SB)	Clerk
	Alex Davies (AD)	Principal
	Laura Maley (LM)	Vice Principal
	Tracy French (TF)	Executive Principal
	Lacey Hooper (LH)	DSL & Attendance Lead
	Jenna Wilmot (JW)	
	Derek (D)	BFA Centre Lead

Item	Description	Action
1.0	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies	
1.1	AD welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
1.2	No apologies were necessary.	
2.0	Declarations of Interest	
2.1	The Academy Councillors confirmed that they had no change to their pecuniary interests.	
3.0	Academy Council Report	
	Behaviour and Attitudes	
3.1	I am the Interim Centre Lead and have provided a report and Powerpoint presentation.	
3.2	Suspensions have increased in Engage which is unusual. This is due to a new intake of students with additional needs e.g. undiagnosed ADHD, complex family lives and additional trauma.	
3.3	Classroom behaviour has been challenging with some of the students struggling to engage. As a result, we have adjusted our behaviour policy and timetables.	
3.4	Why has the behaviour deteriorated? The referrals are late, and the students have complex needs which hasn't been the case previously, because there are no special school placements available.	
3.5	Are the students being returned to mainstream education? Yes, we have been successful with reintegrating some students. However, some students have needs that mean that mainstream education isn't appropriate for them.	

3.6	Many schools now have their own nurture provision which means they can revolve SEMH students internally.	
3.7	What is the way forward? Engage may need to re-consider what we offer both in terms of length of placement and how we meet the additional needs. Appropriate staffing also needs to be considered.	
3.8	<i>The Academy Council determined that they would review the strategic plans for provision in T6.</i>	
3.9	We've adapted the curriculum to meet the needs of the current cohort and have based it on Thrive practical lessons in an attempt to enthuse the children. Boxing has also been introduced, and the students are doing buddy reading at EPA.	
3.10	Teachers from other provisions in the SVA have visited our site to extend specialisms. We have also split the student groups which means the behaviour improved but isn't stable.	
3.11	We are reviewing the referral process to determine if we can dictate when a 12-week block commences which would help curriculum planning. We are also considering whether we could have a through school from The Nest to Engage.	
3.12	Engage is currently funded by the CLF, but additional spaces could be sold to the LA which would increase the income.	
3.13	Now that VAT has been added to the private school fees, are there more children from private schools moving into mainstream schools? Not yet, but we are seeing an influx of students who have moved back from abroad.	
3.14	We have had an increase in refugee students who have complex trauma. A lot of students have mental health and/or anxiety issues arising from lockdown and didn't transition from primary school to secondary school.	
3.15	Do the mainstream schools apply your recommendations? We provide an 'end of placement' report which the Head of House then cascades to the staff, and they often liaise with us during the placement. We make it clear during the review meetings what our expectations are. Some schools arrange a taxi to transport the student to SVA.	
3.16	We are going to invite the person from the CLF schools who is responsible for transition so that we can remind them of our expectations.	
3.17	We've adapted our PSHE curriculum so that can be agile and provide PSHE that is relevant to the context of the school.	
3.18	[REDACTED]	
3.19	[REDACTED]	
Personal Development		
3.20	We have a good relationship with Empire Boxing and will investigate installing a punch bag on site.	
3.21	A range of STEM and craft activities have been offered to the students, along with puzzles to build resilience.	
3.22	We've utilised fund raising activities and the policy have visited to discuss county lines.	
Quality of Education		
3.23	We provide a form for the mainstream school to complete as part of the transition, then we update it during the students' time with us to create a record.	
3.24	Do you visit students when they return to their homeschool? Yes, where possible, but this can be challenging to staff.	
3.25	When do you measure if the placement has been successful?	

	Students often settle well for the first few weeks. We are going to introduce School feedback questionnaires so that we can track if students have re-integrated successfully.	
3.26	ACTION: AD to determine how to track destinations for students who leave Engage	AD
3.27	How important is it to provide an age-appropriate curriculum? We address gaps in learning for students' basic skills	
3.28	What happens to GCSE students who miss 12 weeks of their curriculum? We work with the students on basic skills, confidence, relationships, resilience, and learning behaviours so that they can access the curriculum. However, we maintain our high expectations for academic learning.	
3.29	Where possible, our students do their mock exams in their home school so that they experience exam conditions. Where that's not possible, we provide the same mock paper here.	
3.30	Does the assessment tracker provide information to report back to the home school? It informs the end of placement report.	
	Y11 Outcomes Jenna Wilmott and Laura Blacker	
3.31	JW: Our mock data indicates that some of the students were close to achieving a 4 at this stage. Many of our cohort has undiagnosed SEND needs, therefore we've worked closely with the teachers to ensure the EHCP provision is met.	
3.32	We are examining the mock papers to determine where the gaps in learning are and then provide an intervention to address that gap. We offer an after-school revision club as well as a club during half-term and the Easter break.	
3.33	We've reviewed the data for all the Y11 students to determine what the barriers are. We are working closely with the SEND team to determine and provide access arrangements.	
3.34	More robust invigilation training has also been put in place.	
3.35	What subjects performed well? Geography and History and Business are new qualifications, but the students have done well in them. English has been more successful this year. Maths has been a concern due to being short staffed.	
3.36	Two students are doing Physics as well as Biology and have visited Clifton College and used their science lab for experiments. Clifton College said their behaviour was exemplary and have invited them to attend regularly.	
3.37	<i>CH left the meeting at 5.15pm</i>	
3.38	LB: The ARV at the end of T5 provided actionable feedback. Assessment then formed part of our SIP. Our focus has been to ensure that we get the best outcomes for our students.	
3.39	Last year the predicted grades were over-estimated but this year we have been more prudent. The mocks at Kingswood have been delivered based on need. Twelve of the thirteen students were offered an English GCSE paper, three of whom were outreach learners.	
3.40	What is an ARV? An Academy Review Visit where staff from other schools in the Trust visit and provide feedback.	
3.41	In Maths five learners were offered a mock paper, including outreach students. We are currently doing a lot of modules. Because it was the first Y11 attempt a lot of our students were too anxious to sit them and many learners were absent.	
3.42	In class the exam questions have been chunked and discussed, and GCSE questions have been used in lessons as part of the prep for the exams.	
3.43	We have buddied up the non-qualified Maths teacher with John Cabot and we recruited a new Science Teacher who is working with BFA.	
3.44	Recruitment has been positive which is encouraging and a new programme of SEND interventions is in place.	

3.45	The vocational offering includes Cooking BTech Level 1 that nine Kingswood students will take and is achievable in a year. The students are very enthused by the offering.	
3.46	All students will be entered for their GCSEs.	
3.47	What are you putting in place to encourage attendance at exams? We need to ensure that students are ready for their exams and prepare them for what to expect. We will work with the families to ensure that they are prepared and confirm the transport arrangements. BFA will collect their students and offer breakfast before, ensure the access arrangements are in place, and encourage the students to achieve.	
3.48	All the Y11 students will have sat a mock by the end of this term.	
3.49	The vision is for all children to receive Grade 4 or better. How confident are you that the students are making adequate progress to achieve that? We are moving in the right direction. The quality of teaching across the provision is good and we are focusing on the right things. The quality assurance of the more vocational routes needs to be considered moving forward.	
3.50	What will the black box data look like next time? This data drop wasn't accurate because it had Kingswood data in it, but that has been addressed for the next data drop.	
4.0	Minutes of the last meeting	
4.1	The minutes of the meeting on 19 th November 2024 were agreed to be a true and accurate record.	
5.0	Actions and Matters Arising	
5.1	AD to arrange for Lacey Hooper to add the date a student joined SVA to the attendance and suspension data – In progress. Additional data is required for some students.	
5.2	CH to send Lacey Hooper information about the extenuating circumstances attendance code – Completed.	
5.3	C/f Star Data – Completed and added to the papers on the hub.	
5.4	C/f CLF Partnerships – Completed.	
5.5	Snowdon Trip – The trip will be restricted to KS4 students due to fitness levels and resilience requirements. A training regime will be arranged in advance of the event.	
5.6	Will the kit be provided? Yes, the CLF Big Event will fund the required kit that can then be retained for future events.	
	Leadership and Management	
5.4	An Interim Lead secondment opportunity for three terms has been advertised and we have five strong applicants which is positive.	
5.5	We advertised externally for a Maths Lead twice but there were no applicants, on the third round we had four appointable applicants. We recruited a Maths Teacher and a Maths Curriculum Lead.	
5.6	A new full-time outreach position has been advertised for Kingswood, and we had nine applicants, six of whom were strong.	
5.7	We recruited a Science Teacher at Kingswood who has a Hospital Ed background.	
5.8	We've introduced mentors which is where strong staff from one site mentor a student on another site which has been well received.	
6.0	Policies	
6.1	Policies to Note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsorship & Ethical Fundraising • Trustee and Councillor Expenses 	
7.0	Governance	
7.1	There are two staff members who are potentially interested in the staff vacancies.	

8.0	Matters for the attention of the Board	
8.1	None.	
9.0	AOB	
9.1	None	
10.0	Close of Meeting	
10.1	The meeting closed at 5.40pm	