



**Thomas Hardye School**  
**7<sup>th</sup> October 2015**  
**Governing Body Meeting**

**Present:** Garry Batt, Mike Foley, Iain Cornell, Linda Morrison, Tony Foot, Karen Weir, Sue Harries, Rip Kirby, Hugh Griffiths, Tim Gallego, Sheila Johns, Wendy Holden, Laura Cheney, Lynne Cove, Teresa Macklin, Mike Faulkner, David Grassby

**Apologies:** Simon Conibear and Martin Baker

**Clerk:** Tony Day, Vicky Smyth

Item	Minutes	Action
	<p><b>Presentation by Catriona Brady, Business Studies Teacher – Careers Quality Mark</b>            The Chairman welcomed Catriona, who gave an interesting and comprehensive presentation respecting her work within the school. Catriona sought, from the Governing Body, it's commitment to the @Investors in Careers' programme that she was pursuing..</p> <p>Mr Kirby, a named Governor in this pursuit had worked substantially with Catriona, and strongly supported this cause. The Governors were in agreement and confirmed their commitment to stage one of the programme; and supported the pursuit of stage two of the Careers Education 'Information Advice and Guidance' policy.</p> <p>A 'Futures' page has been established upon the FROG site. Professor Griffiths asked about the value of the Hardyeans' input and Catriona explained the two day interview sessions for all students. Mr Kirby expressed his view of the need to expand such practice to the whole school and Mrs Holden suggested input from creative industries. Catriona agreed to pursue these points and indicated that the school still works with 'Connexions' successor.</p> <p>The Chairman advocated the creation of a link with Dorchester-based industries and Mr Kirby advocated a 'holistic' approach. Mr Batt and Mr Gallego agreed to contact the Dorchester Chamber of Commerce. The whole concept will be explored further with the Headteacher.</p> <p>Mrs Harries asked about the financial implications. Catriona stated that the initial cost was £3000. The Headteacher observed that there was a solid framework in place which would continue to be developed.</p> <p>Catriona was thanked very warmly by the Chairman for her presentation.</p>	<p>CB</p> <p>GB/TG MF/CB</p>
<p><b>15/06</b></p>	<p><b>Declarations of Interest:</b>            Karen Weir tendered her standing declaration as DASP secretary and Mrs Holden declared her involvement with the Greenwood Tree Academy Trust (Multi-Academy Trust consisting of St Mary's Middle School and First Schools).</p>	
<p><b>15/07</b></p>	<p><b>Elections:</b>            The question of elections was dealt with during the AGM of the Academy Trustees.            Mr Batt and Mrs Cove were duly elected Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively.</p>	

15/08	<b>Minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2015</b> were approved and signed.	
15/09	<b>Matters arising:</b> There were no matters arising other than the agenda items hereunder	
15/10	<b>Review of the Committee Structure and Link Governor Roles</b>	
15/10.01	The Business Studies Link remains vacant currently and Governors' interest was invited.	
15/10.2	Mrs Morrison informed Governors of the International Schools Award and asked if a Governor would wish to be involved. Mrs Cove kindly volunteered her services and this was gratefully accepted.	
15/10.3	Mrs Morrison said also that volunteers from the Governing Body for the college-link role would be appreciated, and Vicky will email Governors accordingly.  The Governing Body expressed full ascent to the committee restructuring for one new Committee (Personnel and Finance) as an amalgamation of the hitherto Personnel and Resources and Finance Committees.	VS
15/11	<b>Headteacher's Report and Examination Results</b>	
15/11.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Headteacher presented his report to the Governing Body. Pleasingly, the Modern Foreign Languages examination results have improved significantly, by 12%. The school is focussing also upon the efficacy of how predictions are made and their accuracy.</li> <li>• In terms of A Level results, 47% of students had achieved places at Russell Group universities and, with regard to ALPS, Mr Foley mentioned in particular the extremely pleasing music technology results that were in the top 5% of England results. Effective remarking had occurred with significant improvement e.g. D&gt;B. The quality of marking had been of concern this year, Mr Foley felt.</li> <li>• Ms Johns questioned the Computing results and Mrs Macklin the A Level Science results. Mr Foley said that these areas were being given close attention with more frequent assessment and earlier identification of underachievers; and a meeting with the School Improvement Partner (a scientist) has been arranged with particular focus this year upon science.</li> <li>• Mrs Holden questioned the ISA's results. Mr Cornell reported that the school is undertaking matters honestly and constructively and regrettably this may not be a 'level playing field'.</li> <li>• Mrs Holden asked who is looking at the syllabi. Laura Cheney indicated that she was doing so.</li> <li>• Mr Kirby asked what is the problem respecting Science results. The Headteacher indicated that this is largely to do with assessment and monitoring of teaching and leadership. Mr Kirby felt that parent meetings were somewhat late, after the mock examinations, Mr Foley agreed and endeavour to deal with this earlier is being made. Mr Grassby enquired about the high percentage of Science students. Mr Foley commented about ALPs factors and school size and responded that doggedness, contact with parents and leadership remain vital. Mrs Macklin enquired about leadership in the Science department. The Headteacher indicated that Mr Ellison was relatively new in post, and remained confident that improvements in this area will be made, as they have been at GCSE level.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Kirby asked if the school would be in a position to tell parents of perceived difficulties within the first few weeks of a school year. Mr Foley responded that in his view, this does happen in the main across the school, but he is working to make this consistent in all areas.</li> <li>• Mrs Harries asked if it might be a question, at times, of students having the knowledge, but perhaps not the skill to answer questions with optimum effect. The Headteacher agreed, but commented that the school does manage to be within the top 15% across the board, year on year. Mr Cornell looks at this annually apropos ‘the right course’ and it was felt that the school is getting better, and can do better.</li> </ul>	
15/11.2	Mr Foley reported that the School Improvement Plan will be an item for the Learning and Community Committee. Caroline Deardon, the School Improvement Partner, would be coming into school soon, and would require information regarding marks, monitoring and assessment.	
15/11.3	The Headteacher was effusive in his praise of the current Site Team. They have welded into a highly effective and most conscientious team; he was delighted with their performance and urged Governors to speak with them should they happen to meet them at any time. He felt sure that they would be very impressed with the Team’s commitment.	
15/11.4	Mr Foley mentioned, particularly, the forthcoming retirement, in April, of Mr Trowbridge, the School Finance Manager, and congratulated him respecting his invaluable work and commitment during his long service.	
15/11.5	MAT progress – The Headteacher reported that ‘due diligence’ was now complete and that the annual review of DASP was scheduled for January 2016. Mrs Weir was thanked for her work in this regard.	
15/12	<p><b>Aims and Priorities</b></p> <p>The Headteacher’s priorities incorporated the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Site Strategy – the prospect of a performing arts centre and costings remain under consideration, in tandem with transformation of the school’s dining facilities that are considered currently to be poor. These may constitute a bid for financial support from the EFA.</li> <li>2. Mr Foley aspired to re-visiting the Teaching School Bid in light of the school’s recent Outstanding grading and sponsorship of Ferndown School.</li> <li>3. A particular priority of the Headteacher in respect of academic achievement remains to raise the English and Maths results as much as possible with the aim of a 70% pass rate in 5 subjects at GCSE grades A*- C.</li> <li>4. The MAT pursuit.</li> </ol>	
15/13	<p><b>MAT and Sponsorship Update</b></p> <p>In terms of the MAT and Sponsorship, Caroline Caretta has furnished very helpful guidance that is being pursued.</p>	
15/13.1		
15/13.2	Mrs Macklin asked about due diligence and the Ferndown Sponsorship, and whether we have arrived at a financial picture and position. Mr Foley said that the local authority were saying that there needs to be incorporation of deficit recovery and we need to look at prospective redundancies, a figure of 7 having been mooted. Mr Foley assured the Governors that this would not be funded	

	<p>from the THS budget and that this school's role was to furnish support respecting a 5 year plan. The MAT will have responsibility respecting the plan but the MAT will not be shoulder all the financial responsibilities.</p> <p>Mrs Holden commented upon risk to which Mr Foley replied that, were Ferndown School to become financially inviable, it might be that the DfE would suggest that Thomas Hardy School is not looking after the Ferndown School sufficiently well. The Headteacher responded that should it be proven that we had not provided correct and sufficient support and guidance, the DfE might take the sponsor- role away. He emphasized that this would be a MAT responsibility as opposed to a Thomas Hardy School responsibility.</p>	
<b>15/14</b>	<p><b>1610 Update</b></p> <p>The Clerk reported that the Finance Manager had calculated that school usage and 1610 usage of the school's facilities could be reckoned, theoretically in terms of 30% school and 70% 1610.</p> <p>The school had received income from 1610 for the two years 12/13 and 13/14 but was awaiting income for the period since November 2014.</p> <p>The Clerk indicated also, that some problems are continuing respecting litter, smoking, insecurity issues and usage timings. Further negotiation with 1610 is merited and a small working group comprising the Headteacher, Mrs Harries, Mr Foot and the Clerk will seek to address and pursue these aspects.</p>	
<b>15/15</b>	<p><b>Phase VI</b></p> <p>The Clerk outlined the issues with the satisfactory completion of building works. The Chairman had written again to the Directors of Morgan Sindall expressing the school's concern, in consequence of which, the Company's Commercial Director, Mr Saul, had visited and met with the Chairman, Headteacher, Design Team members and Clerk. He indicated his eagerness to resolve matters satisfactorily and that he would be in contact with us in due course.</p>	
	<p><b>Matters for the Next Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Accounts</b></li> <li>• <b>MAT</b></li> <li>• <b>1610</b></li> <li>• <b>Phase VI</b></li> </ul>	

### Action Log

Person	Action	Timing	Outcome/Update
Catriona Brady	Pursue points raised by Rip Kirby and Wendy Holden regarding whole school practice, and input from creative arts industries respectively	Ongoing	
Garry Batt and Tim Gallego	Make contact with Dorchester Chamber of Commerce respecting involvement in careers provision at THS	As soon as possible	
Mike Foley and Catriona Brady	To look further at careers provision at THS	Ongoing	
Vicky Smyth	Email Governors regarding link governor vacancies	As soon as possible	