

TEES VALLEY EDUCATION – MULTI ACADEMY TRUST
(Company No: 09630999)
LOCAL ACADEMY COMMITTEE – DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY
FRIDAY 13th October 2023 09.30 A.M.
FACE TO FACE MEETING

ATTENDEES:

Head of Academy	Jennifer Duncan
Chair	Andrew Stogdale
Community Representative	Anne Kelly
Staff Representative	Sian Lamb

OTHER ATTENDEES Carole Tonner Senior Academy Business Manager

1. Welcome & Introductions

2. Apologies

Parent Representative Philippa Booth

3. Minutes of the last meeting: Matters of fact and for approval

Approved

4. Matters arising from the Minutes not on the Agenda

JD - updated regarding the development of the community garden – priority to have it completed this year. Simmotree who are currently do some landscaping for the nursery outdoor area are going to take a look and provide a quote for the ground work

JD spoke about the various contractors we are currently involved with and are able to provide volunteer days - this can be in the form of labour, of working with the children planning raised beds

AK - spoke about the flooding at the community garden - we may need some drainage work e.g. a soak away

Previous Minutes were approved and agreed as a true reflection of the meeting.

5. Headteacher's Report

JD explained the Head Teacher's Report in full detail and gave the key information as follows:

Context Statement

- Development of secondary extension designs, planning submitted, contract team at Portakabin handed over to construction team. Pre-construction meeting 26th January 2024 with work due to start on site on 5th February.

- Development of SF Y9+ curriculum continued and presented to Exec HT, this is so far robust and a continuation of the excellent curriculum already in place at DSA, overseen by HoA. Further work planned in spring.
- Attendance, while not a priority 1 area due to attendance levels well above national average for special schools over the last 2 years, has been a continued focus and has resulted in excellent attendance rates in the autumn term (see below).
- Continuing to manage a split site with increased numbers of secondary students, this means that there are 2 non-teaching SLT/pastoral staff timetabled on site each day to support.

DSA is again moving into a period of significant recruitment due to continued growth, in the current climate of national recruitment difficulties, this has to be well managed as posts may not be filled in first round and need to be repeatedly advertised.

Academy Priorities

JD gave a summary of how the following are being implemented and achieved and highlighted key points

1. Develop and deliver an outstanding **year 9+ semi-formal curriculum and pedagogy** (quality of education).
2. Create outstanding academic and therapeutic **environments** that enable all pupils to flourish (quality of education, personal development, behaviour and attitudes).
3. Develop **leaders** to ensure their work impacts on outcomes (quality of education, leadership).

Highlighted key points

- Attendance significantly high due to the large investment into the Pastoral Team. We now have a lead manager, an officer, a family support worker and a HLTA
- This attendance is significantly higher than the national average
- We are currently still working on a split site

Curriculum

JD gave a summary of how the following are being implemented and achieved and highlighted key points

- **Foundation Subjects**
- **Wider Opportunities - Enrichment & Community engagement**

Y9 curriculum is looking very exciting, progressing well. We have applied to become an assessment centre and the exam office will be Andy Smyth.

There will eventually be a wide range of vocational, Stem and foundation subjects. We will start off and build on these choices year on year.

Enrichment & Community Engagement

JD Highlighted the flowing projects

- The academy intergenerational projects with Middlesbrough First and Marske Hall ran across the autumn term. These were very successful and allowed all stakeholders and students involved an opportunity to develop interpersonal and creative skills.
- KS3 students continued to engage in My Voice Matters and have contributed to the Middlesbrough wide project. This is aimed at supporting students to understand their rights and to enable them to express their views positively and successfully.
- Continued work with Priory Woods work experience (including a young person who is coming to offer piano lessons)
- Supported internships through local providers began in autumn and will continue in spring.
- Pantomime visit – 80 children across the academy attended the pantomime at the Arc, Stockton. This was incredibly successful and enjoyed by all.

Further Educational visits including the local fire station, tour of Middlesbrough, local parks, Middlesbrough Central Library, Pendragon sensory centre.

We have the exciting development nearing its completion of a community farm to which we will begin with rescued chickens and possible grow to introducing goats.

We have plans to complete the community garden this year which was gifted to Discovery from Friends of Natures Word - we plan to have engagement in this project from contractors who are currently developing the secondary school extension. This may consist of working with pupils planting raised beds or labour time constructing polly tunnels etc

AK spoke about some key people working on their plots at natures world who could offer and sessions and engage with pupils at Discovery - **AK** will share their contact details

Trust Specialisms

(Arts & Culture, STEM & Digital, Social Justice and Equity, SEND & Inclusion and Business, Industry and Enterprise)

- Engagement with the Middlesbrough Food Bank.
- Engagement with Teesside University empowerment project in KS3.
- KS3 development of a student area on the Discovery website working with MMedia and SPARK.
- The intergenerational project at primary was focused around a joint creative project.
- Further work with Power of Women.
- Young Voices (spring)
- London trip (spring)
- Karate sessions in KS3 supported communication development and inclusion.
- Secondary students creating a video with Andrew Stogdale about the development of the extension.

Academy Context:

- School is continuing to increase with the numbers currently at 150 this could rise to 170 24/25 an we will then be educating Nursery to Y9

Academy Context: SEND

- Figures were discussed with it being noted that the Academy pupil numbers are stable, but there is a growth in pupils with Autism pathway (MATT)

Vulnerable Pupils: Stability & Mobility

- No real mobility concerns.

Attendance, exclusions, and suspensions

- Only 1 day of exclusion was reported in the form of a fixed term exclusion. This is more of a reset time. However, a package has been sorted for this child and it is reported that it is working well.
- Attendance at the academy (94.3%) continues to significantly exceed national data for special schools (86.9%) and is in line with the vast majority of mainstream settings (94% primary and 90.7% secondary).

Vulnerable Pupils: Dialogue

- **SEND** Academy numbers: it is evident from the numbers that pupil's complexity has increased over time with more pupils in KS1 on the IF pathway. This may fluctuate in future years.
- 48% of pupils are diagnosed with ASD, with a further 11% on the MAAT pathway.
- The breakdown within pathways is as follows: Of the 27 EYFS pupils – 33% are diagnosed ASD (a further 30% under assessment) Of the 44 Informal pupils – 86% are diagnosed ASD (a further 11% on the pathway, meaning all but 1 child on this pathway will have a diagnosis of ASD). Of the 78 Semi-formal pupils - 33% are diagnosed ASD (a further 5% under assessment).

Pastoral and Welfare.

- Shopping vouchers, food parcels and food hampers distributed to families.
- Early Bird cohort 3 delivered and incredibly well received and successful.
- Every child in the academy was given a gift at Christmas.
- Academy member of staff delivering counselling (trained in psychotherapy).

6. Nursery Development

- We have already started to explore a possible permanent build for Nursery. This maybe another year or two down the line but we are looking at designs and quotes

7. Secondary Development

The planning meeting took place Feb to which the application for the secondary extension was deferred - this will be addressed at the next planning meeting which will take place

March 7th All enabling work has been paused until this meeting has taken place. It was noted that we do have a good strong application

8. Any Other Business

- CT noted that all unused materials from the secondary build construction will be recycled and repurposed. Friends of Natures world have already repurposing the first batch

Date of Next Meetings

- Friday 14th June 2024 9.30 a.m