

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
Parent Representative	Philippa Booth
Staff Representative	Sian Lamb

OTHER ATTENDEES Carole Tonner Senior Academy Business Manager

1. Welcome & Introductions

2. Apologies

None

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

Approved

4. Matters arising from the Minutes not on the Agenda

AK - sought clarification on the traffic management when the construction of the secondary school starts.

AS – Proposed the construction of a video by secondary school children from the start of the build through pinacol points of the build and the moving in.

AS – suggested the pooling of ideas regarding appropriate placements for work experience.

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

- Summer was a very successful term with several trust events that we attended, and pupils were well represented. Parent events were also highly successful and well-received.
- Discovery's first residential was incredibly positive and has been re-booked for academic year 23/24 with an additional night.

- The minibus was vandalised impacting on ease of access to events, trips, and visits. This has since been written off and the academy now has one minibus moving into the autumn term. The SABM is exploring alternative lease options.
- In September, nursery to Y6 will be sited at Sandy Flatts, Y7 and 8 will be sited at Brambles.
- SLT will continue to operate across both sites and there will be a full-time member of the office team.

Academy Priorities

Secondary is going to continue as priority 1.

Curriculum

- JD spoke about the introduction to supported internships - we will work alongside Middlesbrough and Redcar College
- Intergenerational project

Enrichment & Community Engagement

In addition to activities described in previous reports we have also had the following:

- Visit from Middlesbrough Environment City cooking project leaders at parent coffee morning (this link will continue to be developed).
- Meeting with Middlesbrough First about an intergenerational project, the first sessions will be held in the autumn term. This will involve craft sessions with pupils from DSA, adults with learning disabilities and the elder generation.
- Family reading sessions.
- Visit to Marske Hall as part of the intergenerational work for a Teddy Bears Picnic, with a Redcar and Cleveland school.
- Walk to school week at Nature's World, visit to Nature's World to volunteer with Friends of Nature's World.
- Visits to Andy Landscapes to purchase gardening equipment.
- AT/JD attended stakeholder session to explore supported internships.
- First Discovery residential to Carlton with pupils Y5 – Y7. Very successful, booked for 3 nights 23/24. This supported valuable development of PFA skills. Impact on families evidenced with comments linked to pupils being able to carry out self-care tasks independently they didn't previously at home.

Trust Specialisms

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

- Pupils engaged in enterprise for the academy summer fayre. Each class had a budget to create a product to sell. Y6 and Y7 students ran the fayre and worked out profit and loss.
- Year 7 attended the sustainable city presentation award.
- Year 7 engaged in careers week winning the award for most enthusiastic.
- The Gatsby benchmarks – all achieved (one aspect left)
- Y5/6/7 were part of the Trust performance, with speaking, dancing and singing roles.
- Following the My Voice Matters Conference – there was a presentation in school for those who couldn't attend.
- As described above, the academy is engaged in several intergenerational projects with Marske Hall, friends of Nature's World and Middlesbrough 1st.
-

Academy Context:

- School is continuing to increase with the numbers being 151 in October.

Academy Context: SEND

- Figures were discussed with it being noted that the Academy pupil numbers are stable. Short breaks have increased due to the increase in referrals.

Vulnerable Pupils: Stability & Mobility

- No real mobility concerns.

Attendance, exclusions, and suspensions

- Only one-half 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 (92.9%) 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 Needs

- KS1 will have a high percentage of informal pupils (65%) in the academic year 23/24. Both these cohorts missed significant amount of early schooling during COVID.
- A small group of 5 pupils from IF and SF classes has been created in 23/24. This group will access a SF curriculum but using pedagogy from the IF pathway. Learning will be highly individualised, and progress will be monitored through PIVATS with flexibility to use MAPP as needed.
- The academy has 5 IF classes, 4 SF classes and 1 complex communication and interaction group from Y1-6 in 23/24. Secondary has 3 SF classes.

Pastoral and Welfare.

- Reports continue to be positive.

6. Community Garden

- GB will no longer lead on this project due to maternity; CT will ask for an update from Teesside Family Foundation
- After an initial check weed are starting to grow back and the levelling of the floor still needs addressing
- Raised bed have been erected and ready for topsoil.

7. Nursery Development

- The lease nursery building was installed over the summer (planning approval received) and nursery pupils will begin at Sandy Flatts on 11th September.
- We have already started to explore a possible permanent build for Nursery.

8. Secondary Development

- Agreement was given by the board, following extensive research and procurement completed by the EHT and trust director of finance and resources, to grant a direct award to Portakabin through the CPC approved framework. This has been actioned. Once the GFA is in place, further design development work, surveys and topographical studies can begin in the autumn term. This will be a focus for the EHT, SABM and SLT alongside the trust director of SEND and inclusion, the project manager, and the CEO in 23/24.
- Further delays regarding the secondary building development linked to the grant funding agreement yet to be approved and signed.

- The academy will move from 126 pupils in the academic year 22/23 to 151 in 23/24. There will be an increase from 75 staff to 87 in 23/24.

9. Any Other Business

- No other business

Date of Next Meetings

- Friday 1st March 2024 9.30 a.m.
- Friday 14th June 2024 9.30 a.m