

TEES VALLEY EDUCATION – MULTI ACADEMY TRUST
(Company No: 09630999)
LOCAL ACADEMY COMMITTEE – DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY
Monday June 17 2024 09.30 A.M.
FACE TO FACE MEETING

ATTENDEES:

Head of Academy	Jennifer Duncan
Chair	Andrew Stogdale
Parent Representative	Philippa Booth

OTHER ATTENDEES	Carole Tonner Senior Academy Business Manager
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1. Welcome & Introductions

2. Apologies

Community Representative	Anne Kelly
Staff Representative	Sian Lamb

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

Approved

4. Matters arising from the Minutes not on the Agenda

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

- Building work has resumed, the site is having to be carefully managed to ensure safety of all stakeholders, particularly during the groundwork period. This will need constant consideration across the next term and a half.
- Bi-weekly meetings with Portakabin and regular updates with the site manager.
- Building work and ongoing drainage issues have reduced the outdoor areas available for use over the summer term. This is being carefully managed by SLT and teachers. Vigilance at all times is required with a live building site.
- The office team will have significant workload ensuring all equipment and resources are ordered for the secondary building, including setting up care rooms and expanding SLAs/contracts to include the new building.

- Another move and decant is being prepared, this will continue through the summer and into the autumn term.
- The academy is undergoing another significant round of recruitment linked to ongoing growth and expansion.
- Increase in pupil numbers resulting in re-organisation of spaces to allow additional small group and individual teaching areas.
- Preparation for classes in September has had to consider the continued split site provision until October half term. This will need managing with parents and the wider community.

Academy Priorities

Secondary is going to continue as priority 1.

Curriculum

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

- JD explained that Discovery will be at full capacity for 24/25
- Attendance - by the end of this academic year will average at 94% this being above national average
- JD spoke about the international pupil at Discovery – this has allowed much thorough assessment and outside agencies involvement, giving a clearer picture on what is needed for this pupil
- JD spoke about the growth and the impact of the pastoral team
- JD spoke about various educational visits that are planned
- **Foundation Subjects**
- **Wider opportunities**
- AS spoke about possible workshops with Museum artefact in the classroom and the author support project – will send information to CT
- AS spoke about travel industry and aviation project run by Power of women - will send CT the information

Enrichment & Community Engagement

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

- The therapy spaces are well maintained, with visual supports in place.
- The timetable supports the use of the spaces, with flexibility to respond to presenting needs of pupils.
- Group rooms which have been set up as therapy spaces are working well with EYFS and IF classes.

- There are a wide range of resources available to support sensory integration and regulation.
- Therapy spaces are used well to support pupils who are finding it difficult to regulate and are displaying distressed behaviours.
- Various trips and visits into the community have continued across the spring term including London, local library and Young Voices (see website).
- Author visit to the academy allowed secondary students the opportunity to understand this career.
- My Voice Matters has continued, including a session with the Designated Social Care Officer and our local Police Community Support Officer.

Trust Specialisms

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

- The academy has been working closely with several agencies to ensure pupils have good preparation for careers. This has included, since September 2023: sessions from Wendy Gosling from the DWP, talking about what types of employment and volunteering options there are, as well as labour market information; meeting and working with a published author; attending a STEM event "From the Moon to Mars" delivered by Imperial College London and aimed at raising aspirations; a visit from Middlesbrough College who talked about different routes after school, including technical qualifications and apprenticeships; and continued involvement with the Power of Women organisation, including a rigorous application and interview process to select our ambassadors.
- In the last academic year, we also visited Teesside University and delivered a presentation about sustainability, giving our students the opportunity to experience the campus and meet university staff.
- We took part in the TCVA Careers and Enterprise week last year and we are signed up to take part in this again in May.
- Regarding Youth Voice, we have worked with Jennifer Essex of Teesside University to explore how emotion and expression can be channelled through music. We worked with Youth Focus North East last year to complete two community projects to enhance the secondary environment and this year we will start to develop a tool kit around how we can be heard. We have also worked with My Voice Matters to explore ideas around young people with disabilities having agency and a voice within their community.
- The careers programme, Talentino, has been purchased and used as a framework to develop our careers offer in the Year 9+ Curriculum. Further training will be given to relevant staff so that they are confident to deliver this from September.
- We use an online database called Grofar to track our careers activities and this can be used to ensure we are on track to meet the Gatsby Standards. Our website is now updated to include Labour Market Information and, as this is available to parents, it should see us to achieving 100% across all Gatsby Benchmarks when we next assess (this happens each term).

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.

Vulnerable Pupils: Stability & Mobility

- No real mobility concerns.

Attendance, exclusions, and suspensions

- 2 exclusion - one half a day and one full day
- Attendance continues to be incredibly positive at 93.9% (National for SEND 87%). It is above national levels for all schools (93%). All statutory school age year groups are above the national average for special schools. Nursery are marginally below national expectation for SEND, the pastoral team are working with families to develop good attendance habits ahead of Reception.
- PA is also well below national levels for special schools, although we are always working to reduce PA levels.
- No suspensions or exclusions during the reporting period.

Vulnerable Pupils: Dialogue**SEND Needs**

- All pupils (with the exception of one) now have an EHCP. All nursery pupils have completed the assessment process.
- The academy has one child on SEND support. This was agreed as an assessment place for an international new arrival who had not been in a setting for 12 months. This is only while he is in Y6 so a baseline of need can be completed before he transitions to unit provision at secondary.

Pastoral and Welfare.

- The academy continues to offer a wealth of support to children and families.
- The pastoral team has expanded, and this has allowed more targeted support for pupils with SEMH needs.
- Communication with parents and carers continues to be a great strength in the academy with the team contacting and speaking to parents regularly to support them and their children.
- The AHT and Safeguarding, SEND and Inclusion Officer have delivered the Early Bird programme to another cohort of parents and carers, supporting them with understanding strategies and behaviours associated with ASD and SEND.

- Coffee mornings allow parents and carers to speak to the team and each other, with the team sharing information to support them and their children.
- Shopping vouchers, food parcels and food hampers distributed to some of our most vulnerable families.
- Holiday club offered to pupils led by pastoral team.
- The team continue to support parents with referrals and appointments such as specialist dentists, nursing team and continence team.
- The pastoral team have delivered CPD to all staff around Emotional Based School Avoidance.
- The HoA and DHoA work very closely with the LA ensuring all pupils have the best possible opportunities and correct provision, including working with a range of external agencies

6. Community Garden

- CT and KT plan to complete the community garden asap – this will include volunteer day from CPC and Portakabin
- They will provide the man-power to cover the ground area with decking to resolve issue with levelling and flooding

7. Nursery Development

- JD spoke about the opportunity to go and view the Titan Nursery unit in York July 3rd - this will be a permanent build solution as opposed to the lease build currently in place - this version provides more space to allow for sensory and break out areas.

8. Secondary Development

- All secondary school cabins are in place onsite, all tradesman will be on site as from June 17.
- The exit gate will be reinstated week beg 17 June 2024
- PB spoke about how the management of traffic has been very well managed - she noted that she has never been sat in any traffic on the roadside and has always managed to park onsite.

9. Any Other Business

- PB spoke about the various parent courses she's attended which would be suitable for staff, PB will investigate further to look at what's available and appropriate for staff to attend to enhance their knowledge and to enable them to work even closer with parents
- CT will collate this information and pass to the relevant staff and look at inviting guest speakers to coffee mornings

Date of Next Meetings

- TBC