

**Minutes for Chulmleigh Community College Academy Advisory Group**

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2.10pm, Remote Meeting**

Attendees	Position	
Lisa Smith	Director (Chair of AAG)	LS
Clare Wilmott	Parent AAG Advisory Member	CW
Rozz Algar	Parent AAG Advisory Member	RA
Mike Johnson	Executive Head Teacher	MJ
Neil Payne	Deputy Executive Head Teacher	NP
Tracy Pettit	PA to SLT, Minuting	TP

Agenda	Led by
1. Welcome and Apologies	LS
2. Business Interests	LS
3. Previous Minutes	LS
4. Safeguarding Update	NP
5. H&S Update	NP
6. Attendance	MJ
8. Update on Pupils' Progress	NP
9. AOB	Parents
10. Date of next meeting	LS

ITEM	
1	<p><b>Welcome and Apologies</b> No apologies received.</p>
2	<p><b>Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary interests</b> No interests declared.</p>
3	<p><b>Previous Minutes</b> All agreed that the minutes were a true record of the previous meeting (8.2.22) and agreed to accept the minutes, as presented.</p> <p><b>Previous Actions – RA to contact Kidscape Charity and report back to group.</b>  <b>RA</b> – Contacted them and asked Cass to contact the school, not sure if she has done so yet. Usually does with Primary schools.  <b>MJ</b> – Is not aware that we have been contacted yet, though may have come into Admin.  <b>ACTION: RA</b> – Will chase this up.</p>
4	<p><b>Safeguarding Update</b></p> <p><b>NP</b> – Thinks there is still a lot of frustration in N Devon around CAMHS and social care, but will not dwell on that here. Just to share, we are seeing a rising trend in social, emotional, mental health needs. Finding threshold for CAMHS support is very high; school nurse visits once a month, which has made things more difficult. Have started to look within to see what we can do. More staff than ever before are mentoring children. Doing some staff training on Inset days for supporting students in low mood and MH. There has been a pleasing increase of sporting events this term, GM has been active in engaging more pupils in sports, lunchtime activities have increased greatly, trying to get pupils motivated and engaged in activities. Also, we have a campaign on diversity in sports, a big presentation in sports hall, promoting diversity, especially around gender identity, to reduce intimidation of sporting activities and increase accessibility. We are seeing an upsurge in self harm in secondary, not serious/ not needing medical attention.</p>

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**CW** – Asked if there is any trend related to age or pressures in self harm, eg. approaching exams etc?  
**NP** – Replied no, not really. Trend is just very superficial scratching, used to call chicken scratching, more a cry for help behaviour. We are working with pupils on coping strategies. Has been more boys than before, this is noticeable, we are onto this. One of our messages has been about calling it out, not just behaviours but also concerns, things children are worried about, including around friends.

**CW** – Commented she is really interested in this at the moment, particularly around social media and pressure on children. Asked what the school are doing in supporting pupils? CW has been speaking to other parents of children at CC on what pupils are seeing on social media and in relation to happenings at other local schools; asked what are college are doing on this? Knows some children were recently exposed to online filming of some quite physical assaults on other children, was widely seen on social media.

**MJ** – We have had couple of cases this year, one in Winkleigh, filmed well out of school hours. MJ spoke to chair of Winkleigh Youth Club, also to parents of child assaulted and encouraged them to go to police as was quite a serious assault and was being filmed. In response the Youth Club was closed down for a while. Police in the end took no action. This is very difficult as we, and the police, are aware of the person who committed the assault. We are not involved in reporting it.

**CW** – Said that her question is more about things such as what happened at Okehampton College, our children are being exposed to this. Is about how pupils can be supported in relation to such incidents.

**NP** – Mentioned that AE brought in an organisation, Breck Foundation, for presentation to Y7 & Y8 on online safety, including social media filter, grooming. We also cover online safety in lessons; for next academic year intend to get our new Head Boy & Girl team to do some peer mentoring. We are also, hoping to offer more parent workshops advising how to monitor childrens' social media footprint. We can look at doing more here; some gaps came up in our SG audit such as what more we can do to have greater impact to support families and children online. Is quite difficult when socially, although a big county, is a 'small world', hence ripples from Okehampton etc. DSL's in N Devon are talking about how we can coordinate things a bit better. Is definitely in our SG plan around more support for parents.

**RA** – Remarked this will be really useful for parents who use different platforms to their children. Is hard to monitor all childrens' online activities and the different dialogues they use.

**LS** – Agrees. Hearing we are frustrated with external agencies and services, who are not really helping schools, can understand that schools are looking to see what they can do/offer. A parent group/ workshops would be good, asked how these might take place?

**NP** – Replied, possibly online, not sure on logistics of getting lots of parents in? May consult a colleague who has more IT knowhow and can advise us. Think online is probably better.

**LS** – Asked if this could be recorded so parents could access later if cannot attend? This would get as many parents informed as possible, could be a good resource parents can be directed to. LS then referred back to SG, and the increase in self harm, asking if there are any other trends increasing or decreasing?

**NP** – Responded that we are getting more referrals from outside now, picked up by other agencies, so is not just us watching, e.g. GP's referring more. Everything else much same, SEMH and MH.

**MJ** – **ACTION : AUTUMN TERM** – "ORGANISING A TEAMS MEETING WITH PARENTS" – maybe for LMM to do in **September** in terms of school culture, may then have more impact.

**LS** – Commented this would be good, starting off expectations at beginning of academic year.

**MJ** – Added that the live session could have Q&A's.

**NP** – Beforehand we would send out a practical letter/flyer giving parents advice/resource sheet with some links providing them with some support.

**RA** – Wondering if anyone else knows if there are some more parent friendly resources possibly available through DfE or elsewhere? Prevent is thought provoking. Not aware of anything herself.

**CW** – Suggested some of it is about parents educating kids about not leaving their location map on without realising; mentioned on Snapchat they leave streaks on pictures; there are probably lots of things parents don't know about.

**NP** – Agrees this is probably the case. Things from Childrens Society are really good for parents, and NSPCC, can signpost to these websites.

**LS** – Agreed this will be really useful.

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5	<p><b>Health &amp; Safety Update</b></p> <p><b>MJ</b> – Stated there is nothing much to report. Working at the moment to create two new science labs in what was old youth block. Going to tender process. Will be some disruption at end of this term, with contractors. As school has got bigger, we need more labs. 80% chance these works will happen, will be a H&amp;S issue.</p> <p><b>NP</b> – Mentioned we recently had H&amp;S audit, got a really good report from them especially across Science and PE departments.</p> <p><b>LS</b> – Asked - Has Covid gone away?</p> <p><b>MJ</b> – Replied, it is only relevant for attendance now, is not reportable. Is about trying to strike the balance, e.g. Y11's testing. We are trying to downplay it, the impact is less but emotions around it are still high. Attendance in general is still of much concern.</p>
6	<p><b>Attendance – (overall &amp; pupil groups)</b></p> <p><b>MJ</b> - <i>Trends and what we are doing.</i>  Non-attendance is inversely proportional to age of pupils, have not seen this before – currently, Y11 have best attendance, Y7 the worse, is usually the other way round. We have 92.6% in CC, has been declining, now bottomed out. National average is 87%, a real problem. LA have an attendance strategy, really not sure how effective it is.  We have recently sent a letter out to parents re-iterating they will automatically get a penalty notice if take holiday in term time. Contrarily, this was followed by a flurry of applications for holidays!  <b>LA</b> – in terms of their approach  We try to highlight/reward good attendance in school. In N Devon as a whole, attendance is a big concern.</p> <p>Asked for thoughts from AAG on pupils on attendance, maybe a meeting with parents – though felt only parents of good attenders would come anyway? Is about improving culture of school around attendance. Have appointed LMM, from September she will take on attendance and developing school culture. Looking for her to be DSL and building around cultural things, social media and attendance. Feels we have gone back 20 years, no clear national policy on attendance. Grateful for any ideas on this.</p> <p><b>CW</b> – Referred back to an idea of MJ earlier this week, felt it was good - about culture around attendance and instilling this early on, as not all Primaries locally work on this.</p> <p><b>RA</b> – Wonders if around this culture, will be a lot related to family circumstances. Is there any way we can create more of a parent and child community, realise is difficult for us with pupils coming in on buses and being so rural? Asked MJ if he could come up with some sort of community activity that could be done? <b>ACTION</b> : <b>MJ</b> - "PARENT ENGAGEMENT IDEAS FOR ATTENDANCE"</p> <p><b>LS</b> – Asked what the consequences are for pupils not attending?  <b>MJ</b> – Replied it is the responsibility of parents, there can be legal consequences eventually. Starts with meetings, then process of three letters, then a legal meeting with EWO – parents are invited, can eventually be followed by a penalty notice, then potentially a court case.  <b>LS</b> – Feels this procedure is 'a lot of stick and not a lot of carrot'. Could there not be more carrot/ incentive for pupils/parents if they have engaged more positively? Suggested making it clear at beginning of an academic year what expectations are to encourage attendance, make it a less punitive process?  <b>MJ</b> – Felt this was a good point – will take this away <i>for next Agenda</i>. We have fortnightly meetings with our EWO at which we talk about trends and where problems are rather than turnarounds. Maybe we could look at it differently. <b>ACTION</b> : <b>MJ</b> - "POSSIBLE INCENTIVES FOR IMPROVING ATTENDANCE".</p> <p><b>LS</b> – Feels it would be good to take some opportunity to explore this.  <b>RA</b> – Suggested perhaps some buddying peer pressure to encourage classmates to come in.</p>
8	<p><b>Update on Pupil Progress</b></p> <p><b>NP</b> – We are at culmination GCSE's, finish a week on Thursday. We are optimistic on results. This year group came in below national average on attainment from SAT's, but have made good progress all way through, despite disruption of Covid. Had encouraging mocks, even if hit some of those projections we will be well above national average, improving on last 7 years of high results.</p>

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	<p>Across the board, referring to MJ's point on attendance :</p> <p>We are looking at <i>Y7 &amp; Y8</i> - attendance and attainment. Examining attainments in each term, having a good look at this and making sure there is the stretch; also, looking at the least able having positive role models. In most recent round of Lesson Observations we were focusing on formative assessment to plan lessons, making sure we are stretching the upper ends so as not to stand still and to maximise progress. Want a sharper picture of these years at end of their year.</p> <p><i>Y10</i> cohort, fractionally above national average, think their results will be very good. Still have huge benefit of good teaching staff who know exam boards well and have good discipline and behaviour.</p> <p><b>LS</b> – Asked if we will line up some good publicity for these results?</p> <p><b>MJ</b> – Has been nuanced, been in touch with BBC, will see if they can come in on results day. Will keep it modest, say they have done really well on their own merits, not despite anything else; qualify it but not compare ourselves with anyone else.</p>
9	<p><b>AOB</b> –</p> <p><b>RA</b> – Asked to arrange to come in and speak to some <i>Y10</i>'s, for preparing their prospectus at PETROC.</p> <p><b>MJ</b> – Replied this will be fine, if RA can send request to MJ.</p>
10	<p><b>Date of next meeting:</b> Autumn Term - tbc</p> <p>Agenda: To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent engagement ideas for Attendance - <b>MJ</b></li> <li>• Possible Incentives for improving Attendance - <b>MJ</b></li> </ul>

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