

SOUTH MOLTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Governing Body

Curriculum Committee Minutes					
Date/ Time		20 February 2017 5pm			
Location		Classroom 2			
Minutes to		Governing Body			
Committee members	Initials	Notes	Apologies	Initials	Reason (Category of Governor)
Andrew Redpath	AR		Lorna Carter	LC	
Wendy Rickard	WR				
Sarah Robinson	SR		Absent without Apology	Initials	
Arthur Symons	AS				
Ellen Vernon	EV	Chair	To Attend	Initials	Role
Andrew Finney	AF	Principal	David Lewis	DL	Vice Principal

	Agenda Item	Action
1	Apologies	
	LC SR – expected at 5.30pm	
2	Declaration of interests	
	SR – parent EV – North Devon Council employee, parent AR – occasional work for schools within Devon WR – parent	
3	Approval of Minutes of 14 November 2016	
	Agreed subject to minor amends. EV to amend as agreed and forward to the clerk.	EV
4	Matters Arising	
	Any matters captured within agenda	
5	Cycle of Business (as per Terms of Reference)	
5a	Term Dates for 2017/18 AF circulated proposed dates, with Non Pupil and Occasional Holidays dates. These are proposed to tag onto Devon's school holidays. Governors queried whether feeder schools were comfortable with these; AF confirmed they were. Proposed by AR and seconded by AS. 2018/19 term dates to come to Curriculum committee in autumn 2017.	
5b	New Timetable and Options	
	New timetable will be determined by final Year 9 options; process still in train	

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albeit near completion.

DL and AF suggested continuation of the strategy to commence the new academic year after the May half term. Year 11's have completed exams and Year 7's yet to arrive. This strategy enables Year 9's (becoming Year 10's) to start their GCSE subjects. There is invariably some switching as students realise some subjects are not for them. This enables switching to occur by September.

There is a longer term plan to use the time after the May half term to undertake more liaison with the feeder primaries.

DL gave an update briefing with regard to the current year 9 options process. Year 9's are currently handing in their preferred options against the blocks (which were derived from the 'straw poll' process in December). DL circulated detailed information on the process that had been undertaken and the straw poll results. Philosophy and Beliefs had a low selection; History was high. WR queried at what point the change to the music curriculum had been decided, and could students switch if the new curriculum was more attractive to them. DL and AF advised that the music curriculum had changed as the previous version had a large proportion of theory and required high playing skills (Grade 5), and confirmed that students could change if desired.

WR noted that 8 pupils had selected D&T (design and technology) and queried whether 8 was sufficient to enable this course to run. DL advised that this curriculum had also altered, and was now likely to be the VCert D&T & Craft, which would include product design. This would likely attract a few more students and therefore be viable to run.

DL advised that the preferred minimum class size is 15, but classes as low as 10 can run on the basis that other classes (eg geography, history) are bigger.

Science – there is expected to be one class for the 3 sciences option. AF highlighted a challenge in that if any late joiners to SMCC were higher ability and wished to take the 3 sciences option this may not be possible. Governors queried what would occur in such a scenario, and DL advised that he would then consult with the science staff to see how they felt about any additional pupils. Those selecting the 3 sciences were higher ability so larger class numbers would hopefully be able to be accommodated.

Overall DL advised that 85% of the students had their preferred 4 choices.

Governors queried which students were within the 15% who hadn't got their 4 choices. DL advised there were some SEN students who were struggling with selecting an option from block C, as there were mainly EBACC subjects in this block. This was recognised as needing solving, parents had contacted DL and he was looking at addressing this.

AR picked up the points about MFL that had been debated during the last Curriculum committee, and in particular wished to understand the specific reasons AF/DL felt meant pupils had to select one MFL only at Year 8. AF advised that some additional subjects have been offered after school in

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	<p>lesson 6. WR was concerned that opportunities for students were not clear, and that students with articulate parents who were more likely to approach the school with concerns were favoured. DL advised that he had asked the MFL staff whether they would be prepared to run additional classes after school, but only 1 of the 3 staff was prepared to do so.</p> <p>AR mentioned that the SMCC website stated that 2 MFL languages were offered, but actually only one was. SMCC needed to be honest with parents and prospective parents about what was offered. EV advised that when chatting to Ian Jones (ref IAG) they had discussed this as 1 MFL only could be limiting if MFL wished to be pursued at HE level.</p> <p>Two languages are taught at SMCC, French and German. DL advised that the MFL teams felt that the new curriculum required 5 lessons per fortnight per language at KS3 to be taught effectively. Currently only 5 per fortnight is scheduled for MFL in total (ie for both French and German).</p> <p>SR suggested the move to 5 lessons/day may not have been the right one and perhaps SMCC should return to 6 lessons/day. Governors suggested half hour lessons to enable the frequency that MFL study required, and also queried whether the new build presented any opportunities (ie ability to move staff/pupils more quickly and so deliver ½ hour lessons).</p> <p>It was agreed that this issue needed further exploration. AF to consult with parents as the appetite to do 2 MFL needs to be understood. AF also to ask Diane Dimond and Ian Jones about data relating to the number of SMCC students doing MFL at FE level. AF to ensure website is updated.</p>	AF
6	Review of Policies	
	<p>Philip Govier, Co Chair, had provided a list which suggested which policies aligned to Curriculum and T&L committees.</p> <p>The committee ran through the list identifying which policies aligned to Curriculum and which to T&L, which staff member and governor would take responsibility for review of each policy, and in addition identified policies that could be amalgamated and documents not felt to be policies at all.</p> <p>EV to update list as discussed and agreed and circulate for information.</p>	EV
7	Curriculum Reports or Updates (attached where available)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IAG <p>EV gave a brief overview of discussion with Ian Jones in autumn term. All appears on track.</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding <p>WR provided a report. Self harm levels remained a concern. SMCC has external training scheduled for later in the term. DL expanded on CPOMS.</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community/Parent links <p>SR advised she would look at this in more detail with a view to reporting to the May Curriculum committee meeting.</p>	SR
8	<p>Curriculum Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MFL <p>Discussed under item 5b above.</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended Projects Kayleigh Allin was leading this, as the Gifted & Talented lead at SMCC. Aiming for September 2017 start. There was an expectation this might suit around 30 pupils at SMCC, who are able to work under own steam with guidance. Self motivation is required. Governors discussed different scenarios – after school, summer holidays. Both AQA and OCR provide these. Points can be used towards UCAS. Flexibility regarding the topic selected. It was suggested Kayleigh Allin attended a future Curriculum Committee meeting to discuss. • ECDL This had been offered to all year 11 pupils, whereby they could take the exam over 3 days post GCSE’s in summer 2017. Of 120 pupils in year 11 c.50 had requested to do this. Governors agreed this was extremely positive for the school and students. • VCert DL explained VCert. These are similar to BTEC, i.e. more vocational in Nature. SMCC was looking into the Health & Social Care VCert, which could be offered within options block C (so providing a further option for those SEN students who had struggled to select from block C). DL highlighted that there was a high level of project work required, these were not ‘easy options’. There is flexibility however in that modules are graded differently, which enables recognition of strengths. • IAG EV advised that during her discussion with Ian Jones about IAG he had raised concerns that Prep 4 Working Life would be delivered through collapsed timetable days only, and using a range of different teaching staff. DL confirmed that he was exploring different ways of delivering this with IJ. AF advised that Adam Potter, Miss Titmus and Ian Jones together would be delivering enterprise/skills/careers elements of the curriculum. WR queried what the impact was from the Skills lessons that had been delivered. It was agreed to invite these staff to a future Curriculum meeting to discuss in more detail. 	<p style="text-align: center;">AF/DL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chair</p>
9	Governor Visits	
	SR thought she had forwarded thoughts on this. SR to check.	SR
11	Business brought forward by the direction of the Chair	
	None Meeting closed 7:30	
12	Confirm the dates of the next meetings: 5pm 8th May 2017	