

Colyton Grammar School

Minutes of the Admissions, Learning and Standards Committee – Part One

Date of Meeting: Thursday 2 October 2014

Venue: Headteacher's Office

Present:

Governors	Dr C Bastin, Mrs S Burns-Price, Mr G Davis, Mr P Evans, Mr G Hayne, Mrs S Hopkins, Mrs L Linnell, Mr M Marsh, Mr B Merrett (by conference call), Mr B Salter, Mr R Scott, Mrs V Wells and Mrs F H Wilkinson
Staff	Mr A Gregson and Mr R Stidwell
Visitors	None
Secretary	Mr S Cook

Mr Cook took the chair for Items 1 and 2.

1. Disclosure of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

2. Election of Chair

Proposed by Mrs Hopkins, seconded by Mrs Burns-Price and unanimously agreed that Mr R Scott be elected Chair for the academic year 2014/15.

3. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr P Anderson, Rev H Dawson, Mr A Eaton-Hart and Mrs M Williams.

4. Election of Vice Chair

Deferred until the next meeting.

5. Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 8 June 2014

Deferred to the next meeting.

6. Proposal To Change 11+ Test Providers from GL Assessment to CEM

Mr Evans drew the attention of the Committee to the paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

He focused on the following:

- The frequently expressed concern regarding coaching, and the indication that the CEM test is less likely to be susceptible to coaching
- The robust approach by CEM to companies and individuals who attempt to provide unofficial coaching materials for the test
- The balance of the different elements of the test, which means that students who stumble over one type of question are less likely to react negatively to the paper, as there will be questions of a different type later in the same paper
- The poor correlation between the current GL tests and GCSE outcomes, against the view of schools already taking the CEM test that they are offering places to the correct students
- The proposal to retain the creative writing test for at least the first year, but the removal of the technical task as this is covered within the CEM test
- The benefit of clarity regarding the 135 on the eligible list, rather than the current A and B Categories
- The loss of the familiarisation day
- The removal of the need to name the test provider in the Admissions Policy

- Possible changes to the Admissions Code that will move the registration date for the common application system to 30 November, making it possible to delay the test slightly in future years

In response to Mr Marsh, Mr Evans indicated that the audio track of instructions has been received positively by other CEM schools, as it leads to consistent instructions and timings.

In response to Mrs Hopkins, Mr Evans indicated that it is very difficult to quantify the benefit of the Familiarisation Day, but recognised that its loss will need to be communicated carefully to parents.

In response to Dr Bastin, Mr Evans indicated that it is difficult to see the proposed changes having any impact on the number of appeals.

In response to Mrs Burns-Price, Mr Evans confirmed that the data analysis carried out by CEM will be based on the age and gender profile of all the students in the Torbay/Colyton consortium, to ensure appropriate standardisation.

Mr Cook read out a series of written comments submitted by Mr Eaton-Hart who was unfortunately not able to be present at the meeting. In response, Mr Evans confirmed that the weighting given to the extended writing paper will be considered in discussion with CEM, following the marking of the test, to ensure the outcomes are based as firmly as possible on secure, research-based testing. He also indicated that the new arrangements will be simpler to understand as they will be based on a rank order, with the top 135 being on the eligible list, rather than the current lack of clarity for children with Category B scores.

In response to Mr Merrett, Mr Evans indicated that any impact from the better correlation between the CEM scores and GCSE outcomes is likely to be positive.

In response to Mrs Hopkins, Mr Evans confirmed that children applying to both Colyton and one or more Torbay schools, will take only one test which will be marked centrally, standardised on a consortium-wide basis, and then the scores and other results compiled according to individual school's requirements. Parents will not be informed of their rank order.

In response to Mrs Wilkinson, Mr Evans confirmed that an additional sentence will be included in the results letter to the top 124 indicating that they are likely to gain a place.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Mrs Wells seconded by Dr Bastin and unanimously agreed that the provider of the 11+ tests for entry in September 2016 should be CEM.

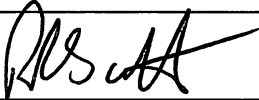
7. Any Other Business

(a) Draft Admissions Policy

Mr Evans circulated a provisional draft of the Admissions Policy, but indicated that this will need further revision following the anticipated change to the Admissions Code by the Secretary of State. The final draft will be considered at the next meeting of the Admissions, Learning and Standards Committee.

8. Next Meeting

Thursday 6 November 2014 at 6.30pm.

Signed:		(Chairman of Committee)
Date:	6.11.2014	