

Minutes – HVA Academy Council Meeting

Meeting Date: 8th July 2025
Location: HVA
Time: 17.30
Chair: Kathryn Volk
Attendees: Hannah Cooke
 Paul Lovely
 Russell Mogg
 Della Hall
In attendance: Susie Weaver
Principal: Craig Jones
Clerk: Jacqueline Friday

Minutes

		Action
1	Introduction, Administration and Apologies	
1.1	The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.	
2	Declarations of Interest	
2.1	There were no new declarations of interest.	
3	Minutes of Previous Meeting	
3.1	The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.	
3.2	The PGL risk assessment has been delayed. Y6 team leader and principal to visit the site before the end of term.	
4	Academy Report	
4.1	The academy report was circulated prior to the meeting.	
	<i>Quality of Education</i>	
4.2	<p>The meeting discussed the recent Ofsted inspection and assessment outcomes. Key points were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality of Education is outstanding The response to the inspection has generally been very positive HVA will continue working with Voice 21 regarding improvements in oracy as part of the AIP. Teaching drop ins have been conducted post Ofsted to ensure recommendations are being implemented throughout the academy. 	
4.3	<p>Has feedback been communicated to staff? Yes. Feedback to staff has been completed. There will also be a T&L summary and review for staff including those leaving at the end of term.</p>	
4.4	<p>Is the LA moderation annual? No. HVA was sampled probably because it has not been sampled for a few years and has a high number of ECT teachers.</p>	
4.4	<p>Is there moderation across year groups within HVA? Yes. This was completed two weeks ago.</p>	

4.6	<p>Moving forward is oracy still going to be a focus or will there be a focus on other areas?</p> <p>We have reached a high standard in oracy and will continue to maintain this. HVA is staying with Voice 21 to continue to maintain oracy standards.</p>	
	SW arrived at the meeting at 17.57	
4.7	<p>The meeting discussed the statutory data outcomes. Key points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reception GLD PP 100% • Weaker attainment in Y3 Maths • Writing weaknesses in Y5 <p>Areas of development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing for all • Year 1 phonics – administration • Year 3 maths • Pe teaching 	
4.8	<p>Can the reception GLD PP result be maintained for Y1 phonics screening?</p> <p>Hopefully it will follow through. Pupils in the demographic may suffer interruption in learning, and there is a reliance on sustained practice at home. A further challenge will be maintaining the high level of teaching – there will be a new teacher in Y1 next academic year.</p>	
4.9	<p>Has the family links coursework had any impact on attainment?</p> <p>Some of the work on the family links course will have helped but there are ongoing challenges. Seems to have impacted on behaviour in class.</p>	
4.10	<p>Following the Year1 phonics outcomes will the cohort be having a new teacher next year?</p> <p>No. They will be having an existing teacher. Support for the teacher and the team was validated by the moderator of all ECT</p>	
4.11	<p>Why has the Year 6 end of year data decreased?</p> <p>Unsure at the moment – data only released today. PP reading results are good and align with our focus/mission. Writing is also a strong result; PP is aligned with expectations. Focus for next year will be on authorial voice and a broader thread in writing across the school – writing for a reader, creative writing rather than technical.</p>	
4.12	<p>Will these objectives start earlier next year in Y5 and Y6?</p> <p>We will implement these strategies in all years – ensuring all pupils know how to be a high performing GDS writer.</p>	
4.13	<p>What was the GDS for PP pupils in writing?</p> <p>Zero. National for higher standard all children is 13 PP is 6.</p>	
4.14	<p>Are the results shared with all parents?</p> <p>Results are sent out with the end of year reports.</p>	
4.15	<p>Were PP mock results close to the actual results?</p> <p>They were the closest to the best we could have achieved. Other schools still have a higher PP crossover than HVA. There is a healthy degree of competition and strength of resources and learning across the Trust.</p>	
4.16	<p><i>Summary:</i></p> <p>These are the school’s best ever results but there are areas in which we were a little disappointed with the results. The team has done exceptionally well and the cohort are working at a very high standard.</p> <p>The meeting congratulated the principal and all colleagues on achieving the school’s best ever results.</p>	
	<i>Non-Statutory Data</i>	

4.17	The meeting discussed outcome data from all other years. 25/26 AIP – plan to reflect strength in learning partner expertise in teaching and accelerate expertise of ECTs.	
4.18	Year 3 are weaker in Maths – why is that? This is an area for discussion/improvement. The data has been retrieved and the school is revisiting teaching and learning in this area. ACTION – Maths lead to be invited to attend the next meeting.	Principal
4.19	On what basis is the PE Lead being recruited? They have been recruited to teach PE and support PE teaching. Work with SPLITS has also been confirmed.	
	<i>Behaviour and Attitudes</i>	
4.20	The meeting noted the positive comments in the Ofsted report. ACTION – Visitor book to be opened to record positive comments.	Principal
	<i>Attendance</i>	
4.21	The meeting discussed the most up to date attendance data as provided by the attendance lead. There will be a change of attendance lead from the next academic year. How will the new attendance lead balance this against their teaching duties – will they spend more time out of class? No. They will use their existing time out of class. It will be a change of use of that time; the principal will monitor and review the impact of this change.	
	<i>Exclusions and Suspension</i>	
4.22	The meeting discussed options available to the academy should any pupils be at risk of suspension or exclusion, including the use of alternative provision.	
	<i>Community News</i>	
4.23	The meeting noted that a successful walk had been recently undertaken in support of the Weston Hospice. Do pupils have an awareness of value of a hospice and what it offers a community? An assembly is held followed by a team talk with pupils. The academy supports ‘model’ charities but also asks pupils to suggest charities to discuss and/or support during the academic year.	
	<i>Budget</i>	
4.24	The meeting noted that the academy has decided to change its swimming provider from next academic year. Why the move – is there an increased cost? The pupils will benefit from an increased amount of swimming (longer session) at no greater cost. There were concerns regarding quality of teaching and the short length of the session – a T&L review was undertaken by HVA staff prior to the decision to move provider. The current provision refused to share its risk assessment – this has been escalated to the local authority.	
4.24	Do you use both pools at the current provider? Yes. When we change provider we will have exclusive use of the pools – it will effectively be a private session.	
	How will the longer session and longer journey impact on the teaching curriculum? It will impact on curriculum time, but a thorough review was conducted, and the decision has been made that we need to find a new swimming provision. Other schools in the area use the new provider and provided good feedback so it is in the interests of our pupils.	
	<i>Leadership</i>	
4.26	Changes to staffing for next academic year were noted. There will be four ECTs next year who will be monitored and supported by an experience member of staff.	

	<p>Will that be different to having a mentor? The meeting discussed how the new arrangement will work in principle next year; this is a new position for all concerned.</p>	
	<i>Quality Marks/Awards</i>	
4.27	HVA has applied for the Primary Science Quality Mark. An Artsmark Platinum submission is also being prepared.	
	18.40 - HC left the meeting.	
4.28	<p>The meeting discussed HVA's investment in the community and extending use of facilities to local community</p> <p>With regards to the community space have lessons been learned in who is running that area?</p> <p>The academy is exploring how its space can best be used for the community and who would run facilities if we open them up to the community. The academy wishes to increase its community work as there are currently very few services in the local area. Aim is to be the school of choice for all the community, including children who do not attend HVA pre-school.</p>	
4.29	<p>The school is promoting greater self-agency for pupils in the curriculum; increased pupil 'ownership' of school, writing for a reason, HVA citizens' certificate.</p> <p>Is there a school council?</p> <p>Yes. The principal acknowledged the school council could be used more effectively i.e. increased voting/collective responsibility to provide a greater pupil voice. Pupils are already involved in committees/interviews.</p>	
4.30	H&S Councillor suggested greater pupil involvement in H&S to improve pupils' knowledge of H&S inside and outside the school environment.	
5	Policies	
5.1	Attendance, C&R and DP and Online Safety uploaded onto Governor Hub. Councillors asked to mark policies as signed. Need five signatories for policies to be determined.	
6	Matters Arising	
6.1	<p>What is going to be the impact of families moving onto free lunch? If a family receives benefits they can apply for PP funding?</p> <p>The meeting discussed the difference between universal free school meals (available to all pupils up to the end of year 2) and free school meals, how and when families can apply for free school meals and the role of family support workers in encouraging families to apply for free school meals.</p>	
7	Any Other Business	
7.1	There was no other business.	
8	Date of Next Meeting	
8.1	The meeting closed at 19.13. Date of next meeting TBC.	

ACTIONS

4.18	<u>ACTION – Maths lead to be invited to attend the next meeting.</u>	Principal
4.20	<u>ACTION – Visitor book to be opened to record positive comments.</u>	Principal