

KGGS Governors visit form. Please complete and return to the clerk to governors

Link Governor	Mark Shardlow		
Faculty / Member of staff Visited	Humanities Faculty Mr L Cowlard	Date	23/02/2018
Purpose of Visit	Link Governor Visit - Introduction		

I went to visit Lyndon Cowlard, Head of Humanities, on Friday 23rd February 2018. I have just been appointed Link Governor for Humanities, so the visit was to introduce myself and get a general introduction to the faculty.

Mr Cowlard told me his team covers Geography, History, RE, Sociology at GCSE and Psychology at A level.

I asked him where he thought the faculty was at the moment. Mr Cowlard explained that he'd been at the school for around 17 years and is really positive about the state of Humanities at KG. He's proud of what they achieve and also proud of the wider school. He believes Humanities have some of the best results in school and that they're the more popular A level choices. He feels there's particular strength in Geography and History, with RE(where fewer hours are taught) not far behind. He felt the weakest area was Psychology A level where he hopes to see an improvement.

I asked him about issues and resources. He felt, given the situation in education, his faculty was reasonably resourced. He had concern over class sizes, particularly at A level, but understood the budget constraints that KG and other schools have to work with. In an ideal world, A Level classes would be around 24. Again, in the perfect world, he would have another classroom and support. But overall was happy.

I asked about staffing. Mr Cowlard was very happy with his team, a mixture of experienced teachers and new, younger teachers bringing in fresh ideas. He believes it is a good mix. He says it is a challenge to the timetable having a number of part-time staff, but he really values what they bring to the team. He showed me how results are tracked and how both subject areas and teachers are monitored. He felt he had good, challenging regular meetings with the Head to review the faculty.

I asked if there's anything we as a Governing body could do to make life better. Mr Cowlard feels KG is a very well run school with outstanding pupils. He has a medium term concern which he expressed about school leadership. He was full of praise for Mr Scott and Mrs Lennie and believes they are leading the school to excellence. He feels, as a Governing body, we should be concerned with succession. He is concerned, a few years down the line, that both may leave the school at a similar time. Having experience life under other regimes at KG he believes the senior leadership team are the absolute key to excellence and stability.

Overall, I was impressed with the Mr Cowlard's enthusiasm and passion for both his subject and the wider school. He was honest and open and clearly values both his staff in humanities and the senior leadership team.

Signed: Mark Shardlow Date: Friday 23rd February 2018