

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

Link Governor	Diane Watson		
Faculty / Member of staff Visited	Romana Kealy English Faculty	Date	1 st March 2016
Purpose of Visit	Routine contact visit and Faculty update		
	Romana made me very welcome in the staff room and we discussed in general how things were going with staff and students? Romana feels that the Faculty is in good shape. It has a full staffing complement with new staff settling in pretty well. Students are working hard and seem generally quite settled.		
Question asked	What are the current challenges facing the faculty?		
Response The key challenge has been curriculum change and the new examination structure at KS4 and A level. Romana took me through the new exam framework and we examined the KS4 and A level exam results for 2015. I had copies of the curriculum outlines from the intranet along with exam statistics for 2014 and 2015 which proved useful in discussion. In addition Romana gave me outlines for AS & A level components and assessment. We discussed the challenges presented by significant changes to course texts and assessment components as well as by the large numbers of students studying English. Romana also outlined for me the role of the 'Nurture Group' in Year7, which provides extra support and motivation to students who find the subject difficult, as well as the additional support for under achievers in Year11. Curriculum change and new assessment has proved to be a huge challenge but the Faculty is making progress.			
Question asked	What are they key things you are trying to develop through your leadership of the Faculty?		
Response Romana reflected on how such widespread and significant changes have posed challenges for all staff in terms of time and ability to prioritise and keep on top of schedules. There is always a problem of finding time to meet up and just 'talk' through developments and staff concerns. The Faculty is now well placed with staffing levels but there are new members of staff who require more support. Romana feels that the Faculty is well run and well organised and every attempt is made to 'forward plan' and mitigate stress. There are new members of staff who have arrived from different school cultures who would appreciate more shared resources in electronic form to which they have been accustomed to. E resources are a weakness in the Faculty which must be addressed in the short term. Regular 'pop ins' allow for Quality Assurance at school level.			
Question asked	I asked whether it would be possible to sit in on a lesson at some point		
Response Romana is going to look into the possibility of my observing some lessons in Term 6 of this year.			
Question asked	Romana asked whether I would like to accompany the girls on future theatre trips which would give the opportunity to speak to the girls and staff in a more informal setting. If diaries make this possible I would like to participate in this way.		

How did the visit go? What did you learn? What were your impressions?

This was another interesting visit and another opportunity to learn more about the work of the English Faculty and the performance of students. Thanks to Romana for making me welcome in her busy schedule.

Diane Watson 1/3/2016

