

**HEXHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL AND QUEEN ELIZABETH HIGH SCHOOL HARD FEDERATION**

**GOVERNING BODY MINUTES SPRING TERM 2016**

**MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20 JANUARY AT 6:30PM –  
F6, HEXHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**PRESENT:** Mr Simon Kitchman  
Mrs Sandra Thompson  
Mr Tony Brown  
Mr Graeme Atkins (Executive Headteacher)  
Mr Jonathan Holmes  
Mrs Barbara Hignett  
Mr Patrick Ferguson  
Mr David Hartland  
Ms Sarah Kemp  
Mrs Jo Grey

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mr Andy Byers (Head of School - Associate Member)  
Mrs Judith Minto (Head of School - Associate Member)  
Ms Sarah Sparke (Federation Business Manager, clerking)

**PART 1 (CLASSIFIED NON-CONFIDENTIAL)**

**Items discussed under Part 1 of this agenda will not be classified as confidential: consequently the minutes and supporting documents should be made available to any person wishing to inspect them.**

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Judith Minto (for Part 1 only).

**2. Declaration of personal or pecuniary interest in any agenda item**

Governors declared that they had no pecuniary interest in any item on the agenda.

**3. Curriculum**

6:40pm Sarah Kemp joined the meeting.

Governors discussed the two proposed changes:

- i. Changing period length from 60 minutes to 50 minutes.

It was noted that this could result in there being an additional burden on

teachers due to more lesson planning. AB acknowledged this and advised that feedback from Curriculum Leaders had been mixed, although no subsequent feedback had been received. Benefits are for all students through reducing exam pressure.

Governors agreed that 50 minute lessons could be implemented as an operational decision by management.

ii. Reducing the number of options from four to three

JH expressed concern over the breadth of arts subjects and the time allocations for some subjects. AB explained that over Years 9-11 the difference in time allocation was only 10 minutes per week on average, although there are bigger differences in some year groups.

Governors discussed a mixed approach for different ability students, but this was rejected as it becomes a streaming model, which is worse on average for a given cohort.

SKi asked whether Year 9 could continue to have four options. Governors discussed the merits of this approach, considering the impact on those students and on EBacc, second language choice and middle school students, including those out of catchment.

On the basis of a majority decision, governors agreed that the number of options should reduce from four to three for Years 9-11.

#### 4. Any Other Business

No other business was discussed.

Part 1 of the meeting was concluded at 7:45pm.

Governors moved to Part 2 of the agenda.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Chair**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Date**