

OPHTA

Minutes of the OPHTA meeting held at SS Philip and James on Thursday 20th November 2012. Start 13:15

Present: Peter Cansell,(PC) Chair; Helen Atkinson(HA) West Oxford; Sandra North (SN) Didcot; Irene Conway (IC), North Oxford; Keith Ponsford (KP) Vice-Chair.

Apologies: Catherine Page (Henley), Margaret Wolf (Abingdon), Huw Morgan (Kidlington), Nilofer Khan (Wallingford), Val Lucas (Woodstock).

1. The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record.
2. Matters arising:

PC has circulated an explanation of OPHTA'S role to all schools with an invoice for the year. This has been facilitated eventually by John Mitchell at OCC, who hopes he will be able to make it easier in the future.

Two partnerships have initially declined the offer for OPHTA representatives to attend their partnership meetings assuming that valuable meeting time would be lost. PC explained that the role of the OPHTA representatives was to gather information, it is to be hoped that invitations will be extended again.

Headington, Wheatley and Didcot partnerships have invited an OPHTA representative to attend their next meeting.

IC reported that the account linked to Hanwell Fields School had not been transferred as communications had been difficult. PC will contact the bank.

IC will prepare a time-sheet template for PC and KP.

PC will meet Adam Arnell, from OTSA, will on 08.12.2014

PC has successfully negotiated a significant discount for Headlines and will contact the Key to try to negotiate an advantageous rate for OPHTA.

PC has had an informal meeting with Margaret Dennison, interim Education Officer. The topic Of fair-access panels for Primary Schools was discussed and Neil Darlington will report back to PC. It has been agreed to reinstate regular meetings with the 3 Associations

3. Reports from panels and committees.

SN reported that she had attended the EY committee meeting. Schools are slow taking up the opportunity to admit two-year-pupils. The unspent capital funding will be carried forward although there was concern that trajectory funding will be lost if not claimed and sends the wrong message to the politicians.

Settings with two-year-old pupils falling into a category will have the two-year-old pupils removed immediately. The difficulties of this strategy were discussed.

£300.00 Pupil Premium funding will be directed to settings for appropriate pupils.

The importance of the Forum was emphasised, OPHTA is not entitled to a representative on this body, but three separate Primary headteachers attend.

PC has attended an S.O.S.G. Meeting, two new SEN settings will open in Oxfordshire and two will close in response to specific pupil needs. The Banbury Academy is being highly selective with admissions and this is causing real problems. The school transport proposal will be put into place. The number of Primary Schools in Oxfordshire which are academies still only stands at 20%, despite the numerous forced conversions.

The University Technical College in Harwell is taking pupils (14-19 years) from all over Oxfordshire and is apparently popular with parents, but it is felt that the aggressive marketing campaigns of some of these free schools and academies do not always give parents all the information they need to make an informed choice.

In 2016 a new two-form Primary School will open in Didcot. The school will grow 'bottom-up.' A second Primary school will open in Didcot in 2018, with a new Secondary School opening in 2017.

PC has also attended a SCITT board meeting. Turnfurlong Infant School , Buckinghamshire, has been dedesignated as a teaching school, which has thrown the migration of the Oxon & Bucks SCITT into disarray. There are currently a very small number of students being trained through this means in Oxfordshire, which could have significant impact on the supply of Primary teachers in future years, especially as the government is keen to reduce the numbers training in HE institutions, which means that Oxford Brookes will be offered a smaller allocation of places.

4. It was felt that the new 'Food with Thought' menu was considered ridiculous, but it is understood that the chef who designed it has now left and it is being reviewed.
5. There has been no further information received about the allocation of School Nurses in Primary Schools, but reports suggest that the situation has been recovered.
6. Schools are reminded that 'Headlines' (a daily digest of education news) is available for £100.00 through OPHTA (a saving of £150), once they have paid their membership fees.
7. .PC reported that schools were losing Pupil Premium funding as parents were not claiming FSM because of the Universal Infant Meals programme in KS1. Some schools are offering considerable inducements (covered by pupil premium money) to overcome this and encourage take-up of FSM by parents that qualify.

Assessment will be the focus of the next meeting.

IC and the staff at Phil & Jim were thanked for their hospitality especially the excellent sandwiches and cake, once again

Date of the next meeting: Wednesday 11th January 2015 at SS Philip and James, start 1300, with refreshments.

The meeting finished at 1500.