



Aquinas College
Teaching and Learning Committee

Date: 14 June 2022

Time: 4.30pm

Venue: College

Governors Present

Dr P Beatty, Miss M Braithwaite, Mr B Hickey, Mr G Hynes, Miss T Prempeh, Mr M Quinney, Dr A Smith, Mr M Taylor and Mr D Pearson.

In Attendance:

Mr A Bailey	Vice Principal
Miss C Phillips	Assistant Principal – Curriculum & Quality
Mr T Conlon	Clerk to the Governors

Dr A Smith in the Chair.

1. Opening Prayer

The meeting began with a prayer led by Dr Smith.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Mr R Harris and Mr A Martin.

3. Declaration of Interests

Governors and Staff were asked to declare any interest, which they may have in any of the items on the Agenda for this meeting. No interests were declared.

4. Committee Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2022 copies of which had been circulated previously were approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

5. Matters Arising from The Committee Minutes

There were no matters arising that were not covered by the agenda for the meeting.

6. In Year Progress

Ms Phillips introduced a paper that had been circulated to all Governors prior to the meeting. The papers covered the Improvement Standards Group Panel Meetings Overview for the period October 2021 to April 2022. The paper showed a) the focus for October 2022, b) the results of the March/April 2022 panel meetings, c) evidence impact and d) the next steps and good practice sharing. The paper also showed which departments were above average on 2019 Level 3 value added measure 2019 and those that were below average on 2019 Level 3 value added measure.

The subjects where there is some concern due to staffing issues are A level History and BTEC Public Services. Governors noted that 8 out of the 17 departments have had a new Head of Department since the 2019 results.

Ms Phillips advised Governors that the college had approached the Quality Cycle in a different way this year. It had focussed on the learning experience of students both in and out of the classroom. A review of learning had focussed on classroom practice, learning and progress cycle. The Heads of Department take the lead on learning, teaching and assessment across their area of responsibility. The college had looked back at the 2019 outcomes and the aim is for each student to have an outstanding learning experience.

Dr Beatty asked how is this measured. Ms Phillips replied that it is measured through results, learner voice, students work, teacher reflections and lesson observations. Mr Pearson added that Covid has meant that things have been very different over the last two years, and the new method will aim to identify strengths and weaknesses.

Dr Smith added that whilst there is a shortage of quantitative measures there are a lot of qualitative ones.

Ms Phillips added that the January BTEC results and the August GCSE results will be added. She also said that Ofsted would want to see students work as evidence of the data held by the college.

Mr Hickey said that pre- pandemic Ofsted Inspectors were moving away from results only to look at intent, implementation and impact. Ms Phillips replied that there had been no changes to the inspection framework. The curriculum is reviewed and does look at intent, implementation and impact. Ms Phillips advised Governors that if learning good this will lead to good results. Both staff and students will reflect on how learning is sequenced.

Mr Hynes asked what did loom mean in relation to A level PE. Ms Phillips replied that is fed back given to students in a video form, the teacher will talk through how they might tackle an examination question. It allows feedback to be given to more than one student.

Mr Hickey asked with the Head of Department for RE on maternity leave how was this being covered. Ms Phillips replied that Mr Bailey and Mrs Spencer were acting as Head of Department.

Ms Phillips advised Governors that the process was continuous and a result review meeting would take place in September 2022 and work would be prioritised for those departments that were identified as below average.

If Governors had any questions they were asked to contact Ms Phillips.

7. Student Withdrawals

Mr Bailey outlined the various reasons why students leave the college before completing their course of study. The number of leavers has been higher than the last two years at 99 out of a cohort of 1300 students. Students leave for a variety of reasons including mental health, behaviour, students on the wrong course and seeking employment. Lower prior attainment before coming to the college is one of the main issues. The number that leave is similar to other colleges.

Mr Bailey gave a presentation that showed Governors the information that the college holds in relation to students' attendance. The information is updated regularly for use within the college. The intention is to provide Governors with access to this information via Google Drive. The information could be anonymised so that individual students could not be identified. A glossary of terms used in the reports would also be provided.

8. Curriculum Issues

a) BTEC/OCR issues

Mr Pearson introduced a paper that had been circulated to all Governors prior to the meeting. The papers covered the BTEC/OCR Qualifications reforms.

From 2020 to 2022 a number of BTEC/OCR subjects have moved from a QCF Specification to the new RQF Specification. These subjects include:

2020-2021

- BTEC Applied Science
- BTEC Health and Social Care
- BTEC IT
- BTEC Performing Arts Dance
- BTEC Performing Arts Drama

2021-2022

- BTEC Applied Law
- BTEC Uniformed Protective Services
- OCR Single Sport

Subjects remaining on their Specification OCR/AQA/WJEC/LIBF include:

- BTEC Creative Media QCF
- BTEC Music QCF

- OCR Double Sport
- AQA Applied Business
- WJEC Criminology
- Financial Services

The changes were introduced so that vocational qualifications include at least one examined component and a controlled assessment/course work unit over the 2 years. Ofqual and the awarding bodies worked to ensure that the reformed qualifications would have more rigour to be more demanding, in line with the new demands of linear A level qualifications. The BTEC review means that students can start these courses up to 2024. The college will offer a hybrid course with level 2 courses at GCSE as well a level 3 courses.

The results of the January 2022 examinations were as follows:

Course Title	Year	Pass Rate
Health and Social Care	L6	100%
Health and Social Care	U6	100%
IT	U6	100%
IT	L6	97%
Law	L6 + Hybrid	99%
Public Services	L6	87%
Applied Science	L6	100%
Applied Science	U6	100%

Mr Taylor asked if the college was considering offering T level qualifications. Mr Pearson replied that colleges in general were struggling to get T levels working and that the college was not currently planning to offer T level courses as they are covered by other local colleges.

b) Degree Classification obtained by Aquinas Students

Mr Pearson introduced a paper that had been circulated to all Governors prior to the meeting. The papers covered showed the degree classification obtained by Aquinas students at UK universities in the 2020/2021 academic year along with information broken down by i) sixth form college sector, ii) State sector and iii) independent sector. Information for 2019/2020 was also shown for comparison.

The paper also broke down the information for the Russell Group of universities, students from areas of low HE participation and students whose parents who do not have an HE qualification.

9. Ofsted Approach

Mr Pearson circulated a paper that detailed the questions that governors had been asked by Ofsted at a college that had been inspected six months ago. The paper was for information and to show Governors the type of questions that they be asked by inspectors. Mr Pearson added that once an inspection date is known he will hold a briefing session for Governors.

10. Committee Terms of Reference

A copy of the current Teaching and Learning Committee Terms of Reference had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. After a full discussion it was agreed that no changes needed to be made.

11. Any other Business

a) Policy Review – Acceptable use of IT

Dr Smith advised Governors that he had reviewed the Acceptable use of IT policy and had suggested some minor changes. It was agreed that the Governing Body be recommended to approve the amended policy.

b) Dr Beatty advised Governors that after much deliberation he had decided to step down as a Governor but would continue until a replacement Co-opted Governor had been appointed.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting to be held on Tuesday 4 October 2022 at 4.30pm, subject to the Calendar of Meetings being agreed by the Governing Body at its meeting on 28 June 2022.

Signed _____
Chairperson

Date _____