

AQUINAS COLLEGE  
TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE

Date: 4 October 2022  
Time: 4.30pm  
Venue: College

GOVERNORS PRESENT

Dr P Beatty, Mr R Harris, Mr G Hynes, Mr A Martin, Mr M Quinney, Mr D Pearson and Mr M Taylor.

In attendance:

Mr A Bailey (Vice Principal)  
Ms C Phillips (Assistant Principal – Curriculum & Quality)

Mr M Taylor in the Chair.

1. OPENING PRAYER

The meeting began with a prayer led by Mr M Taylor.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Mr B Hickey and Dr A Smith.

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 14 June 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

i) Ofsted Inspection – Minute 9

Mr Pearson advised Governors that it was not known where Ofsted were up to following Covid in relation to catching up on colleges that should have been inspected. However, one college in the North West had recently been inspected.

ii) Governor Vacancies – Minute 11 (b)

Mr Taylor asked if there had been any progress on finding a Governor to replace Dr Beatty. The Clerk to the Governing Body advised Governors that the Chair, Principal and he had met to discuss this matter and that further inquiries were ongoing.

Governors recorded their thanks to Dr Beatty for continuing until a replacement Co-opted Governor could be appointed.

## 6. RESULTS OVERVIEW

Mr Pearson advised Governors that there had been a lot of uncertainty about the results for 2022. The college were hopeful that the results would reflect the hard work of staff and students. The results were above those for the past two years and were above the national average. The college had also out performed statistical neighbours and were an excellent set of results.

Ms Phillips introduced a paper that had been circulated to Governors prior to the meeting. The results had out performed those of Teacher Assessed Grades (TAG) and Centre Assessed Grades (CAG) as well as significantly outperforming the last set of “real” examination results in 2019. The paper covered the following areas:

### a) Results Overview 2022 – Overall analysis

Pass Rate (A*- E)	99% (98%)
A*	15% (6%)
A*/A	39% (21%)
High Grades (A*-B)	70% (50%)
A*-C	89% (76%)
A*-D	96% (93%)

ALPS Value Added is significantly higher than in 2019 when the college was ALPS 5. The results for benchmarked against 2019 ALPS data are ALPS 2 which reflects performance of the top 10% nationally.

Mr Taylor added that the students’ prior attainment was based on CAG results when they took their GCSE. Dr Beatty said that he was happy to note that the college results were very good and that the value added measure was extremely defensible.

Mr Martin sought clarification on the GCSE results for previous years. Ms Phillips replied that they were as follows:

2019	last set of real results	2020	Centre Assessed Grades
2021	Teacher Assessed Grades	2022	Examination results

Mr Pearson advised Governors that there was a fear that the GCSE results from previous years had been inflated, therefore, he did not expect the value added to be as high as it is. Nationally, students had been given advanced information on what might be on the examination paper to mitigate for lost time due to COVID

### b) A Level Subject Breakdown

12 out of the 37 subjects have red ALPS (1-3 top 25% nationally)

A further 9 out of the 37 subjects had strong results – ALPS 4

20 out of the 37 subjects have improved by one or more ALPS grade since 2019

5 out of the 37 subjects have below average performance (ALPS 6)

A further 2 out of the 37 subjects have blue ALPS (ALPS7). There has been a significant reduction in blue ALPS subjects since 2019, where 12 subject had blue ALPS.

The paper detailed those subjects with ALPS 4 and above, those subjects that have seen significant improvements since 2019, subjects with “average” performance, subjects with “below average” performance and two subjects with blue ALPS 7 (Statistics and Music).

Mr Taylor made reference to RE that had moved from ALPS 7 to ALPS 2. Ms Phillips added that Physics had moved from ALPS 6 to ALPS 2. She advised Governors that the improvement reflects the overall college approach with learning being the main focus. Mr Bailey added that students were responding to feedback that they had been given which accelerates progress. Mr Quinney added that from a personal perspective there was a mixed response depending on the subject teacher.

Mr Martin asked for more information on PE. Ms Phillips replied that it is not an easy A level, there is a lot of theory and not a lot of practical elements. Mr Pearson added that Xaverian, Loreto and Ashton College have dropped PE because of how difficult it is to achieve consistently good results.

#### c) Vocational Subjects

A number of BTEC qualifications had their first set of examinations in 2022 on the new RQF Specifications: Applied Law (one year students only), Applied Science, Health and Social Care, IT, Performing Arts (Dance and Drama). The remaining vocational results were from the old specification: Applied Law, AQA Applied Business, Criminology, LIBF Financial Studies, Media, Music, Public Services CTEC Sport (double).

ALPS Value added for the vocational qualification RFQ Specifications ALPS 5. ALPS Value added for vocational Criminology is ALPS 3.

Overall Analysis – Pass Rate	98.85%
D*	62.37%
D*/d (High grades)	85.22%
Criminology - Pass Rate	99.46%
A*	9.14%
A*/A	59.13%
A*/B	75.26%
Financial Studies Pass Rate	97.50%
A*	5.00%
A*/A	15.00%
A*/B	42.50%

#### d) Vocational Subject Breakdown

##### i) Subjects with ALPS 3 and above

Criminology	ALPS 3	Health and Social Care	ALPS 3
IT	ALPS 4	Applied Law	ALPS 4
Creative Media	ALPS 4 (3)		

ii) Subject with significant improvement since 2019      Financial Studies      ALPS 5 (7)

##### iii) Other subject with average performance

Applied Business	ALPS 5 (6)	Applied Law	ALPS 5 (6)
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Applied Sciences	ALPS 5	Music Performance	ALPS 5 (4)
Public Services	ALPS 5 (2)*	Double Sport	ALPS 5 (3)*

\* Change of Head of subject

iv) Subjects with below average performance      Performance (Acting and Dance)  
ALPS 6

e) GCSE/Level 2 Results

English 45 students    Pass 4 to 6 grade (30) 66.60%      < Pass (15) 33.30%

Maths 87 students    Pass 4 to 5 grade (35) 40.20%      < Pass (49) 56.30%  
No Grade (3) 3.40%

Business L2 (26)      1 GCSE (7)    30.70%      2 GCSE (18) 65.30%

Financial Studies 12 (21)    Pass B-C      95.20%

Other EPQ (132)    ALPS 6 (ALPS 4)

Mr Pearson advised Governors that the college knew the cohort was weak and that last year's results had been based on TAGs but that they were well above sector norms.

Mr Hynes asked that the Governors record their appreciation of the work of the staff at the college. This was agreed.

The Governors thanked Ms Phillip for the informative report.

Mr Martin advised Governors that he had spoken to 2 people who had attended the Open Day and had been put off the college by staff in the subject areas who had said that the workload is very high when taking 3 subjects. Mr Martin was asked to find out more information and to get back to Mr Pearson.

Mr Bailey advised Governors that the college will target support for students and it has the flexibility to put the student with a subject specialist. Mr Quinney felt reassured that students would get support as a safety step. Ms Phillips added that weekly reports are made on the engagement and effort of student who are receiving additional support. Mr Taylor asked if the referral system was working. Mr Bailey replied that it initially focused on attendance but has the potential to do more. Ms Phillips added that moving forward the aim was to sustain it so that it could show subjects that were consistently high, where improvement was needed and those that were being monitored.

Mr Taylor asked if the college had experienced any difficulty with the recruitment of students. Mr Pearson replied that the care given to students means that outcomes will follow. This year's results had been displayed in classrooms at the Open Day. Next year results will be deflated by manipulation of grade boundaries to pre-pandemic levels.

## 7. COLLEGE FOCUS 2022/2023

Ms Phillips advised Governors that the college focus remains the same and is working hard to ensure that students had a good learning experience. In addition, the health and welfare of both staff and students were important.

- a) The college aims to provide time for students to do more individually and provide them with feedback for them to work on.
- b) The learning cycle remains at the core with the opportunity to provide constant refinement (through feedback) to students, to monitor how subjects are being delivered, make working adjustments to schemes of work and encourage independent learning.
- c) Quality review meetings will continue with continuous professional development where departments learn from one another.
- d) Mr Bailey added that this approach will be mirrored in pastoral sessions to look at engagement, attendance and progress.

Mr Taylor asked is what is going on in universities reflecting on what the college does. Ms Phillips replied that the college looks at results and destinations of students. At universities students undertake some things that are outside their course. Mr Bailey added that in college there is Wellbeing Wednesday, Fun Friday and the core RE lessons are about virtues and character building. There is a clear focus at college at preparing students for their next steps.

#### 8. SECTION 48 INSPECTION

Mr Pearson outlined to Governors the latest position in respect of Section 48 Inspections. A national framework has been finalised but the Diocese are behind with training inspectors. Therefore, no inspections will take place this term. The Diocese will produce of list of which schools and colleges are to be inspected and when the inspection will take place. The college could be inspected later in this academic year or more likely next year. Mr Bailey had expressed an interested in undertaking the training to become an inspector.

Mr Pearson advised Governors that Mr Hickey is the Governors representative on the Mission and Ethos Group within college and that a new Chaplin has been appointed. Mass is also undertaken in college on a Tuesday. Mr Pearson reminded Governors that the inspection is on behalf of the Bishop.

#### 9. CURRICULUM ISSUES

Mr Pearson advised Governors that whilst this was a standing item on the agenda for this committee there were few changes to the curriculum for this academic year.

#### 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Quinney raised the issue of communication with parents. He felt that information should be given to parents on what key issue are coming up in each term. Mr Bailey replied that information can be uploaded on the Parent Portal. He added that a series of tutorial for parents of new students could be provided. Mr Bailey undertook to review this matter and to come back to the next meeting of the committee with more information. Ms Phillips added that there is a parent questionnaire that is sent out each year.

#### 11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7 February 2023 at 4.00pm

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson