

Aquinas College  
Teaching and Learning Committee

Date: 1 February 2022

Time: 4.00pm

Venue: Virtual

Governors Present

Dr P Beatty, Miss M Braithwaite, Mr R Harris, Mr B Hickey, Mr G Hynes, Mr A Martin, Dr A Smith, Mr M Taylor and Mr D Pearson.

In attendance: Ms C Phillips (Assistant Principal – Curriculum & Quality)

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 Harris for his late arrival.

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 5 October 2021 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

Section 48 Inspections – Minute 9

Governors were advised that Mr Hickey had agreed to replace Miss Braithwaite as a member of the college's Mission and Ethos Group. It was felt that Mr Hickey's previous experience would be useful to the group.

6. Section 48 Inspections

Mr Pearson advised Governors that the Diocese had informed him that the college would have a Denominational Inspection in the next academic year.

Mr Pearson added that Sixth Form Colleges need an annex to the code of inspection but this has not yet been finalised.

The Mission Group within the college has been meeting regularly and has undertaken an audit against the inspection framework. The Diocese has indicated that they will hold support meetings for schools and colleges. A Section 48 inspection will take place within six months of an Ofsted inspection. Sixth form colleges will need a sixth form specialist as part of the inspection team. Mr Hickey felt that the audit was a good piece of work undertaken by the Mission Group

Dr Smith asked if Mr Bailey was still willing to undertake training to become a Section 48 inspector. Mr Pearson replied that Mr Bailey had made an expression of interest but the Diocese had not pursued it at this stage. Mr Pearson added that an inspector would have to come from the ACVIC group of 13 colleges. Two colleges one in Westminster and one in Leeds had taken part in a pilot scheme for inspection.

Mr Pearson advised Governors that the Chaplain was on maternity leave and that the HOD of RE would be on maternity leave from Easter 2022. Mr Bailey will, therefore, take the lead within college. Mr Pearson added that there are some key strategic decisions to be made and that at the Training session in May 2022 he will explain how Governors can contribute to the inspection

Mr Martin joined the meeting whilst this item was being discussed.

Mr Harris joined the meeting at this point.

7. Executive Summary of Leadership and Management SAR and Quality Review Meetings Updates

Ms Phillips advised Governors the college was approaching this in a different way this year in terms of the quality cycle. Key elements of this were the student experience and learning assessment. The Leadership and Management SAR and Quality Improvement Plan have been submitted to Ofsted. The key areas for development are Learning, Training, Progression, Wellbeing and Performance.

a) Learning – the college is focussing on gaps in learning plus continuity in the inspection framework. The development of knowledge and student awareness of how they learn is important along with the curriculum content. Additional time has been added to the timetable to allow for additional time in all subjects. The Quality Review will look at learning, teaching and assessment.

b) Training – staff development in learning, teaching and assessment is undertaken to improve the experience and to share good practice. Training is being undertaken to prepare staff for an inspection. Heads of Department are being supported both internally and externally to develop leadership skills. Middle managers will be at the forefront of an inspection.

c) Progression – the Thrive model is being used for the curriculum, which is a new process for the college.

d) Wellbeing – the college is developing ways to support staff and students. Wellbeing mentors have been introduced. The wellbeing of staff was important and that they were valued. Mr Bailey was undertaking regular surveys with staff and acting on the feedback received. It is intended to have a day in the summer term devoted to staff wellbeing.

e) Performance – a risk assessment has been undertaken to identify areas where there might be a risk to performance. The college will look back at the 2019 data. The destination data may be of interest to inspectors.

If Governors wanted a copy of the SAR document it can be sent to them if they let the college know.

Mr Hickey asked if there were any departments that Governors needed to know about, including strengths and weaknesses.

Ms Phillips replied that the areas that were under performing were psychology, media studies and physics based on the 2019 data. There have been a number of staffing changes in the economics department. A deep dive has been undertaken as part of the appraisal process on the data that inspectors will want to scrutinise. This included focus groups, students' work, class absences, talking to HOD, plus outcomes. In addition, the college has started its own process of deep dive into business studies and psychology and processes have been put in place for all subject areas.

Ms Phillips advised Governors that the department that are in a strong position are art/design, applied business studies, mathematics and English.

Mr Pearson advised Governors that colleges had in 2020 undertaken a review to come up with the grades, moderation was also undertaken in all subject areas. Last year there was a move to grades on an evidence basis. The college would focus on the learning in the classroom. It is very difficult to determine progress against Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) and Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs), plus GCSE examinations that had not taken place.

Ms Phillips advised Governors that there was a need to look at teaching and learning and to translate that into outcomes. Support would be provided to HOD's on what is the best learning practice in their departments. Dr Smith felt that the pandemic had presented problems/challenges but that what goes on in the classroom is most important.

Miss Braithwaite asked how was the change in the length of the college day working. Mr Pearson replied that an extra 20 minutes per week, per subject had been added. This had increased the workload of teachers and it also meant that teachers had less time to prepare. Mr Pearson added that there was a need to collect data from the students. Miss Braithwaite asked was the additional time for one year only.

Mr Pearson replied that the college has to increase the amount of teaching time by 40 hours, this can be achieved by keeping the additional 20 minutes but the position will be reviewed.

Mr Hynes asked what was the attendance of students like. Mr Pearson replied that the college would need to compare it with 2019 which was the last year with no disruption. He added that there were strong pastoral systems in place and that remedial work is also being included.

Dr Smith asked what was the retention rate. Mr Pearson replied that it is not a major issue for the college. Some students have been caught on the college site behaving badly when they should have been in classrooms. As a result, 5 students have been asked to leave the college. A number of students have reduced from 3 subjects to 2.

Mr Pearson advised Governors that he would provide details of the college's strengths and weaknesses to allow them to hold the college to account. There will be a shift to more data analysis when examinations return. It will be more important to compare the college with other colleges.

The Governors thanked Mr. Pearson and Ms. Phillips for their comprehensive reports.

8. Any Other Business

There was no Any Other Business

9. Date of Next Meeting

14 June 2022 at 4.00pm

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

Date \_\_\_\_\_