

AQUINAS COLLEGE
TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE

Date: 5 October 2021

Time: 4.30pm

Venue: Virtual

GOVERNORS PRESENT

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

In attendance:

Ms C Phillips (Assistant Principal – Curriculum & Quality)

Mr R Harris (Observer)

Dr A Smith in the Chair.

1. OPENING PRAYER

The meeting began with a prayer led by Dr Smith.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received and accepted from Mr M Taylor.

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 15 June 2021 copies of which had been circulated previously were approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record, subject to Miss M Braithwaite being included in those members present.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

6. IMPACT OF COVID 19

Mr Pearson advised Governors that students enrolled on 23 August 2021 after they had uploaded their GCSE results remotely. The number of students on roll was over 2,450 and the college had over recruited by about 180 students. Students had two tests on site before they returned, those who had not taken the tests had two lateral flow tests off site, if necessary and were provided with the kits. There had been a good response, however, there were 60 positive cases who started the term in isolation.

This number went down to as low 10 in the subsequent weeks but there has been a slight increase recently and there are currently 25 cases of Covid. The college is no longer required to undertake track and trace of students' contacts. There are 4 members of staff absent due to Covid with 1 having suspected long Covid.

When the students returned to college the measures that were in place were reinstated with hand sanitisers and masks (1000) being provided. Students are only wearing masks when reminded and the college seems to be returning to more normal operations. Over 250 students were vaccinated on site by the LA . Classes sizes have returned to normal except for registration and Ethics, and assemblies are online.

Mr Hynes asked if there was any likelihood of social events involving students/parents returning. Mr Pearson replied that the college would normally have held an Open Day on the last Saturday in September and two evening sessions for prospective students for the 2022/2023 academic year but these had not taken place and had been replaced with remote content on H&S grounds.

7. RESULTS OVERVIEW

Ms Phillips made a presentation to Governors that covered the following areas:

a) Results Overview 2021

A level TAG 2021 ALPS 2
 BTEC TAG ALPS 3
 GCSE Maths (Grades 4 -9) 63%
 GCSE English (Grades 4-9) 90%

b) Results Overview 2021 (All Qualifications)

	Ach Overall %	Nat Ach% Overall %	Ret Overall %	Nat Ret Overall%	Pass Overall%	Nat Pass Overall%
20/21 TAG	89.2		89.6		99.5	
19/20 CAG	88.2		88.6		99.6	
18/19	88.8	84.2	90.6	88.5	98.0	95.2

The national figures for 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 are not available.

c) TAG Appeals

- i) There had been 36 initial enquiries from students.
- ii) 22 students went on to request Stage 1 Reviews (Centre led), of which 6 then progressed to Stage 2.
- iii) Out of the 6 Stage 2 Appeals, one was upheld (chemistry C to B), three were dismissed and the outcome of 2 is not yet known.

The Governors thanked Ms Phillip for the informative report.

8. COLLEGE FOCUS 2021/2023

Ms Phillips advised Governors that the college had been 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 has developed out of its Guiding Principles for Learning, Teaching and Assessment, key aspects of classroom practice for linear A level and new BTEC exams.

b) After two years of disruption, with staff and students responding to challenges and changes the college has established a Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy that will be effective and stand up to Ofsted scrutiny. It will also support Heads of Department to lead curriculum intent.

c) The college has built on identified areas to support and motivate staff and students during catch up and is aligned with the new timetable.

d) Continual Professional Development/Inset 2021/2022

i) An alternative to traditionally delivered INSET

ii) In year support, impact and follow up

iii) Focussed on classroom practice, learning and the student experience in a way that is evidence based and relevant to each department.

iv) Project led – teacher and department

v) Supportive and challenging – peer dimension

vi) Underpinned by a quality assurance framework

Dr Beatty left whilst this item was being discussed.

e) Assessment 2022 Update

i) To help students revise, exam boards will provide advance information about the focus of exams for all subjects at GCSE, AS and A Level with the exceptions of a small number of GCSEs

ii) Ofqual and DfE have decided that exam boards will publish advance information by 7 February 2022 or earlier if the impact of the pandemic worsens

iii) Performance data for 2022 will be between 2020 and 2021 and will come back into line with 2019 performance the year after.

9. SECTION 48 INSPECTION

Mr Pearson outlined to Governors the latest position in respect of Section 48 Inspections. A national framework will be introduced and it is hoped that it will be signed off at the Archbishops Conference. There will then be training for 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. Cardinal Newman will be the pilot for sixth form colleges.

Mr Pearson advised Governors that the Diocese had asked if Mr Bailey and himself would be interested in being inspectors for the Diocese undertaking inspections outside the Diocese. Mr Bailey had expressed an interested but Mr Pearson had declined. Mr Hynes asked what would the commitment be for an inspector.

Mr Pearson replied that there would only be one college inspection in a year but an inspector might reasonably be expected to carry out an inspection each term to stay up to date.

Mr Pearson advised Governors that the college is using the draft framework for inspections to undertake an audit within the college. Anna Taylor who has been appointed as Head of RE would take the lead on this. Miss Braithwaite asked if there would be Governor involvement in the inspections. Mr Pearson replied that it would be discussed at the ACVIC Sixth Form Conference and it was hoped that there would be a position statement made.

Mr Hickey asked if the national framework was any different from the draft of two years ago. Mr Pearson replied that there had been no significant changes. Cllr McGee added that it was the same framework but there had been some contextualisation added for sixth forms. The framework contained limiting factors that meant if you failed in one area of the inspection you would fail the inspection. Mr Hickey also asked if a sixth form college had to have a 10% timetable for RE. Mr Pearson replied that the college has one period for RE which was seen as an equivalent measure at this level. Mr Hickey added that if the North West Dioceses of Liverpool, Salford and Shrewsbury pooled the inspectors it would have to be the Head of RE or a Senior Postholder. Mr Pearson reminded Governors that the inspection is on behalf of the Bishop.

Mr Pearson asked if a Governor would like to be a member of the college's Mission and Ethos Group. Miss Braithwaite indicated that she would be happy to join the group.

10. CURRICULUM ISSUES

Mr Pearson advised Governors that there were few changes. "Aspire" a new course had been introduced for those students who did not get GCSE passes in English and/or Mathematics. The new timetable has introduced an additional 20 minute in each bloc used to support student in making up the deficit of skills and knowledge they may have as a result of their disrupted education due to COVID.

Mr Martin asked if the college ran a Criminology course. Mr Pearson replied that it had been offered for 3 years. It has proved to be very successful and is now the third most popular course, it contains elements of sociology, psychology and law.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Hynes asked what Adult Education courses were being offered and what had the take up been. Mr Pearson replied the courses had recruited well, there had been less interest in academic courses but the leisure courses were very popular.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

1 February 2022 at 4.00pm

Signed _____
Chairperson

Date _____