

AQUINAS COLLEGE
GENERAL PURPOSES AND EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

Date: 10 February 2009

Time: 4.30pm

Venue: The College

GOVERNORS PRESENT

Dr P Beatty, Mrs M Bentley, Mr L Byrne, Mr D Fowell Mrs H Kelly, Mrs E Rice and Prof A Trinci.

Prof A Trinci in the Chair

IN ATTENDANCE

Dr A Smith	Principal
Mr W Spencer	Assistant Principal
Mrs H Sturley	Admissions Manager
Mr G Carty	Student Governor
Mr T Conlon	Clerk to the Governing Body

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J Brathwaite and Mr E Moore.

2. WELCOME TO NEW GOVERNOR

The Chairperson welcomed Helen Kelly to her first meeting of the Committee.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 October 2008 were agreed as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Quality Review - Minute 8

Mr Spencer advised Governors that the Quality Review meetings had taken place in the Autumn Term. Unfortunately not as many Governors as usual had been able to participate in the meetings. Action plans have been prepared following the meetings and these are currently being implemented.

6. ADMISSIONS 2009/2010

Mrs Sturley circulated a paper that compared the number of applications received for 2009 with those for 2008. The total number of applications received to date for 2009 is 1526 compared with 1605 for 2008 and 1574 for 2007. This decline in applications to the college was expected following a decrease of around 400 in the number of Year 11 students in Stockport Secondary Schools. The breakdown of the applications is as follows:

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Category 1	282	299	-17
Category 2	281	291	-10
Category 3 (Partner)	44	45	-1
Category 3 (Non Partner)	15	15	
Category 4	196	190	+6
Category 5	695	756	-61
Category E (Extended Ed)	12	9	-2
Total	1526	1605	-79

The estimated number of offers that have been made for September 2009 is 1245. This should produce a new lower sixth similar in number to 2008. The overall number of students would be a maximum of 1900 for September 2009.

By the end of November 796 category 1- 4 applications and 9 Extended Education applications had been received. There are currently 22 late category 1-4 applications and it is estimated that there could be a further 15 applications in this category. On the basis of this 429 category 5 offers have been made, however, there are 4 special consideration cases, so the actual number of offers that have been made is 433.

It was agreed that the 22 late category 1- 4 applications would be invited to attend induction, but no guarantee of a place at the college would be made.

It appeared from the interviews with prospective students that the attendance was higher. Dr Smith advised Governors that he attended Bramhall High School recently and the indication that he received from prospective students was that their application to the college were firm ones. A discussion took place on the impact of Stockport Academy on applications and Dr Smith advised Governors that the overall numbers applying to Aquinas from the Academy were small but they had increased from 6 to 12 this year. In addition both Stockport College and Cheadle and Marple College are reporting that their applications are up by approximately 40%, which could only be explained by an increase in multiple applications to institutions from students. The college has supplied data to the LSC on the students that have been offered places at the college to enable the LSC to compare applications with those of other colleges.

It was noted that there had been few objections to the telephone system for applications, however there had been an increase in those claiming special circumstances.

A brief discussion took place on the fact that one sixth form college interviews the students before offering them a place. Dr Smith advised Governors that schools and colleges do this for entry into sixth forms despite it being illegal for entry at age 11. In fact it was raised at the Inspection as a method that the college should consider. The idea had firmly been rejected.

7. ADMISSIONS 2010/2011

Dr Smith advised Governors that it was too early to be making any decision about 2010/2011, it would depend on how 2009/2010 applications had finally settled. The number of Year 11 students would be similar to the previous year and is fairly steady for the next four years. If other college student numbers are down for 2009/2010 they may make an extra effort to recruit for 2010/2011. The new building will be open by September 2010 and this may have an impact on students deciding which college to choose. In addition the “credit crunch” may impact on the number of students attending independent schools and this could result in more applications to the college.

Mrs Sturley and Mr Carty left the meeting at this point.

8. STUDENT DESTINATIONS

A paper was circulated that showed the destination of students who left the college at the end of the 2007/2008 academic year. It was noted that 785 students completed their two years of study at the college and of these 84 returned for a third year. Out of the 785 students, 599 had applied to university via UCAS, with a further 24 applying directly to institutions offering art and design foundation courses

Of these 623 students, 49 either withdrew or failed to achieve the grade required for entry to university and 37 students deferred entry.

56 students went into work with the highest proportion entering training as legal executives, insurance or accountancy.

The paper also summarised the position in respect of early leavers for both the lower sixth (41) and upper sixth (47).

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

9. CURRICULUM ISSUES

a) Dr Smith reported on the latest position in relation to the 14 –19 Curriculum, and advised Governors that there would be 3 new Academic Diplomas alongside the 14 Specialist Vocational Diplomas. The new Academic Diplomas would be i) Maths/Science, ii) Modern Languages and iii) Humanities. No diplomas would be offered by the college in the 2009.2010 academic year.

b) Dr Smith advised Governors that the Inset Day on 23 February 2009 would provide a briefing on the latest position for 14-19 education and would cover Diplomas, new A levels, GCSE and Key Skills. Governors were invited to attend the briefing session that would start at 9.30am until 11.00am.

10. PUBLICITY

Mr Spencer referred to recent articles that had appeared in the local press in relation to the college re build.

The Neighbourhood meetings continue to take place and local residents have the opportunity to raise their concerns with the college and the contractors. The last meeting was held on 9 February 2009 at 6.30pm at the college. A newsletter

is sent to local residents at regular intervals to keep them informed of the progress of the project.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Post Inspection Action Plan

Mr Spencer circulated to all Governors a copy of the draft Post Inspection Action Plan that had been prepared by the college. The Action Plan had been considered by the two management groups within the college but had not yet been considered by the senior management of the college. In addition the Standards Group had been looking at performance.

Governors noted that the college had received a grade 1 although some departments had been graded lower.

Mr Spencer advised Governors that the Action Plan would be an item on the agenda for the Governing Body meeting to be held on 3 March 2009 and he asked to review the Action Plan for that meeting.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

6 July 2009 at 4.30pm

Signed -----
Chairperson

Date -----

AQUINAS COLLEGE
EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

Date: 10 February 2009
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Prof A Trinci in the Chair

IN ATTENDANCE

Dr A Smith	Principal
Mr W Spencer	Assistant Principal
Mr T Conlon	Clerk to the Governing Body

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Mr E Moore.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2008 were accepted as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising that were not included on the Agenda for the meeting.

4. POLICY REVIEWS

At the last meeting of the Committee the draft Equality and Diversity Policy, Disciplinary Policy and Procedure, Recruitment and Selection Policy and Procedure had been circulated. In view of the fact that there were a number of issues that needed clarification the Governing Body had referred the policies back to this Committee for clarification.

A detailed discussion took place on the three policies and a number of points were clarified or amended.

RESOLVED: That the revised Equality and Diversity Policy, Disciplinary Policy and Procedure, Recruitment and Selection Policy and Procedure be agreed and that they be recommended to the Governing Body for approval.

5. GRIEVANCE POLICY

Dr Smith advised Governors that the review of the Grievance Policy had been delayed because of the introduction on 1 April 2009 of new legal requirements relating to grievance policies.

Signed -----
Chairperson

Date -----