

AQUINAS COLLEGE GOVERNING BODY
GOVERNOR TRAINING

Meeting: 9 June 2010
Time: 7.00pm
Venue: The College

GOVERNORS PRESENT

Dr P Beatty, Mrs M Bentley, Mrs L Bernola, Miss M Braithwaite, Mr L Byrne, Mrs C Calverley, Mrs C H Dove, Mr D Fowell, Mrs P Lynch, Cllr T P McGee, Mrs E Rice, Prof A Trinci, Dr A Smith and Fr V Whelan.

Cllr T P McGee in the Chair.

IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs D Blackburn	Assistant Principal
Mr G Hill	Assistant Principal
Mr D Pearson	Assistant Principal
Mr T Conlon	Clerk to the Governing Body

Before the meeting commenced Dr Smith advised Governors that a student Christopher Hughes had tragically died on Saturday 5 June 2010 following a fall from a balcony in a set of apartments in Stockport. A moment's silence was held as a mark of respect.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from and Mr J Beckitt, and Mr A Moss.

Greg Hill advised Governors that he had spoken to John Beckitt's wife who had informed him that John was in hospital and awaiting assessment as to what future care he would need.

The best wishes of the college and Governors had been passed on to Mrs Beckitt during what clearly has been a very difficult time for the family.

2. **CURRICULUM REVIEW**

On behalf of Mr Lack (Curriculum Manager), Mr Pearson advised Governors that in looking ahead to the academic year of 2010 -2011 the college is trying to develop the curriculum to reflect the evolving nature of our students. The majority of our students are well served by the broad curriculum we offer but we are trying to develop a vocational route as an alternative for those more suited to this type of learning. In line with this next year the college aims to offer level three (A level equivalent) diplomas in those areas that it already has some vocational experience, namely:

Diploma in Sport and Active Leisure
Diploma in Creative and the Media
Diploma in Business, Administration and Finance

Further to this the college is building on the success of the BTEC in Performing Arts to encompass a BTEC in music and for the first time offering a course in Health and Social Care (Applied double award) as this is a popular course in many of our feeder schools.

In addition, for some time we have acknowledged that our level two provision (GCSE equivalent) is quite narrow and despite only catering for small numbers we have been looking for ways to expand this. Next year the college will be offering Functional Skills in English, Maths and IT (only for Level 3 Diploma students); BTEC Law which will convert to level 3 during the same academic year; The Project - building on the success of the Extended Project introduced at Level 3 last year; and an IT based course replacing iMedia which did not prove as popular with these students as hoped.

3. AN UPDATE ON DIPLOMAS

Cllr McGee advised Governors that the new Government had announced that they are stopping the development of the state-led 'academic Diploma' in humanities, sciences and languages. Instead, they have said that they will devote their efforts to making sure that existing qualifications are rigorous, challenging and properly prepare our young people for life, work and study.

4. NEW BUILDING

The new building had now officially been handed over to the college. Governors were given a tour of the new building and were able to view the magnificent facilities for themselves. Staff had also recently been able to view the new facilities.

Mr Pearson advised the Governors that there is still a lot of work to be done for the building to be ready for full occupation at the start of the new academic year in September 2010.

A discussion took place on who should be invited to Officially Open the College and Cllr McGee reported that tentative enquiries had been made about the possibility of Archbishop Vincent Nichols performing the ceremony.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

29 June 2010 at 4.30pm.

The Chair closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and hoped that they had found the meeting informative and that they had enjoyed the tour of the new building and its excellent facilities.

Signed _____
Chairperson

Date _____

Terry Conlon
Clerk to the Governing Body