

AQUINAS COLLEGE
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Date: 7 October 2014
Time: 4.30pm
Venue: The College

GOVERNORS PRESENT

Dr P Beatty, Mr A Bircher, Mr B Hickey, Mr J Horan, Dr A Smith and Mr L Thomas.

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair Mr J Horan was elected Chair for this meeting.

Mr J Horan in the Chair

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr D Pearson	Principal
Mr E Moore	Vice Principal

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Mr L Byrne, Mrs B Donovan and Mrs E Rice

2. 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.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2014 were agreed as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Admission 2014/2015 – Minute 6

i) Mr Pearson advised Governors that he had raised the issue of recruitment with the principals of Loreto and Xaverian Colleges. Both principals played down their involvement with Stockport Schools. The Principal from Xavarian College had indicated that she had turned down invitations from Stockport schools to visit them.

Governors noted that Loreto had been recruiting students and that the L6 in 2013 was 1650 and in 2014 it was 1700. The college have recently expanded.

Dr Beatty arrived at this point of the meeting.

5. ADMISSIONS 2014/2015

Mr Pearson advised Governors that the number of students that were at the college on 7 October 2014 was 2086, although the actual number of students enrolled was 2110. This meant that a net of 24 students either did not arrive or have already left to go elsewhere.

The breakdown was 1047 in lower sixth with 994 new students; the minimum number that the college aimed to recruit was 963 new students. The number in the upper sixth is 1039. The total number of students in the college is, therefore, 2086.

Mr Pearson advised Governors that the college is funded for 2054 students in the current financial year. The funding census date for 2015/2016 is in the second week in October 2014 and it is anticipated that the number of students on roll will be around 2076. The target number was 2051. The extra students this year will mean that the financial future of the college is secure for the next two years.

Clarification on the different categories for admission to the college was given:

Category 1	Catholic applicants from the college's Catholic partner schools
Category 2	Catholic applicants from other schools
Category 3	Non Catholic applicants from other Catholic schools
Category 4	Brothers and sisters of present and former students of the college and children of current staff and governors of the college
Category 5	Other applicants

Categories 1 and 2 account for approximately 39% on the intake and if Category 3 is included this rises to approximately 45%.

Mr Pearson circulated a paper that showed a breakdown by category of the number of students enrolled in the lower sixth for the years 2012/2013, 2013/2014 and 2014/2015. The information also showed the number in each category as a percentage of the total number. The main reason why conversion rates from the 4 feeder schools were down was mainly due to the number of students coming from St James High School. In response to a question from Mr Hickey, Mr Pearson replied that a number of students were going to Loreto College; this was confirmed by Mr Bircher who was a former student at St James High School. Mr Pearson advised Governors that St James High School wanted to increase the number of students who obtain A* grades in their GCSE, Mr Moore indicated that the new Headteacher at St James High School was keen to establish better links with the College.

A discussion took place on the secondary schools in Stockport who had achieved Academy status and whose sixth form had opened in September 2013. Mr Pearson advised Governors that Cheadle Hulme High School had 80 students in its lower sixth form and roughly 50 in upper sixth, whilst Hazel Grove High School had 50 in its lower sixth and roughly 20 in upper sixth. In addition Stockport Academy had recruited more in its lower sixth form than in previous years (60).

Mr Pearson advised governors that there is demographic fall of about 250 students and that Cheadle and Marple College had reportedly recruited 400 less student than what it is currently funded for. Stockport College was under by somewhere in the region of 700 students at age 16. In response to a question from Dr Beatty, Mr Pearson replied that SK1 who recruits students at age 14 is independent from the main college and has recently bought the old Hillcrest School site in Shaw Heath. In addition Governors noted that both Manchester College and Tameside College had advertised extensively for students.

Mr Pearson reminded Governors that if a student is doing a repeat year they will not be funded unless there were exceptional circumstances, however, if they were not doing the same subjects then funding would be received. Mr Horan asked how the college determines what is

exceptional. Mr Pearson said that it is usually related to illness or bereavement but if it was educationally beneficial to the student they would be allowed to resit the course, and if necessary the college would fund it. However, the college has improved its guidance and advice given to students to try to ensure that they are on the correct course for them. Mr Hickey sought clarification on students who transferred from another college to do the same course and how many students were retaking Maths and English. Mr Pearson replied that in the cases of student transferring college funding would be provided and that the number retaking Maths and English had approximately doubled.

Mr Pearson advised Governors that the average class sizes in college were as follows:

GCSE 14	AS 20	A2 17	BTech 19
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Maximum class size is 28 and the smallest is 7. Dr Smith felt that it was remarkable that the college had maintained the class sizes given the cuts in funding.

6. ADMISSIONS 2015/2016

An Open Evening had been held last Wednesday (1 October) and had been very busy, another Open Evening would be held on Thursday 9 October 2014. The closing date for applications (which are online) for 2015/2016 is 30 November 2014. Applications from category 5 students who have submitted their application forms by 30 November 2014 will then be considered taking into account their school reference. Applicants who are to receive further consideration will receive a letter by 20 December 2014 inviting them to attend an interview.

There have been 42 applications for 16 places on the Pathway provision at the college and the application process closed on 30 September 2014.

Mr Moore advised Governors that he felt that the first Open Evening had been busier than last year. Mr Pearson advised Governors that he would have a better idea on the number of applicants there could be after the second Open Evening. Further information would be available at the Governing Body meeting on 18 November 2014 and a further report would be given to the next General Purposes Committee.

After a full discussion it was:

RESOLVED: That the target number for 2015/2016 would be 2050 students.

7. COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

A copy of the revised General Purposes Committee Terms of Reference had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. The revised Terms of Reference were agreed subject to the deletion in paragraph 3 of the words “and two from the remaining members”.

8. PUBLICITY

The College’s promotional video was played for Governors and Mr Moore circulated a pack of information that is distributed at the Open Evenings and on visits to schools. The pack contained the prospectus for 2015 and a Welcome to Open Evening Brochure. All the information had been designed by the college now that it has appointed a graphic designer but had been printed externally. The CD had been discontinued. The subject information has been revamped and is also on the College website. Mr Moore advised Governors that the next step

is to update the website. Governors congratulated the college on the production of both the video and the prospectus.

Governors noted the college has established a Liaison Group to meet with 10 schools that send students to the college. There is a team of between 4/5 members of staff for each school with a Lead Person. Mr Bircher asked if the Students Magazine was a suitable publication for the college to include information about the admissions process. Mr Moore undertook to explore the matter further along with the possibility us using the E Journal publication.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no any other business.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

3 February 2015 at 4.30pm

Signed _____
Chairperson

Date _____

AQUINAS COLLEGE
EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

Date: 7 October 2014
Time: 4.30pm
Venue: The College

GOVERNORS PRESENT

Dr P Beatty, Mr B Hickey, Mr J Horan and Dr A Smith.

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair Mr J Horan was elected Chair for this meeting.

Mr J Horan in the Chair

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr D Pearson

Principal

Mr E Moore

Vice Principal

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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2. 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.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2014 were agreed as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

A copy of the revised Employment Committee Terms of Reference had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. The revised Terms of Reference were agreed subject to the deletion in paragraph 3 of the words “and two from the remaining members”.

6. RESTRUCTURE OF THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Mr Pearson advised Governors that there had been a number of issues in relation to the support provided by Laboratory Technicians in the Science Department. A review of the Laboratory Technicians role was undertaken and a new job description had been drawn up. The Laboratory Technicians were given the options of agreeing to work to the new job description or to take voluntary redundancy. Two members of staff had taken voluntary redundancy (replaced by one member of staff). The other member of staff had agreed to the new job description.

6. TEACHER ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATION

Mr Pearson advised Governors that the college currently does not have any college representatives for the NAS/UWT and the NUT teaching associations. As a result the college had not been able to hold any JCC meeting. If there was any need to involve either association the college would have to deal with the local branch secretaries.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

3 February 2015 at 4.30pm

Signed _____
Chairperson

Date _____