

AQUINAS COLLEGE  
GENERAL PURPOSES AND EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEES

Date: 3 February 2015  
Time: 4.30pm  
Venue: The College

GOVERNORS PRESENT

Dr P Beatty, Mr L Byrne, Ms C Calverley, Dr A Smith and Mr L Thomas.

Mr L Byrne in the Chair

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr D Pearson	Principal
Mr E Moore	Vice Principal
Mrs C Mayall	(Item 5)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Mr J Horan, Mr B Hickey 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 October 2014 copies of which had been circulated previously be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising that were not covered on the Agenda.

5. STUDENT DESTINATIONS

Mrs Mayall introduced a paper that was circulated to Governors that showed the destination of students who had left the college at the end of the 2013/2014 academic year. It had not been possible to circulate the paper prior to the meeting due to the fact that information from UCAS had only just been received.

The paper outlined the national picture concerning university applications and apprenticeship applications along with details of the local labour market. Nationally applications to universities were up 3.5%. There had been an increase of 6.7% in universities accepting BTEC qualifications.

It was noted that 865 students completed their two years (or in some cases three years) of study at the college, compared with 918 in the previous year. 66 students had left the college after one year compared with 60 in the previous year. Out of the 865 students, 547 (572) (NB

figures in brackets which relate to this item, show results from the previous year) had gone on to university, whilst 28(15) had gone to FE colleges. 88(89) students went into work/apprenticeship and 37(44) had chosen to take a GAP year. 2 students were unemployed and 9 had taken up part time work. The destination of 63 (97) students was unknown. There had also been 66 (60) students who had only completed one year at the College whilst there were 7 (11) who had completed two years at the College but did not complete an A level programme of study. A further 10 (5) students only completed a level 2 programme of study and 8 (7) students left from Pathways. Figures in brackets show results from the previous year.

The paper gave a detailed explanation of the number of students who had applied to universities broken down by age and sex. Governors noted that there had been an increase in the number of students applying to go to university from 82.5 % the previous year to 86.4%. There had also been a decrease from 10 to 2 in the number of students going to Oxbridge.

The paper summarised the most popular course choices at university and it was noted that Manchester Metropolitan University, Sheffield Hallam and University of Salford were the most popular, whilst the University of Manchester had slipped to the sixth most popular having been third last year.

A discussion took place on both the Russell Group and the 1994 group of universities. 160 students (29% compared with 38% in 2013) had accepted places at the Russell Group of universities, a decrease from last year's figure of 215. The largest recipients of students from the college being Sheffield (35) Manchester (32) and Leeds (25). 118 (117) applications had been made to the 1994 Group of universities and 19 places had been secured, compared with 21 last year.

Mrs Mayall advised that some universities were making unconditional offers to students, providing they put it down as their first choice. This is around four times higher than in 2013. The universities involved included Birmingham, Nottingham, Leicester, Sheffield Hallam, Lancaster, Sussex, Queen Mary, London, Aston, Leeds Beckett and Birmingham City.

Governors noted that there had been a drop in the number of students on the apprentice programme. This may be due to the fact that the minimum duration for Apprenticeships is now 12 months and a change in funding. It was noted that Stockport had a high number of starts.

A discussion took place on the Local Labour Market and Dr Beatty asked if there was a breakdown of the data on Priority Sectors included in the report. Mr Pearson indicated that he had information based on the New Economy which he would forward to Dr Beatty.

Mr Pearson advised Governors that more students were staying in the North West upon leaving college.

The Chairperson thanked Mrs Mayall for her comprehensive report.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

Ms C Calverley arrived whilst this item was being discussed.  
Mrs Mayall left the meeting at this point.

6. PUBLICITY

Mr Moore advised Governors that a Working Party within college had been established to review the college website and it was hoped that improvements could be made in house. Mr Pearson added that there is a need to commit resources to the project.

Mr Moore advised Governors that Twitter, Facebook and the School Liaison Group were working well.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

This was the last meeting of the General Purposes Committee which Mr Thomas (Student Governor) would be attending. The Governors thanked Mr Thomas for his contribution to the meetings and to the college and wished him every success for the future.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is 6 July 2015 at 4.30pm, which would be after the induction days.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

Date \_\_\_\_\_