

AQUINAS COLLEGE

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Time: 4.30pm
Venue: The College

GOVERNORS PRESENT

Dr P Beatty, Mr L Byrne, Ms C Calverley, Miss C Eaton, Mr J Horan and Mrs R Phillipson.

Mr L Byrne in the Chair

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr D Pearson	Principal
Mr E Moore	Vice Principal
Ms C Vitti	Vice Principal Designate

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Mr B Hickey and Dr A Smith.

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 2 February 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

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

5. ADMISSIONS 2016/2017

Mr Pearson advised Governors that today and tomorrow are the Welcome Days and it was anticipated that across the two days 1100 students would attend. The total number of applications was 2428, a breakdown of the application was as follows;

Category 1	288
Category 2	321
Category 3	108
Category 4	231
Category 5	1480

Mr Pearson reminded Governors that category 1-4 have some connection with the college. This year had been the biggest ever number of category 5. All the category 1-4 had been interviewed along with 1023 from category 5. Offers had been made to 1700 applicants and 1085 have accepted, with 293 undecided. Between 80-100 more students had accepted a place

than this time last year. Mr Pearson reminded Governors that the target for the lower sixth for September 2016 was between 1100 and 1150 students which included recyclers.

Mr Horan asked if the recyclers would be funded. Mr Pearson replied saying that if they were repeating the same course then they would not be funded unless there was a good reason why they were repeating the course. However, they tend to start on a different course.

Governors were reminded that this would be last year that there are 5 categories. Next year there will only be two categories 1(a), (b), (c) and (d) and category 2.

Mr Pearson advised Governors that for the first time Cheadle and Marple College would have an admissions desk at the college when students enrol. He added that the reason for this was that for some students the college does not offer the courses most suitable to the student.

Mrs Phillipson asked how many category 5 application had not had an offer. Mr Pearson outlined the process whereby students are asked to complete a personal statement along with their application. There are four points that need to be answered, if a creditable attempt at all have not been answered then no offer would be made. At the interview stage there are five questions to answer and the students needs to show that they have an appreciation of the college. Between 10% - 25% of students do not get an offer.

Mr Byrne asked how long had the interview process been in place. Mr Pearson informed Governors that this was the third year. Miss Eaton was asked how she found the process. She replied that she received good guidance on which courses to follow. Mr Horan asked why only 50% of Category 2 accepted a place at the college. Mr Pearson replied by saying that category 1 was very steady with good numbers from Harrytown, St James and Thomas More (Buxton) but numbers varied from St Anne's and St Thomas More (Denton). The college is however losing some students from St James to Manchester colleges. Categories 2 and 3 fluctuate with category 4 steady.

Dr Beatty asked what was the split been Catholic and Non Catholic students at the college. Mr Pearson indicated that under 50% were Catholics.

Ms Calverley arrived whilst this item was being discussed.

RESOLVED: That the above strategies be approved.

6. ANALYSIS OF STUDENT WITHDRAWALS

Mr Moore circulated a paper which gave details of the number students who had withdrawn from Aquinas during the 2015/2016 academic year. The analysis showed that that there were 102 early leavers compared with 92 last year.

Mr Moore advised Governors that the college always tries to ensure that students are on the right course for them. The majority of the early leavers were from Lower 6.

The breakdown on the reasons for leaving early were as follows;

Full Time Education or Training	28
Further Education	19
Higher Education	1
Not In Education or Employment	2

Ill Health	26
Employment	14
Restarting in September	2
Emigrating	1
Poor Studentship	2
Unknown	7

Governors noted that 26 student had left as a result of ill health. Mr Moore advised Governors that there had been an increase in the number of students with mental health issues. Mr Horan asked if the introduction of Linear A Levels had been a factor. Mr Pearson advised Governors that only 14 subjects were linear. He added that the college would need to undertake further analysis before any conclusion could be made.

Mr Pearson advised Governors that the 20 students who went into further or higher education was due to the fact that they got a place through the clearing system.

Mr Byrne asked what was covered under the term “poor studentship”. Mr Moore replied that it was when there was an inability to follow college processes and it was in the best interests of the student to leave.

A discussion took place on the impact of students from Cheadle Hulme staying on at the school's sixth form or going to either Xaverian or Loreto. The college still gets some students from Cheadle Hulme when the school does not offer the course that the student wants or does not gain the attainment required to get into the sixth form. Mrs Phillipson felt that a number of students from The Kingsway go the Cheadle and Marple College,

Dr Beatty asked if there was any evidence that students from the college have a better chance of succeeding at university than those from school sixth forms. Mr Pearson replied that there was no evidence to support this but he felt that students from the college were better equipped due to the independence they have developed at the college.

Miss Eaton advised Governors that when students are looking at which university they want to go to they look at its location, league tables, academic excellence, student survey and the courses offered. She added that guidance from the college was very good.

Mr Horan asked if the college received figures from universities letting them know how former students had got on. Mr Pearson replied that some universities, Edge Hill and Hope in particular let the college know when a student has graduated. Ms Calverley thought it was important to know where the students go after university i.e. the employment factor.

The Governors noted the paper and thanked Mr Moore for the informative report.

7. PUBLICITY

Mr Moore reported that there had been little progress made on updating the college website. Mr Pearson advised Governors that the site needed to be refreshed because it was looking tired. Initially it was hoped that it could be done in house but in the end it went out to tender and an outside firm has been given a contract to update it. The college will retain editing rights. It is planned to go live in October 2016. The School Liaison and Marketing Group within the college would be looking at the new website as part of its marketing role.

Mr Byrne asked if it would be ready by the next committee meeting on 11 October 2016. Mr Moore said it should be ready by then.

The Governors thanked Mr Moore for his attendance at this committee over a number of years and wished him a long and happy retirement.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

11 October 2016 at 4.30pm

Signed _____
Chairperson

Date _____

AQUINAS COLLEGE

EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

Date: 4 July 2016

Time: 4.30pm

Venue: The College

GOVERNORS PRESENT

Dr P Beatty, Mr L Byrne, Ms C Calverley, Mr J Horan and Mrs R Phillipson.

Mr L Byrne in the Chair

IN ATTENDANCE

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4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

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

5. EMPLOYMENT ISSUES

a) Mr Pearson circulated a paper that gave details of staff who had left or were leaving at the end of the academic year. Particular reference was made to Eddie Moore who was retiring after 35 years as Vice Principal of the college, Phillip Parker who was retiring after 30 at the college and Nick Neary who was retiring after 29 years at the college.

b) Mr Pearson advised Governors that staff who wanted to retire or move on from the college had been invited to apply for severance pay. This would only be offered where it was clear that there would be a financial saving to the college. One member of staff in the Business Department had taken voluntary redundancy because the department was overstaffed by two teachers. The other member of staff had been redeployed within the college. The turnover in support staffing was mainly due to staff gaining work experience before deciding whether or not to train as a teacher.

c) Mr Pearson informed Governors that discussions were taking place with a member of staff who was on long term sickness. The discussions will centre around a reduced time table, a different role or severance.

d) Mr Pearson advised Governors that he would produce a staffing structure along with details of their teaching subject and responsibility as at September 2016 for circulation to all Governors.

6. JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Ms Calverley asked to whom does the Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) report. Mr Pearson advised Governors that the JCC meets each term with staff representatives and senior management of the college. Ms Calverley is a Governor representative on the JCC. Two of the staff representatives would be leaving the college at the end of the academic year. It was agreed that JCC be an agenda item for future meetings of the committee.

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