

AQUINAS COLLEGE  
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Date: 10 October 2017  
Time: 4.30pm  
Venue: The College

GOVERNORS PRESENT

Mr J Horan, Mr P Horton and Mrs J Miller.

Mr J Horan in the Chair

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr D Pearson	Principal
Ms C Vitti	Vice Principal

Although the meeting was not quorate it was agreed that Mr Pearson would update Governors on the various items that were on the Agenda for the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Dr P Beatty, Mr B Hickey, Mrs R Phillipson 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 13 July 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Trains stopping at Woodsmoor and Davenport stations – Minute 8 (a) Copies of the correspondence between the college and Aviva North and the Friends of Davenport Station was circulated to Governors for information.

Mr Horan advised Governors that in a conversation with Ann Coffey MP it transpired that Northern Rail had made a mistake in proposing to reduce the number of trains that would stop at Woodsmoor and Davenport stations by 6 trains at the peak time in the morning and by 1 in the evening. Mr Pearson added that Northern Rail appeared to be back tracking on the matter. Mr Horan added that Stepping Hill Hospital had also made representation to Northern Rail.

It was felt that the initial proposals by Northern Rail to reduce the number of trains that would stop at Woodsmoor and Davenport stations would not go ahead.

5. ADMISSIONS 2017/2018

Mr Pearson circulated a paper that gave details of the applications received for 2017/2018

compared with 2016/2017. The paper also broke down the applications into category 1 and category 2, the conversion rates that were used to arrive at the number of offers to make, the number of students who had attended the induction days and the number of late offers.

At the start of the term the actual number of students on roll in L6 was 1206 with 1124 new students, (the remaining 82 students being made up of pathways and recyclers). A discussion took place on the conversion rates for the number of students that had applied for a place at the college. Mr Pearson reported that 930 students had applied by the deadline from category 1 with a conversion rate of 63.44% that gave 590 students. The actual conversion rate was 61.94% which gave 576 students. 840 students from category 2 had applied for a place at the college. In previous years the conversion rate has been between 54-62%. 840 offers were made based on a conversion rate of 58.1%. The actual conversion rate was 58.57% which gave 492 students. The actual number of new students in L6 was, therefore, 1068. There were 41 late offers to category 1 and 15 in category 2 giving a total of 1124 new students in L6. In the U6 there are 992 students giving a total of 2198 (including the 82 mentioned above) which was below last year's figure. The funding figure for 2017/2018 was 2226. The college had grown each year by about 20 students but this could not continue.

Mr Pearson advised Governors that there are 40 tutor groups in both lower and upper sixth with a maximum size of 30 in each group. With the introduction of linear subjects the college would expect to keep more students. It is not known what the progression rate will be to U6 in 2018/2019 but it could possibly be the largest U6 the college has ever had.

There had been an increase in take up in certain subject areas but there was a shortfall in the number of students taking Mathematics and English at A level. In addition Business courses were converting to a more demanding course. Photography had enrolled more students as part of A level Art.

## 6. ADMISSIONS 2018/2019

Mr Pearson advised Governors that the optimum size for the college was around 2200 students which would mean approximately 1100 in each year. There would be a need to carefully consider the curriculum and financial position of the college for 2018/2019. In addition there would be a need for careful planning to determine the size of the L6 for 2018/2019.

An Open Day had been held on Saturday 30 September 2017 and other Open Evenings had been arranged for Wednesday 11 October and Thursday 2 November 2017. The closing date for applications (which are online) for 2018/2019 is 30 November 2017. Applications from category 2 students who have submitted their application forms by 30 November 2017 will then be considered taking into account their school reference. Applicants who are to receive further consideration will receive a letter by 19 December 2017 inviting them to attend an interview in January/February 2018. Mr Horan asked what was the college looking for in the students application and reference. Mr Pearson replied that the college were looking for students who showed a willingness to contribute to the life of the college.

With over 1200 students in the L6 this year, 2018/2019 could possibly be the largest U6 the college has ever had. This will mean that the L6 for 2018/2019 could be about 100 students less than this year. Mr Horan asked if the pattern of over subscription was on the increase. Mr Pearson replied that the number of applications was steady with around 2000 applications. Around 1000 category 2 applicants would be interviewed along with all category 1 applicants. Mr Pearson advised Governors that Loreto College had grown in the last 5 years to around 3300 students, whilst Xaverian and Holy Cross were similar to Aquinas. St John Rigby

College had under recruited by 100 students despite an excellent Ofsted report.  
A discussion took place on students who do another year in L6. Mr Pearson advised Governors that if there was educational or health reasons for a student repeating the course or if the student was doing another course the college would receive funding.

Further information on the number of applications for 2018/2019 would be available at the Governing Body meeting on 21 November 2017 and a further report would be given to the next General Purposes Committee.

7. COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

A copy of the current General Purposes Committee Terms of Reference was circulated .  
After a full discussion it was agreed that no changes were necessary.

8. PUBLICITY

Mr Pearson circulated a booklet entitled High Achievers Programmes which details courses to stretch and challenge the more able students. It is a recent publication that has been issued at the Open Day. Ms Vitti added that it is also used when visiting secondary schools.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no any other business.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

30 January 2018 at 4.30pm

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

AQUINAS COLLEGE  
EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

Date: 10 October 2017  
Time: 4.30pm  
Venue: The College

Mr J Horan, Mr P Horton and Mrs Miller.

Mr J Horan in the Chair

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr D Pearson	Principal
Ms C Vitti	Vice Principal

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3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2017 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. EMPLOYMENT ISSUES

a) Deductions for Strike Action - Mr Pearson advised Governors that the Supreme Court had made a judgement on the calculation to be used when deducting pay from teachers who have been on strike. In the past the SFCA have recommended that a deduction be made of 1/260th of a teachers salary for one day's strike. The decision made by the Supreme Court is that the deduction should be 1/365th of a teachers salary for one day's strike.

The Supreme Court had also ruled that the decision is backdated to cover the last 6 years. Mr Pearson advised Governors that over the last 6 years the college had made deductions of about £13,000 and that as a result of the new ruling it may have to reimburse staff for £4,000. For staff still employed at the college the reimbursement will be made in the October 2017 salary. Staff who have left the college will have to apply for a refund and this figure is estimated at £1,500.

b) Teaching Staff - Mr Pearson advised Governors that a teacher who had been on a Sabbatical year had been offered and accepted a severance payment in line with agreed procedures.

c) Support Staff - Mr Pearson advised Governors that a member of the support staff who would have been subject to Disciplinary Procedures had been offered and accepted a severance payment in line with agreed procedures.

d) Support Staff - Mr Pearson advised Governors that a member of the support staff who had been off ill and was subject to a return to work interview had been offered and accepted a severance payment in line with agreed procedures. This action had been agreed by the Chair of the Governors.

6. COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

A copy of the current Employment Committee Terms of Reference was circulated. After a full discussion it was agreed that no changes were necessary.

7. CURRICULUM IMBALANCE

Mr Pearson advised Governors that next year there would be a curriculum imbalance and it would be necessary to look at the staffing levels in a number of subject areas including English, Maths and Science.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

30 January 2018 at 4.30pm

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_