

## AQUINAS COLLEGE

### GENERAL PURPOSES AND EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEES

Date: 30 January 2018

Time: 4.30pm

Venue: The College

#### GOVERNORS PRESENT

Dr P Beatty, Mr B Hickey, Mr J Horan, Mr P Horton, Mrs J Miller and Dr A Smith

Mr J Horan in the Chair

#### IN ATTENDANCE

Mr D Pearson	Principal
Ms C Vitti	Vice Principal
Mr G Goswell	(Item 5 only)

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Ms C Calverley and Mrs R Phillipson

#### 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 10 October 2017 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

Mr Goswell introduced a paper that had been circulated to Governors which showed the destination of students who had left the college at the end of the 2016/2017 academic year.

Governors attention was drawn to the Executive Summary which showed the following:

- a) 1019 students left the college in 2017, the highest number for the last 4 years. Compared with 929 in the previous year and 997 in 2015.
- b) 93.5% of students left with a level 3 qualification which was slightly down from 2016 (94.6%) but higher than 2015 (93.3%).
- c) Students completing a level 3 qualification and accepting a place at university dropped significantly from 66% in 2016 to 60% in 2017. However, there was a sharp increase in the number of students deferring their place and taking a gap year, up from 7% in 2016 to 12.8% in 2017.

- d) The number of applications made to universities that gained an offer remained at 98%. The number of students gaining entry to their first choice university was 86%.
- e) Unconditional offers jumped from 5.3% of total offers made in 2016 to 7.6% in 2017. A significant increase of 2.3%.
- f) 205 students had accepted places at the Russell Group universities in 2017, 34% of the total acceptances to universities, a 2% increase from 2016. Students accepting a place at Oxford or Cambridge decreased by 1 to 4. Mr Pearson added that this year 9 offers have been made from 25 applications.
- g) The paper outlined the national picture concerning university applications and number of Apprenticeships applications along with details of the local labour market. The number of apprenticeships increased by 0.1% to 9.2% of all leavers. There was an increase in the number of students going in to full time employment from 7.8% to in 2016 to 9.5% in 2017. Mr Horan asked was it known what type of jobs they had gone into. Mr Goswell replied that the information was not available.

Out of the 1019 students, 568 (582) (NB figures in brackets which relate to this item, show results from the previous year) had gone on to university, whilst 36 (39 had gone to FE colleges. 197 (159) students went into work or apprenticeship and 130 (65) had chosen to take a GAP year. 7(8) students were unemployed and 9 (10) had taken up part time work. The destination of 56 (58) students was unknown. There were 16 (8) other students who do not fit in one of the other categories. Mr Pearson advised Governors that some universities are looking for students who have had work experience. Mr Goswell advised Governors that Salford Royal Hospital take on mature students. Mr Beatty added that nursing has a high level of returners.

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 the number of students applying to go to university was 85.4% compared to the previous year of 87.2%.

The paper summarised the most popular course choices at university and it was noted that Sheffield Hallam, Manchester Metropolitan University, University of Salford and University of Manchester were the most popular.

A discussion took place on both the Russell Group and the 1994 group of universities. 187 students (34% compared with 32% in 2016) had accepted places at the Russell Group of universities, a decrease from last year's figure of 226. The largest recipients of students from the college being Manchester (39) Sheffield (32) Liverpool (27), Leeds (29) and Newcastle (18). The number of students accepting places at the 1994 group of universities increased to 19 compared with 16 last year.

The main courses that students from Aquinas were following at university were Business and Admin Studies, Biological Sciences, Law, Creative Arts and Design, Social Studies and Physical Sciences. There has been an increase in numbers in Business and Admin Studies, Biological Sciences, Law, Mass Comms and Documentation, Physical Science and Social Studies. There have been significant decreases in numbers for Engineering and History and Philosophical Studies.

Dr Smith asked if students were leaving after completing one year in L6. Mr Pearson replied that with Linearity and students now doing 3 subjects the college needs to work towards keeping the students for 2 years.

Mr Hickey and Mrs Miller arrived whilst this item was being discussed.

The Chairperson thanked Mr Goswell for his comprehensive report.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

Mr Goswell left the meeting at this point.

6. ADMISSIONS 2018/2019

Mr Pearson updated Governors on the latest position regarding admissions for 2018/2019. There had been 2340 applicants including late applications. There had been 950 applications from Category 1 who would automatically be offered a place at the college. The college had still to visit Thomas More School in Buxton and Thomas More School in Denton to offer advice to the students on the appropriate courses at A level.

There had been 1390 applications from Category 2 and 1073 would be interviewed based on their application, Record of Achievement, portfolio of work, certificates and reference from their school. The interview process will be completed on Saturday 3 February 2018. Mr Pearson advised Governors that 22 senior staff were involved in the interview process which took up a great deal of time and that he was considering how to streamline the process for next year. Students are asked for the subjects that would study so that curriculum planning for 2018/2019 can start.

Mr Horan asked why were category 1 students interviewed. Mr Pearson replied that it was done to be fair to all students. Mr Horan asked if there was evidence that feeder schools were tutoring students. Mr Pearson replied that he would be writing to 2 schools where the students had not been prepared for the process and as a result their personal statements could have been better.

Mrs Miller asked if there was a difference in attitude/attainment from category 2 students. Mr Pearson replied that the weaker students tend to come from category 1, category 2 students have selected the college as the one they want to attend. He added that the feedback from the Open Days was that the college was welcoming, staff had time for the students and that they were impressed on how they had been treated.

Mr Hickey asked when would students be notified of the outcome of their application. Mr Pearson advised Governors that category 1 students are informed straight away, category 2 students would be notified on 16 February 2018. Any appeals are dealt with by the college initially and students are advised that their name has been put on the waiting list. Mrs Miller asked how does this work in practice. Mr Pearson advised Governors that the college try to take account of how many students will not take up the offer of a place at the college when determining how many offers to make.

A discussion took place on how many offers could be made to Category 2 applications, It was agreed that the target number for 2018/2019 would be around 2,210 students on roll for the census date in the middle of October 2018. Mr Pearson advised Governors that the college will be funded for 2190 students in 2018/2019 based on lagged funding which is 36 fewer than this year. It is anticipated that there will be 100 more students in L6 than U6.

An update on the admission numbers will be given at the Governing Body meeting on 6 March 2018.

7. PUBLICITY

Mr Pearson circulated a copy of The Moor Magazine in which the college place an advertisement. He also circulated a copy of booklet Aquinas College- Strategic Aims and College Mission which had been issued to all staff. Ms Vitti advised Governors that the aim of the booklet was to link quality of teaching with the college's mission for 2017/2018. She added that the booklet would also be considered by the Teaching and Learning Committee where a more detailed discussion would take place on the 4 areas that the college is focusing on for 2017/2018.

Mr Horton asked where was the Catholic Mission Statement within the booklet. Ms Vitti replied that it was covered on page 3 where 4 parts from the college's mission statement are detailed. Dr Beatty added that the college was roughly 50/50 in terms of students who are Catholic and those who are not. Mr Pearson felt that it was important to focus on the values of the college.

Mr Pearson advised Governors that the national League Tables have recently been published and that the measures have changed. This would be considered by the Teaching and Learning Committee.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Dr Beatty advised Governors that he had recently seen Mollie Bentley a former Governor at the college and that she was getting more and more frail. It was agreed that flowers would be sent to Mollie from the Governors and Dr Beatty undertook to make the necessary arrangements.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is 2 July 2018 at 4.30pm.

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

AQUINAS COLLEGE - EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

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Mr J Horan in the Chair

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr D Pearson           Principal  
Ms C Vitti               Vice Principal

1.     APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Ms C Calverley and Mrs R Phillipson.

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 11 October 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

4.     MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

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

5.     EMPLOYMENT ISSUES

Mr Pearson advised Governors that the college had held two Disciplinary Hearings as follows:

- a) A member of the teaching staff had been given a Final Written Warning as a result of a number of incidents over a period of time.
- b) A member of the support staff had been given a Verbal Warning as a result of their attendance record.

In both cases the members of staff still had time to appeal against the decisions to the Principal.

6.     DATE OF NEXT MEETING

2 July 2018 at 4.30pm.

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_