

AQUINAS COLLEGE

TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE

Date: 6 February 2018

Time: 4.30pm

Venue: The College

GOVERNORS PRESENT

Dr P Beatty, Mr R Harris, Mr B Hickey, Mr A Martin, Cllr T McGee, Dr A Smith and Mr D Pearson.

In attendance: Ms C Vitti (Vice Principal)

Dr P Beatty in the Chair

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

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. COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 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 COMMITTEE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes that were not covered on the Agenda for the meeting.

5. QUALITY REVIEW MEETINGS UPDATE

Ms Vitti introduced the paper Curriculum SAR Grades for 2017 that had been circulated to all Governors prior to the meeting. The paper showed the grade for each department and the subject areas within the department for September 2015, September 2016 and November 2017.

Ms Vitti advised Governors that there were 7 more subjects at grade 1 for November 2017, 3 more subjects at grade 4 and some subject areas at grade 2. The majority of subjects are grade 2 or above.

Mr Hickey asked how the gradings are arrived at. Ms Vitti advised Governors that the following factors are considered; national average, retention, pass rate and value added. When looking at value added the Alps score is taken into account. Mr Pearson added that the college is looking at outcome. Mr Hickey asked if leadership is strong but outcomes are poor which is more important. Mr Pearson replied that although all aspects are reviewed and discussed within the QRM, in the SAR we are grading outcomes to get a picture of performance.

Dr Smith asked why had English Language, Product Design, Music and Sociology fallen from a grade 2 to grade 4. Mr Pearson replied that in the case of English Language and

Sociology it was the first results since the move to linearity and in the case of English Language there had been a change in specification. In Sociology students had not been tested in the way that had been expected. In the case of Music the numbers were very small, whilst in Product Design the number of students was small there had also been a problem with moderation. It was noted that Archaeology had move from grade 4 to grade 2- but this subject had now been discontinued. Dr Beatty asked how many students had taken A level Maths. Ms Vitti replied that there were 104 students and she added that there was a need to look carefully at this subject area. Mr Hickey congratulated the college on the GCSE Maths results.

Mr Pearson advised Governors that in A level Media students had been guided though their coursework to make sure they were on target, he added that Media results are not as good as it seems and that the Maths results are not as poor as they seem in comparison to other colleges when we consider Level 3 Value Added data.

Ms Vitti introduced a paper that had been prepared by Catherine Phillips on Actions taken to Improve Outcomes. The paper had used a traffic light system whereby:

Red = Subjects which have serious concerns - at times, with more than 40 students.
A level Economics, A level Art and Design 3D and A level English Language

Amber = Subjects which have some concerns; in some cases L6 results may show improvement which should have a positive effect on U6 outcomes for 2018.
A level Maths, A level Further Maths, A level Geography, Cert -Business, A level English Language/Literature, A level Sociology and AS Philosophy

Green = Subjects which have few concerns because in year actions appear to be having a positive effect to improve U6 outcomes for 2018. A level Media

Mr Pearson advised Governors that A level Economics is a problem across the North West region. With English Language the specification had changed, it is now more technical. The college had moved to AQA examination board which was more suited to the students. In 3D Design the standards have changed.

Cllr McGee reminded the college that they can access examiners to clarify what is needed. Mr Pearson replied that the college can only send 2 teachers per subject area to standardisation/moderation meetings, it then has to be cascaded down within college. He added that the college has a good network with other colleges in the consortium.

Cllr McGee felt that there were some issues and some challenges for the college, therefore, there are a range of measures open to the college.

6. STRATEGIC AIMS 2017-18

Ms Vitti introduced the booklet Aquinas College- Strategic Aims and College Mission which had been circulated to all Governors prior to the meeting. The booklet 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. There 4 areas that the college is focusing on for 2017/2018 were outlined to Governors along with the 8 aims.

Mr Hickey 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 Smith felt that the college's mission statement was a starting point. Mr Pearson advised Governors that the college was trying to build on the mission statement and how it is truly carried out, illustrating the values in action of all those in the college. In other words not what the mission says but how it is carried out on a daily basis. Dr Smith felt it was important to see the Gospel values. Governors felt that the booklet was a good document.

It was confirmed that the college would at some point in time be subject to a Section 48 Inspection by the Diocese. Ms Vitti agreed to update the document in line with the governors' suggestions.

7. LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT SAR VALIDATION

Ms Vitti advised Governors that the college had invited an Assistant Principal and a Deputy Principal from other colleges to act as a critical friend to the college when looking at the college's leadership and management SAR. The outcome was that they agreed with SLT's grading of the SAR of the college as a grade 2 but suggested that it was close to a grade 1. They had praised the ethos of the college and the varied activities undertaken. This was similar to the grading given by Ofsted when they carried out the recent inspection.

8. IMPACT ON THE COLLEGE OF THE MERGER OR CLOSURE OF STOCKPORT COLLEGE.

Mr Pearson advised Governors that the consultation period on the proposed merger of Stockport College with Trafford College to form the Trafford College Group had closed in October 2017. The initial timetable was for the merger to take effect from 28 February 2018. Stockport College had been inspected again last week and it is not expected that the judgement will change from inadequate. The proposed move to Stockport Town Centre has been abandoned. The current site of the college had been sold to the National Housing Agency but it is proposed that they will buy it back. It is understood that Stockport College is hoping to receive monies from the Transaction Unit and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

There is unlikely to be any change to the curriculum delivered by Stockport College and therefore, the merger will have little impact on the college.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i) League Tables – Mr Pearson circulated a paper which showed the League Table Comparison 2017 Results. The Table showed the Headline measures for the college in comparison with Loreto, Ashton, Xaverian, Holy Cross, Cheadle and Marple Network colleges and the average for England.

Mr Pearson drew Governors attention to the column level 3 Value Added which was the only measure where the college was below average and explained that this is an area of focus for this year. Overall the table showed that the college was performing well and scored the highest in 3 areas more than any of the other colleges. Governors noted that in English and Maths at GCSE level the college score was 60% compared with the national average of 40%.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 12 June 2018 at 4.30pm.

Signed _____ Chairperson

Date _____