

# AQUINAS COLLEGE

## GENERAL PURPOSES AND EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEES

Date: 2 February 2016

Time: 4.30pm

Venue: The College

### GOVERNORS PRESENT

Dr P Beatty, Mr L Byrne, Ms C Calverley, Mrs R Phillipson and Dr A Smith

Mr L Byrne in the Chair

### IN ATTENDANCE

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

#### 1.     APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Mr B Hickey, Mr J Horan, Mrs E Rice and Mr D Pearson.

#### 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 6 October 2015 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 had been circulated to Governors prior to the meeting that showed the destination of students who had left the college at the end of the 2014/2015 academic year.

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 3.9%. The proportion of 18 year old ABB+ students who have BTEC's has doubled between 2008 and 2015.

It was noted that 997 students completed their two years (or in some cases three years) of study at the college, compared with 865 in the previous year. Out of the 997 students, 643 (547) (NB figures in brackets which relate to this item, show results from the previous year)

had gone on to university, whilst 55(28) had gone to FE colleges. 182(88) students went into work/apprenticeship and 36(37) had chosen to take a GAP year. 16(2) students were unemployed and 13(9) had taken up part time work. The destination of 47 (63) students was unknown. There were 5 other students who do not fit in one of the other categories. Included in the 997 there were 17(8) students from Pathways.

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 86.4 % the previous year to 87.2%. There had also been an increase from 2 to 4 in the number of students going to Oxbridge. There had been a further increase in the percentage of female students at the college accepting places at universities compared to males. Females 55.07% (53%) and males 44.93% (47%). This is in line with the national trend - females 56.28% and males 43.72%.

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

A discussion took place on both the Russell Group and the 1994 group of universities. 226 students (35% compared with 29% in 2014) had accepted places at the Russell Group of universities, an increase from last year's figure of 168. The largest recipients of students from the college being Manchester (48) Liverpool (35) Sheffield and Leeds (29). 23 places had been secured, at the 1994 Group of universities compared with 19 last year. There had been an increase in the number of students going to Lancaster University 14(8) which maybe due to the fact that this year is the first year they have offered unconditional places to students aged 18. Mrs Mayall advised that some universities were making unconditional offers to students, providing they put it down as their first choice. The universities involved included Nottingham, Leicester, Sheffield Hallam, Lancaster, Sussex, Queen Mary, London, Aston, Leeds Beckett and Birmingham City.

Governors noted that there had been an increase in the number of students on the apprentice programme 84(52) and an increase in those taking up full time employment 97(36).

Mrs Mayall advised Governors of a New Project for 2015/2016 that had been set up help U6 students research and make decisions about their future after Aquinas. The group consisted of 70 students and 10 had decided to go to university. Another new initiative was Tomorrows Teachers whereby the college has established a link with Edge Hill University and there are 25 students on the programme. A mentoring scheme for disadvantaged students has also be set up looking at students studying law, engineering, art and media.

Mr Moore 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.

Mrs Mayall left the meeting at this point.

6. ADMISSIONS 2016/2017

Mr Moore circulated a paper that updated Governors on the latest position regarding admissions for 2016/2017. There had been 1228 students interviewed broken down in the following categories:

Category 1	222	None attendance	10	Still to interview	48 = 280
Category 2	182	None attendance	21	Still to interview	92 = 295
Category 3	61	None attendance	7	Still to interview	32 = 100
Category 4	203	None attendance	6	Still to interview	6 = 215
Category 5	560	None attendance	34	Still to interview	517 = 1111
Total	1228		78		695 = 2001
		Declined	7		

Mr Byrne reminded Governors that for admissions in September 2017 there would only be two categories with category 1 sub divided into four.

Governors noted that a significant number of category 5 students have still to be interviewed. Mr Moore advised Governors that there had been some small changes to the process. The main change is that subjects are being ranked in the order that students are interested in and preparing them for the fact that the majority of them will be looking to do 3 courses, as linear A levels are more demanding. A record is also being made of their likely GCSE results to help more accurately plan the number of classes to put on.

Mr Moore advised Governors that the college had been targeting Kingsway and Priestnall Schools and that the college are still getting a large number of applications from Marple Hall School.

By half term it will be decided how many students to offer places to in order to hit the target number of 2125 students maintaining the increase of 20 students. The funding for next year has not been finalised and the college needs to consider whether to aim for a larger student cohort. In making this decision the college needs to take account of the other colleges in Stockport. An update will be given at the Governing Body meeting on 8 March 2016.

7. PUBLICITY

Mr Moore circulated a paper that updated Governors on the review of the college website and it was hoped that improvements could be made in house. The aim is to complete a full redesign of the website. A Working Party to co-ordinate the redesign process as sub group of the School Liaison, Admissions and Marketing Group (SLAM) within college would be established once a Graphic/Web Designer and Graphic design Apprentice have been appointed.

In the meantime Mr Moore is reviewing the website to see what data is out of date.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is 4 July 2016 at 4.30pm, which would be after the induction days.

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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#### 5.     EMPLOYMENT ISSUES

Ms Calverley outlined to all Governors the process that had taken place on 26 and 27 January 2016 to appoint a new Vice Principal at the College. The process had included the following:

a) There had been 7 applications and a shortlist of four was drawn up. Two candidates subsequently withdrew.

b) On the morning of 26 January 2016 there had been three Focus Groups involving staff, students and governors. The three Focus Groups were i) Curriculum, ii) Catholic Ethos and iii) Pastoral.

c) The two remaining candidates had been asked to make a presentation to the Appointments Panel on 26 January 2016. After the presentation one candidate had been invited back for the next step in the process.

d) On the morning of 27 January 2016 the one candidate had a formal interview with the Appointments Panel.

The Appointments Panel had made a recommendation to the Governing Body that Miss Carina Vitti be appointed as Vice Principal of the College.

Dr Smith expressed the view that it was good for the college to have a male and female in the two senior posts.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

4 July 2016 at 4.30pm.

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_