

AQUINAS COLLEGE  
TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE

Date: 3 October 2017  
Time: 4.30pm  
Venue: The College

GOVERNORS PRESENT

Dr P Beatty, Mr B Hickey, Mr A Martin, Dr A Smith and Mr D Pearson.

In attendance: Ms C Vitti      Vice Principal

Dr A Smith in the Chair.

1.      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Mr C Broda and Cllr T McGee.

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

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2017 copies of which had been circulated previously were approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

4.      MATTERS ARISING FROM THE COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

5.      RESULTS OVERVIEW

Ms Vitti introduced a paper that had been circulated to all Governors prior to the meeting. The paper covered the following areas:

- i)                                      Alps AS level – National Benchmarks
- ii)                                      What an AS level Alps score of 1.0 means
- iii)                                     Alps A level – Raw results by subject for 2017
- iv)                                     Alps A level – Strategic Overview for 2017
- v)                                      Analysis of students by ability for 2014, 2015, 2016  
and 2017
- vi)                                      Alps A level – Subject value added overview for 2014,  
2015, 2016 and 2017
- vii)                                     Alps AS level – Raw results by subject for 2017
- viii)                                    Alps AS level – Strategic Overview for 2017
- ix)                                     Alps AS level – Analysis of students by ability for  
2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017
- x)                                      lps ALPS for each of these below AS level – Subject value added overview for 2014,  
2015, 2016 and 2017

- xi) Alps BTEC Certificate – Raw results by subject for 2017
- xii) Ips BTEC Certificate - Subject value added overview for 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017
- xiii) Alps BTEC – Raw results by subject for 2017
- xiv) Alps BTEC – Strategic Overview for 2017
- xv) Ips BTEC - Subject value added overview for 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017
- xvi) Ips BTEC 90 – Credit Diploma - Raw results for 2017
- xvii) Ips BTEC 90 – Credit Diploma - Subject value added overview for 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017
- xviii) Ips Raw Results – Changes in High Grades following successful review of marking

A paper had also been circulated to governors that showed the current Pass Rate, Retention, Achievement, High Grades and Alps for A level and AS level. For Vocational subjects the paper showed Pass Rate, Retention, Achievement and Alps Sub Dip.

A paper from Ofqual had also been circulated to governors that showed overall results in England for all A levels in 2017, the results for the reformed A levels (13) and Unreformed A levels.

Mr Martin asked with this being the first year with linear A levels how do the results compare. Mr Pearson replied that you would expect a slight drop in results. With only half of the subjects taking AS level it is difficult to compare. In vocational subjects value added is strong. Mr Pearson added that with a change in the vocational Business Studies course there was an external assessment which a number of students did not pass and as a result, the college now asks for students to have a higher attainment at GCSE. The college has also changed how the course is delivered.

Mr Hickey asked why there had been a drop in all areas for vocational subjects, particularly in retention. Mr Pearson replied that the reduction was nearly all in Business Studies, there is now only one resit possible for students who have not done well after their first year.

Governors attention was drawn to the following in the report

- a) page 24 (4) Alps AS level – Strategic overview and were advised that the information was before the remarks had taken place.
- b) page 27 Table 7a Points per student – the college will not do as well as previous years now that students only take three subjects
- c) page 27 Table 7b Points per subject
- d) page 27 Table 7c Subject taken per student does not include BTEC

Ms Vitti advised Governors that the college will look closely this year at the performance of students whose average GCSE score is 7.0 – 7.5. Governors noted that there had been an improvement in Mathematics at AS level. Mr Pearson replied the quality reviews will see which specific factors have elicited such a big improvement.

## 6. PROGRESS ON UNDER PERFORMING SUBJECTS

Ms Vitti introduced a paper that had been circulated to all Governors prior to the meeting. The paper covered the following areas:

i) Courses causing concern in September 2016

Archaeology, Biology GCSE, Economics, Further Maths, A2 Level Maths and Media.

ii) Subjects that were being closely monitored

Geology and Geography, Computing, Government and Politics, Music, Physics and Philosophy.

iii) High Performing Subjects in September 2017- including ALPS grade 4 and above.

A level Business Applied, AS and A level Accounting, Chemistry, AS Law, A level PE, A level Religious Studies, A level Performance Studies, EPG. General Studies, Applied Law BTEC, Music BTEC, Creative Media, Sport CT Dip, Cert IT, 90 Credit Diploma Performing Arts, Art (Craft), (Graphic Design), (Photography), (Textiles), As and A level Environmental Studies, AS and A level Film Studies, A level French, AS and A level Geology, A level Government and Politics, AS and A level Health and Social Care, A level Music Technology, A level Psychology, A level Spanish, AS Maths, AS Media.

iv) Priority subjects causing concern in September 2017

A Level – Maths, English Language, Sociology, English Language/Literature, Economics, Further Maths, Art and Design (3D)

Other Courses – Cert Business, Philosophy AS to A level, Music, AS Japanese, Italian, A level History, Geography, Business Studies, Government and Politics (AS -A Level), Physics, German, AS Archaeology,

BTEC – Applied Sciences BTEC Subdip, IT, Acting

In each case the following were highlighted a) improvement, b) decline, c) some concern but lower priority and d) original notes

A discussion took place on each of the sections and particular reference was made to the following:

i) Mathematics, English Language, English Literature and Sociology.

ii) Dr Smith asked what had the response been from the individual departments and had any subject moved up as a result of linearity. Mr Pearson and Ms Vitti replied that Art, Chemistry and Psychology had improved. Ms Vitti explained that individual subjects have been linked across the Consortium colleges according to the strength of their results in order to support further improvements.

iii) It was noted that Section 3 was a mixture of linear and modular subjects

iv) The Governors recorded their thanks to staff in those subjects that had improved

v) Mr Pearson advised Governors that the college had requested a re-mark in some subject areas for about 140 students in total. One particular student's marks had increased but it was too late for him to take up the place at his preferred university.

vi) Mr Pearson felt that more statistical analysis of the outcomes was needed with particular reference to National Averages and that he did not have a lot of confidence in the Alps data this year as it is based on historic data relating to modular outcomes.

7. CURRICULUM ISSUES

Mr Pearson advised Governors of the following;

- i) Philosophy was no longer an A level, it was now part of the Stretch and Challenge programme as an AS over two years.
- ii) There has been a drop in the number of students wanting to take Mathematics and English at A level.

iii) There has been an increase in the number of students wanting to take Social Sciences and Creative Arts at A level.

iv) The college will need to look at the curriculum offer for 2018/2019 and the staffing needs in general but also in specific subjects where the impact of linearity has been greatest.

Mr Martin asked what was the overall effect on staffing. Mr Pearson replied that the college was funded for 2215 student and has 2200 now and that some staff have switched to another subject area. He added that there is more certainty with linearity that students will progress into the UVI year. The end of LVI will no longer be seen as a drop off point and there are very few opportunities to do a course in 1 year so progression should be easier to predict. The reform in BTEC looks as though it has been delayed until 2018 and possibly 2019.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Dr Smith asked if Governor involvement in the Quality Review process was encouraged. Ms Vitti replied that the Quality Review process was being reviewed and that she would suggest including Governor involvement in the revised process.

It was agreed that Quality Review be included on the Agenda for the next meeting.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

6 February 2018 at 4.30pm

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_