

AQUINAS COLLEGE

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Date: 29 January 2019
Time: 4.30pm
Venue: The College

GOVERNORS PRESENT

Dr P Beatty, Mr J Horan, Mr P Horton, Miss S Howard, Cllr T McGee, Dr A Smith and Mr N Sutherland.

Mr J Horan in the Chair

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr D Pearson	Principal
Ms C Vitti	Vice Principal
Mr G Goswell	(Item 7 only)

1. OPENING PRAYER/REFLECTION

The meeting began with a moment of reflection.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Mr B Hickey, Mrs J Miller and Ms E Urbancova.

3. GOVERNING BODY MEMBERSHIP

i) It was noted that Miss Sophie Howard and Mr Noah Sutherland had been elected as the new Student Governors. Miss Howard and Mr Sutherland were welcomed to the meeting and for their benefit all of the Governors introduced themselves.

4. 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.

5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2018 copies of which had been circulated previously be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

i) Admissions 2018/2019 – Minute 5

Dr Smith sought clarification on the information provided in the % of Total Applications. Mr Pearson replied that it related to the percentage of the number of applications received from each school that were not interviewed.

ii) Publicity – Minute 9

Mr Pearson advised Governors that Mr Sutherland had been looking at the app that the college were developing. Initially he did not think that an app was worthwhile but following discussions with staff who were developing the app he thought that it could be useful.

A discussion took place on the benefits of the MyAquinas system that both staff and students use. Mr Pearson advised Governors that the college still have the expertise within college to keep the system updated.

7. ADMISSIONS 2019/2020

Mr Pearson updated Governors on the latest position regarding admissions for 2019/2020. There had been around a 1000 applications from Category 1 students and there had been 4 interview sessions. From the Category 2 applications 1178 students would be interviewed based on their application, Record of Achievement, portfolio of work, certificates and reference from their school. Mr Pearson advised Governors that there were two more interview sessions with the last being on Saturday 2 February 2019. Mr Pearson advised Governors that 20 senior staff were involved in the interview process which took up a great deal of time. Staff are asked to attend for 4 sessions, whilst he and Ms Vitti attend 7 sessions. Mr Pearson said that he would evaluate how the process had gone and report back to the next meeting of the committee. Each student has a 10 minute interview with the college providing advice and guidance to students. Students are asked for the subjects that they would study so that curriculum planning for 2019/2020 can start.

Miss Howard and Mr Sutherland were asked how they felt the process had gone last year. Both felt that the process was good. Mr Sutherland added that he had changed the subjects he wanted to study when he started at the college.

Mr Pearson advised Governors that offers to student would be sent out on 5 February 2019.

An update on the admission numbers will be given at the Governing Body meeting on 19 March 2019.

8. 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 2017/2018 academic year. Mr Pearson advised Governors that the report was in a slightly different format from previous years. Governors' attention was drawn to the Executive Summary which showed the following:

- a) 1003 students left the college in 2018, the highest number for the last 4 years.
- b) Nationally 71% of applicants were accepted through their firm choice, at the college 78% of students were accepted through their first choice university compared to 75% in 2017.
- c) Unconditional offers jumped from 7.6% of total offers made in 2017 to 9.9% in 2018. A significant increase of 2.3%. The proportion of applicants holding at least one unconditional offer increased by 6.3% from 24.7% in 2017 to 31.3% in 2018.
- d) The number of students taking up unconditional places in 2018 was high at 168, 27% of total acceptances, up from 18% in 2017.

e) The number of acceptances at the Russell Group universities was 158, 25 % of the total acceptances to universities, down from 205, 34% in 2017. Students accepting a place at Oxford or Cambridge increased by 4 to 8.

g) The paper outlined the national picture concerning university applications and number of Apprenticeships applications along with details of the local labour market.

Nationally the number of students applying to universities in 2018 decreased by 0.6% from 2017. Acceptance rates among applicants receiving lower A level grades has continued to grow. Acceptance rates for applicants with grades equivalent to CCC or lower are now 84.9% in 2018 compared with 79.3% in 2013.

The number of apprenticeships in the country decreased in 2017/2018 for the first time since 2012/2013. The number decreased by 10.3% from 2016/2017.

In Greater Manchester in the 12 months to September 2018 there were 61,400 people unemployed (4.4%), compared with the North West (4.1%) and nationally (4.2%)

Out of the 1003 students, 622 (568) (NB figures in brackets which relate to this item, show results from the previous year) had gone on to university, whilst 18 (36 had gone to FE colleges. 219 (197) students went into work or apprenticeship and 30 (130) had chosen to take a GAP year. The destination of 111 (56) students fit into the category “other” some of which are unknown.

For the first time the report gave a details of “badged” students. That is, students that have one or more notable characteristic that we feel ought to be tracked, including Level 2 students, Widening Participation, Lower Prior Attainment and Higher Prior Attainment. This year’s report analysed, Minority Ethnic, Widening Participation, Lower Prior Attainment and Higher Prior Attainment. The number of students was as follows;

Minority Ethnic	103	Widening Participation	99
Lower Prior Attainment	71	Higher Prior Attainment	65
Young Carers	10	Looked After Children	5

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 Manchester Metropolitan University, Sheffield Hallam, University of Salford, Leeds Beckett University and University of Manchester were the most popular.

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

Dr Smith stated that the new universities had started to make unconditional offers and that students are likely to ease up if the unconditional offer is to students currently working towards a C level at A level.

Mr Horton asked when were the offers made. Mr Pearson replied that offers are made between September and March. Dr Smith added that universities should not give preference to early applicants. Mr Horan said that those students accepting unconditional offer are unlikely to apply to the Russell Group of universities. Mr Goswell advised Governors that students accepting unconditional offers might not be their first choice. Cllr McGee added that those students who coast may later find that their grades were not good enough when seeking employment.

Mr Pearson advised Governors that he would forward the link to the UCAS report that covered the various points raised.

Miss Howard advised Governors that she already knew which university she wanted to go to and that was Durham. Whilst Mr Sutherland indicated that he was likely to apply to the Russell Group of universities.

Mr Goswell advised Governors that Salford University had increased the number of unconditional offers by 61% over the last few years. He added that they have a Media City campus and have re-branded themselves.

The Chairperson thanked Mr Goswell for his comprehensive report.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

Mr Goswell left the meeting at this point.

9. PUBLICITY

Mr Pearson advised Governors that the college was using all the new material that had been produced. The next step was to update the college website and details of the information on would be given at the next meeting.

Ms Vitti advised Governors that the college was currently considering what should be included in the college prospectus for 2020/2021

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is 9 July 2019 at 4.30pm.

Signed _____
Chairperson

Date _____

AQUINAS COLLEGE - EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

Date: 29 January 2019
Time: 4.30pm
Venue: The College

GOVERNORS PRESENT

Dr P Beatty, Mr J Horan, Mr P Horton, Cllr T McGee and Dr A Smith

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 Mr B Hickey, Mrs J Miller and Ms E Urbancova.

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 9 October 2018 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

i) Mr Pearson advised Governors that that interviews had taken place to appoint a new Chaplain, unfortunately no appointment was made because none had experience of chaplaincy work in a sixth form college. The post will be re-advertised.

ii) Vacancies were also close to being filled in Facilities and Human Resources.

iii) Two new counsellors had been appointed which meant that the counselling service was now available for 5 days a week. There are now 3 counsellors employed at the college, 2 work 2 days a week and the other works one day a week. A discussion took place on the role of the counsellors in the college. Mr Pearson advised Governors that a student would normally receive 6 sessions of at least half an hour per session. Mr Horan asked what was the waiting time for a student to be seen in college. Mr Pearson replied that any waiting list would be cleared in a half term, compared to 6 – 8 weeks wait to be seen by a GP. He added that some students are fast tracked if they require immediate attention.

Cllr McGee asked how does this all fit in with the Well Being agenda. Mr Pearson replied that Ms Vitti chairs a culture group within college and that the pastoral team had received

training on mental health issues. The system in college is working well with counsellors, safeguarding leads and pastoral members. Mr Pearson added that he meets with the safeguarding leads every week. Mr Horton asked would the Chaplain also be involved in this. Mr Pearson confirmed that would be the case.

Cllr McGee outlined the mental health position within the local authority, with particular reference to the fact that there are a number of pupils in primary schools who show signs of anxiety. Mr Pearson advised Governors that the college refers students to CAMHS in severe cases.

Mr Horan asked in the case of staff are there a number of days absence lost through stress related illness. Mr Pearson replied that there is and that a JCC cross union meeting exists where staff can raise issues if they have particular concerns. Ms Vitti added that there is a Stress Management Survey that staff complete every 2 years

iv) Mr Pearson advised Governors that the college would need to recruit additional teaching staff for the following areas:

Mathematics, Business Studies, Law and Art/design

v) Mr Pearson advised Governors that whilst the college is growing in terms of student numbers the budget position for 2019/2020 is not looking good. The college should receive its indicative budget for 2019/2020 sometime in February 2019. He added that the SFCA at a national level are doing a good job in raising awareness about the lack of funding for sixth form colleges.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

2 July 2019 at 4.30pm.

Signed _____
Chairperson

Date _____