

AQUINAS COLLEGE
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Date: 9 October 2018
Time: 4.30pm
Venue: The College

GOVERNORS PRESENT

Dr P Beatty, Mr B Hickey, Mr J Horan, Mr P Horton, Cllr T McGee, Mrs J Miller and Dr A Smith.

Mr J Horan in the Chair

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr D Pearson	Principal
Ms C Vitti	Vice Principal

1. OPENING PRAYER

The meeting began with a moment of reflection.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received and accepted from Mr A Wood.

A discussion took place on the poor attendance of the Student Governors at both committee meetings and the Governing Body meetings. Mr Pearson advised Governors that there has been varying commitment by Student Governors over the years. He added that the current Student Governors are both quiet individuals and that may account for their absence from meetings.

3. 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.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2018 were agreed as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Admissions 2018/2019 – Minute 4 (a)

i) Mr Horan asked if further consideration had been given to streamlining the process for 2018/2019. Mr Pearson advised Governors that he had decided to stay with the current process for another year but would obtain more detailed feedback from staff on how the process had operated.

ii) Mr Horan asked if a breakdown was available of which schools the 317 students who had not been interviewed had come from. Mr Pearson advised Governors that he had looked at the

total number that had applied and the number who had not been interviewed. The details were as follows for the schools with the highest number of applications:

<u>School Applications</u>	<u>Number not Interviewed</u>	<u>% of Total Applications</u>
Cheadle Hulme	20	12%*
Hazel Grove	13	18%*
Kingsway	18	14%
Poynton	9	15%*
Priestnall	12	12%
Reddish Vale	16	17%
Stockport	14	11%
Werneth	8	13%

* The school has a sixth form.

Mr Pearson added that he had looked at schools in areas of social deprivation to see if that had any impact, but there was little difference when compared with other schools. The college had admitted 92 students from Cheadle Hulme School which has its own sixth form. Dr Smith asked if any students from Stockport Grammar School had not been interviewed. Mr Pearson replied that all applications from the school had been interviewed. Cllr McGee added that Priestnall, Kingsway and Reddish Vale were close to the Manchester border and may have applied to colleges in Manchester. In addition around 100 students did not turn up for their interview.

Mr Pearson advised Governors that marketing had taken place at certain schools to try and increase the applications from these schools. The college has a nominated link person for each school.

6. ADMISSIONS 2018/2019

Mr Pearson advised Governors that the college had slightly under recruited the previous year and is funded on 2187 students. For 2018/2019 he would like to aim for a figure of 2225 students which would be a growth of around 40 students. At the start of the term the actual number of students on roll was 2257 students. The latest figures are 2236 with a L6 of 1230 and U6 of 1006 which was 11 above the target figure. There had been 26 students who had dropped out of which 20 were from L6, these students have probably gone back to their previous school. The census date for funding is 19 October 2018.

Mr Hickey asked if there was a funding issue for students who do another year in L6. Mr Pearson advised Governors that if there was educational or health reasons for a student repeating the course or if the student was doing another course the college would receive funding. He added that as a result of linearity there would be fewer students repeating a year.

Mr Horan asked how the college was organised with 200 more students in L6. Mr Pearson advised Governors that there are 40 tutor groups in both lower and upper sixth with a maximum size of 30 in each group. With the introduction of linear subjects the college would expect to keep more students. There will be a number of drop outs at the end of the first year due to a variety of reasons including ill health.

7. ADMISSIONS 2019/2020

Mr Horan advised Governors that he had recently read an article in the Guardian concerning funding for sixth form colleges. Cllr McGee replied that the Sixth Form Colleges Association (SFCA) was running a campaign programme to increase the level of funding for sixth form colleges.

An Open Day had been held on Saturday 29 September 2018 and other Open Evenings had been arranged for Wednesday 10 October and Thursday 1 November 2018. The closing date for applications (which are online) for 2019/2020 is 30 November 2018. Applications from category 2 students who have submitted their application forms by 30 November 2018 will then be assessed. Applicants who are to receive further consideration will receive a letter by 18 December 2018 inviting them to attend an interview in January/February 2019.

If there are 2225 students on roll there is a temptation not to grow any bigger but it will depend on the funding position on 19 October 2018. The college has a good reputation and in recent years has grown whilst Cheadle and Marple College has been shrinking and Stockport College has merged with Trafford College.

Mr Hickey asked if the demographic trend had reached its lowest point and the number of students would start to increase. Cllr McGee replied that in Stockport there is pressure at the transfer age from primary to secondary at certain schools. He then outlined the national position. Mrs Miller asked what was the position at those schools who have sixth forms. Mr Pearson replied that Hazel Grove could have a sixth form of 200 but there are only around 50, whilst Cheadle Hulme has a sixth form of 250 and Cheadle and Marple College has around 1450 student across two sites.

A discussion took place on the pressures that the college is facing with the need to take additional students to provide additional funding and the pressure that staff are under as a result of additional students with larger class sizes. Mr Horan felt that there was need to make politicians aware of the difficulties that the college is facing. Mr Pearson advised Governors that the SFCA can provide a template for the college to use. Cllr McGee referred to ways in which the college try and support the general wellbeing of staff, such as the Aquinas Day that is held every year which enables staff to undertake a wide variety of new experiences in a social setting.

It was agreed that the admission process would be the same as the last 3 years after which a review will be undertaken. Further information on the number of applications for 2019/2020 would be available at the Governing Body meeting on 20 November 2018 and a further report would be given to the next General Purposes Committee.

8. COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

A copy of the current General Purposes Committee Terms of Reference had been circulated prior to the meeting. After a full discussion it was agreed that no changes were necessary.

9. PUBLICITY

i) Mr Horan asked if there had been any progress in developing a college app. Mr Pearson replied that within college he had met with three members of staff to discuss developing a

college app. They have been given 12 months to establish whether there is a viable way forward utilising staff expertise. Updates will be provided to the committee at future meetings.

ii) Mr Pearson circulated a copy of the new College Prospectus for 2019/2020. A great deal of time and effort had been put in to produce the booklet. It was acknowledged that improvements can be made to the booklet and Ms Vitti advised Governors that staff will work to an earlier timeframe for the booklet to be completed for next year. The cost of producing 5000 booklets was £8,500.

Ms Vitti drew Governors attention to pages 44 and 45 of the booklet, AQ Scholars which was formerly the Stretch and Challenge programme.

Mr Horan asked if the pictures of students in the booklet are all Aquinas students. Mr Pearson confirmed that they are Aquinas students.

Mr Hickey asked if there was scope for the design team within the college to be outsourced. Mr Pearson replied that it was possible but a house style would need to be agreed

iii) Mr Pearson advised Governors that the college website had been updated.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no any other business.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

29 January 2019 at 4.30pm

Signed _____
Chairperson

Date _____

AQUINAS COLLEGE
EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

Date: 9 October 2018
Time: 4.30pm
Venue: The College

Dr P Beatty, Mr B Hickey, Mr J Horan, Mr P Horton, Cllr T McGee, Mrs J Miller and Dr A Smith.

Mr J Horan in the Chair

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr D Pearson (Principal) and Ms C Vitti (Vice Principal)

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. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2018 were agreed as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising that were not covered by the agenda.

5. EMPLOYMENT ISSUES

Mr Pearson advised Governors that there were no significant issues to report. There had been some absences due to illness such as stress and operations. The college used to cover short term absences internally but now supply cover is obtained wherever possible.

6. COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

A copy of the current Employment Committee Terms of Reference had been circulated prior to the meeting. A discussion took place on the best time for the Remuneration Committee to meet to determine the salary level of senior post holders within the college. It was felt that this was a decision that the Remuneration Committee would have to make.

After a full discussion it was agreed that no changes were necessary.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

29 January 2019 at 4.30pm

Signed _____
Chairperson

Date _____