

AQUINAS COLLEGE
TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE

Date: 5 February 2019
Time: 4.30pm
Venue: The College

GOVERNORS PRESENT

Dr P Beatty, Miss M Braithwaite, Mr R Harris, Mr B Hickey, Miss S Howard, Mr A Martin,
Dr A Smith, Mr N Sutherland and Mr D Pearson.

In attendance: Ms C Vitti Vice Principal

Dr P Beatty in the Chair.

1. OPENING PRAYER

The meeting began with a prayer led by Dr Beatty.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence were received and accepted from Mr M Taylor.

3. GOVERNING BODY MEMBERSHIP

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. COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2018 copies of which had been circulated previously were approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

7. CAREERS, THE GATSBY STANDARDS

Mr Pearson advised Governors that the college was working toward achieving the Gatsby Standards. As part of this process the college was developing an employment strategy.

At the last meeting of the committee it had been recommended that Dr Beatty be appointed as the link governor for careers. Mr Pearson advised Governors that Mr M Taylor, newly appointed Foundation Governor had been working with the college careers department on the Gatsby Standards.

It was RESOLVED that the Governing Body be recommended to appointment Mr M Taylor as the link governor for careers.

8. DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTIONS

Mr Pearson advised Governors that he would be attending a meeting with the Diocese in March 2019 to discuss the procedure for the Denominational Inspections. The Head of RE within colleges and schools had also be invited to the meeting. Inspections for sixth form colleges is likely to begin in the next academic year. Mr Pearson reminded Governors that the Bishop has the right to inspect a school or college to review the Catholic ethos.

Mr Hickey advised Governors that the inspection in schools was based on DCI. Mr Pearson confirmed that the inspection of the college would be based on the same process. Mr Martin sought clarification on whether or not the inspections would be across all Dioceses. It was noted that this would be the case. The Inspection will be on the current diocese guidance or NIBRA guidance, if adopted by the Bishop.

Mr Pearson advised Governors that he will provide an up-date at the next meeting of the committee.

9. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT SAR AND QUALITY REVIEW MEETINGS UPDATES

Ms Vitti circulated a paper that showed the grades that the college had given to each subject following a meeting with all subject leaders taking into account value added and retention. The information covered September 2016, September 2017 and November 2018 and showed the progress that each subject had made. A graph also showed the subject grade trend over the three years. Governors noted the following information:

| | Grade 1 | Grade 2 | Grade 3 | Grade 4 | N/A |
|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----|
| 2017/2018 | 24 | 17 | 11 | 1 | 4 |
| 2016/2017 | 18 | 27 | 8 | 4 | - |
| 2015/2016 | 13 | 37 | 4 | 1 | 2 |

The paper showed which subject had gone up or down. The grading had been made using only whole grades, there were no pluses or minuses. There would be a mid-year review after the mock examinations. Mr Harris asked if some subjects were not included. Mr Pearson replied that was the case in subjects where there was no 3 year trend.

Ms Vitti circulated a paper Leadership and Management and Governance SAR – Executive Summary 2017/2018. The paper covered the following areas:

Aquinas is a good college because
Aquinas is not yet outstanding because
Cross -College Quality Improvement Plan Summary

Governors' attention was drawn to the key elements under each of the above areas.

Ms Vitti advised Governors that the college had recently had an SAR Validation undertaken by two external staff, the Assistant Principal at Xaverian College and the Deputy Principal from Ashton Sixth Form College. They had agreed the college grading was a strong good. Ms Vitti

added that a report had been sent to Ofsted based on the quality review process and that it showed the college's main strengths and areas for improvement.

Miss Braithwaite sought clarification on what constituted a level 3 course. Ms Vitti replied that it was a course that was post GCSE.

Mr Hickey advised Governors that 11-16 schools are measured on students' destinations. Ms Vitti added that the level 3 value added tables had been published recently. Mr Pearson advised Governors that the college receives the data to validate it in advance. He also explained that positive destinations is a measure used by OFSTED. He added that some colleges have retained AS subjects and continued with 3 strong subjects, whereas the college decided to adopt the 2 year linear courses. With the 2 year linear courses it is important that the student is on the right course from the start. Once the census data has passed, it is important that students remain at the college.

Mr Pearson advised Governors that the college looks for the students to achieve a positive destination. He added that the college aims to improve students' attendance at college through staff involvement at an early stage, a letter to the students' parents and tracking through the tutor group and subject teacher liaison.

The Student Governors were asked how independent study had worked out for them. Mr Sutherland replied that in theory it worked but it was not the best way and there was no motivation to do the work yourself. Reference was made to a particular subject. Mr Pearson replied that he had met with staff in this department and had discussed areas for improvement. Miss Howard felt that it was not effective because too much was left to the student in some subjects but that in Languages, the work was well structured. Mr Harris felt that it was important to note that students at the college are very well behaved and have a good attitude to study. He added that the college does not celebrate good behaviour enough or the participation in extra curricular activities.

Mr Hickey asked how did the college ascertain the information about the good behaviour. Ms Vitti replied that it was from the classroom and college walks. Mr Hickey asked if the external validation referred to behaviour. Ms Vitti replied that it had and that she had added a paragraph to the SAR to reflect this.

Mr Pearson advised Governors that the linear subjects are challenging, there is no fall back position that existed with modular subjects. It also prepared student for going to university where they will have deadlines to meet.

Mr Pearson advised Governors that the college is planning to obtain the views of students through the Student Voice and breakfast meetings. Mr Harris added that there is also the annual questionnaire that is issued to students.

Mr Pearson advised Governors that the quality of education was key in the new Inspection Framework. He added that for the next meeting he would provide details of the Elements of the Inspection Framework.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Code of Conduct for Governors - The Diocese have confirmed that the college has to accept the revised Code of Conduct for Governors and that all Governors, except Student Governors are expected to sign up to the Code of Conduct. Copies of the acceptance form were available at the

meeting for Governors to sign.

b) Chaplaincy - Mr Pearson advised Governors 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 had been re-advertised and the closing date for applications was 6 February 2019. It was hoped that an appointment could be made this time.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

11 June 2019 at 4.30pm

Signed _____
Chairperson

Date _____