

AQUINAS COLLEGE
TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE

Date: 2 October 2018
Time: 4.30pm
Venue: The College

GOVERNORS PRESENT

Dr P Beatty, Miss M Braithwaite, Mr R Harris, Mr B Hickey, Miss M Jarvis, Mr A Martin, Dr A Smith and Mr D Pearson.

In attendance: Ms C Vitti Vice Principal
 Mrs C Mayall Head of Careers (Item 6 only)

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 A Wood.

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. COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2018 copies of which had been circulated previously were approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

6. CAREERS, THE GATSBY STANDARDS

Mrs Mayall advised Governors that the Department for Education had issued statutory guidance for governing bodies, school leaders and school staff in December 2017. The guidance was in respect of careers guidance and access for education and training providers. There were 8 benchmarks which had to be met and these are known as The Gatsby Benchmarks and cover the following:

- 1) A stable careers programme 2) Learning from career and labour market information
- 3) Addressing the needs of each pupil 4) Linking curriculum learning to careers
- 5) Encounters with employers and employees 6) Experience of workplaces
- 7) Encounters with further and higher education 8) Personal guidance

In addition to meeting the 8 Gatsby Benchmarks the college had to have a careers programme agreed by the Governing Body and there would need to be a nominated Link Governor. Mrs Mayall circulated a paper that outlined how the college delivers its Career and

Advice Programme to students. Included in the programme was Careers Tutorial Topics, Careers Guidance Events and services to students which meet the requirements of the Department for Education, Common Inspection Framework for Ofsted, National Careers Benchmark- the Gatsby Benchmarks and the Matrix Quality Standards. Within college there is a tool called Compass which helps to see if the benchmarks are being met and Mrs Mayall is working with the MIS department to see if students are engaged with employers. The college would like to work with employers from a large organisation. Mr Martin added that in Stockport many of the large firms have closed or downsized.

The college is working with the Careers and Enterprise Company who want to establish a Forum in Greater Manchester and a bid has been put in to become one of the twenty one hubs that will be established. Other colleges include Ashton, Wigan and Leigh, also included are The Kingsway School. If the bid is successful it will attract funding of £1,000 for each member. Mr Pearson informed Governors that the college is recognised for its work on careers and has links with the Chamber of Commerce for guest speakers. Dr Beatty asked if the staff had made any comments. Mrs Mayall replied that she intends to conduct a “Survey Monkey” questionnaire with staff and Focus Groups with students.

The following documents were made available to provide further information for Governors:

- a) careers guidance and access for education and training providers – DfE January 2018
- b) The Gatsby Benchmarks Toolkit
- c) The College’s Statement of Service – Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance - October 2018

After a full discussion it was RESOLVED that:

- a) the college’s Careers and Advice Programme be recommended for approval to the Governing Body
- b) the Governing Body be recommended to appoint Dr P Beatty as the link governor for careers and
- c) this would be an agenda item for the next meeting

7. RESULTS OVERVIEW

Ms Vitti circulated a paper to all Governors that covered the following areas:

- i) Alps AS level – National Benchmarks
- ii) What an AS level Alps score of 1 - 9 means
- iii) Ips A level – Strategic Overview for 2018
- iv) analysis of students by ability for 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018
- v) Ips A level – Raw results by subject for 2018
- vi) Ips A level – Subject value added overview for 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018
- vii) Ips BTEC Certificate - Subject value added overview for 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018
- viii) Ips AS level – Raw results by subject for 2018
- ix) Ips AS level – Subject value added overview for 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018

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

Ms Vitti circulated a paper to all Governors that covered the following areas:

i) Courses causing concern in September 2017

- a) Good improvement - A Level Maths, Further Maths, Geography, Art and Design 3D, Cert Business (new course), English language, English Language/Literature, Media, Sociology
- b) Decline – A Level Economics, Government and Politics and History

ii) Courses causing concern in September 2018

A Level Psychology, History, Maths, Business Studies, Government and Politics, English Literature, English Language, Physics, Economics, Music Technology and Music.

iii) Subjects that will be closely monitored

A level Biology, Chemistry, RS, Dance BTEC, Geology and French. In addition Criminology will be closely monitored because it is a new course and the following subjects which will be linear for the first time:

Accounting, Environmental Sciences, Film Studies, Further Maths, Geology, Government and Politics, Law, Mathematics, Media Studies, Music Technology, Philosophy and Statistics

High Performing Subjects in September 2018 - including ALPS grade 4 and above.

A level Accounting, Computer Science, Law, PE, Italian, Further Maths, Drama, Art (Craft), Art (Photography, Art (Textiles), Environmental Science. Film Studies, German, Health and Social Care, EPQ, BTEC Applied Law, Applied Science, Creative Media (television and Film, IT, BTEC Music (Performing) BTEC, Performing Arts BTEC, Performing Arts (Acting), Public Services and Sport BTEC.

iv) Mr Pearson circulated a paper to all Governors that showed in graph form the results for the following subjects over a four year period:

Psychology, History, Mathematics, Business Studies, Government and Politics, English Literature, Physics, English Language and Literature, Economics, Music and Music Technology.

v) Support for Staff

Individual support will be provided for staff under the college's Managing and Supporting Performance framework. In addition there is coaching support for Leadership and Management in History and for intervention, tracking and monitoring in Physics.

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.

8. COLLEGE FOCUS 2018/2019

Ms Vitti advised Governors that the college would in this academic year have a whole college approach on independent learning focusing on sharpening the culture of individual learning with particular reference to the following areas for improvement:

- i) Value added in some subjects
- ii) Value added for students in the bands and upwards
- iii) to increase the proportion of high grades A* to B in some subjects
- iv) The study skills that successful students exhibit to be passed on to other students

Mr Martin asked if this year was the last year before all subjects become linear. Ms Vitti confirmed that this was correct. Mr Hickey added that Geology and Economics at GCSE had not yet changed to linearity.

9. SECTION 48 INSPECTION

Mr Pearson reminded Governors how the Section 48 Inspection process would work and that the Diocese is responsible for the inspection. The process has just been finalised and Mr Pearson advised Governors that he would be attending a meeting later in the week on this subject and that he would report back to the next meeting of the committee. He added that the college will have a full inspection sometime before 2020 and the Section 48 Inspection would take place at the same time.

Mr Pearson advised Governors that a Mission Group had been set up within the college to look at how the college is doing against the required standards. He added that the college Chaplain had obtained another post and had left the college. The post will be advertised and interviews will take place after half term with a view to making an appointment for January 2019. The successful applicant will play a major part in the preparation for the Section 48 Inspection.

Dr Smith reported that at the recent training session for Governors the Diocese had reported Section 48 Inspections would be known as Denominational Inspections in the future. In addition, it had been suggested that there should be a Link Governor for Catholicism similar to that in primary and secondary schools.

It was agreed that the item would be kept on the agenda for future meetings.

10. CURRICULUM ISSUES

- i) Mr Pearson advised Governors this year all the remaining subject go to linearity. He added that the college has 10 Applied General Courses that are vocational which were reformed in 2016 but the college decided to stay with the old system and has one more year from entry date to run.
- ii) The Government has classified the 3 areas for education as Academic, Apprenticeship or T Level (which are work related vocational courses).
- iii) Recruitment for September 2018 had reached the target number of 2250. There had been an increase in the number of students wanting to study Maths, Art and Business Studies.
- iv) Two new courses Criminology and Core Maths (for subjects that have a Maths content but the student is not studying Maths at A Level have been introduced from September 2018.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no Any Other Business.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

5 February 2019 at 4.30pm

Signed _____
Chairperson

Date _____