

AQUINAS COLLEGE

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Date: 28 January 2020

Time: 4.30pm

Venue: The College

GOVERNORS PRESENT

Dr P Beatty, Mr P Horton, Mr G Hynes, Dr A Smith, Mr M Taylor and Ms E Urbancova.

Mr P Horton in the Chair

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr D Pearson

Principal

Ms C Vitti

Vice Principal

1. OPENING PRAYER/REFLECTION

The meeting began with a prayer led by Mr Horton.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr T McGee, Mrs J Miller and Miss K O'Callaghan.

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 8 October 2019 copies of which had been circulated previously be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

i) Admissions 2019/2020 – Minute 7

a) Mr Pearson advised Governors that the number of students shown in paragraph 2 was actually 2253 not 2241.

b) Mr Pearson circulated a paper that summarised the various reasons why students had dropped out after enrolling at the start of term. The reasons were as follows:

Employment or Apprenticeship secured	7	Returning to home institution	6
Gone to another college		8 Seeking employment or apprenticeship	11
Welfare issues – health	4	Welfare Issues – behaviour	7
Not known	1	Restart	3

Mr Horton asked what happened to those where it was not known what they were doing. Mr Pearson replied that they are classed Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). The Local authority will try and track them down to give advice but there is usually around 5% - 10% of students that cannot be tracked down.

Ms E Urbancova arrived whilst this item was being discussed.

6. ADMISSIONS 2020/2021

Mr Pearson updated Governors on the latest position regarding admissions for 2020/2021. Category 1 students were interviewed before Christmas 2019, students at St Thomas More, Buxton and St Thomas More Denton are interviewed at their school, whilst other students are interviewed at the college. 39 students did not turn up for their interview, therefore, it was assumed that they no longer wanted a place at the college. Governors agreed with this decision and a letter would be sent to these students giving them a last chance to respond.

The college has changed the system for interviewing Category 2 students. There used to be 7 sessions involving only senior staff members, now there are 6 2 hour sessions to interview over a 1,000 students but more staff are used. The last session is on Wednesday 29 January 2020 when 200 students will be interviewed. After the interviews have been completed a decision will be made on how many offers to make based on the conversion rates from previous years. All offers will be made to students by 14 February 2020. The target is to grow by 20 students but the error margin is between 50-80 students. A waiting list will be retained by the college.

Ms Urbancova asked if there was any difference between interviews and take up. Mr Pearson replied that some students make multiple applications and it is difficult to know which college these students will choose. Mr Horton asked how is it determined which staff will work the extra hours. Mr Pearson replied that the college uses directed time and all teaching staff are involved in the interviews and will do at least 2 hours. Senior staff are involved for 8 hours. Dr Smith asked what was the quality experienced by the students. Mr Pearson replied that training is provided for staff to ensure that the students receive a consistently good experience.

An update on the admission numbers will be given at the Governing Body meeting on

7. STUDENT DESTINATIONS

Mr Pearson 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 2018/2019 academic year. He advised Governors that there were some major changes to the format of the report from previous years. UCAS has changed its website and the format on how the information is provided. The paper is an overview of last year and not a comparison with other years.

Governors' attention was drawn to the Registered Centre Progression Summary in the report which showed the following:

- a) 1005 students left the college in 2019
 - 626 continued in education (62%),
 - 132 went in to employment (13%)
 - 113 went on to apprenticeships (11%)
 - 134 others (13%)
- b) Of the 626 (62%) who went on to education, 28 students took a Gap Year (3%), 19 students went on to Further Education (2%) and 579 students went on to Higher Education (58%).
- c) There were 653 Applications which was 9% down from last year, Acceptance 579 were down by 7% from last year and Acceptance rate of 89% was up by 2%.
- d) Unconditional offers continued to increase but this may change in the future. It is understood that the university with the largest number of Aquinas student will no longer be making unconditional offers. It is estimated that a student with an unconditional offer is likely to under perform by 3 grades across all subjects. The college stresses to students the importance of the need to keep working to achieve the grades they are capable of.
- e) There were 44 students on all BTEC courses with 183 on a mixed provision of A level and BTEC.
- d) Students accepting a place at Oxford or Cambridge had decreased by 2 to 6. This year 32 students applied and 9 have received offers. This year the students are predicted higher grades but have not received offers. A Governor asked how successful are those students who attend Oxford or Cambridge. Ms Vitti advised Governors that they the success rate is higher than average. The information was not available but Mr Pearson undertook to report back to Governors.

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 Liverpool John Moores University were the most popular.

The main courses that students from Aquinas were following at university were Law, Psychology, Sport and Exercise Sciences, Sociology and Computer Science.

A Destination Map was also circulated that showed the number of Aquinas students accepted to UK universities and colleges.

Mr Pearson advised Governors that he would forward the Higher Education Statistics Agency report that covered the Degree Classification obtained by students at UK universities in 2017/2018.

RESOLVED: That the Student Destination Overview for 2019 be noted.

8. PUBLICITY

Mr Pearson advised Governors that copies of the various materials that the college use were available for Governors to look at. These included the following:

- College Prospectus
- Information on Taster/Welcome days
- Enrichment Activities
- Euro Week
- Curriculum Advice and Guidance
- Duke of Edinburgh
- Admissions Criteria
- Keeping in Touch with Students
- AQ Scholars Leaflet

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is 7 July 2020 at 4.30pm.

Signed _____
Chairperson

Date _____

AQUINAS COLLEGE - EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

Date: 28 January 2020

Time: 4.30pm

Venue: The College

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4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Employment Issues – Minute 5 (iv)

Mr Horton asked if the matter had been resolved. Mr Pearson replied that there had been an amicable settlement.

5. EMPLOYMENT ISSUES

Mr Pearson advised Governors of the following:

- i) Three members of the teaching staff had left at Christmas to take up a promotion at other colleges.
- ii) Ms Vitti had been appointed as Principal at Holy Cross Sixth Form College in Bury. Ms Vitti would take up her new post on 1 September 2020. Governors offered their congratulations to Ms Vitti on her appointment.
- iii) A member of the teaching staff had returned to work after a long term absence on a phased return.

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Signed _____
Chairperson

Date _____