

AQUINAS COLLEGE  
TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE

Date: 4 February 2020

Time: 4.30pm

Venue: The College

GOVERNORS PRESENT

Dr P Beatty, Miss M Braithwaite, Mr R Harris, Miss K O'Callaghan, Dr A Smith, Mr M Taylor 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

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Miss S Howard and Mr A Martin.

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 2 October 2019 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.     DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTIONS

Mr Pearson advised Governors that he had attended a meeting with the Catholic Education Service (CES) yesterday to discuss the procedure for the Denominational Inspections. The (CES) have produced a model framework to cover all schools and colleges from Early Years to Sixth Form Colleges. This had proved to be extremely difficult but progress has been made and the final version is much simpler. It is hoped that the final version will be available in the next couple of weeks. If the information is available in time for the May 2020 Governor's Training session it will be included on the agenda for that meeting.

It is a national framework that every diocese will have to follow. Training will take place within the next year and the inspections will be introduced from September 2021. Mr Pearson advised Governors that the college had undertaken some self-evaluation in preparation for the inspection and that progress had been made within the college. Expectations of what would be needed had been raised within college.

Miss Braithwaite asked how the new college Chaplain had settled in. Mr Pearson replied that she had settled in very well and that today the college had celebrated St Thomas Aquinas Day and the Chaplain had been very much involved in organising the day. Miss Braithwaite also asked how many practising Roman Catholics were there in the college. Mr Pearson replied that it was difficult to provide that information.

Dr Smith asked was it possible to produce a framework that would cover the full range of schools and colleges. Mr Pearson replied that he was pleasantly surprised by the changes that had been made from the initial document.

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

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

Ms Vitti introduced the SAR Executive Summary for 2018/2019 that had been circulated to Governors prior to the meeting. The paper covered areas that made Aquinas a good college and detailed the areas the college is working on this year. The headline statistics showed that the college exceeded the national average average for overall Achievement Rates. ALPs Value Added information was detailed as well as the Achievement Rates for the Level 3 Diploma and Level 2 Achievement Rates.

Mr Pearson introduced a paper that had been circulated to Governors prior to the meeting 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 results from 2016 to 2019 and showed the progress that each subject had made. The judgement had been made by a sub-group of the Leadership Team. A graph also showed the subject grade trend over the three years.

The paper showed which subject had gone up or down. The grading had been made using whole grades with pluses and minuses.

Mr Taylor sought clarification on why the Economics grade had fallen in the last few years. Mr Pearson replied that the subject had been taught by a member of staff who had now left the college. A new member of staff has been appointed and there are positive signs in the teaching and learning of the subject. There are 2 groups in each year giving a total of 90 students. Mr Pearson added that Ofsted will “Deep Dive” in subjects which are good, have large numbers or have poor results.

Ms Braithwaite asked how many students went to Oxbridge. Ms Vitti replied that students being offered a place at Oxford or Cambridge is 7 this year this year having decreased slightly from 8 the previous year.

Mr Harris felt that the breadth of courses offered by the college was good. There are 40 A level subjects and 10 BTEC subjects.

Governors noted that the following:

- i) A small number of subjects that had gone linear did not do as well as they had done last year.
- ii) The Pathways IT courses need to be reviewed
- iii) In Adult Education, follow up is needed Retention in GCSE Maths and English as well as the Achievement Rate for AAT Accounting.
- iv) Now that all subjects are linear we could expect greater consistency.

Ms Vitti circulated 2 papers that covered the Education Inspection Framework 2019 (Overall effectiveness) and Judgement areas: evolution, not revolution.

The college's self-assessment overall was good for Quality of Education with Behaviour (2), Personal Development (1), after discussion with external moderators and Leadership and Management (2)

Mr Taylor asked what the numbers were for students on free School Meals and BAME students. Ms Vitti replied that numbers in the college are small. Dr Smith sought clarification on how the numbers compare with the national average. Ms Vitti confirmed that they were below the national average.

Dr Smith referred to the HESA data that had been sent to members of the General Purposes and Employment Committees which showed that students from the college performs significantly better at university than students from other colleges and schools. It was agreed that the HESA data be sent to all Governors for information.

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' independence at college through staff involvement at an early stage, a letter to the students' parents/carers and tracking through the tutor group and subject teacher liaison.

The Governors thanked Mr Pearson and Ms Vitti for their reports.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Careers, the Gatsby Standards

It was agreed that any information on this topic should be considered by this committee in the future.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

11 June 2020 at 4.30pm

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

Date \_\_\_\_\_