

AQUINAS COLLEGE

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Date: 6 July 2021

Time: 4.00pm

Venue: Virtual

GOVERNORS PRESENT

Dr P Beatty, Mr L Byrne, Mr P Horton, Cllr T P McGee, Mrs J Miller, Dr A Smith and Mr M Taylor.

Mr J Horton in the Chair

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr D Pearson Principal

1. OPENING PRAYER

The meeting began with a prayer led by Mr Horton.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Mr G Hynes and Mr A Bailey (Vice Principal).

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 26 January 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising that were not covered by the Agenda for the meeting.

6. IMPACT OF COVID 19

Mr Pearson advised Governors that nothing had changed since his report to the Governing Body on 29 June 2021.

Dr Smith felt that the video for the Welcome Days was very good and congratulated the college on its production.

7. ADMISSIONS 2021/2022

Mr Pearson introduced a paper that had been circulated to Governors prior to the meeting. The paper showed that the following number of applications and offers had been made:

	Category1	Category 2	Total
Application received by the deadline	1120	1548	2688
Interviewed	1087	1096	2183
Offered	1087	979	2066
Accepted	745	647	1392
Places offered (held by student)	207	139	346
Undecided	81	146	227
Withdrawn applications	33	40	73
Declined	54	64	118
Waiting List 1 (Appealed after interview)	0	109	109
Waiting List 2 (Appealed not interviewed)	0	5	5
Rejected	0	398	398

Mr Pearson advised Governors that 2668 was the highest number of applications that the college had ever received. The 2066 offers that have been made could result in 1240 students based on previous experience. There are 1392 students who have accepted a place at the college. The college is looking for a L6 of around 1200 students. Those students who are shown as undecided did put the college down as their first choice.

Dr Smith expressed the view that the number of applications that the college has received is bad news for the other colleges in Stockport. Mr Pearson replied that he had been in contact with Trafford College which now includes Stockport College and Cheadle and Marple College who are trying to re-structure across these sites. Both colleges are seen as a going concern, although the Cheadle site is in a poor condition. Mr Pearson added that he had encouraging schools to engage with Stockport College and Cheadle and Marple College. Dr Smith added that the college may have a year whereby it has a one year hit of additional students. Mr Pearson agreed and felt that the college could recruit more students that had been intended.

RESOLVED: That the above strategies be noted.

8. ANALYSIS OF STUDENT WITHDRAWALS

Mr Pearson introduced a paper that had been circulated to Governors prior to the meeting. The paper that showed the total number of students who had withdrawn from the college during the academic year 2020/2021. The information showed a breakdown of the reasons why students had left. It also showed students who had been on roll at the college for 6 weeks or more which effected the retention data for the college.

The breakdown on the reasons for students leaving early were as follows:

	Leavers effecting retention data	%
Employment or Apprenticeship	35	42.2
Seeking Employment or Apprenticeship	11	13.3
Gone to another college	14	16.9
Returning to home institution	2	2.4
Unknown	6	7.2
Welfare issue – behaviour	3	3.6
Welfare issue – health	12	14.5
Total	83	

	All Leavers in year	%
Employment or Apprenticeship	39	34.5
Seeking Employment or Apprenticeship	15	13.3
Gone to another college	27	23.9
Returning to home institution	2	1.8
Unknown	9	8.0
Welfare issue – behaviour	5	4.4
Welfare issue – health	16	14.2
Total	113	

Mr Pearson advised Governors that there are many reasons why students leave the college. Those who left to take up apprenticeships or employment had a good reason for them to leave the college. The census date for retention is 6 weeks after the start of the Autumn term and the number of 83 students is slightly lower than normal which is between 90 -100 students. The college follow up with students to find out the reason they left. Mr Pearson added that number who had left the college was less than other colleges in the North West.

Mrs Miller asked why those students who had left to start apprenticeships had started at the college in the first place. Mr Pearson replied that they had not been accepted on an apprenticeship when the academic year started. He added that some students will always leave and the best route is for them to go on to an apprenticeship. There have been less opportunities for students in the last two years. If students stay until the end of L6 they can convert into a BTEC

9. PUBLICITY

Mr Pearson drew Governors attention to the Welcome Days video that had been circulated to Governors. He added that it was planned to have Welcome Evening for parents in July and September. The Governors commented on the high quality of the video. Mr Pearson advised Governors that when making the video in house the college had used its own drone and that staff had enjoyed making the video.

Mr Pearson felt that Year 11 students would have benefited from actually being able to visit the college on site.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no Any Other Business.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

12 October 2021 at 4.30pm

Signed _____
Chairperson

Date _____

AQUINAS COLLEGE

EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

Date: 6 July 2021

Time: 4.00pm

Venue: Virtual

GOVERNORS PRESENT

Dr P Beatty, Mr L Byrne, Mr P Horton, Cllr T P McGee, Mrs J Miller, Dr A Smith and Mr M Taylor.

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr D Pearson Principal

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5. EMPLOYMENT ISSUES

Mr Pearson advised Governors of the following;

a) Interviews would be held internally for 2 new posts in the college, Head of Year for L6 and Head of Year for U6. They would have a pastoral lead and would be report to the Vice Principal.

b) Wellbeing Officers would be appointed to look after students to ensure that they thrive at the college. There will 2/3 for each year group. In response to a question from Dr Beatty, Mr Pearson replied that they would receive on line training for mental health and first aid.

c) Trish Callaghan will retire in 12 months so it is planned to appoint an Assistant Timetabler so that there can be an easy transition. Applications would be sort internally.

d) Mrs Miller asked what arrangements would there be if the bubbles had been removed and there is an increase in Covid cases. Mr Pearson replied that the bubble would be re-instated.

Cllr McGee advised Governors that advice from the SFCA would be coming out soon.

However, the decision will remain with the local Public Health Authority.

Mr Pearson added that there were weekly meetings with the local authority so that schools and colleges can be kept informed of any local developments. It is anticipated that there could be another wave of Covid cases in September. The virus is transmitted by adults not students. Mrs Miller asked what were the implications for staff cover. Mr Pearson replied that if staff were isolating they would teach from home. He added that very few staff are ill or isolating but a number are looking after their children who are isolating. A member of staff would need to be absent for 2 weeks before getting supply cover. The college are looking to be creative to see what resources can be put on line.

Mrs Miller asked if the college expected more staff to be ill with Covid. Cllr McGee replied that by the middle of August vaccination will be offered to all over 18 and it is expected that the take up will be high in Stockport. Mr Pearson replied that the college can respond quickly to any change. He added that he is in discussion with Chair of Governors on a regular basis.

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