

AQUINAS COLLEGE  
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Date: 11 October 2022  
Time: 4.30pm  
Venue: College

GOVERNORS PRESENT

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

Mr P Horton in the Chair

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr D Pearson	Principal
Mr A Bailey	Vice Principal

1. OPENING PRAYER/REFLECTION

The meeting began with a prayer led by Mr Horton

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received and accepted from Mr M Quinney and from Mr G Hynes for his late arrival.

3. WELOCME

Mr Horton welcomed Mrs Knights to her first meeting in person since she had been elecetd as a Parent Governor.

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. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising that were not covered by the agenda.

7. IMPACT OF COVID 19

Mr Pearson advised Governors that since the end of the last academic year the college had stopped recording the number of Covid incidents. However, staff and student who contract Covid are required to isolate for 5 days. The college has also stopped providing tuition online. There were two students who had long term Covid and work was being sent home for them to complete.

Mr Pearson advised Governors that no more than three staff had been absent at any one time and in the case of students never more than six had been absent at any one time since the college returned in September. He added that there are a number of staff and students with coughs at the moment. Dr Beatty asked if the college knew what variant of Covid was prevalent. Mr Pearson replied that the college did not know which variant it was. Cllr McGee reported that the local authority had seen a slight increase in the number of Covid cases.

8. ADMISSIONS 2021/2022

Mr Pearson advised Governors that the college had started the term with 2426 students including Pathways and that the college is funded on 2413 students. A number of students had dropped out for a variety of reasons including going back to their previous school, apprenticeships or transferring to another college. The college had hoped that the number of student would be around 2450 which meant that the numbers were down by around 20 students from the planned number.

At the start of the term the 2426 students comprised of 1254 in L6 and 1172 in U6. The figures now are 1235 in L6 and 1158 in U6. The latest figures suggest that there will be around 2383 to 2363 students on roll at the census date of 14 October 2022. This year there will be 36 pathway students in 4 classes, which is a significant increase on previous years.

There had been no timetabling issues and the average class size is around 21 and the maximum size is 26 students. This year the tutor groups have increase from 88 to 96 with 6 blocks and 8 tutor groups (48) in each year group. This has allowed us to make those group sizes more manageable.

In Pathways there are 7/8 teachers and 12 leaning support assistants. The college is funded for 40 students with Education Health Care Plans (EHCP) but the number had increased to 62. The number of learning support assistants in the mainstream is more than previous years. These students are funded at the base rate plus an additional £6,000; for any additional funding above this level the college has to make a case. Mr Taylor asked what course did these students follow. Mr Pearson replied that that it was from Foundation to Level 1 in numeracy, literacy, IT and Life Skills. The students stay at the college for 2/3 years and the aim is for them to achieve independency. He added that the complexity of need of these students is the main difficulty for the college to address. The increase in numbers is partly due to Trafford College reorganizing of their centres.

8. ADMISSIONS 2023/2024

Mr Pearson advised Governors that one Open Day had been held on Saturday 24 September 2022 and two more Open Evenings in October and November 2022 were planned. In addition, the college is also scheduled to attend school events and year 10/11 assemblies at secondary schools. The Open Day on Saturday 24 September had been well attended and in future the college may opt for two weekend events.

The closing date for applications (which are online) for 2023/2024 is 30 November 2022. All category 1 students will have a telephone interview before Christmas 2022. Applications from category 2 students who have submitted their application forms by 30 November 2022 will then be assessed. All applicants will be notified whether or not they are being considered for interview. Students who are to receive further consideration will receive a letter before

Christmas 2022 inviting them to an interview in January/February 2023. Offers to be made by February half term. The telephone interviews for category 1 students have started.

Mr Pearson reported that 189 students had completed their statements.

When considering applications, the college consider the following:

- i) Commitment to study at the college
- ii) Appreciation of and commitment to the college's ethos
- iii) Wider interests and the contribution the applicant might make to the college community
- iv) A reference from school regarding application, attendance, conduct and punctuality
- v) Whether the applicant currently attends a school located in Stockport
- vi) Quality of application

Further information on the number of applications for 2023/2024 would be available at the Governing Body meeting on 29 November 2022 and a further report would be given to the next General Purposes Committee.

Mr Taylor congratulated the college on the good examination results for 2022. Mr Pearson replied that the good results were due to the care and attention that students receive.

#### 9. COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

A copy of the current General Purposes Committee Terms of Reference had been circulated prior to the meeting.

After a full discussion it was agreed that no changes were necessary.

#### 10. PUBLICITY

Mr Pearson circulated a copy of the new College Prospectus for 2023/2024 that had been delivered to the 5 feeder schools and 15 other secondary schools. The new prospectus contained QR codes for students to scan to see more about the courses that the college offered.

The Roadshows at secondary schools would continue. Mr Bailey added that the college had updated its presentation to these schools.

It was noted that the college takes a number of students from the Hope Valley area of Derbyshire. Mr Hynes added that lots of student from the college use Davenport Station and that his experience showed that the students were well behaved.

#### 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no any other business.

#### 12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

24 January 2023 at 4.30pm

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

AQUINAS COLLEGE  
EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

Date: 11 October 2022  
Time: 4.30pm  
Venue: College

GOVERNORS PRESENT

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

Mr P Horton in the Chair

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr D Pearson	Principal
Mr A Bailey	Vice principal

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. 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.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising that were not covered by the agenda.

5. EMPLOYMENT ISSUES

a) Appointment of Additional Staff - Mr Pearson advised Governors that the college had recruited more staff this year than in previous years.

b) Two staff were on long term sickness, 1 support staff member is waiting for an operation. The college are trying to reach an agreement with the teacher who has long term health problems to return to college.

c) Mr Pearson advised Governors that the L6 this year is better prepared for work and study.

6. COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

A copy of the current Employment Committee Terms of Reference had been circulated prior to the meeting.

After a full discussion it was agreed that no changes were necessary.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no Any Other Business.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

24 January 2023 at 4.30pm

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_