AQUINAS COLLEGE
TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE

Date: 3 February 2026
Time: 4.45pm
Venue: College

GOVERNORS PRESENT

Ms E Bradbury, Ms J Dommett, Mr B Hickey, Mr G Hynes, Mr A Martin, Dr A Smith, and Miss S Yates.

In attendance: Mr A Bailey Vice Principal

Ms C Phillips (Assistant Principal – Curriculum & Quality)

Dr A Smith in the Chair.

1. OPENING PRAYER

The meeting began with a prayer led by Dr Smith.

2. STUDENT GOVERNOR

The Chairperson welcomed Miss S Yates who had been elected as a Student Governor. For the benefit of Miss Yates everyone was asked to introduce themselves.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Mr L Byrne, Ms H Donelon and Mr M Taylor. Governors noted that Mr Byrne was still in hospital.

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. COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2025 copies of which had been circulated previously were approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE COMMITTEE MINUTES

a) Results Overview -Minute 7

Mr Hynes sought clarification on the 7 subjects where reviews were outstanding. Ms Phillips replied that there had been a positive outcome to each of those reviews and added that A* was now at 9%.

b) Results Overview – Minute 7 b
The ALPS for Vocational Subjects is now 2 overall
c) Results Overview – Minute 7 c
Creative Media should be 81%

7. NEW OFSTED FRAMEWORK – OVERVIEW

Ms Phillips introduced a paper to Governors that gave an overview of the new Ofsted framework. Staff had attended a number of webinars to get a better understanding of the new framework. The framework would be based on the report card for Further Education and Skills. The college would be judged on three areas, a) Leadership and Governance, ii) inclusion and iii) Safeguarding. The college would not be judged on Contribution to meeting Skills needs because it is a stand alone sixth form college.

The single word judgement has been replaced. For Leadership and Governance and Inclusion one of the following judgements will be made, Exceptional, Strong standard, Expected standard, Needs attention or Urgent improvement. In the case of Safeguarding it will be Met or Not met. The inspection starts with assumption that all areas are at the expected standard. The awarding of Exceptional standard will be very rare.

There are three areas within the inspection framework i) Education programmes for young people, ii) Adult learning programmes and iii) Provision for learners with high needs (including both mainstream and Pathways). Each area is sub divided into three a) Curriculum, teaching and training, b) Achievement and c) Participation and development.

There will be a colour coded system as follows;

Exceptional	Blue
Strong standard	Dark Green
Expected standard	Light Green
Needs attention	Amber
Urgent improvement.	Red

The college has started doing its own self assessment to ensure that all the standards are met. It will need to provide evidence to support the self assessment. The college must meet the Expected standard in all areas before it can go for a strong standard.

Ms Phillips added that skills is woven all the way through. Miss Dommett added that currently the college can demonstrate that 89% of the students are on at least one subject on the GMCA Skills Priorities and college are working to fully evidence how engaged they are with the skills agenda.

Mr Hynes expressed the view that parents may have difficulty accepting the position where a college falls from a previously outstanding grade.

8. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF: EDUCATION PROGRAMMES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE(EYPS) SELF-ASSESSMENT AND QIP 2025/2026

Ms Phillips introduced a paper to Governors that showed the results of the Self Assessment Review (SAR) for 2025/2026, along with Quality Improvement. Each area of the new (2025) FE Inspection and Skills toolkit has been self- assessed, in line with the college strategic targets and areas for development and improvement are addressed in the QIP.

The areas covered were as follows;

a) Curriculum, Teaching and Training - Expected Standard

i) Adaptive and Inclusive Teaching

ii) Group of Learners

iii) Extended Writing

b) Achievement - Strong/Expected Standard

i) Inclusive Achievement and Value Added

ii) Targeted Subject Support for Improvement of Value Added, ISG and AP

c) Participation and Development – Expected Standard

i) New Attendance Policy – attendance up by 2%.

ii) Destinations – A report was submitted to the General Purposes Committee.

iii) Skills – in the process of becoming more systematic in line with core and elective curriculum.

Mr Bailey advised Governors that there are 6 skills weeks in college, 3 in each year to focus on transferable skills, further education, careers and to improve student and staff literacy around skills. Each department will have a Skills Planning document which will enable better tracking and monitoring of data. There will be a personal development programme for students.

Miss Yates felt that the skills sessions had been really helpful but should be greater in frequency. She added that students would like more skills sessions. Mr Bailey added that the skills sessions are aimed at higher education not employment. Miss Yates added that sessions on life skills, like financial training would be appreciated by students.

Ms Phillips added that students taking the science subjects found essay writing more difficult than students who subjects are essay based.

The Chairperson thanked Ms Phillips for an informative summary.

9. UPDATED IN YEAR PROGRESS

Ms Phillips introduced a paper that showed the performance and targeted interventions across the college as a whole and for targeted subjects.

a) College Wide Performance – Overall A level performance is stable. Current Assessment Average C+ and Predicted Assessment Average B. The last 2 years result

have been B-. The aim is for QIP for 2025/2026 to move from a B- average to a solid B, the college is focusing on the following:

i) Refining Assessment Sequencing, ii) Assessment for Learning and iii) Extended writing. Attendance is 92% which is 2% above the same time last year.

b) Subjects with Additional Oversight and Support – Four subjects, History, English Literature, Geography and Geology are receiving additional leadership time and oversight from the Assistant Principal (Curriculum and Quality) and the Quality Team. Each subject is receiving additional, tailored, pastoral support from the Head of Year for under performing students.

c) Data Snapshot: Value Added Performance – The Value Added for History, English Literature, Geography and Geology is as follows:

Subject	SR4 Previous	SR5 Current	SR5 Prediction	Direction of Travel
History	7	6	4	Some improvement
English Literature	8	7	5	Some improvement
Geography	7	8	4	Limited improvement
Geology	8	8	6	Limited improvement

Mr Hynes asked what is the difference between some improvement and limited improvement. Ms Dommett replied that some improvement is better than limited improvement. Mr Hynes also asked if the four subjects were all amber under the new Ofsted framework. Ms Phillips replied that only History had self assessed as amber. Miss Yates asked what is a good predicted grade. Ms Phillips replied that Alps 5 is good.

Ms Phillips advised Governors that the college had linked up with Holy Cross College in Bury, who had good results in Geography and Geology and that staff would be visiting Holy Cross College.

Governors noted that Health and Social Care and Law had piloted the new self assessment process.

d) Strategic Summary for Governors – While the predicted data (4s and 5s) looks positive, the assessment data (6s,7s and 8s) shows there is still a significant gap to close before the summer exams. The focus for next half term is “Closing the Feedback Loop” – ensuring that when a teacher marks a piece of work, the student actually applies that high level skill in the next assessment. There is also a focus on the development of skills needed to gain higher marks in extended writing subjects-selection and relevance and elaboration.

The Governors thanked Ms Phillips for her comprehensive report.

10. CURRICULUM ISSUES

a) Ms Dommett advised Governors that there had been a number of staff absences due to illness in Uniformed Protective Services and Criminology subject areas. Some

teachers teach across both subjects. Uniformed Protective Services has a number of low prior attaining students. Cover will be provided after the half term break and a post will be advertised to recruit additional staff.

b) There is no further information on the new V level qualification that may mean that AAQ, BTEC and CTEC qualifications will cease.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Dr Smith thanked Miss Yates for her contribution to the meeting.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

16 June 2026 at 4.30pm

Signed _____ Date _____

Chairman