# AQUINAS COLLEGE
# TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE

Date: 9 June 2026
Time: 4.30pm
Venue: College

## GOVERNORS PRESENT

Ms E Bradbury, Ms J Dommett, Mr B Hickey, Mr G Hynes, 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/REFLECTION

The meeting began with a prayer and reflection led by Dr Smith.

## 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Mr L Byrne, Ms H Donelon 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 3 February 2026 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

a) Apologies for Absence – Minute 3

Governors noted that Leo Byrne was out of hospital and recuperating at home.

b) New Ofsted Framework – Minute 7

Mr Hynes sought clarification on how the college would be judged on its Contribution to meeting Skills if it was an academy. Ms Dommett replied that it would not be judged if it were an academy. She added that the college will not change what it is currently doing in respect of meeting the skills agenda.

c) Curriculum Issues – Minute 10

Mr Hynes asked if all the vacancies had been filled. Ms Dommett replied that all vacancies had been filled and that the college had been pleased with the quality of applications that it has received. There are a few vacancies that the college is currently recruiting for.

## 6. IN YEAR PROGRESS – QUALITY REVIEW

Ms Phillips introduced a paper that had been circulated to Governors prior to the meeting. The paper showed i) the ALPS scores for 2025 and the predicted grades for 2026 and 2027. The data is a snap shot form the mock examinations. She added that the document is live and it is on the governors portal.

The data covered A Level and Criminology. A comparison between the 2025 actuals and the predictions for 2026 and 2027 are shown below:

a) A Levels

| | **A*** | **A** | **A*-A** | **A*-B** | **A*-C** | **A*-E** | **U Grade** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2025 Actuals | 8% | 17% | 25% | 59% | 83% | 99% | 1% 24 |
| 2026 Predictions | 7% | 20% | 27% | 59% | 85% | 99% | 1% 26 |
| 2027 Predictions | 7% | 14% | 21% | 47% | 72% | 96% | 4% 103 |

A discussion took place on how the departments arrive at their predicted grades. Some departments are known to under predict, whilst others are more optimistic. The paper showed subject by subject where the predictions were indicating an improvement or a decline. It was noted that students tend to do better in their final examination than in their mocks. Ms Dommett added that the current L6 looks to be doing better that than last year.

Ms Phillips advised Governors that the college is looking at subject level to see if the predictions are are accurate. Some subjects i.e. History are not accurate, whilst others i.e. Mathematics are accurate.

The following subjects were highlighted as being at risk earlier in the year in previous governor meetings, so Ms Phillips provided an update:

English Literature – was an Alps 7, now predicting Alps 5

Geography – was an Alps 7, now predicting Alps 6. Learner voice positive and strong course work.

Geology – Alps prediction 8. The specification has changed and will change again next year

History – was an Alps 7, now predicting Alps 5. Generally over predicts.

The college will not be offering Accounting to L6 in September 2026. Additional support is being provided to the U6.

Governors noted the excellent results for students re-sitting English and Mathematics. Ms Dommett added that the college is amongst the strongest performing colleges nationally for its results. Governors recorded their thanks to staff for their hard work in achieving such good results.

b) Vocational Courses

Ms Phillips advised Governors that the predictions for Vocational courses are pretty accurate because students have completed a lot of their course work and the outcomes are known.

Dr Smith thanked Ms Phillips for her informative presentation and suggested that if the number of students were shown against each subject it would enhance the report and help Governors to understand the report better. Mr Hickey asked if more information could be provided to show trends over the years. Miss Yates asked has the college benchmarked for retention and achievement. Ms Phillips replied that the college does but there is no benchmarking for predictions. Ms Bradbury asked if the average G score could also be included in the information to add some context because some subjects i.e. Geology have a wide range.

Dr Smith added that if Governors had any questions they should contact Ms Phillips.

c) U6 Curriculum Learner Voice 2026

The information provided was the top level data and covered 12 areas on which students from U6 had commented. Ms Dommett advised Governors that subject leaders and class teachers can look at the data at subject level. There is also provision for students to add any additional comments. Getting all students to complete the survey is always a challenge. The current L6 are completing their forms at the moment.

Governors noted the information.

d) College Performance an Impact Report

Ms Phillips introduced a paper that had been circulated to Governors prior to the meeting. The paper was an example of the information that can be provided to Governors and it would cover Student Progress, Inclusion and Attainment Overview broken down in the following areas:

a) Impact Table (Gaps v Baseline) b) Safeguarding and Statutory c) Learning and Inclusion, d) Economic Disadvantaged e) Ethnicity, Nationality and Language and f) Academic Foundation. The information can be provided at Department Level, SLT Level and Governor Level.

Mr Hynes expressed the view that when you walk into the college it feels like a white middle class college but in reality it is very different. A discussion took place on the various groups of students with particular reference to black male students and their performance. It was agreed that it would be useful have comparative data for a few years to see if there is a trend and if so try to identify the reasons why.

Dr Smith added that the college remains in touch with its students and that the data informs what the college is good at. The data is used to benefit the students. He also felt that a list of acronyms used in the report would be helpful to Governors.

The Governors felt that the report would be very useful and help them to understand the complexities facing the college.

## 7. CURRICULUM ISSUES

Ms Dommett advised Governors that there had been little change since the last meeting. The Government had delayed the proposed changes to the Curriculum for a year but the first tranche of V levels will now be taught from September 2027.

The DfE will require all post 16 providers to provide a "Strategic Transition Planning Statement by mid June 2026. The college's response will be informed by the Implementation Plan published in June 2026 and the consultation on core content 2027 V Levels. In October 2026 the college will be required to confirm if it is on track to deliver the plan submitted in June 2026. For each year up to and including 2030 the college will need to provide a strategic transition plan ahead of the start of the academic year, confirming it is on track. The college had responded to the consultation process.

It is still unclear about what is happening to Criminology but it will not be defunded for 2026/2027. Digital information will replace IT and the college will look at alternative courses to offer from the start of the 2027/2028 academic year, including an accountancy and finance qualification.

## 8. COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

A copy of the current Teaching and Learning Committee Terms of Reference had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. After a full discussion it was agreed that the following be amended as follows:

a) Paragraph 1 (a) "Ensuring the curriculum is broad, balanced and taught, evaluated and resourced to the highest quality standards."

b) Paragraph 2 The number of members be <u>at least</u> six including at least three Foundation Governors

## 9. NEW REPORTING CYCLE

Ms Phillips introduced a paper that proposed a reporting cycle for the 2026/2027 in respect of Inclusion and In Year Progress. The proposal was as follows:

a) Autumn Term meeting

Results Overview Subjects/Groups of Concern Quality Improvement Targets Overview

b) Spring Term meeting

L6 In Year Progress Data U6 In Year Progress Data Subjects/Groups of Concern Learner Voice Feedback

c) Summer Term meeting

U6 Leavers – Final Predictions L6 Progress Data Mock Exams
Subjects/Groups of Concern Learner Voice Feedback

In additions Governors attend Quality Review meetings and in year meetings with Heads of Department that take place in October, February and June each year.

RESOLVED: That the proposed reporting cycle as outlined above be agreed.

## 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no Any Other Business.

## 11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting to be held on Tuesday 6 October 2026 at 4.30pm, subject to the Calendar of Meetings being agreed by the Governing Body at its meeting on 7 July 2026.

Signed _____ Date _____

Chairperson