

**Minutes – Academy Quality Council
Monday 6 November 2017 at 5pm**

Present: Peter Eyre (Chair), Dawn Arnold, Eilean Cunningham, Francesca Davies, Simon Jarvis (Principal, CEO), Miaya KC, Hayley Moss, Sue Myland, Andy Tidd, Nigel Wooldridge

In Attendance: Paul Edwards (Director of Finance), Vince Scannella (Deputy Principal Curriculum and Innovation), Alison Venner (Clerk)

Apologies: Catherine Cole (Deputy Principal, Student Services)

This was the first meeting of the Academy Quality Council, following the dissolution of The Sixth Form College Farnborough Corporation on 31 August 2017, and conversion to an Academy on 1 September 2017.

1. Standing Orders:

1.1 Apologies for absence

All Councillors were present. Apologies from Catherine Cole were noted

1.2 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests

None declared

1.3 Safeguarding

Councillors were reminded to consider any safeguarding issues in all agenda items.

1.4 Minutes

The final Sixth Form College Farnborough Corporation Performance and Quality Committee minutes of 12 June 2017 were agreed and signed by Peter Eyre, who used to be Chair of the Committee.

1.5 Chair's Business

Peter welcomed the Councillors of the new Committee, which will report to the Trust Board and is part of The Prospect Trust. The role of the Councillors should be to ensure that the College:

- recruitment process ensures that the courses which students select are correct for them;
- adds value to the students outcomes;
- offers advice and support to students on the next steps and post education options.

2. Main Issues for Consideration and Discussion:

2.1 Safeguarding

- (a) The Safeguarding annual report was reviewed and agreed.
- (b) The appointment of Eilean Cunningham as the local safeguarding Councillor was **agreed**. Eilean will liaise with Catherine Cole.
- (c) It was noted that the Equality and Diversity report is still to be written.

Action: AV - Agenda

2.2 Performance update

(a) Exam Results

Post meeting, Vince provided the following which is taken from the SAR and summarises the presentation which he gave on the exam results for 2017:

Value added measures show very high performance with the L3VA continuing to indicate that the College is an outstanding provider with 64% of A2/A level courses being significantly positive (*new methodology*). This was 50% in 2016 and on the old methodology 53.8% in 2015, 41.5% in 2014 and 38% in 2013.

The value added score for A level is among the best for any Sixth Form College at 0.26, this, in the context of a Success Rate of 97% and the highest number of A level entries (1922) in England offering A levels and reporting to the DfE.

The vocational courses (*Applied General*) have a VA score of 0.47 and significantly positive (*last year this was 0.09 and 'average'*). Under ALIS both A level and AS have significantly positive residuals (*no data is currently available for the vocational courses*).

Under ALPS the College is graded 1 (*top 1% nationally*) at AS and 2 (*top 10% nationally*) at A2 and for BTEC Subsidiary Diploma or the equivalent OCR qualification. The DfE calculated average point score displayed as a grade is B- for A level and the vocational equivalent is Distinction*- (*last year Dist+*).

Questions from Councillors were addressed as follows:

- ALPS rating is ranked both per subject and across subjects.
- As most courses are changing to linear, if a student leaves after the first year there will be funding issues. However, if students are enrolled on the correct courses they should complete their chosen courses.
- The curriculum offer is continuously under review and a wider choice of vocational and other non A level courses are being introduced.
- A and AS level value added for Nepalese students is a concern as it has dropped, reasons for this will be explored.
- In some cases, non-disadvantaged students are performing better than previously which is creating a larger gap with disadvantaged students.
- Staff are aware of disadvantaged students through the "dot" system, and offer additional support as needed.
- The following groups have poorer attendance and retention than their non-vulnerable peers:

- Bursary students – attendance declined, retention improved on last year
 - FSM – attendance improved, retention improved on last year
 - Pupil Premium – retention worse than last year
- Final validated DfE performance tables will be published in January 2018.

Rachel Kennedy and Adam Pollard were thanked for their work in producing the data tables.

Vince and the Directors of the four faculties were thanked for their dedication to the task of driving improvements across the College. The results for 2017 were amazing with an average of B-, especially taking into consideration the size of the College.

(b) Councillors were presented with an update on areas of concern from 2016. Results for all except one (value added for girls in A level medieval history) had improved.

With the change to linear exams and the removal of AS, it is thought that retaining the current grades may be difficult. Curriculum Managers have been allocated more time to be able to work with their staff and students to address issues and share best practice.

(c) Seven subjects have been identified from the 2017 results where improvement is required, as listed in the presentation. These areas can be discussed by Councillors through Councillor Engagement visits. **Action: ALL**

Two issues raised by Councillors were addressed as follows:

A discussion took place on how British Values are promoted and whether students understand them. Students are given examples in lessons and they are delivered through the tutorial system. This is a clear OFSTED requirement.

Meaningful work experience needs to be developed further. Current work on this is to ensure that students on predominantly vocational courses are involved in work experience outside of College.

2.3 Surveys

A discussion took place on the staff voice July 2017 and parent voice June 2017.

Simon stressed that the staff survey represents only a small part of gauging how staff are feeling; there are many meetings of various groups which take place during the year as well as a Joint Staff Group which meets regularly.

It was agreed that it would be more beneficial for Councillors to have comparison data from previous years along with the questions and summary of actions. **Action: AV/ RR**

It was noted that all comments from the surveys are collated in a spreadsheet and reviewed by Rebecca Rhodes and any concerns raised are addressed. This would be too detailed to be presented to the AQC. Direct contact is made to those who request it when completing the survey to discuss concerns.

2.4 Councillor Engagement

(a) Councillors agreed with the faculty links. Upcoming events which Councillors may like to attend:

6 December - EPQ presentation evening

7 December – Carol Concert at Guildford Cathedral

14/15 December – Christmas production

18 December – Certificate Evening

Alison will pass the new links to the Directors of Faculties so that Councillors can be kept up to date with events. **Action: AV**

(b) It was noted that Councillors attended quality meetings in October/November 2017. Feedback form should be completed and sent to Alison. **Action: All**

2.5 Student Association update

Francesca and Hayley gave an update on events which the Student Association had arranged and led which included Freshers' Week and open days. They have developed a new website to keep students up to date with events and information.

Signed: _____

Peter Eyre, Chair

5 March 2018

Date of next meetings:

Monday 5 March 2018, 5pm

Monday 18 June 2018, 5pm