

**Minutes – Academy Quality Council
Monday 18 June 2018 at 5pm**

Present: Peter Eyre (Chair), Dawn Arnold, James Barber, Eilean Cunningham, Miaya KC, Mike Larcombe, Sue Myland, Chloe Williams, Nigel Wooldridge

In Attendance: Catherine Cole (Deputy Principal Student Services), Rebecca Rhodes (Assistant Principal), Simon Reigh (Assistant Principal), Alison Venner (Clerk)

Meeting opened 5.05pm

1. Standing Orders

1.1 Apologies for absence

Apologies from Andy Tidd 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 minutes of 5 March 2018 were agreed and signed.

1.5 Matters Arising

Outstanding items:

Simon Reigh will assess the accuracy of predicted grades in the autumn term and report back to Councillors **Action: SR**

Role profile for Safeguarding councillor to be drawn up

Action: AV

Data dashboard to include able/dis-advantaged comparisons **Action: SR/RR/PE**

1.6 Chair's Business

New Councillors:

Chloe Williams and James Barber were introduced as the new Student Association President and Vice-President respectively and welcomed to the committee. Introductions were made.

Terms Ending:

The following terms of office end in the autumn term:

Dawn Arnold, Staff Councillor - September 2018

Dawn was thanked for her support and time given over the past four years.

Sue Myland, Parent Councillor – November 2018

Elections will be arranged for both of the above.

Action: AV

Sue advised that she would like to continue as an Independent Councillor, and post meeting advised that she would like to be considered as Vice-Chair for the AQC.

Councillors **agreed** that the Trust Board should be advised that the AQC recommends the appointment of Sue Myland as an Independent Councillor.

Action: PE/AV

Real Time Governance

Peter gave a presentation on “Real Time Governance” for the AQC, which was discussed and made available to Councillors. This covered:

- Receiving and monitoring up to date information
- Ensuring the correct questions are being asked to hold senior staff to account with sample questions provided.
- OFSTED requirements of Councillors (OFSTED will continue to refer to all as “Governors”)
- Linking visits and scrutinising of data to OFSTED
- Linked Councillors scheme – to each area of OFSTED requirements
- Plan of data to be received at the 2018/19 meetings

1.7 Trust Update

The Trust is currently involved with integrating Tomlinscote School into The Trust, with many meetings and discussions taking place for the transfer to take pace on 31 August 2018.

2. Main Issues for Discussion

2.1 Quality and Performance monitoring

a) QIP Outcomes for learners

b) Anticipated Alps grades – June 2018

Simon gave an overview of the document which had been issued; the following areas were discussed:

- Fine Art A* predictions – based on moderator’s grades.
- The need for teachers to ensure that predicted grades are accurate and realistic. A discussion took place on the factors that influence the predicted grades. Students can talk to tutors if they feel the grades are unrealistic. Predicted grades are used on University applications. These will not be seen by the AQC, but Simon will report back on their accuracy in the autumn term.
- Most courses have switched to linear exams, with this cohort being the first to take them. This has made predictions more difficult this year, and the reviews will help to fine tune the system for next year.

- Subjects discussed included – Medical Science, CTEC Business, History, Physics, PE.
- Retention and Attendance was discussed with comparisons of disadvantaged and non disadvantaged students. It was noted that this was the first year that progression exams had taken place due to there no longer being AS exams in most subjects, which had put pressure on first year students. These grades are then used to determine if a student can continue studying a subject. If one subject is dropped there are some “Tunnel Courses” available for the second year. If two subjects are dropped then the student must leave the College; they generally move into employment, join FCoT or become a NEET.
- Medical Science is currently not a large enough group across the country for ALPs to compare data; as it grows they will provide the information

c) Data dashboard

Peter is currently looking at updating the format of the dashboard.

- The increase in Mental Health issues was discussed; these include the possible impact of progression exams on students and an increase in boys with suicidal thoughts and seeking support when things have got out of hand for them.
- It was recognised that the College has an excellent support network for students. An increase in Safeguarding referrals to Children Services indicates that issues are being addressed early.
- Mental Health training is completed annually by staff, and students are aware of where they can get help.

d) Gatsby benchmarks update (work experience)

e) Linked Councillor visit “Community Engagement and Employability”

Peter and Sue met with Chris Eustace to gain an understanding of the Gatsby Scheme, and the benchmarks used:

- 8 benchmark areas, as detailed in the paper issued to Councillors, which the College self-assess itself against.
- Currently 94% compliant.
- More feedback on employability required – to be added to Parent Voice.
- Investors in Careers Award re-assessed (post meeting update – successfully awarded).
- One-to-one interviews on careers guidance available for all students.
- A discussion took place on transferable and employability skills, and whether these are promoted in all lessons. Simon gave an overview of how these are built into lessons through Schemes of Work and the

Prospect Diploma which all students work towards. A training session on the Prospects Diploma will be arranged. **Action: AV**

f) EQR reports – Politics (Issued March)

This had been a very positive report, with recommendations either implemented already or to be built into the curriculum for next year.

Next year EQRs: Economics and Sociology

The College currently has 20 staff trained to carry out EQR visits at other colleges, which is excellent CPD.

g) EMS Medieval History report

External Mentor Scheme – a new scheme to support staff which is being trialled by the College to improve subject areas and share best practise. Conducted over two separate days allowing time in between to implement recommendations.

2.2 Admission numbers – update for 2018 intake

- % of offers accepted higher than this time last year.
- 92% of those who attended Getting Ready Days last year went on to enrol at College.
- Predicted number on roll for 1 September 2018 – 3,764.
- Lagged funding means that funding will be received for 3,701 students.

2.3 Update on GDPR

David Woodward has been employed as the College Data Protection Officer; he is ensuring that the new GDPR requirements are being met and/or implemented.

3. Policies and reports

- a) Admissions Policy 2019 - **agreed** to recommend to The Prospect Trust
- b) College Charter – a discussion took place on how parents' evenings could be conducted better, taking into consideration parents needs and impact on staff time.
- c) E&D report – received and reviewed
- d) E&D Policy – **agreed** to recommend to The Prospect Trust
- e) Student Code of Conduct 2018/19 – Councillors were asked to pass any comments to Catherine

Closed 7.25pm

Signed: _____
Peter Eyre, Chair

24 September 2018

Date of next meetings:

Monday 24 September 2018, 5pm

Monday 26 November 2018, 5pm

Monday 28 January 2019, 5pm

Monday 25 March 2019, 5pm

Monday 13 May 2019, 5 pm

Monday 1 July 2019, 5pm