

QUEEN ELIZABETH SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Minutes of the meeting of the Curriculum & Standards Committee held on Thursday 26th January 2023

Committee Members Present Calvin Kipling, Chair
Jo Barrett
Tim Fisher
Vicky Snowball

Apologies None

In attendance Iain Clyde (Chair of Board and Parent Governor)
Laurence Job (Deputy Principal)
Ian Waite (Assistant Principal – Performance)
Nicola Wade (Acting Clerk)

Ref:		Actions
1/23	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> There were no declarations of interest.	
2/23	<u>Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th September 2022</u> The minutes were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.	
3/23	<u>Matters Arising</u> None	
4/23	<u>December 2022 Assessed and Projected Grades</u> The Assistant Principal summarised the process used to generate the assessed and projected grades and explained that work is taking place to support any departments who haven't projected a 100% pass rate and/or those with a lower projected high grade rate. He confirmed that there is little variation between disaggregated groups. Governors scrutinised the data and asked many questions regarding the usefulness of L3VA data; how assessments are moderated so as to ensure accurate internal comparisons can be made; the sharing of grades with students and parents and actions taken to support students below target. Senior Managers explained that the national L3VA data is still useful for internal comparisons between different classes and key groups, however, as national L3VA benchmarks are four years out of date, performance at a national level should be made by comparing pass, high grade and A/A* grade rates. They gave assurance on the use of actual past paper assessments where possible and the quality assurance processes in place. They described the process of sharing grades and the interaction with students and parents to support those who are below target.	

Ref:		Actions
	<p>The Parent Governor verified the process that had been described and added that the Voyager system is valuable in enabling parents/carers to track their child's progress.</p> <p>Further discussion took place around disaggregation including the move towards referring to individual ethnic groups rather than referring to 'BAME'; the complexities of defining Looked After Children; measuring and defining disadvantage; the need for equality of outcome, not just equality of access and the duty on organisations to ensure their policies are not discriminatory.</p> <p>The Committee spoke positively about the report and ensuing discussion and accepted the December 2022 Assessed and Projected Grades report.</p>	
5/23	<p><u>November 2022 GCSE Resit Results</u></p> <p>The Assistant Principal outlined the College's actual GCSE English and Maths resit results, which are considerably higher than the national rates. Governors asked about the support in place for students who did not pass in November and congratulated the team on a great set of results, which will be life changing and narrow the disadvantage gap for the individual students.</p> <p>The Committee accepted the November 2022 GCSE Resit Results report.</p>	
6/23	<p><u>Subject Support Update</u></p> <p>The Deputy Principal explained that, as discussed at the last Committee meeting, the Course Support process has been disbanded so as to enable all subjects to be supported. However, three subjects are receiving additional support: <i>[confidential information redacted]</i>. The Deputy Principal explained the concerns within each subject and detailed the measures that are in place.</p> <p>Governors questioned the senior managers, seeking more detail on a number of areas and discussed the numbers of students taking the subjects of concern; the prior attainment levels of those students; changes to syllabuses; sharing of good practice; literacy levels; exam and coursework balances; destinations of students; relationships between middle and senior leaders and levels of attendance.</p> <p>Governors probed further into the past support that had been given to <i>[confidential information redacted]</i> and asked whether the issues within the subject are new or recurring. They asked for more information regarding the staff and the grade profile of students; levels of retention within the subject; how the grades of students taking this subject compare to the grades they receive in other subjects; whether or not the course is a requirement for students wishing to study the subject at university; what measures can be put in place over the coming months to support students on the course and what alternative similar provision is available at the College.</p> <p><i>[confidential information redacted]</i></p> <p>The Committee accepted the Subject Support Update.</p>	TJF

Ref:		Actions
7/23	<p><u>Whole College Quality Action Plans</u></p> <p>The Deputy Principal reminded the Committee that the action plans are designed to address the areas for improvement highlighted in the Whole College Self Assessment Report. These are live documents and work is ongoing to achieve the actions set.</p> <p>Governors asked if the action plans are shared with all staff and Senior Managers explained that sections are shared with the relevant colleagues, but that all Course Level Quality Improvement Plans include actions relating to SEND and skills development. Senior Managers regularly review all of the actions plans and the Whole College QIP. Governors agreed that this is a sensible approach, avoiding an overload of information and enabling colleagues to focus on the areas relevant to them.</p> <p>The Committee accepted the Quality Action Plans.</p>	
8/23	<p><u>Whole College Self Assessment Report (SAR) 2021-22</u></p> <p>Senior Managers outlined the SAR and governors asked how close to outstanding the different areas are. Following discussion, Governors stated that they agree with the judgements made in the document.</p> <p>The Committee approved the Whole College Self Assessment Report 2021-22.</p>	
9/23	<p><u>Confidentiality</u></p> <p>Any reference to individual subjects is to remain confidential.</p>	
10/23	<p><u>Date of the next meeting</u></p> <p>Thursday 25th May 2023</p>	

Summary of Actions:

Ref:	Action summary	By whom
6/23	Consider further action required regarding <i>[confidential information redacted]</i>	TJF