

**Thursday 13th June 2024 at 5.30pm
Remote Online Meeting**

Present:

Dave Navarro – Foundation Governor/Chair of the Committee
Sarah Medicoff – Foundation Governor
Nader Sheta – Foundation Governor/Vice Chair of the Committee/Chair of Governors
Keni Thomas – Foundation Governor
Graham Thompson - Principal
Chukwuweta Uraih – Foundation Governor
Gabrielle Hamer-Williams – Co-opted Governor

In attendance:

Karen Foan - Associate Principal
Clare Baskott - Clerk to Governors

Apologies:

Kate Bainbridge – Co-opted Governor
Michael Belfourd – Foundation Governor
David Wright – National Leader of Governance

Minutes

The meeting was quorate.
The reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Item 1 Opening Prayer and welcome

The Chair of the Committee opened the meeting at 5:31pm.
The Principal led the meeting in prayer.

Item 2 Apologies:

Apologies were received from Kate Bainbrige, Michael Belfourd and David Wright.

Item 3 Declarations of Interests

None.

Item 4 Minutes of previous meeting, 1st February 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2024, had been circulated prior to the meeting and were agreed to be a true and accurate record and will be uploaded to GovernorHub for electronic signature. **Action: Clerk/Chair.**

Item 4.1 Matters Arising for this meeting not on the agenda

None.

Item 5.1 Quality of Provision (improvement and outcomes):

**Graham Thompson (Principal)/Karen Foan (Associate Principal)
Progress against College Quality Improvement Plan**

Progress against the Ofsted Action Plan

The Associate Principal (KF) gave an overview of the progress against the College Quality Improvement Plan and the Ofsted Action Plan and reported that staff had been positive about the CPD programme which is based on the Rosenshein Principles. In a recent survey, 90% of staff reported that the CPD had had a positive impact on their practice.

Student Survey

The Associate Principal (KF) gave an overview of the recent student survey and reported that at the end of the year, vocational students were less happy, and it was thought that this may be because they felt under pressure to complete their coursework on time.

A discussion took place about the timings of the surveys.

The Associate Principal (KF) reported that the Maths departments were trialling a new exam board for GCSE Maths. The Maths Team Leader had also signed up for the national programme Teaching Mastery in Maths, to improve GCSE outcomes for students.

The Associate Principal (KF) gave an overview of the UpLearn portal and reported that students studying Economics and Chemistry had made the most use of the portal, and the UpLearn data will be analysed.

Governor question: Why has there been a greater take up of UpLearn for Economics and Chemistry students, in comparison to other subjects?

Response: The Economics and Chemistry Teachers were keen to introduce the UpLearn system and they have promoted it well to students. The exam results will evidence the impact of the portal. Year 12s have made better use of it than Year 13. Students have also reported that the chemistry resources were better than the biology resources.

Sarah Medicoff joined the meeting at 5:42pm

The Associate Principal (KF) reported that attendance continued to be a key focus for all staff.

Governor question: What is the lock and wait policy?

Response: If students arrive late, they are expected to knock on the classroom door and wait, so that the flow of the lesson is not disturbed. This issue was raised by students when Governor, Keni Thomas, spoke to students last year, so we made changes in response to this.

The Associate Principal (KF) reported that a wide range of speakers and trips had been arranged for the Careers Week. The college had been shortlisted for an award for employability and Essential 8.

Applications to Russell Group universities had increased by 2% and the Associate Principal (CG) will be relaunching the Aiming High programme to increase student's aspiration.

Personal Development

The Ofsted report had commented positively on the college's enrichment programme.

Catholic Schools Inspection

The college continued to prepare for the inspection, which was expected to take place during the autumn term.

The Associate Principal (KF) gave an overview of the plans for new courses, following the expected defunding of BTEC courses

To receive updates on:

Item 5.4 The Dream College follow up Link Governor visit

It was agreed that Governor, Keni Thomas, will arrange a follow up link governor visit during the summer term and he will be joined by the Chair of Governors. **Action: Keni Thomas.**

Item 5.5 Learner Voice

The Principal reported that the Year 13 leavers survey and the parent survey were currently out for completion.

Governor question: What do staff do with the individual responses from students?

Response: The responses are scrutinised, and staff create an action plan. One in-year objective was to improve the student experience/delivery of the content.

It was agreed that the Year 12 and the Parent survey will be added to the agenda for the autumn term meeting. Clerk to add to the agenda. **Action: Clerk.**

Item 5.6 Staff Wellbeing Survey

The Principal gave an update and reported that the overall scores were pleasing and were above the national benchmark. The Principal drew Governor's attention to the high number of staff who would recommend the college as a place to work.

Governors voiced concern about the low response rate of 49%. The Principal explained that this when the survey was circulated staff supporting students with exams and completion of their course work and this may have impacted on the response rate. The Principal explained that the college also does a benchmark survey which will be reported at the autumn meeting. Clerk to add to the agenda. Action: Clerk.

Governor question: Is there a benchmarking survey available for the learner experience?

Response: Colleges all use different questions, so it is difficult to make comparisons. However, there is a functionality in the platforms we use, so we could look at how we could make comparisons with other colleges.

Item 5.7 The College Collective

The Associate Principal (KF) gave an overview of the college collective, where colleges work in collaboration to run training events and link with other colleges for support and reviews.

The Associate Principal (KF) reported that the link with Hopwood college had upskilled staff in the use of VR and AI. The Director for Digital Innovation had recently purchased 50 logins for a new AI system for staff.

Colleagues will be collaborating with Basingstoke College of Technology to look how to make improvements in specific subjects.

A recent GCSE Maths group collective of between 10-15 colleges is focusing on how to make improvements in GCSE Maths.

It was agreed that the External Quality Review Scheme will be added to future agendas. Clerk to add to the agenda. **Action: Clerk.** The Associate Principal (KF) explained that through the scheme staff are being trained as reviewers to go into other colleges for reciprocal reviews.

A recent review had given colleagues an insight into how to aim higher in sociology. A discussion took place about the importance of upskilling middle leaders. Clerk to add to the agenda for the next meeting. **Action: Clerk.**

Item 5.8 Catholic Schools' inspection

It was agreed that this had already been covered.

Item 5.9m Future possible industrial action

The Principal reported that the NASUWT were still "on action short of a strike". However, there were no major staffing issues because of this.

A discussion took place about future pay increases. The Principal explained that they had put a salary increase of 4% into the budget, however, they had heard that initial pay discussions for schools had begun at circa 20%.

Item 6 Curriculum Development: Graham Thompson (Principal)/Karen Foan (Associate Principal)

The Associate Principal (KF) explained that the future of BTECs will remain uncertain, until after the general election.

The Associate Principal (KF) gave an overview of the current T Level courses at the college.

The Principal reported that the college was expecting seventeen students to join the college through the cricket academy.

Item 7 Governance:

Item 7.1 Link Governor Protocol

A discussion took place the link protocol. It was agreed that Link governor forms will be forwarded to the principal prior to circulation.

Item 7.2 Link Governor visits

Keni Thomas gave an overview of his Geography and Tourism link Governor visit.

The Chair of Governors gave an overview of his recent English link governor visits.

Sarah Medicoff reported that she had recently undertaken a Physics link governor visit and had forwarded the link governor visit form to the clerk.

Item 8 Governance Self-Assessment process; Initial thoughts for focus morning (Date TBC)

It was agreed that the key focus will be the Strategic Plan 2025 and any recommendations from the External Governance Review.

Item 8.1 Effectiveness of committee: online questionnaire / survey post-meeting for completion and return

It was agreed that the Clerk will circulate the link. **Action: Clerk.**

Item 9 Risk Management: Have governors identified any new risks or modifications to existing risks on the register?

A discussion took place about the Labour party's proposed changes to VAT exemption for private schools. It was agreed that this would create more of an opportunity than a risk for the college, in terms of the future recruitment of additional students.

Item 10 Identification of confidential items

None.

Item 11 Any Other Business:

None.

Item 12 Dates of meetings for 2024-25 for agreement:

The Committee approved the meeting dates outlined below:

- Tuesday 8th October 2024 at 5:30pm via Zoom
- Tuesday 11th February 2025 at 5:30pm via Zoom
- Tuesday 10th June 2025 at 5:30pm via Zoom

Item 13 Close of meeting

The meeting closed at 6:33pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chair of the Committee