

## Quality & Standards Committee

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

### Minutes

**Present:**

Luke Alsford  
Del Cooke  
Bella Goodman-Spears  
Jo Large  
Marco Macchitella (Chair)  
Milton McIntosh  
Helen Pettifor  
Indira Warwick  
Ian Hooper  
John Rubinstein  
Peter Thompson  
Beth Yap

**In Attendance:**

1.	Governance
2.	Minutes of Previous Meetings
3.	Matters Arising
4.	Examination Results
5.	Pastoral Item – UCAS, Progression and Employability
6.	Quality Improvement Plan
7.	Teaching & Learning Report
8.	Student Satisfaction Survey Results
9.	Risk Management Plan
10.	AOB
11.	Dates of Next Meetings

<i>Minute</i>	<i>Action, Decision or Recommendation</i>	<i>A/D/R</i>
1.3	To recommend the Terms of Reference of the Quality & Standards Committee to the Board for approval, with minor cosmetic changes.	R
3.6	Clerk to follow up with Lynn Blades regarding the circulation of information regarding planned enrichment programmes for committee feedback.	A
4.	Ian Hooper to ensure that an update on the progress of the maths department is presented at the next meeting.	A
6.	Peter Thompson to ensure that the maths-specific QIP is updated and presented to the Committee at its next meeting.	A
8.	Answers and responses within the student satisfaction survey to be shared with students and staff. Ian Hooper to consider whether a focus group should be set up to discuss the answers further.	A
8.	Ian agreed to share concerns regarding the girls' toilets with Carol Kirkland.	A

**1. Governance**

**1.1 Apologies for Absence**

Lynn Blades.

**1.2 Declaration of Interest**

None.

**1.3 Terms of Reference**

As a matter of good practice, all committees review their terms of reference at the first meeting of the academic year.

It was agreed to recommend the Terms of Reference of the Quality &

Recommendation

Standards Committee to the Board for approval, with minor cosmetic changes.

#### 1.4 Meeting Times

It was agreed that the meetings of the Quality & Standards Committee would continue to start at 6:00pm.

### 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

2.1 The minutes of the meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019 were approved and signed by the Chair.

2.2 As no minute was deemed to be confidential, these could be uploaded to the College website in their entirety.

### 3. Matters Arising

6. Clerk to follow up with Lynn Blades the circulation of information regarding planned enrichment programmes for Committee feedback.

Action

### 4. Results Analysis 2018-19

Ian Hooper presented the 2018-19 examination results, informing the Committee that these results were somewhat disappointing, as the College has been on a positive trajectory over the past few years. Ian informed the Committee that the ALPS data puts the College in the 40<sup>th</sup> percentile nationally for progress. Ian also reminded the Committee that the College is still waiting for a number of re-marks to be returned.

The Committee noted that there were 20 more fails this year than last year, the majority of which were in maths. The Committee also noted that A\*-B grades dropped from 69.9% to 65.7% and A\* grades from 10.1% to 8.7%.

Peter Thompson informed the Committee that the College is eager to take best practice from stronger departments and implement this in the departments that did not achieve as expected. For example, geography continues to perform poorly with an ALPS score of 7, despite having good teachers. As 20% of the geography grade is dependent on course work, there are plans for this department to work with the English and history departments, who are successful in this area.

**In response to a question from governors**, Ian confirmed that the College is holding discussions internally regarding mental health, particularly around higher-achieving students feeling under pressure. Ian explained that, despite there being few crises during the recent exam period compared to previous years, students do feel under strain during this period but it is hard to quantify how this affects 2000 different exams.

**In response to a question from governors**, Ian explained that members of SLT have met with the Head of Faculty and Heads of Department to identify why the results are not as expected.

The Committee discussed the College's value-added and noted that the disappointing results were largely due to maths. Ian reminded the Committee this was the first year that students have taken the linear maths A Level and there was also a change of exam board. The Committee noted that many students in the exam were 'caught out' by harder questions and scored zero marks on these, which would not have been the case with the previous exam board. The department has acknowledged this and is ensuring that all students learn to deal with tougher levels of questions in response.

The Committee was informed that maths is a concern nationally and OFQAL are reviewing the latest exam paper to investigate whether this was much harder than that of previous years. However, Peter informed the Committee that the College has dropped by 20 percentile points in terms of high grades whilst the national figure is around 5 percentile points. **In response to a question from governors**, Peter confirmed that St Dominic's Sixth Form College, which is a similar size and makeup to Woodhouse, dropped by 15 percentile points.

Independent Governors who work at other local institutions confirmed that maths has also been an issue in their schools and they have become aware that mixed ability sets are making it more difficult to stretch and challenge the more-able students whilst at the same time, helping struggling students to access some of the marks.

Ian then presented the Committee with a breakdown of the results based on gender and disadvantaged students. The Committee also noted that girls in the College did not perform as well as the boys in maths.

The Committee then considered the ALPS data by subject over the past 4 years, noting that, overall, there are far more 'red' subjects in recent years. However, this does not take into account the size of each subject.

The Committee requested that, at the next meeting, an update on the progress of the maths department is presented.

Action

## **5. Pastoral Item – UCAS, Progression and Employability**

Ian Hooper presented the latest UCAS report, explaining that the progression to universities has been strong this year with 56% of students progressing to a Russell Group university.

The Committee was pleased to note that 22 students progressed to Oxbridge, which is the College's highest ever figure. However, the Committee noted that the medicine places have been disappointing, reducing from 29 to 11 this year.

The Committee was also pleased to note that 50 students went on to study maths at university, which is an increase from previous years.

**In response to a question from governors**, Ian explained that there were 94 students that were not placed and the College will contact these ones for an update.

## 6. Quality Improvement Plan

Peter Thompson presented the Committee with the initial draft of the College's quality improvement plan (QIP), explaining that the expected headlines will be:

1. For the College to achieve in 2020 A-level outcomes of:

- 72% A\*-B grades
- 40% A\*-A grades
- L3VA of 0.05
- Alps grade 3

2. For the quality improvement team to work closely with and support the College's four ALPS grade 7 departments: maths, computer science, economics and geography.

3. To ensure complete cross-college consistency in the way teachers, personal tutors and departments use the academic support and discipline system.

Peter informed the Committee that this year has seen the implementation of a College induction week; where the upper sixth students start a week later, allowing the lower sixth to get to know the College and spend time with their tutor. So far, this has received good feedback from staff and students.

Jo Large confirmed that, as a member of staff, she has found the induction week helpful, as it has given her the opportunity to get to know all the students in her tutor group but also provides the students with a good transition from their schools.

The Committee then considered the separate QIP provided by the maths department, which outlines the actions being taken to improve results this year. **In response to a question from governors**, Peter confirmed that he has met with the maths department and morale seems to be good.

The Committee agreed that maths is a strong department and has confidence that results will improve. Governors requested that the maths-specific QIP is updated and presented to the Committee at its next meeting.

Action

## 7. Teaching & Learning Report

Peter presented the teaching & learning report, explaining that this gives governors an idea of what is going on within the classroom. Peter informed the Committee that the College is currently conducting a large amount of CPD.

The Committee **asked the student governors** whether their learning experience has changed from lower to upper sixth. The students confirmed that, in the upper sixth, the lessons feel a lot more structured and there is an increase in homework.

Peter reminded the Committee that the College continues to use learning walks to get a flavour of how a member of staff teaches, rather than to make judgements, in order to reflect the new Ofsted framework around intent and implementation.

In response to a question from governors, Ian confirmed that some departments have a good proportion of examiners and there appears to be a strong correlation between good ALPS scores and the number of examiners within a department.

## 8. Student Satisfaction Survey Results

Ian presented the results of the student satisfaction survey, highlighting that there were 20% fewer completions due to the late timing of the survey this year.

The Committee noted that 'I have had helpful feedback on my progress' has dropped over the past 4 years with only 79% of students agreeing with this statement this year. But it also noted that 93.9% of students agreed that 'teaching has been good'. The student governors confirmed that they felt that teaching related to the classroom whereas students may have thought that feedback specifically related to homework.

The Committee agreed that the answers and responses to trends within the survey should be shared with students and staff. It was also suggested that a focus group is convened to discuss some of the answers further.

Action

The student governors informed the Committee that many students are still unhappy with the state of the girls' toilets and Ian agreed to share these concerns with Carol Kirkland.

Action

## 9. Risk Management

The Committee considered the risk management plan, noting the risks for which it has responsibility. In particular, the Committee discussed the possibility of a reduction in an Ofsted grade and the likelihood of an Ofsted inspection this year.

## 10. Any Other Business

None.

## 11. Dates of Next Meetings

28 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	Board
9 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	BOARD
20 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	Annual Strategy & Training Event
24 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	Quality & Standards Committee
23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2020	BOARD
22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2020	Quality & Standards Committee
6 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	BOARD

The meeting concluded at 7:45pm