



## Quality & Standards Committee

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018**

### Minutes

**Present:** Lynn Blades (Chair)  
Bethan Edwards  
Amanda Forshaw  
Sunzidah Khan  
Milton McIntosh  
Helen Pettifor

**In Attendance:** Ian Hooper  
John Rubinstein  
Peter Thompson  
Beth Yap

1.	Governance
2.	Minutes of Previous Meetings
3.	Matters Arising
4.	Results Analysis 2016-17
5.	Analysis of UCAS Outcomes
6.	Quality Improvement Plan
7.	Student Satisfaction Survey Results
8.	Risk Management
9.	AOB
10.	Dates of Next Meetings

<i>Minute</i>	<i>Action, Decision or Recommendation</i>	<i>A/D/R</i>
1.4	To approve the terms of reference of the Quality & Standards Committee noting the addition of value-added as a standing item.	D

The Chair opened the meeting by congratulating the College on the fantastic exam results received over the summer.

#### 1. Governance

**1.1 Apologies for Absence**  
Marco Macchitella.

**1.2 Declaration of Interest**  
None.

**1.3 Appointment of Vice-Chair**  
It was agreed to defer this to the next meeting of the Committee when all members are in attendance.

**1.4 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 approve the terms of reference of the Quality & Standards Committee noting the addition of *value-added* as a standing item.

**1.5 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 19<sup>th</sup> June 2018 were approved, with minor amendments 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.

BY to ensure minutes are signed.

## 3. Matters Arising

6. In response to a question from governors, John Rubinstein explained that the College has not yet brought back the late rule but is being much tougher regarding punctuality. However if students continue to be late going forward, this may have to be reviewed. John also informed the Committee that punctuality has been addressed in a number of assemblies.

## 4. Results Analysis 2017-18

Ian Hooper presented the Committee with an overview of the latest exam results, highlighting that these are extremely positive.

Ian explained that the leap in results is due to a number of changes made by the College, such as an increase in curriculum time and stronger discipline/intervention processes.

The Committee were pleased to note the College's highest ever achievement rate of 99.7% (which equates to 6 fails out of 1,993 entries.) In addition to this, high grades (A\*-B) have also improved to 69.94%, the highest in the College since 2009.

In response to a question from governors, Ian explained that the College is not concerned that the percentage of high grades were higher in modular A Levels than linear A Levels because this reflects subject variations only.

Ian then went on to discuss value-added, explaining that the ALPS is now the main measure used by the College. The Committee noted that the College has moved from the 25<sup>th</sup> to 60<sup>th</sup> percentile in two years. The College is now targeting further improvement to be in the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile (ALPS grade 3).

Ian drew attention to student achievement, explaining that students who come with the highest GCSE scores make the least progress because too many achieve B grades and too few gain A\*s.

Governors noted that it is harder to achieve greater value-added for higher achieving students and agreed that the College should be challenging and inspiring these ones. Ian explained that this is a focus for the College and improving teaching and learning and giving students better feedback should progress this further.

In response to a question from governors, Ian explained that there is not really a common denominator for these students as they are from a variety of schools.

The Committee discussed in detail the reasons why students may not be able to achieve these high grades, such as lack of motivation or not knowing what is fully required by the exam boards.

The Committee asked the student governors what would motivate them to achieve their full potential. The student governors explained that there is so much required as part of their UCAS statements outside of academia and this is an important factor for them.

The students explained that it is noticeable that the new lower sixth are spending more time in the library and are impressed by their attitude. The Senior Leadership Team explained that this follows much work being done to set the expectations for new students at the College.

In response to a question from governors, the student governors explained that a greater emphasis should be put on the mock exam and end of year tests earlier in the year.

The Committee discussed the end of year tests, noting that individual teachers issue the grades rather than a specific formula, which the students agreed is the fairest way of predicting accurate results.

Finally the Committee reviewed the College's equality and diversity analysis against national sixth form college data. The data showed that on average 20% of students at sixth form colleges come from the bottom income quartile but at Woodhouse this is 48%. The Committee also noted that, according to these data, 77% of students at Woodhouse are (of all ethnicities) and minority ethnic against 24% nationally (noting that this includes all White-Other as minority ethnic).

The Committee then reviewed the progress of each of these groups, noting in that all groups make better progress at the College than nationally.

However it was agreed that the fact that black students, those of a mixed heritage and the highest prior attaining students made less progress than average should be a key focus for the College.

## **5. Analysis of UCAS Outcomes**

John Rubinstein presented the Committee with the 2018 UCAS summary, explaining this is not the final report for the year as it does not take into account the number of students that are taking a gap year and that the College has not yet received the final UCAS report.

John highlighted that in total, 583 of the 677 students have secured university places. John explained that contained within the number who did not secure a place are students now taking a gap year, withdrew, were not placed or did not apply for a university.

The percentage of students progressing to a Russell Group University has increased from 49% to 52% last year.

The Committee were pleased to note that 15 students progressed to Oxford and Cambridge (compared to 9 last year) and 29 to medical schools (compared to 12 last year), which are both records for the College.

The Committee then reviewed the top 20 university destinations for the students noting that Queen Mary was the highest by a clear margin.

## **6. Quality Improvement Plan**

Peter Thompson presented the Committee with the College's quality improvement plan.

Peter drew attention to the A Level targets against outcomes using the ALPS measure, reminding that the overall target for the College was 68% A\*-B, which was filtered down to the majority of departments.

Governors challenged why economics, previously one of the best departments in the College has declined over the past few years. John Rubinstein explained that this is down to both the leadership and teaching in the department, which has now been addressed, with a new head of department starting. Peter informed the Committee that the College opted to move to a different exam board for economics several years ago, which is now having a negative impact on the results.

In response to a question from governors, Ian Hooper explained that the exam board is based in Wales, who still undertake modular A Levels, but produce a small linear syllabus for English schools. Therefore Woodhouse students account for 10% of the students who take this exam, which can distort the figures.

The Committee noted that the College aims to achieve similar results next year in the majority of subject but improve economics, accounts and geography, which would make a positive impact in the overall results of the College.

In response to a question from governors, John explained that the computer science achieved 47% A\*-Bs, which is higher than the national average of 39%, but still needs to do much work to come into line with other departments. The Committee noted that there is now new leadership in this area.

Discussing next year, Peter explained that each department has three individual targets relating to A\*B grades, A\*A grades and an ALPS grade.

In response to a challenge from governors, Peter explained that CPD focuses on generic skills but the College is eager to balance this with improvement of subject knowledge. For example the upcoming CPD day sees the morning used for cross-college working and the afternoon for faculty training.

## **7. Student Satisfaction Survey Results**

Ian Hooper presented the most recent student survey responses, with 5 years' of data to compare trends.

In response to a question from governors, Ian explained that around 35% of students completed the survey, as many students were about to leave the College. It was agreed that in future the survey should be distributed earlier in the year and completed during form time.

One area for concern is *I have had helpful feedback on my progress* only agreed by 80% of students. This is something that is an area of focus for the College and has been discussed by the Committee previously.

It was agreed to redesign the survey to obtain more meaningful data from students.

#### **8. Risk Management**

The Committee considered the risk management plan, noting the risks for which it has responsibility. In particular, the Principal drew attention to the risk of the College losing its 'outstanding' status explaining that a reduction in Ofsted grade remains likely, as the College is still assessing as itself as good.

John Rubinstein went on to inform the Committee that Ofsted have been in contact wishing to pilot their new framework with a 'mock inspection' of the College. John explained that he has accepted this offer as it has many benefits for the College.

#### **9. Any Other Business**

None.

#### **10. Dates of Next Meetings**

29 <sup>th</sup> October 2018	Board
10 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	BOARD
14 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	Annual Strategy & Training Event
25 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	Quality & Standards Committee
25 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	BOARD
10 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	Quality & Standards Committee
8 <sup>th</sup> July 2018	BOARD

The meeting concluded at 7:45pm