

CORPORATION BOARD CURRICULUM, QUALITY & STUDENTS COMMITTEE



Minutes of a meeting held online on Tuesday 18th June at 6pm

Present

Carole Kitching (Chair)
Jessie Weavers-Medina
Jacqui Canton (Principal)
Kathryn Schutterlin

In attendance

Joanne Milsom, Deputy Principal
Scott Gray, Vice Principal, Curriculum & Quality
Jack Price, Vice Principal, Curriculum & Innovation
Hazel Friel, Head of SEND Faculty (Item 5)
Howard Stamp, Clerk & Governance Advisor

Governor questions are represented with bullet points, and management responses are italicized.

1. Opening comments

1.1 Apologies and Matters to be raised under AOB

Apologies had been received from Astrid Schloerscheidt, Sam Wolfe and Lucy Butler. There were no items to be raised under AOB.

1.2 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2024

2.1 Public Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as an accurate record of the meeting held on the 12 March 2024.

3. Matters Arising, Written Resolutions & Action Points

There were no matters arising and no written resolutions had been circulated since the last meeting.

The committee noted the actions points presented.

4. Ofsted update

The Vice Principal for Curriculum and Innovation presented an update to the committee following the recent Ofsted visit and the publication of the Ofsted report. The committee congratulated the college on the positive outcome of 'Good' with outstanding features. The report outlined the clear progress that the college had made since the last inspection. The college acknowledged the work done in preparation for the inspection to ensure readiness.

The college management team has now had time to reflect on the outcomes of the report, appreciating the positive recognition of being an inclusive college. It was noted that college staff are very positive about the outcome, feeling a sense of achievement. Staff are already considering their next journey towards achieving an outstanding rating.

- **When is the next inspection likely for the college?**

- Based on the outcome, it would routinely occur within the next five years. Alternatively, inspections can be triggered by risks such as key changes in management personnel or significant changes in achievement.
- **What steps will the college take regarding the recommendation to keep governors more informed about subcontracted provision?**
 - We have moved the responsibility for subcontracting, a process that was already underway before the inspection, and this has now been completed. Subcontracting will also be explicitly referred to within the SAR and QIP, with Governors invited to engage during the October workshop.

All committee members added their individual comments of support and congratulations to the team, as well as to all college staff and students.

The committee noted the report and formally recognised once again the fantastic outcome of the Ofsted inspection.

5. Curriculum Presentation – SEND Provision

Hazel Friel joined the meeting to present an overview of the SEND provision at the college. The presentation covered key areas within the SEND provision, including an explanation of Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs) and how the college meets the needs of these individuals and carries out the annual review process for the large number of students with EHCPs at the college.

The process for exam access arrangements was also explained to the committee, with the team supporting 1,367 students to receive their appropriate access arrangements, ensuring all students have equitable access to sit their exams and achieve.

The curriculum offer was presented to the committee, including the Pathways provision, which supports a broad range of needs from profound and complex learning difficulties and disabilities to moderate learning difficulties. This provision supports all students to progress and achieve a variety of different destinations depending on their individual goals.

Achievement data for the SEND provision was presented, reflecting positive results in retention and achievement. The data demonstrated that high-needs learners have the same outcomes as the wider college, providing reassurance of the support provided by the provision.

- **Do you offer supported internships?**
 - Yes, we work with the council and run the provision jointly with them. We have always run the provision at Witney, and this has started this year at Abingdon.

The committee thanked Hazel and the wider SEND team for all the hard work they undertake.

The committee noted the presentation and reflected that it was helpful to receive the detailed insight into the SEND faculty.

6. Curriculum

6.1 Curriculum report

The Vice Principal for Curriculum and Innovation presented the curriculum report, including information on some of the new curriculum changes and qualification reforms. Some of these reforms have now been published, mainly around Level 3 qualifications. It was noted

that there would be no significant impact on the current curriculum planned at the college for the upcoming academic year.

The ongoing development of the curriculum map was presented to the committee, with the first qualification changes in construction expected to be in place for 2024/25. The main changes currently appear to involve more assignments set by the exam boards as part of the assessment criteria.

Some changes to the college structure were explained to the committee. These included higher-level professional courses moving to be managed alongside the college's HE provision

The committee noted the report.

7. Curriculum

7.1 Quality Headline Report

7.2 Predicted achievement rates

The Vice Principal for Curriculum and Quality presented a high-level summary of the Quality report, including the predicted achievement rates. An update was provided on the 'back to basics' approach to teaching, learning, and assessment, which was well underway and supported the recent Ofsted inspection.

The upcoming planning week was discussed, focusing on the lessons learned from the current academic year and allowing time to reflect and incorporate changes into the provision for the next academic year.

A summary of the quality health checks that had previously been reported to the committee was provided, along with an update on the learning walks undertaken this year. A total of 107 learning walks took place across the 14 curriculum areas. The team felt this supported Ofsted preparedness and are keen to continue this work into the following academic year. An update was provided on the changes to the Diploma in Teaching and the adjustments for the next academic year.

- **Can you expand on the achievement rates, particularly noting the achievement against the national average for English and Maths?**
 - o We support our students with significant time for their English and Maths, which is expected to change nationally. We treat these subjects as integral parts of the study programme rather than supplementary, focusing on them as important areas of study.
- **You are predicting a small reduction in some programmes; is there a reason behind this?**
 - o We have new cohorts, such as T levels, that are due to achieve in the next academic year. These are new programmes, which therefore come with an element of uncertainty for the first cohorts of delivery.

The committee members recognised the need to provide greater detail when the final results are published, ensuring that the increase in student numbers is reflected in any year-to-year comparisons.

The committee noted the report.

7.3 End of year update on Quality Improvement plan

The report was presented by the Vice Principal for Curriculum and Quality. There was a discussion that the outcomes of the Ofsted inspection have helped to support progress and identify areas for development for the following year, with a particular focus on the technology faculty, which has undergone significant changes and improvements this academic year.

- **Out of interest, is this a standard layout for a college QIP? Is there a prescribed sector standard?**
 - There is no formal standard for information to be presented to Governors; however, this format is reasonably standard across the sector. It is a bit different to have a rolling QIP, which we have adopted this year, to make it more dynamic and allow for in-year changes where needed.
- **Did Ofsted focus on the QIP as part of the inspection?**
 - They did review the document, but this was not in great detail and didn't form a large part of the discussions.

The committee noted the report and recognised the progress made this academic year.

8. Students

8.1 Students Report

The updated Prevent guidance was explained to the committee. There are no substantial changes required by the college. The new version of KCSIE has been released 'pending consultation.' Given the upcoming election, it is unclear when this will be released as a final version; however, the college is following the currently issued documents.

Some key student successes were presented to the committee, and the committee discussed the positive information shared.

- **As part of the KCSIE guidance we discussed at the last committee meeting, if this goes ahead, would the college seek any legal advice on this?**
 - Yes, we are hopeful the new guidance will not be adopted, and the AoC has put forward a strong case against it. We agree that seeking legal advice may be a sensible option.

The committee noted the report.

8.2 Students Voice Annual Report

The Deputy Principal presented the annual report on student voice. Some particular areas of interest were highlighted to the committee. These included the recognition by students at the Farm campus that their industry places less focus on LGBT issues.

Some students in the Creative faculty have been delivering training to staff on gender identity, which has been very well received. We hope many of these students will return next year so we can offer this training more widely.

The student conference was positive, and governors who attended were able to gain valuable insights from students. Committee members who attended provided feedback on the positive event and expressed support for continuing the format and feedback process next year.

The committee discussed the role of the student governor, which was promoted at the conference. They noted that the current post holder would be reaching the end of their term after the upcoming Board meeting. The role had been advertised to all students, particularly those whose studies might intersect with the position, such as business students.

The committee noted the report.

8.3 Student of the Year

The committee recognised the large number of detailed submissions and the outstanding progress that all individuals have been able to achieve.

After a lengthy discussion, the shortlist was narrowed down, and the committee agreed on a final winner. The winner will be announced as part of the Student of the Year awards, which are due to take place on 3rd July.

9. Review of underpinning strategies in support of the college Strategic Plan

The Principal provided a summary of the report on the progress of the underpinning strategies relevant to the CQS committee. Many of the KPIs are annual figures, so this report includes progress against several key areas.

- **Could you expand on the IT consultant role for the digital curriculum?**
 - Yes, we are awaiting a final report to help us identify what we are currently doing and what we should be doing. This will support us in developing the right digital curriculum for the future.

The committee noted the report.

10. Policies for approval

10.2 Safeguarding Policy

The Policy was presented as a brief review of the current policy with very few changes due to national legislation.

- **Has the Bullying and Harassment policy been incorporated into another policy?**
 - Yes, the content is now included within another policy.

The committee recommended the policy to Board.

11. Future Business and Reflection

11.1 Proposed Cycle of Business 2024/25

The Clerk presented the draft cycle of business for the next academic year, noting no significant changes from this year.

The committee approved the report.

12. Any Other Business

There were no items raised under AOB.

The Chair acknowledged that this may be Jessie Weavers-Medina's final committee meeting as the College student governor. The Chair thanked Jessie for her contributions and commitment to the committee.

Meeting closed at 19:50

A Schloerscheidt
28/Feb/2025 13:09:22

Signature *A Schloerscheidt*



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