

**Minutes of the Standards Committee meeting STC20.4 held Thursday 6 May 2021
Long Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge**

Present: John Godwood (committee Chair), Paul Andrew, Yolanda Botham (Principal), Colin Greenhalgh, Paula Heaney, Rikki Morgan-Tamosunas, Jenny O'Hare, Olivia Palo, and Alex Pryce

In attendance: Steve Dann (VP), Harriet Riches (AP), and Chris Childs (AP)

Clerk: Anne-Marie Diaper

Ref **Actions:**

STC20.4.1 Apologies for Absence

The committee Chair welcomed newly appointed Corporation member, Alex Pryce, who would become a full member of the Standards committee with effect from October 2021.

STC20.4.2 Declarations of Interest

Colin Greenhalgh and Rikki Morgan-Tamosunas declared an interest in agenda item 6.

STC20.2.3 Request for any other business

None

STC20.4.4 Minutes of Standards committee STC20.3 Thursday 4 March 2021

With no suggested amendments, the minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

STC20.4.5 Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda

None

STC20.4.6 Update and current summary data

The VP presented his paper, giving further detail on student return to College, and classroom teaching covering attendance and overall engagement. A Governor asked about the definition of attendance and the meeting discussed the measures used for those self-isolating.

Another Governor asked if anything had been learned from working mainly on MS Teams that was being carried forward. The VP commented that students' views were being sought on the matter but one clear positive message was around managing assignments and giving feedback on work on line. The majority of students were valuing being back on site. A Governor then prompted a discussion about whether examinations having been cancelled was impacting on motivation and engagement.

Ref**Actions:**

The committee received and commented on the college policies for setting A-level grades (based on a JCQ template) and BTEC grades. Teacher assessed grades would be finalised in early June, but recent 'working at' grades and the checking processes underway were of interest to the committee. The committee also considered student progress data analysed by subject and by student group.

The committee examined the summary data from KA3 grades for both A-level and applied courses analysed by subject and by student group, and discussed the actions that the college leaders are taking in those areas giving cause for concern.

The committee received a summary of evidence from recent observation of lessons, noting positive aspects and a few concerns, mainly around the impact of the pandemic on teaching and learning and the recent return to full-time college attendance. Actions to make learning more effective were also noted. There was an update on those subjects identified as concern teams particularly on support provided, the actions underway to consolidate progress, and outcomes.

A Governor asked about social distancing measures and the VP responded that the recent student survey did not raise any classroom concerns, only comments from students about restrictions in social areas.

STC20.4.7 Safeguarding update

The Assistant Principal presented her report, which included information on support for vulnerable students returning to site; the impact that lockdown appeared to have had on safeguarding concerns; plans for maintaining student support out of hours; mass Covid testing; the College's developing response to "Everyone's Invited"; and Prevent training. It also included data on safeguarding alerts and counselling referrals which Governors probed a little.

STC20.4.8 Progress against targets in quality improvement plan (QIP)

The VP had provided an annotated QIP, however the cover sheet had not been made available. He talked Governors through the updates provided on the cover.

The report provided information on evaluation of students' end-of-year outcomes using ALPS and VESPA, monitoring of teaching and learning and a review of the work of the guidance team. The VP reported that student voice activity had increased significantly, but planned curriculum developments had slowed by lack of clarity on the Government's plans for post-16 education.

Ref**Actions:**

A Governor commented that she valued seeing the narrative, but she was keen to learn more about assessments and measurements against outcomes in the QIP, leading to the SAR.

STC20.4.9 New Ofsted inspection handbook and key changes

The Principal reported on Ofsted's planned phased return to full inspection activity, with revised risk based inspection intervals revised. Providers rated Ofsted 'good' may now be re-inspected any time within seven years of their previous report, rather than the previous five.

The work of the STC was to have prepared for possible inspection with College SAR and QIP and a crisp, evaluative risk assessment tool.

STC20.4.10 Governance improvement plan (GIP) 2020-21

The committee was informed that there was no update against any of the STC deliverables in the GIP. The committee touched on Governor visits.

STC20.4.11 Review risks relevant to committee

The Clerk had provided a written paper updating the committee on the risks assigned to the committee. It was noted that the AC had yet to review the process of risk assurance and how those documents are shared with committees. This would be picked up in 2021-22.

STC20.4.12 Any other business

None. The AP, AVP and staff and student Governors left the meeting at 6.24pm.

STC20.4.14 Date of next meeting

Final meeting of the academic year, STC20.5 Thursday 1 July 2021, 4.30pm