

Minutes of the Standards Committee meeting STC23.4 held by Teams on Thursday 2 May 2024
Long Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge

Present: Jenny O'Hare (committee Chair), Yolanda Botham (Principal), Chris Cope, Rob Howes and Alex Pryce

In attendance: Steve Dann (Vice Principal), Chris Childs (Assistant Principal) and Harriet Riches (Assistant Principal – part meeting)

Clerk: Anne-Marie Diaper

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Actions:

STC23.4.1 Apologies for Absence

Lily-Kate McCormack had given her apologies for absence.

STC23.4.2 Declarations of Interest

None.

STC23.4.3 Request for any other business

None.

STC23.4.4 Minutes of the last meeting

With no suggested amendments, the minutes of the STC23.3 meeting held on Thursday 29 February 2024 were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

STC23.4.5 Matters arising

All matters were either concluded or on the agenda for further discussion.

It had been agreed to take agenda item 8 as the first item for discussion, to allow the AP (HR) to meet another commitment in her calendar.

STC23.4.8 Safeguarding termly update

The AP (HR) presented her termly report. She reported that a new Safeguarding Manager had been appointed, to start at the beginning of July 2024. Safer recruitment training was being rolled out across College, where appropriate.

Reviewing concerns, low level mental health remained the highest disclosure but numbers of disclosures were stabilising since the start of the academic year.

On Prevent, for Governors to note, the AP reported that she had received one *channel panel* contact which was being monitored. She provided an update on student support including counselling and the

student assistance programme, which was being reviewed, giving the College an opportunity to review its proactive wellbeing strategy.

A Governor asked a question about student waiting times for counselling and whether a triage function was in place.

The same Governor asked about instances of and approach to antisemitism, and incel culture. College was sensitive to such things, and conscious of the links, but no cases had been so far seen by College managers. A discussion ensued about recent publications from within the HE sector reaching College students and the impact of those publications on students.

With a very brief mention by the VP of an increase of monitoring of young carers in schools' sector, the discussion about safeguarding concluded.

The AP (HR) left the meeting at 5.18pm

STC23.4.6 Current summary data

The VP introduced this item and handed over to the AP (CC) to present the data. He mentioned that KA7 was the last assessment cycle before real exams. On performance the AP introduced the 1st table showing, commenting that it showed a positive outcome. Where ALPS outcomes had shown reduced performance, College was working closely with those teams. He reported on the work done with 3 Concern Teams, referring to NEA and approach taken with individual students who were under-performing.

On attendance, low attendance he reported had been reduced and he shared further detail with committee members including percentage attendance rates, and information on how this was tackled with students, helping them to form good habits. He referred to the support for EHCP students and FSM students, the numbers of which were relatively small, and gender split approaches, in the interest of seeking high grades and improving student outcomes. A Governor appreciated the report on attendance and asked about the approach for 2024/25 on the importance of attendance to outcomes.

The staff Governor commented on table 1.3 observing that those figures do not include the 'practical' scores for a few subjects. Were those figures to be included it would be likely that the outcomes would change significantly.

The Committee Chair referred to table 1 in comparison with table 2, and what appeared to be a slight disconnect reflected in performance in

those tables. The AP advised that the data was incomplete at this point. The VP explained how the data was used and to whom it was of use. The Principal explained that this was an internal College tool used for performance management shared with Governors in order to prompt questions.

Parent feedback. Data presented focussed on how College communicated with parents/carers on attendance, student progress, etc helping College to assess effort expended versus impact. A range of comments/observations demonstrated that parents largely had a better understanding of 'value added' than ever before. Parent consultation showed that 'online' (as opposed to in person) had improved engagement. The leadership team has discussed a range of actions coming out of this data.

A Governor made an observation about Pro Portal. The same Governor also asked if senior managers would like to expand on a particular point in the report around masculine role models.

The Staff Governor asked a question about the approach for following up parents' evening follow up for those departments where parental engagement was low.

STC23.4.7 Progress against targets in the Quality Improvement Plan

The VP spoke to this paper. He referred to the RAG rating that had been added to the targets. He went through line by line explaining the RAG rating, the thinking behind some of the ratings and to what extent they impact on/by certain groups of students.

The STC Chair commented that the RAG rating was helpful, provided a useful summary and performance against the targets.

The AP (CC) gave an update on the Turing programme and the recent very successful and busy 16-day trip to Singapore that at the time of the visit was suffering a heatwave. Governors had been following the fabulous social media posts on the trip and wished to thank the College for the enormous amount of work involved with this. The College had put a bid in for funding for next year's trip.

STC23.4.9 Review risks

The Governors had noted/reviewed the paper which provided an update on risks.

The VP provided an update on the risk 4.22 rated 'very high'. With nothing more to share with the committee at this point on level 3

Ref**Actions:**

reforms, and with strong government commitments to T-levels, there were a great deal of unknowns for 2025/26 onwards.

The VP spoke to the exams risk 4.23 which was under control, but with just over 7000 papers to be sat by students, the amount of work was considerable. Governors wished to record a note appreciation at this very busy time of year.

STC23.4.10 Any other business

None.

STC23.4.11 Date of next meeting

STC23.5 Thursday 4 July 2024. The STC Chair reminded Governors about the special 8 May Board meeting, and the meeting closed at 6.34pm.