

**Minutes of the Standards Committee meeting STC21.4 held on Thursday 5 May 2022
Long Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge**

Present: Jenny O'Hare (committee Chair), Paul Andrew, Yolanda Botham (Principal), Rob Howes, Rikki Morgan-Tamosunas, Alex Pryce and Olivia Palo

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

Clerk: Anne-Marie Diaper

Ref	Actions:
STC21.4.1 Apologies for absence Apologies had been received from Maryum Jadoon. The STC Chair welcomed newly appointed Independent Governor, Rob Howes, and the committee members briefly introduced themselves.	
STC21.4.2 Declarations of Interest None. The committee noted that Independent Governor, Rob Howes, was also a parent of a child at the College. He would flag up any possible conflicts should they arise during the course of a meeting.	
STC21.4.3 Request for any other business None.	
STC21.4.4 Minutes of Standards committee STC21.3 Thursday 3 March 2022 With no suggested amendments, the minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.	
STC21.4.5 Matters arising None	
STC21.4.6 Current summary data The VP presented his paper, which was intended to give a broad picture of student progress.	

He explained that the main exam period would be starting in mid-May then 5 weeks of intensive exams would follow. He explained the distribution curve for possible exam outcomes. Grade boundaries for 2019 were being used as the benchmark for key assessments, to give a conservative estimate of likely outcomes in the final exams. He reminded the committee that 'value added' was not being used as a national measure for this year. He spoke to College achievement and retention rates which were strong compared with the national average.

A Governor asked about retention and whether the College had reviewed data from years prior to 2019, which the VP confirmed the College had considered. There was a short discussion on possible

Ref

reasons for retention figures as presented, and the Principal advised that figures pre-Covid could be included at the next update.

Another Governor asked a question about the rigour of 'working at grades' (WAGs) compared with teacher assessed grades (TAGs).

A Governor commented on the gender gap in attainment, progression and access to counselling, saying that it was interesting to see the gender gap in the WAG data, which was also reflected in national data, and the possible reasons for this, including GCSE scores, and the gender difference in ambition/vision between male/female students.

The VP wished to reflect on the external assessment for some Applied subjects some of which were the first in the exam series for some subjects, and the preparation in College for this (course work vs exams), and a short discussion ensued.

The VP talked about comparative outcomes models, but the senior staff reminded the committee about the difficulty in benchmarking since 2019 over the period of the pandemic.

Student voice and parent feedback would be featured at the next meeting.

Actions:**Agenda****Agenda****STC21.4.7 Committee review of key policies**

4 key policies had been made available to the committee for consideration. The VP presented each policy.

Assessment policy. The VP explained that this policy would be brought for annual review. This policy had not been presented to the committee previously. A Governor asked about section 4.10 about storage of data which the VP explained further. **The committee confirmed it was content to approve the Assessment policy as presented.**

Educational activities and visits policy. The VP explained that this operational policy had received a significant update in 2018. In the interim, not many trips had occurred due to Covid. The changes presented in the version for consideration were recent. A Governor asked if there was an appendix regarding emergencies occurring on trips abroad which the senior leaders advised had been considered. The Clerk confirmed that there was no obvious need for committee approval of this policy, and the managers wished to withdraw it for committee approval.

Examinations entry policy/procedure. The VP and Principal advised that the recent review of this policy was leading to College questioning its

Ref

Actions:

relevance and usefulness. It was likely that some aspects of this policy were covered in other policies. A Governor also asked about thresholds for intervention for various different triggers. The committee asked the senior leaders cross-check that the various aspects of this policy was indeed picked up in other policies/procedures before withdrawing it.

Progression policy. This policy was presented for committee consumption for the first time. There was a level of discussion as to the level of programme changes for students across courses at certain times of the year. **The committee approved the Progression policy as presented.**

STC21.4.8 **Progress against targets in quality improvement plan (QIP)**

The VP advised that as far as updates in the QIP were concerned that the male/female data was new, otherwise the updates shown should be as expected.

A Governor asked for clarity on the success criteria regarding the gender attainment gap and the consistency with the RAG rated target for ALPS.

A Governor mentioned a couple of surveys identified in the QIP (Cybil/VESPA) and she asked whether these had occurred. The managers confirmed these had been completed, and there was a short discussion on the purpose and timeframe for these surveys.

A Governor commented that she liked the RAG rating of the QIP, but she wished to ask about milestones for some of the targets to enable tracking, particularly with regard to progression. The senior managers explained that this data was captured in many different places in College, which made tracking challenging, but this would be considered further for future iterations of the QIP.

VP

The committee thanked the managers for the report.

STC21.4.9 **Safeguarding update**

The AP presented her written report. She explained that the DSL and DDSL had completed senior mental health lead training, and some outputs of which were feeding into the College wellbeing strategy/charter.

Student workshops on various aspects of peer on peer abuse would take place during the summer. She spoke to some of the other data and categorisation following an audit that had been carried out on 'myconcern', and the differences in number of recent reports compared with during the period of Covid lockdown. A Governor asked about reporting in male vs female students, and the figures coming through

Ref

now compared with the figures seen during Covid. The Principal explained about a new group set up designed to create another safe space for students, to add to the other groups that were attracting students.

The safeguarding Governor reported that she had recently met with the DSL, and she would be undertaking a College visit soon.

Actions:**STC21.4.10 Governance improvement plan (GIP) 2021/22**

The committee reviewed the updated GIP, and noted where the Clerk had provided updates in the relevant sections. The STC Chair commented that the committee should plan to discuss student and parent voice at the next meeting.

Agenda**STC21.4.11 Review risks relevant to the committee**

The Clerk spoke to the cover sheet. She pointed out the same number of risks as last reported and where the changes had occurred.

A Governor, referring to one particular risk, asked about the number of students needing reasonable adjustments for exams this year and whether there was capacity for this. The VP, AP and Principal responded referring to the numbers of invigilators available, and commented that some lessons may be moved to online to allow for physical expansion for examinations. The Principal agreed to take this back for discussion to the College risk group to determine whether this should be a standalone risk.

Principal

A newly appointed Governor showed an interest in the way risks were scored and how the risk management process ran in College. The Principal and Clerk referred to the Audit committee role in the risk assurance process, and explained that a training session on risk would run as part of the next College Governor induction.

STC21.4.12 Any other business

None.

STC21.4.13 Date of next meeting

STC21.5 Thursday 7 July 2022. The meeting closed at 6.32pm.