

**Minutes of the Standards Committee meeting STC21.2 held on Thursday 2 December 2021
Long Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge**

Present: Jenny O'Hare (committee Chair), Paul Andrew, Yolanda Botham (Principal), John Godwood, Maryum Jadoon, and Olivia Palo

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

Clerk: Anne-Marie Diaper

Ref	Actions:
STC21.2.1 Apologies for absence The committee Chair warmly welcomed the new student Governor to the committee. Rikki Morgan-Tamosunas and Alex Pryce had given their apologies for absence. The Clerk advised that the meeting was quorate.	
STC21.2.2 Declarations of Interest Jenny O'Hare declared an interest in agenda item 7.	
STC21.2.3 Request for any other business None	
STC21.2.4 Minutes of Standards committee STC21.1 Thursday 23 September 2021 With no suggested amendments, the minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.	
STC21.2.5 Matters arising None	
STC21.2.6 Safeguarding termly update and annual report The Assistant Principal (AP) presented the annual Safeguarding report. The report included an update on the leadership and management and the Safeguarding team, including new appointments, and DSL following the retirement of the outgoing AP, and on Safeguarding training across College. Other safeguarding updates in the annual report included how students were supported during lockdown, Prevent, an online safety lead role, an online wellbeing fair, Looked After Children, and numbers of CP files received this academic year (including the breakdown in categorisation and a big rise in mental health issues reported), peer on peer abuse, and the numbers of female versus male students accessing the College counselling service.	

Ref**Actions:**

A Governor commented that he was confident from this report of a good network of support to students, but he had drawn a possible connection/parallel between the numbers of students noted to be struggling not only with a mental health issue but a learning issue, and the possible implications of this.

The Principal added that there was a possibility of the new variant of Covid adding an additional complexity, with a new self-isolation requirement. College was looking ahead to the next 2/3 weeks as exams were planned in January 2022.

A Governor commented positively on the new format of the report which she felt drew out actions related to the data. She asked if the small numbers of LAC and transgender figures presented could be deemed identifiable. The AP agreed to work on taking steps to further anonymise the data.

AP

The termly Safeguarding report gave an update on leadership and management on safeguarding in College, and update on statutory guidance and training, Prevent, information on new resources from the LA, an update in numbers of CP files, and on counselling.

STC21.2.7 College SAR 2020/21, and KPIs for the QIP

The Vice Principal (VP) presented the SAR, commenting that Ofsted would use the report as a baseline document in an inspection. He explained that the QIP was to pick up areas for improvement from the SAR, setting out specific actions. In response to a query, the Clerk advised that historically the College had taken both the SAR and QIP for approval at Board level. The committee discussed each section.

A Governor commented on impact, wishing to see more focus on progression outcomes and evaluating progression particularly on vulnerable groups and relative progression (destinations data, needed to be more evaluative than descriptive). It was agreed that an evaluation of progression would be updated and brought back to the March 2022 meeting.

VP

Governors commented that QIP was a good match to the SAR and was a rigorous planning document. The committee made some recommendation and suggestions for consideration and agreed the evidence in the SAR justified the overall judgement.

The Principal asked the committee if it deemed anything was missing from the reports. The STC commented that the SAR had a considerable element on the performance of male students. The senior leaders agreed to review this in the QIP.

VP

The STC was content with the SAR and subject to the discussions/ recommendations and suggestions during the meeting on the SAR and the QIP, would recommend both for Board approval

STC21.2.8 Quality cycle update

The VP explained that the assessment cycle had been updated to reflect students' additional exam practice, but also to include sufficient assessments in case that examinations could be cancelled once again due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, and in case Colleges are again required to award teacher assessed grades. The VP described a careful balance between practice and testing in exams. Exam boards had been recommending that evidence should be retained from mock examinations. The committee agreed this seemed a sensible approach.

STC21.2.9 Current summary data

The AP presented the report setting out students' progress and the quality of teaching and learning, incorporating data from recent key assessments and lesson observations/learning walks. The committee discussed the report and the specific actions to benefit students' learning.

It was clear to the committee that the pandemic, including the disruption to learning and examinations, was having a negative impact on some students' academic progress, and this was also reflected in elements of the earlier safeguarding report, the committee explored this further with senior leaders, and the Principal outlined the strategic approach of increasing College capacity to directly support students, along with actions being taken to provide students with additional monitoring and support.

The committee thanked the managers for the report.

STC21.2.10 Complaints annual report

The Principal presented her report setting out the number of formal complaints received along with detail of the additional informal concerns raised, and the outcomes from these. The committee noted that there were fewer formal complaints this year from the last report.

The Principal explained that the figures did not include all the concerns about exam grades because that was handled through a separate appeals process.

The committee was content with the evidence in the report and thanked the senior leaders.

Ref**Actions:****STC21.2.11 Review risks not already covered by agenda items**

The Clerk reminded the committee of the purpose of the report. The committee was content with the report; Governors felt that the risks were sufficiently covered in the course of the STC meetings and had no specific comments on any risk, at this point.

STC21.2.12 Any other business

None. The committee thanked the new STC Chair for a well-run meeting.

STC21.2.13 Date of next meeting

STC21.3 Thursday 3 March 2022, at 4.30pm. The meeting closed at 6.27pm.