

**Minutes of the Standards Committee meeting STC22.1 held on Thursday 22 September 2022  
Long Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge**

Present: Jenny O'Hare (committee Chair), Paul Andrew, Yolanda Botham (Principal) and Carole Moss

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

Clerk: Anne-Marie Diaper

| <b>Ref</b>  | <b>Actions:</b> |
|---|-----------------|
| <b>STC22.1.1 Apologies for Absence</b><br>Apologies for absence were received from Rob Howes, Maryum Jadoon and Alex Pryce. The committee Chair welcomed Carole Moss to the committee. The Clerk confirmed the meeting was quorate.   |                 |
| <b>STC22.1.2 Declarations of Interest</b><br>None   |                 |
| <b>STC22.1.3 Request for any other business</b><br>None   |                 |
| <b>STC22.1.4 Minutes of Standards committee meeting STC21.5 held on Thursday 7 July 2022</b><br>With no suggested amendments, the minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.   |                 |
| <b>STC22.1.5 Matters arising</b><br><u>STC21.5.8</u> . The VP informed the meeting that student/parent surveys would go ahead later in the year. The Principal advised that a current consultation was ongoing about changes to bus services. Parents and students were worried about how withdrawal of services might affect access to College.  |                 |
| <b>STC22.1.6 Review 2021/22 end of year student outcomes/examinations</b><br>The VP had provided a written reporting covering headline outcomes of the year 2 summer examinations and the year 1 internal assessments.<br><br>The College was overall very pleased with raw grade outcomes, many students with many high grades. The report included more information on context and approach taken. Two examination inspections had occurred during the summer exam series, inspections had gone well. Student and staff morale was good. The report included further detail including lessons for College to reflect on for the next summer exam series.<br><br>The committee Chair congratulating the College on behalf of the meeting commented that the College was right to be pleased with the |                 |

students' outcomes despite the difficulties in analysing the results this year and the caveats surrounding outcomes nationally.

Recognising the success of the College strategies this year, the Principal wished to flag up the challenges of variations between subjects, and the need to press for further improvements.

A Governor asked about the differential in achievement between male and female students, the local and the national trend, and a wider discussion ensued. The VP had engaged with returning year 2 students on the factors affecting achievement, such as grades on entry to post 16 education, and attendance, with a view to adding value and closing the attainment gap. The AP added further insight and information on approaches to supporting students.

A Governor asked what lessons had been learn about supporting students for exams especially for those following Covid, to which the AP responded on the Colleges systematic approaches.

A Governor asked about ALPS scoring this year since College had been using those as benchmarks and this was not covered by the paper. The AP responded about the usefulness of the ALPS data at this stage. The Principal commented that more on targets will come via the SAR and the self-assessment process later in the year. The committee Chair was keen to show what data would be presented alongside the results at the October Board and this would need to be discussed further outside of the meeting.

A Governor commented on the overall positive examination series outcome but wished to drill down to a couple of subjects with less positive outcomes. She asked if this outcome on these courses had been expected at College. The AP gave some insight as to the reasons for the underperformance.

The committee Chair thanked the senior leaders for the report.

#### **STC22.1.7 Concern team reports**

The AP explained the change of name from Concern Teams to 'review teams'. The VP explained that it was tricky to clearly outline performance based solely on raw data. He outlined those review teams for 2022/23, some reasons for them being in focus, and a high level overview of action/approach per team.

The committee Chair summarised that the committee thought the plan and approach was clear.

**Ref****Actions:****STC22.1.8****Committee review of key policies**

CEIAG policy – for committee approval. The AP advised that the policy had been revised to reflect new statutory guidance (relating to Skills for Jobs) and other relevant inputs. She brought the committee's attention to particular elements of the revised policy. The committee Chair thought the additions to the revised policy were positive and in line with the sector as a whole. She wished to suggest that current paragraph 1.1 on support for particular groups of students could be moved to further down the policy. She also suggested the wording at this point of the policy could be amended slightly so that it levelled up the playing field on career aspirations.

**Subject to the comments made and suggested amendments discussed the committee was content to approve the policy**

**STC22.1.9****HESA data**

The AP reported the purpose of the report and its focus. She outlined that good degrees continued to increase across the board with strong outcomes and continuation rates (higher than SFC sector) for most disadvantaged students demonstrating that the students are overall given sound progression advice.

The AP had provided 7 years of data for this report, which the committee found helpful, but the HESA data report next year would be slimmed down.

The Principal wished to acknowledge the complexity of the data and the highlighted way the SAR may touch on this.

The committee Chair commented that the data appeared to support the sense that the application of the IAG policy and guidance given to students was sound.

**STC22.1.10 Committee annual/governance report from 2021/22**

The committee Chair commented that the committee was due to complete its self-assessment (SA) of effectiveness and a template had been provided for the committee's comments. The Chair would lead on pulling this together in advance of the next meeting and she asked committee members, and those not present, for input.

**All**

Governors were keen to slim down the governance SA process, and not include business as usual moving forward, and continue to adopt a risk-based approach, with impacts of the self-assessment process being most important.

**STC22.1.11 Any other business**

None

**STC22.1.12 Date of the next meeting**

STC22.2 Thursday 1 December 2022. The meeting closed at 6.29pm.