

Meeting of the Quality & Performance Committee

Tue 20 September 2022, 18:35 - 20:30

Room 13

Attendees

Board members

Dave Vasse, Alastair Owens (Chair), Mariam Benamer, Sara Whittaker, Stephen Jones, Barbara Nearchou (AP), Nazia Shah (AP)

Absent: Tim Stockings

Meeting minutes

1. Apologies for Absence and Quoracy

AO

Apologies were received from Tim Stockings. The meeting was declared quorate

Alastair welcomed everyone. Stephen Jones joined via Zoom.

2. Declarations of Interest

AO

None were declared

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

AO

To Approve the minutes of the Meeting of 7 June 2022

Approved as a true and accurate record

3.1. Matters Arising

DV suggested that agenda planning could be revised to include attendance updates, performance levels in the SAR, and feedback from the Audit in November, with T Levels, Literacy strategy, and student preparedness for examination in February

SJ Asked if the SAR involves action points? DV confirmed the SAR will include actions for improvement.

4. Student Achievement Report 2021-22

Nazia Shah

To receive and discuss a report from the Assistant Principal

NS reported that pathway leaders and managers felt this was an accurate and fair report.

SJ Welcomed the preamble which gave context. The mathematics high grade results were cause for concern and asked if % figures were available?

NS confirmed 22% high grades - about the same as previous years.

AO asked if there were any benchmarks such as 6th form averages to enable governors to better understand how students are doing?

NS noted that there will be reports later in the year which compares other local providers.

AO welcomed the improvement in A levels, but noted the opposite trend in vocational qualifications.

NS noted that we have moved from QCF to RQF which now includes exams which have a heavy weighting towards the final grade. This is the first time this has been taught, and teachers are gaining experience in teaching to this qualification.

AO asked if teachers has been adequately prepared for the RQF courses?

NS confirmed that teachers have learnt a great deal from the first incarnation of these qualifications in how best to teach them in future, and subsequent years will show a marked improvement.

DV added that national averages are from the previous year so are not a good indicator as they are out of date for comparison with our recent results, and there is still wide variation across the sector in how teachers have assessed grades .

MB asked if the absence this year of the advanced information that had been given last year had impacted on students?

NS noted there was barely any difference as students had taken little from them in the past.

SJ Observed there were numerous factors that may have contributed to variation in vocational grades, many of which have been outside of the control of the College.

SW asked about how high grades are defined

NS confirmed that A*-B are high grades in A Level, and Distinction + - Distinction in vocational. Achievement will include any who have dropped out, so takes into account failure and retention.

AO asked if the wider variations in Health & Social Care and Science students do need extra work.

NS referred to the recurring problems of inflated grades and poor organisational skills having adverse impact on achievement. Pathway leaders in both subjects are experienced A Level teachers so now offer much stronger support for exams in the RQF course.

AO asked about destinations?

NS confirmed that students with places in Russell Group is still around 14%.

BN added that the BTEC Calculator tool now shows students what they need to achieve in order to gain first choice destinations.

NS noted that all students will now sit Mock Exams in both November and April, which should have a significant impact on raising achievement.

AO noted that there are some excellent stories within the report, especially of those from high deprivation backgrounds. It was also encouraging to note the improvement in GCSEs from the ALP learners, especially given some arrived mid-year, and other turbulence in their schooling.

NS confirmed that even with now 60 in the ALP results are still improving, which is really encouraging.

AO Ask that all teaching staff be commended, having had a great deal to contend with last year.

DV Observed that preparation for examination wasn't what it should have been, attendance wasn't as high as previous years, and a higher number of new staff had not yet had time to be inducted in the Monoux Teaching programme.

 2022 Achievement Report.pdf

5. Assessment Policy Report

BN presented the updated Assessment Policy which has been sent to all staff. BN will work with all pathway leaders to ensure this consistency of feedback and assessment across the College.

DV wanted to share this in view of the Ofsted note on the need to improve feedback. Accordingly the policy will be audited before the November meeting.

SW asked about Pro Monitor ? NS confirmed this is an online mark book to allow tracking of all assessment points

BN Janine in Sociology has had excellent results and is coding feedback to simplify the process for staff and students.

MB observed that PLCs are on excel which students don't like to use, and wondered if a paper based system could be used, and that progress trackers being online were not regularly used.

BN confirmed that a paper-based system has been introduced across several courses in response to this feedback, as it must be student-owned.

NS also noted that much of the feedback is not recorded as it is given 'live' in the classroom.

SW asked if the written formal feedback every 3 weeks is new?

BN These have always been done, but Key Assessments don't need to be large pieces of work, but more about quality than quantity, and linked to exam questions.

SW Noted from experience that such frequent written feedback is time-intensive for teachers, so coding the marking and reducing time demand on staff is a good move.

NS agreed that too much feedback can overwhelm the students, as well as staff.

DV Welcomed the forthcoming audit of the policy to determine if it is consistent? does it work? is it helpful?

SW also commented on how much good content in this report.

6. College Improvement Plan: Progress Report

DV

To receive a and discuss an update from the Principal

DV highlighted the most pertinent updates are under 1.2 – ensuring consistency

Can students recover from a setback? Can they catch up if they fall behind?

Students like going to Catch Up sessions as it organises their day for them. Do these students suffer system overload? And do they ever get back on track?

NS noted that Sequencing of the scheme of work throughout the year has taught that we can put too much workload in term one from which students never recover. Previously it had been thought better to leave more time at the end of the year for revision.

SJ Asked for clarification on the actions from the Cause for Concern meetings?

DV These are not as detailed as course reviews, and the bullets in the report are meant to be read as actions where effort is required.

SJ What is Reach Up?

DV This is support for students who might not have enrolled due to poor references, exclusions, etc. This number is now up to 20 students who are given extra support and help, as part of the strategy to reduce exclusions.

MB asked about Reading Cards in the Read to Succeed program?

DV This is an session for fiction reading, in silence, no phones, etc,. Reading Cards aims to help direct the student to read fiction which more rigorous and relevant

SW asked if teachers recommend titles?

DV Yes, this is part of the literacy strategy to improve and stretch students in the fiction reading.

SW had experience of using graded titles according to reading levels, and wondered if this might be useful addition to the Reading Strategy

AO Asked if the Student Engagement Centre is proving a success?

DV said that it has had instant benefits. E.G it is much easier to handle late arriving students.

 Development Plan September 22 update for QP.pdf

7. Board Level Risks

DV

After discussion it was agreed that in future the committee would consider existing Board Level Risks

It was noted that declined in Student Achievement is a significant risk which should be monitored by this committee and the Corporation

8. Any Other Business

There was discussion about improving functionality for hybrid meetings. It was agreed the Interim Clerk would liaise with the Network Manager to acquire a suitable microphone and camera.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Tuesday 29 November 2022 18.30