

Quality and Curriculum Committee Meeting, Conference Room, Ludlow College

Date/Time: Monday, 27th September 2010 at 17:00

Minutes

Present: Mr I Barge, Mr J Caird, Dr E Carson, J Gough (Chair), Ms P Graham, Mr D Small.

In attendance: Mr J Davis (Acting Principal) from 5.15, Mr S Cass (Humanities), Mr W Dowell (Clerk), Mrs S Dunn (Minutes).

Apologies for absence: None

Declaration of interests: None declared.

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2010 (Paper Q&C/Sept10/1): The minutes were approved for signature by the Committee Chairman.

Matters Arising: It was noted that the matters arising are contained within the agenda.

Declaration of any other business: None declared

Reports

Update towards the Quality Notice to Improve (NTI) (Verbal):

Jonathan Davis informed governors that the NTI was still in place. Discussions with the Young Peoples Learning Agency (YPLA) were ongoing. Governors will receive an update at the next Full Governing Body Meeting scheduled for Monday 18 October 2010.

To receive the exam results and student achievement report against the targets for 2009/2010 (Paper Q&C/Sept 10/2):

Steve Cass presented Paper Q&C/Sept 10/2 to the committee. This paper reported on the 2009/10 AS, A2 and GCSE results with comparison data for 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09.

Initial success rate information indicates good A2 results but A2 indicates a downward trend. Full success rate data will be available at the next Q & C Committee meeting along with the College Self Assessment Report (SAR). It was noted that the Withdrawal Profile for 2009/10 demonstrated a capacity to improve. Additional safety nets have been introduced including a new system for 2010/11 of full class observations with priority observations for new staff, NQT's and new courses as well as a revised tutoring programme for students. The presentation of data was discussed and Steve confirmed that this would be the preferred format for Ofsted.

Governors noted that GCSE results were poor particularly in key subjects Maths and English. Jonathan Davis reported that stronger teaching staff and timetabled classroom support in 2010/11 was now in place. An additional leaning support co-ordinator was in post and learner support was available to all students where required regardless of ability. Bill Dowell suggested resuming links with Shrewsbury 6th Form which had in the past proved supportive. Online supplements for Maths could also be an option.

- Action Point: Full Trend data in a tabular style to include retention; success rates; with action plans from underperforming subjects.

To receive the enrolment position for September 2010 (Paper Q&C/Sept10/3):

Jonathan Davies presented Paper Q&C/Sept10/3 to the committee. This paper reported on the current enrolment position with comparison data over 3 years. Governors noted that although enrolment numbers were considerably less in Sept 2010 than in September 2009 retention this year was much improved with 10 withdrawals in Sept 2010 compared to 50 in Sept 2009.

Governors also noted the future funding implications with the reduced number of 16 – 19 year enrolments the target figure being 530 but achieved enrolment figure of 450. A financial update will be available at the next Full Governing Body Meeting. Transfer retention between levels is crucial. Discussion centred on the urgent need to maintain retention this year and to enhance future recruitment particularly for the 16 – 19 year age group. Governors noted the improved links with feeder schools and college presentations to Year 11 pupils. The adverse publicity in the local press since March had contributed to the lower numbers enrolling from Ludlow School as well as the allure of a city based 6th Form College at Hereford.

- Action Point: Senior College Management to maintain strong links with feeder schools.
- Action Point: Provide regular positive press to rebuild the college image
- Action Point: Jonathan Davis to attend and address the Old Ludlovians dinner on Saturday 9 October 2010
 - Jonathan Davis confirmed that an Ofsted Inspection was scheduled to take place 19 – 22 October 2010. Arrangements for Ofsted Inspectors to speak to Governors to be confirmed. Noted that J Gough and P Graham will be unavailable during those dates.
- Action Point: Pre Ofsted Governors Training Session suggested date Monday 18 October 2010 tbc

To review the terms of reference of the committee (paper Q&C/Sept/4):

Bill Dowell advised Governors that he would be undertaking a general Governing Body Review as a result of the recent events and Ofsted. This would include an in depth review of all committee terms of reference. No amendments noted at this time.

Governors business items

- Any other business: Ian Barge updated Governors on the Caitlin Kickstart Award which was presented to A2 student Sam Martin.
- The next meeting will be held on - Monday 22nd November 2010 at 4.15pm in the Conference Room, Harley Centre