

MINUTES CURRICULUM & QUALITY COMMITTEE

Date: Wednesday 13 March 2024

Via Microsoft Teams Time: 5:30pm

Chair	Danny Ridgeway
Corporation Members	Geoffrey Makstutis, Joanne Roxburgh, John McMahon, Paul Stephen
In Attendance	Deputy CEO: Jamie Purser Chief Operating Officer: Judith Abbott
Attending as an observer (external governance review)	lan Ashman
Clerk to the Corporation	Judith Nelson

Item No	Item of business	
	PRELIMINARY PROCEDURAL MATTERS	
1.	Chair's Welcome & Opening Remarks The chair welcomed Ian Ashman, in his capacity as an observer, undertaking the external governance review.	
2.	Apologies For Absence None	
3.	Declaration of Interests None	
4.	Minutes of the Last Meeting Held on 06 December 2023 The minutes were signed as a true and accurate record.	
5.	Matters Arising and Action Points from the Meeting There were no outstanding items to report.	
ľ	ITEMS FOR CHALLENGE, MONITORING & REVIEW (INTENT / IMPLEMENTATION / IMPACT)	

- 6. College Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) 2023-2024 / Curriculum Progress Update
 Governors received an update on the current curriculum progress reporting on 16-18's, adult, SEND and Apprenticeships. The update included attendance; retention; progress on the areas of provision requiring improvement; 16-18 applications and a first indication of predicted student achievement for 2023/24. Noting the following pertinent points:
 - Retention has increased by 3%.
 - Accountancy students have successfully passed their 'in-year' exams and are on track to have much higher achievement than 2022/23. Attendance stands at 83.1%, and retention 97.1%.
 Congratulations were extended to the staff involved.
 - **SEND:** New Beans Café was open successfully in November 2023 and is popular with staff, students, and members of the public. A wide range of learners with SEND benefit from regular, on-site work experience. A new round of expressions of interest for SEND capital funding from LBN is also underway. The College has submitted three bids, one for an independent living flat and teaching kitchen, provision of PMLD education and provision of a transition curriculum for those with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs as their primary diagnoses. A decision is expected from LBN by Easter.

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	 Student attendance is trending upward and positively, an improvement from this time last year. Attendance remains an area of focus for the College and, encouragingly, attendance is rising and decreasing as in previous years. 16-18 attendance- 79.1% 19+ attendance- 85.5% Overall, 81.57% Overall English and maths attendance 79.93% English and maths continue to be an area of focus for improvement, with staff sickness absence challenges. Apprenticeships: the College has started to build a strong pipeline of starts for September with repeat business with high-profile partners like Transport for London (TFL), Canary Wharf Contractors and UCL already committing further starts. The College is currently on track against all components of the apprenticeship accountability framework set by the ESFA.
7.	QDP Learner Voice Term 1 Results
	 Governors noted the following pertinent points: 6049 learners were surveyed, with 5105 responses received, representing a return rate of 84%, which QDP considers to be very good. This is 2% lower than last year, with last year's response rate being 86%. The College has a KPI of 85% response rate. Overall satisfaction rate is 93%, +2% above sector average and +1% on the equivalent autumn survey response in 2022 of 92% overall approval. The survey totals 23 questions set by the college, which includes Ofsted questions. The questions feed into behaviours and attitudes.
8.	UCAS Destinations 2023 Governors noted the following pertinent points:
	 UCAS application numbers declined from 387 to 371 Acceptance rate remained the same at 76% 35 students (12% of those taking up HE places) progressed to Russell Group Universities.
	 The number of applications slightly decreased largely because of a fall in the number of Access to HE diploma students in 2022-23. The College will monitor the number of UCAS applications in 2023/24 at Curriculum Quality & Performance Reviews to support an improvement in application rates from learners on Level 3 courses in year into HE in October 2024 for those students who wish to progress to university.
9.	Towards an Evolution of Adult Curriculum Strategy
	Joint venture with the LBN. This is the most important development at the College. The Curriculum leadership has not had the bravery to switch off an offer, some of our ESOL is great. How we tell the story. The right thing to do, planning for the future, a higher aspiration than the basic skill level. Interesting to note, no progression data from the community based ESOL. We are doing this because of the community.
	 Next steps and implementation plan: Work up a business plan over 1/3 years and see how we can implement that and bring back to governors. Set the roadmap for 1/3 years. The business plan will have fixed costs i.e. security. Also have a full cost and funded fees. Modelling around who will staff this provision, HPL or fractional staff or a combination of both. Modelling on how much we could contribute to centre. How to market to the community.
	Start a dialogue with LBN so they are working in lockstep.
	Governors RESOLVED to endorse the direction of travel.
10.	Any Other Business None discussed.
11.	All noted the date of next meeting to be held on 26 June 2024 @ 5:30pm