

**Minutes of the Standards Committee meeting STC23.3 held by Teams on Thursday 29 February 2024
Long Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge**

Present: Jenny O’Hare (committee Chair), Chris Cope, Rob Howes, Lily-Kate McCormack and Alex Pryce

In attendance: Steve Dann (Vice Principal), Chris Childs (Assistant Principal) and Harriet Riches (Assistant Principal)

Clerk: Anne-Marie Diaper

Ref		Actions:
STC23.3.1	Apologies for Absence The Principal had sent her apologies for absence.	
STC23.3.2	Declarations of Interest None.	
STC23.3.3	Request for any other business <u>Deputy Committee Chair</u> . The Clerk asked the STC Chair if the committee would like to consider nominating a deputy Chair. The Clerk clarified what this entailed, and Independent Governor Alex Pryce offered to become deputy STC Chair. Independent Governor Rob Howes offered to become second deputy. The Clerk would inform the Governance & Search committee of the STC’s decision.	Clerk
STC23.3.4	Minutes of the last meeting With no suggested amendments, the minutes of the STC23.2 meeting held on Thursday 30 November 2023 were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.	
STC23.3.5	Matters arising None. The STC Chair noted that no data had been received by the committee on parent engagement. The VP added that more would be presented at the next meeting.	Agenda
STC23.3.6	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) report 2022/23 and targets The AP presented the College’s EDI report for the year end July 2023. She explained that the report set out progress against last year’s EDI targets. The report published EDI information about students, staff and Governors, and set out information on some key events and activities. She explained that there had been an increase in staff recording ethnicity data however, despite efforts, large gaps remained in that data set. A Governor commented that this was a nice report; he was interested in knowing more about the gaps in staff ethnicity data. The AP explained	

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this was more to do with the system by which the data was collected, rather than a reluctance, but more was being done around this.

Another Governor asked a question about the LGBT trans/non-binary element of the rainbow flag, and there was a short discussion about safeguarding, and the guidance for those children questioning their gender that College was reflecting on through its approach.

The STC Chair had noticed that some categories of data varied between staff, students and Governors. The AP and the Clerk added insight on this; there were many purposes for collecting the data, including reporting centrally, but this was noted and would be reconsidered further.

STC23.3.7 Safeguarding annual report 2022-2023

The AP presented her annual report, picking out the key points including changes in the safeguarding team, training of the safeguarding team, and staff development in safeguarding more widely. College had been considering the Student Assistance programme carefully, so as to best benefit students, and a cost benefit analysis to the programme would be carried out before the end of year.

A Governor asked a question about counselling provision vs level of risk. The AP described the multi-agency approach to supporting students, of which counselling is one element. Some stretched services (such as NHS) meant that students in crisis usually present at College first.

Governors were also interested in learning how this matter intersected with the 'fitness to study' policy, to which the AP commented that that policy was designed to support students to continue and complete study in College; she pointed out that not all students receiving counselling would be struggling with their studies.

In response to a question from the staff Governor, the AP commented that the student wellbeing and engagement coordinator post was helping mainly with crisis management but with further development, more should be able to be done to progress the role around the proactive approach.

STC23.3.8 Progression

The AP presented her written report. The report covered numbers of applications, acceptance rate (significantly higher than the overall UCAS rate) including the male/female split, and data around ethnicity. College was looking at data relating to those students not applying to University and to work out why, to include their grade profile, hoping to get a fuller

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picture. A Governor commented that this would be interesting to see, in due course.

On Oxbridge applications and offers for veterinary, and med squad, showed (through key assessments) that those students got the grades they needed.

STC23.3.9 In-year progress report and data

The VP presented his written report. The report covered November results from English and Maths GCSE retakes, DfE performance data, destinations, student voice information on attendance, learning reviews and insights on staff development and training. An additional report included data on KA data etc.

A Governor asked a question about GCSEs and how that information related to the target set out in the QIP. This was discussed in detail including aggregated data and when the value-added data would be presented.

On the student voice information, a Governor asked if those students were representative of the student body.

A Governor commented about attendance, relating it to messages students would have received during Covid (“stay at home if you feel unwell”) which differed to current messages about attending College if well enough through periods of minor illnesses. There was a short discussion about mask-wearing in College, and to what extent this compared with the national picture.

On learning reviews, a Governor asked what happened with that feedback. The VP explained that it was used in HoDs discussions, and with CTLs and some more individual professional discussions. Learning reviews, the Governors heard, were unobtrusive for students.

The AP presented the report that included current achievement/KA6 data. He pointed out the headline figures, and discussed gender gap, attendance, some KA2 data and review/focus teams data.

A Governor asked a question about disengaging students asking if any analysis had been carried out on which courses or cohorts this referred to.

The staff Governor asked a question about data in table 1 and table 3 asking about performance in comparison with other providers.

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The committee had a short discussion about defunding of applied general qualifications and the impact on Long Road students, and to what extent a change of government may impact on this.

The committee commented that the data looked good so far and thanked the managers for the paper.

STC23.3.10 Progress against targets in QIP

The VP reported on the updated documents showing the targets set out in the QIP, reporting that College appeared to be making progress against each of the targets. Much of the detail around the QIP had been covered in the earlier part of the meeting.

The STC Chair asked about T-levels and curriculum reform. The College was to offer a T-level in early years, and education. Students had already signed up so far with some agreements in place for placements. 2 members of staff were writing currently writing the content of the T-level. The committee thanked the managers for a positive picture.

STC23.3.11 Complaints annual report

The Principal had provided a detailed report. The committee noted it had already heard about one complaint in a previous meeting. The VP referred to one point in the report. Regarding students from other Colleges on site at Long Road, there was liaison between Colleges.

STC23.3.12 Review of risks

The committee noted that the Audit committee had not met since the last STC meeting so there was no update on risks, but the written paper presented for the committee reminded the committee of the data in case the committee wished to discuss further. There were no comments.

STC23.3.13 Any other business

The STC Chair reminded the committee that no in-person meeting had been held this year. There was a short discussion about the possibility of holding one on-site before the end of the year. The Clerk suggested that the July meeting (STC23.5) was probably the bigger of the two meetings.

STC23.3.12 Date of next meeting

STC23.4 Thursday 2 May 2024, by Teams.