

**Minutes of the Standards Committee meeting STC23.2 held by Teams on Thursday 30 November 2023
Long Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge**

Present: Jenny O’Hare (committee Chair), Yolanda Botham (Principal), Rob Howes, Lily-Kate McCormack, Alex Pryce and Gavin Sheffield

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

Clerk: Anne-Marie Diaper

Ref		Actions:
STC23.2.1	Apologies for Absence None.	
STC23.2.2	Declarations of Interest None.	
STC23.2.3	Request for any other business None.	
STC23.2.4	Minutes of the last meeting With no suggested amendments, the minutes of the STC23.1 meeting held on Thursday 21 September 2023 meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.	
STC23.2.5	Matters arising See minutes.	
STC23.2.6	Safeguarding termly update The Safeguarding report had been prepared by the Assistant Principal (HR) who was unable to attend the meeting.	

The Principal pulled out some key aspects of the report, including resources (new Safeguarding Manager, and an additional Safeguarding Officer, and other resources with links to student wellbeing).

A Governor noted that mental health was the highest category reported, and she wondered whether expanding the team would help keep up with the demand. She also wondered if there was any way of disaggregating that category to look in more granular detail to further support those students.

Another Governor asked about staff training, noted in KCSiE, and which was also an Ofsted key indicator. The Governor asked if staff turnover in the Safeguarding team was a risk, to which the Principal commented that it was a demanding role, but one that was supervised and the

Ref**Actions:**

support across College in Safeguarding was robust. The committee noted thanks to the team for handling a large caseload.

STC23.2.7 College SAR 2022/23 and quality improvement plan 2023/24

The VP led on his written report, the College SAR and QIP were for committee consideration for Board approval.

Focussing on the College SAR, he shared his screen for the benefit of the meeting. Ofsted 2019 Six Dimensions figures and where the College sat in relation to the other 90+ members showed a considerable improvement in grades for the College across those members. The first section showed achievements, and then sections on safeguarding, outcomes, and then new sections on personal development and destinations in the leadership section.

The STC Chair commented that the SAR was longer than the earlier version, but the quality was high and the content good, including this year, more strategic input in the report on careers and skills. Further tweaks to the contents page would be helpful, so that the document could be easier to navigate. The SAR included a paragraph to justify the Ofsted 'good' grade. The STC Chair was keen that strengths could be easily identified in the report.

The meeting discussed what inspection would focus on (including data), deep dives, the achievement rate of male students, mental health and Covid impacts.

The committee was content with the self-assessed grading in the College SAR and agreed to recommend it, subject to the comments offered, for Board approval.

Board

The VP presented the QIP which included 10 top level targets. ALPS helped to show a reduction in the number of courses that underachieve and described an approach to focus on all disadvantaged groups. He paused, asking the committee to consider if the approach was the right/wrong one, and if the committee felt the targets were ambitious enough. A Governor commented that it was important to be able to identify where gaps existed in disadvantaged groups; it showed maturity in approach, and ensured nothing was masked or hidden and showed better intersectional reporting.

The committee felt that the added target on attendance was good, given the national attention on that, and the target on teaching and learning was easier to understand than last year's.

Ref**Actions:**

A Governor asked a question about level 2 progression rates. The meeting discussed measures other than ALPS, and the use and benefit of other data sets (Six Dimensions, ALIS) for various different measures. Another Governor agreed that ALPS was useful for cutting in different ways and testing out different approaches.

In terms of the rest of the QIP document, Governors were content that all other areas were picked up and read across well to the SAR. The College operational plan was also useful for improvement planning.

The committee was content also to recommend the QIP for Board approval.

Board**STC23.2.8 Current summary data**

KA5 (Year 2). The AP presented the report showing pass rate and an overview of performance in 2023 compared with 2020 to 2022. He talked through the various data sets. The report showed a link between attendance and performance and the difference in performance across different groups of students, and on review teams. Overall he commented that the staff engaged with the data and now was a critical time to take actions directly related to the data.

The STC Chair commented that data on parent and student voice was missing from the report, and that she looked forward to a report on this at the next meeting.

Agenda**STC23.2.9 Update on governance**

The Clerk had prepared a paper updating the committee on the progress with the external review of governance. The report briefed the committee on the background, the process followed to date and the progress with the review along with timeframe. The committee did not raise any questions.

STC23.2.10 Review risks relevant to committee

The Clerk introduced the written report updating the committee on the risks relevant to its work. She informed the committee that the external review of governance had identified a different way of considering strategic risks for the Corporation, which would be presented within the report at a future Board meeting.

Risk 4.22 rated 'very high' was discussed, and a Governor asked why this particular risk had gone from 'high' to 'very high'. There was a strategy in place to deal with this risk at a College level, the critical year for which was 2025, and 5 approaches were discussed. The senior leaders pointed out that the key strategic point was the timeline, and it was likely that

Ref**Actions:**

key messages would be prepared in 2024, to potential students affected.

The rating had been raised to 'very high' due to the time that the risk had been in place, the fact that it was unresolved nationally, and that the changes at national level affected teaching staff colleagues.

STC23.2.11 Any other business

There was a brief update on the ILR and enrolment figures. The leadership team was continuing to track this.

STC23.2.12 Date of next meeting

STC23.3 Thursday 29 February 2024. The main meeting finished at 6.56pm and the students and staff left.