



Mission Statement: *Inspiring learning, developing character, building futures*

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE STANDARDS BOARD OF BLACKPOOL SIXTH FORM COLLEGE**

**Date:** Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020  
**Venue:** Virtual meeting  
**Time:** 5.00-6.40pm

**Present:** Mr C Simkins OBE (Chair)  
 Ms J Gray (Principal)  
 Ms W Middlemas  
 Cllr D Clapham  
 Mr A Burr  
 Ms C Coyne  
 Ms D Taaffe  
 Mr N Webster  
 Mr J Saunders  
 Ms A Newton-Leeming

**Together with:** Ms G Yeadon Deputy Principal  
 Ms T Cooper Assistant Principal: Vocational  
 Mr S Ormson Assistant Principal: Student Support

**Apologies:** Mr J Mannino, Rev Steve Haskett and Cllr Callum Baxter

		<b>Action</b>
<b>08.2020</b>	<p><b>Preliminaries</b>            The meeting took place using Google Meet            The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Stuart Ormson his first meeting as part of the SLT. Stuart gave directors a brief introduction to his new role and directors introduced themselves.            Apologies were noted</p>	
<b>09.2020</b>	<p><b>Declaration of Interest</b>            There were no declarations of interest</p>	
<b>10.2020</b>	<p><b>Consideration of any items of urgent business</b>            There were no items of urgent business to discuss</p>	
<b>11.2020</b>	<p><b>Confirmation of Quoracy</b>            It was confirmed the meeting was quorate</p>	
<b>12.2020</b>	<p><b>Minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020</b>            The minutes of the meeting via email questions held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020 were approved</p>	
<b>13.2020</b>	<p><b>Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda</b></p>	
<b>a)</b>	<p><b>Student Voice-</b>(item 05.2020 from the previous minutes) In response to a question asked in the previous meeting, it was confirmed that the student survey for the academic year 2019/20 postponed due to Covid 19 was not sent out due to college closure, however a consultation with students during lockdown took place and all students had the opportunity to speak regularly to their Pastoral Mentor during that time.</p>	

b) In response to a question asked in the previous meeting about progress review days cancelled on the 26-27/3/20, it was confirmed these did not take place, however some supervised study took place in June. Directors were informed that rigorous diagnostic assessment will be carried out for every student to identify any problems.

**14.2020 Directors CPD– The Curriculum Offer- presented by Tina Cooper Assistant Principal: Vocational**

Directors received a presentation on the curriculum offer presented by the Assistant Principal: Vocational in which she highlighted the following; The programmes on offer at the college which include Route 3, A Level, Combined and Vocational programmes.

Directors were given details of what qualifications students need to access the Route 3 programme and the progression which is normally vocational and includes good attendance, behaviour and commitment plus one grade progress in GCSE and a merit for their Level 2. It was noted that this year the numbers are lower than previous years due to centre-assessed grades/calculated grades awarding slightly higher grades resulting in students enrolling straight onto Level 3. It was also noted that 69% of students progressed onto Level 3 from Route 3 in 2020-21 (some students choose to move onto apprenticeships or into employment)

Directors were informed of the Level 3 and vocational programme entry requirements and the qualification frameworks highlighting the difference between Qualification and Credit Framework (QCF) and the new Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF). It was noted that one of the main differences between the two is that the RQF features larger mandatory units which are designed to be more rigorous and therefore giving benefits to students wishing to progress to university.

It was noted that all subjects at the college apart from BTEC Public Services and Travel and Tourism have now moved over to RQF.

The Assistant Principal: Vocational also highlighted the vocational combined with A levels programme which can provide a tailored study programme to meet the needs of individual students. She went on to say that the college offer a wide range of A level subjects which means the college are really competitive against other post 16 providers.

It was also noted that the Excellence Programme for students with a GCSE score of 7+ prepares students for entry to some of the country's top universities.

Directors were given an update on T Levels, it was noted that following the decision not to roll out T levels just yet directors were assured that college are keeping up to date with government information regarding T Levels and the future of Applied Generals and are waiting for further clarity, which unfortunately has been pushed back because of Covid-19.

The directors thanked the Assistant Principal: Vocational for her inciteful presentation.

**15.2020 Teaching, Learning and Assessment A Level ALPS results report 2020**

Directors received and considered A Level results report 2020 (paper 8.1) presented by the Deputy Principal. She stated that on behalf of all the results report it had been a highly unusual year. She noted that students' final grades were predominantly centre assessed grades, however if the grade was higher as a result of the Ofqual algorithm the student could claim the higher of the two grades. Directors were invited to ask questions.

### **Questions from directors**

In response to a question about the number of students wanting to re-sit examinations it was noted that the running total for Level 3 is 16 across all subjects, GCSE resits are likely to be higher.

Asked how students learning is likely to be assessed in 2020-21 it was noted that the specifications are still coming to light and college are waiting for information from awarding bodies about adjustments for certain subjects.

When college receive further clarification directors will be informed. It was noted that the college will be asking for consideration for this year group.

In response to a question about how the 2020 results will be contextualised compared to the traditional 3 year trend, it was noted that a caveat will apply to Key Performance Indicators, it was also noted that there will be no performance tables or accountability measures for 2019-20.

### **Level 3 Vocational Results ALPS report 2020**

Directors received and considered the Level 3 Vocational results ALPS report 2020 (paper 8.2) presented by the Assistant Principal: Vocational, she highlighted the following key points. All students received a grade based on a combination of units completed, centred assessed grades (CAG) for each incomplete internally accessed unit and externally assessed unit grades which were calculated by the awarding organisation rather than the college.

### **Questions from directors**

In response to a question about the dip in results for Applied Science, it was noted that this is one of the issues already identified along with Public Services and these are being reviewed. However, it was noted that these results show distance travelled and some students may have started with a high grade, therefore, on the whole, the single grades were pleasing.

### **GCSE Maths and English Results Report 2020**

Directors received and considered the GCSE Maths and English results report 2020 (paper 8.3) presented by the Deputy Principal. Directors were informed that the government had released £77k to fund a tuition strategy to help young people who have lost a specific amount of learning. Priority will be given to students who did not achieve a grade 4 in GCSE English and/or maths. Directors were invited to ask questions, there were no questions to answer.

### **Route3 Results Report 2020**

Directors received the Route3 results report 2020 (paper 8.4) presented by the Assistant Principal: Vocational. She highlighted there were some very pleasing results especially 100% pass rate in Level 2 Health and Social Care, the first year that students have studied this course.

It was noted that BTEC Level 2 First Award in Business pass rate had fallen slightly, however this equates to one student. Also noted was the dip in Creative Media, and directors were assured there are plans in place to address these. Directors were invited to ask questions, there were no questions to answer.

**16.2020**

### **College Action Plan 2019-20**

Directors received and considered the College Action Plan 2019-20 (paper 9.1) presented by the Deputy Principal who noted that she was very proud with the progress made in spite of the current situation.

### **Questions from Directors**

In response to a question about an increase in mental health and well-being referrals, it was noted that students appear to be coping well and the system in place at the college is able to meet demand. It was noted that there had been strategies in place to help students to become more resilient and new systems, such as staggered attendance means the college is a lot quieter which has helped to relieve some of the anxieties. Directors were informed that the way staff had kept in touch with students during lockdown has had an incredibly positive impact on the way students have returned to college. It was noted the Admissions, Liaison and Marketing (ALM) and Additional Learning Support (ALS) departments had kept connected with students which meant that transitions were successful especially for the most vulnerable students.

Directors were informed that a Primary Mental Health Practitioner will join the team one day per week to offer further support to staff and students.

The Chair thanked SLT for their reports and wanted to acknowledge the remarkable achievements during this difficult time. He asked the Principal to thank all the staff and their teams at the college on behalf of the governing body.

### **17.2020 College Action Plan 2020-21**

Directors received and considered the College Action Plan 2020-21 (paper 9.2) presented by the Deputy Principal. She informed directors that the final plan had derived from discussions started with directors at the annual conference and then with SLT and wider teams and staff within the college.

#### **Questions from directors**

Asked how well students were coping with blended learning, it was noted that at present on the whole this is not taking place other than for students who are self-isolating. Directors were informed however that some live streaming lessons had been trialled over the last week in preparation for a variation of the current timetable resulting in some students studying at home on a rota basis.

From the student director perspective, it was noted that during lockdown all lessons were digital, as a result it gave the students a good awareness and had probably improved their technology skills.

### **18.2020 Staffing Update on Staff Professional Support**

The Principal gave directors some verbal feedback on staff professional support. It was noted that two members of staff had been taken off professional support as a result of the progress made throughout the year. One other member of staff had been taken off support due to the removal of the subject in question. There are currently no staff on professional support.

#### **Staff Survey Report**

Directors received and considered the staff survey report (paper 10.2) presented by the Principal. She highlighted the impact the work carried out by the very small HR team had been exceptional, especially during the lockdown period which had really helped support staffs' health and wellbeing. It was noted that overall staff satisfaction was 98% an increase of 2pp on last year and an increase of 16pp since 2015

### **Questions from directors**

In response to a question about how we can answer 'how effective is communication between departments' it was noted this is difficult to measure as each department communicates differently with each other, however, each Head of Department (HoD) has a goal on the Quality Improvement Plan which would help to measure improvement.

*SLT left the virtual meeting*

**19.2020**

### **Principals Report**

Directors received and considered the Principal's report September 2020 (paper 11.1). The Principal gave an update on the current number of students which stands at 2261 (down 30 from 2291) since the report was produced. It was noted that this decrease is largely students leaving college at the end of their L6 year to take up employment or alternative study. This is quite normal but normally takes place over the summer term.

Directors were informed that a calculation had been carried out by the Head of Finance which estimated 2240 students above the 42-day funding target would keep the college within budget if no additional premium funding was received by the college this year, e.g. support for pension payments, maths premiums, etc.

The Principal informed directors of a 'virtual open day event' which is to be managed by an external company this year. All departments will deliver their own live presentation followed by a Q&A session. Parents/students can dial into the event and it can be watched on playback after the event. It was felt this would be a good investment for any future virtual events that may need to take place.

Directors were informed that the college are operating on 'Plan B' of their Covid plan and intend to stay on this until Christmas, however adaptations can be made should college need to reduce the number of students attending at any one time even further.

Directors were reassured that since the onset of lockdown students and staff have been keen to engage with technology for learning, students are encouraged to bring their own devices into college which means if and when students have to self-isolate or lockdown, learning can be accessed at all times.

It was noted by the teaching director that the transition towards blended learning had been very successful and students have welcomed it.

### **Questions from directors**

In response to a question about the decline in recruitment from local schools, particularly Blackpool it was noted that it is likely that the lockdown situation may have been a contributing factor, however college will seek to address the issue through further targeted engagement with schools in whatever ways are possible given Covid restrictions. It was also noted that the issue had been raised with FCAT directors.

**20.2020**

### **Directors Self-Assessment**

Directors received the Self-Assessment Report and Quality Improvement Plan 2020-21 (paper 12.1) presented by the Chair of the Corporation, it was noted that following on from a training webinar the Chair of the Corporation and Chair of the Self-Assessment committee will bring a paper to the next SA committee to propose further improvement to self-assessment for all directors.

21.2020

**Identification of any new or amended risks**

There were no known new or amended risks, however the Principal asked that at the next Standards Board meeting directors were provided with training on the college website to ensure directors know how to navigate the site and understand their responsibilities.

Directors asked about an update on FCAT sponsorship and if all documents had been updated. It was noted that the college are no longer a sponsorship of FCAT but continue to work closely with FCAT schools, all documentation will be checked to ensure they are up to date.

**Date and Time of next meeting**

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 at 5.00pm

**SB agenda**

**Principal/Clerk**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_