



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

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

Date: Tuesday 21st September 2021
Virtual Meeting
Time: 5.00-6.35pm

Present:	<hr/> Ms J Gray (Principal) Ms W Middlemas (Chair) Cllr. D Clapham Ms D Taaffe Ms C Coyne Mr J Mannino Ms A Newton-Leeming Mr D Gascoigne Mr R Baker Ms S Woodhouse Mr A Burr Ms H Goodrick Ms N Baranowska
Together with:	<hr/> Ms G Yeadon (Deputy Principal) Ms T Cooper (Vice Principal: Vocational) Mr S Ormson (Assistant Principal: Student Support) Ms A Crumblehulme (Assistant Principal: Business Support) Mrs S Hawitt (FCAT Governance Administrator)
Apologies:	<hr/> Ms A Vijayaratham, Cllr C Baxter and Mr C Simkins

		Action
11.2021	Preliminaries WM chaired the meeting due to apologies from the Chair of the Standards Board, she welcomed everyone to the meeting which was held virtually via 'Google Meet' Apologies were received and noted.	
12.2021	Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest	
13.2021	Consideration of any items of urgent business. There were no items of urgent business to discuss	
14.2021	Confirmation of Quoracy It was noted the meeting was quorate	
15.2021	Minutes of the meeting held on 19th April 2021 The minutes of the meeting held on 19 th April 2021 were approved	
16.2021	Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda There were no matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda	

17.2021

Directors CPD-‘Classics for All’ Delivered by Pete Wright

Pete Wright, Blackpool Classics for All Co-ordinator provided some information for directors on a project currently being delivered in Blackpool with the aim of giving young people the opportunity to learn classics regardless of ability or background. He talked about the background and benefits of teaching classics in schools and colleges, which included closing the vocabulary gap and giving primary and secondary school students concrete literacy benefits. Other benefits include:

- boost to English vocabulary and grammar
- boost to MFL confidence
- improves communication/oracy
- powerful knowledge/high level thinking
- cultural capital/cultural awareness
- boosts positive national profile for Blackpool

Pete shared some evidence from tracking progress over the last 2 years which included, significant improvement in vocabulary scores particularly for boys. It was noted that evidence so far is anecdotal, with further funding further research can be explored.

It was noted that 14 secondary schools on the Fylde Coast had signed onto the project

Questions from Directors

In response to a question about the accessibility for students with SEND or speech and language difficulties, it was noted that a local pupil referral unit had taken part in the project over lockdown and had seen some value in delivering Latin as part of the curriculum. It was noted some schools had tentatively offered Latin as an extra -curricular subject for students but quickly realised the benefits and introduced it as part of the curriculum.

Pete Wright left the meeting

18.2021

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

A Level ALPs report 2021-directors received and considered the A level ALPs report 2021 (paper 8.2) presented by the Deputy Principal. It was noted that these were teacher assessed grades (TAGs) and that the process was rigorous and very different due to the pandemic, however students had earned the grades allocated which staff had worked extremely hard to deliver. Directors were invited to ask questions.

Questions from Directors

In response to a question about how many schools were part of the benchmarking in light of the calculation, it was noted that ALPs now use data from all post 16 education for benchmarking purposes, however the benchmarking data had not changed since 2019.

Directors noted an air of caution when looking at the data and GCSE-A Level progression in light of there not being a valid standardised measure across all schools, especially when examinations return.

The Deputy Principal highlighted that it is difficult to compare one year group to another due to the disruption to learning caused by the pandemic, however internal processes and performance development reviews are being used for monitoring purposes. Directors noted that students had done exceptionally well despite the disruption to learning and it is thought this disruption will take a number of years to come to fruition.

It is unknown what will happen to examinations for 2021-22, however it was noted that it is important for college to ensure students have a positive experience of formal examinations.

In response to a question about why Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) had less entries compared to 2018-19 it was noted that, the project is very challenging and encourages independent learning which some students may find difficult so update each year may vary.

Level 3 Vocational ALPs report 2021-directors received and considered the report (paper 8.1) presented by the Vice Principal: Vocational who invited questions from directors.

Questions from Directors

Asked about the decrease to grade 4 for Diploma in Business, it was noted that there are no particular concerns despite a challenging year, however there are plans in place to support staff by building confidence in the new Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) qualifications which may have contributed to a lack of confidence in the assessment process.

In response to a question about lessons learnt during the pandemic and remote learning and whether some methods used will remain within the core learning methods, it was noted that six remote learning days had been planned to allow students to learn using digital resources from home and curriculum-facing staff to have time to reflect on and develop their practice. This will ensure that staff and students are tech-ready should further disruption take place and prepare students further for higher education and/or employment in a digital world.

It was noted that staff spent a full day discussing what had been learnt over the last 18 months. Directors were informed that one particular example was an increase in impact for students and a decrease in staff workload by using new technologies to feedback to students.

Other positive examples given included some staff and students with Covid-19 without symptoms, were well enough to deliver remote lessons and well enough to attend remote lessons resulting in less absences.

Art students have benefited hugely from working remotely, they now have a bank of video clips/demonstrations to use as a resource in the future, this helps with their independent learning whilst freeing up staff to offer support to other students who need it.

GCSE Maths and English results-directors received and considered the report (paper 8.3) presented by the Deputy Principal. She pointed out that these outcomes are not based on student performance in public examinations, but on teacher assessed grades (TAGs). Directors were invited to ask questions.

Questions/comments from Directors

A discussion took place about the pressure of final examinations for some students, it was hoped the government would take this into account for future years and consider a range of assessment methods to determine future grades.

Route3 results-directors received and considered the report (paper 8.4) presented by the Assistant Principal: Student Support who noted that Route3 is a very small cohort which can change the data quite drastically.

Questions from Directors

Asked if the decline in numbers for English and Maths is related to the pandemic, it was noted that due to TAGs some students who would normally have been on the Route3 programme had qualified for level 3. It was also noted that despite the increased anxiety from this particular group in general the students had done exceptionally well with level 3 studies. Staff continue to keep a close eye on these students in particular to ensure they are successful.

19.2021

College Action Plans

Directors received and considered the College Action Plan for 2020-21 (paper 9.1) presented by the Deputy Principal (DP) she noted that there had been very little change in the report since the last time it was presented to directors. Directors received and approved the College Action Plan for 2021-22 (paper 9.2) presented by the DP - she invited directors to ask questions.

Questions from Directors

Asked what comparable data will be used in priority 1: further improve A Level value added in a minority of subjects, it was noted that data from 2019 will be used to compare results.

Directors asked if there could be a role for external speakers, in relation to priority 2:1 and invite employers to talk to students about the importance of attendance in the workplace in relation to priority 3:4. The DP agreed to add these two points to the plan

19.2021 D1 Resolved: College Action Plan 2021-22 was approved

GY

20.2021

Staffing

Professional Support Update-provided by the Principal, there are no staff at present receiving professional support

Staff Survey Report-(paper 10.2) presented by the Assistant Principal: Business Support. Directors were invited to ask questions.

Questions from Directors

Directors were surprised by the score of 84% for the Leadership Team and expected it to be much higher, it was noted that the Leadership Team in question is made up of middle leaders and Heads of Departments not just SLT. It was also noted that the timing of the survey may not have been the right time as it was during the TAG process resulting in a bit of a dip in responses from staff.

Directors suggested that section 5.2 of the report (areas for improvements and suggestions) be added to the CAP or be included for discussion on the Visioning Day in October.

It was noted that individual survey results are anonymous, however there appears to be some common themes within the results. The Principal has agreed to meet with every department to further understand the comments made by staff.

Directors commented on the survey and noted what a spectacular opportunity for staff to tell leaders what they think.

Asked if exit/stay interviews are carried out with staff, it was noted that exit interviews are offered but not mandatory, staff feedback at the start of their journey with B6 is recorded but not part way through, this is certainly something to look into for the future. (JM) offered help with any of these processes with staff in the future.

Directors were informed that compared to other colleges B6 staff survey reads really well, it was noted that all staff at the college are very critical of themselves and always strive to be the best they can be.

SLT

SLT

21.2021

Safeguarding

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy 2021-22-Directors considered for approval the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy 2021-22 (paper 11.1) presented by the Assistant Principal: Student Support, he highlighted the significant changes to the policy in line with the 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021' document

The Safeguarding Director gave compliments to the safeguarding team for making these changes so swiftly, there were no further comments from directors.

FCAT Safeguarding Board Minutes-Directors received and noted the minutes from the FCAT Safeguarding Board meeting held on 24th June 2021
21.2021 D1 Resolved: Safeguarding Policy and Child Protection Policy 2021-22 approved

The Chair thanked SLT for their report and they left the meeting

22.2021

Principal's Report

Directors received and considered the Principal's Report September 2021 (paper 12.1) The Principal highlighted the following from the report:

- **Recruitment**-the current number of students which stands at 2285, it was noted that the budget figure was 2250 which puts the college in a positive position. It was noted that enrolment and induction had gone very well and that some students had left the college to pursue a change in career or apprenticeships.
Directors were informed of an action plan to further develop the marketing strategy with a focus on boosting the market share from South Fylde. It was noted that the cancellation of onsite events and school visits due to the pandemic had contributed to the decline in this area.
- **Finance**-the final accounts are expected to demonstrate an 'Outstanding' health for 2020-21 due to savings in many areas and additional income for Covid testing. It was noted that the college had been granted £168,893 tuition fund to help with disruption in learning some of which had been carried forward from 2020-21.
- **Staffing**- it was noted that for the third year running college had employed staff from the Fylde Coast SCITT programme, it shows the strength of the programme with only two trainees going out of the area for employment.
- **Testing**-remains a vital measure in reducing the risk of transmission of coronavirus. Students are expected to carry out twice weekly testing at home following two onsite lateral flow tests. Staff are also continuing to test twice weekly.
- **Vaccinations**-students were given the opportunity for vaccination using the NHS vaccine van situated on site, 180 students took advantage of this and have now received one dose.

The parent director expressed her gratitude to the Principal and staff at the college for the induction process for new students, which had gone exceptionally well.

23.2021

Directors Self-Assessment

Directors noted the Quality Improvement Plan for 2021-22 and noted there had been no changes to report to date

24.2021

Identification of any new or amended risks

No new or amended risks were identified, however the Principal gave an update on the personal situation regarding the Head of Finance and said was pleased to report that the risk had been significantly reduced. She praised the Head of Finance her team noting that they showed great team spirit and effort.

25.2021

Directors were asked to update their attendance on the DPR

26.2021

Date and Time of next meeting

Monday 29th November 2021

Signed _____

Date_____