

**Priestley College – Quality and Standards Committee
Minutes of the Meeting Held on 9 October 2024**

Present: Simon Jenkins, Ian Rigby, Bev Scott-Herron, Carolyn Williams, Sheila Yates (Chair)

In Attendance: James Gresty, George Contos, Carol Blinkhorn (Minutes)

Student representatives: Joseph Roxby, Sophie Colledge

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Amy Heald and Peter Kahn. Newly appointed College Council President - Joseph Roxby and Vice-President - Sophie Colledge were welcomed to the Quality and Standards Committee as student representatives.

2 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of personal or pecuniary interest in the matters to be discussed were made.

3 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Mrs Yates proposed that Ms Williams be appointed in the role of Chair.

This was seconded by Mrs Scott-Herron.

Mrs Yaets proposed that Mrs Scott-Herron be reappointed in the role of Vice Chair.

This was seconded by Mr Simon Jenkins.

Resolved - To appoint Ms Williams and Mrs Scott-Herron as Chair and Vice Chair respectively for the academic year 2024/25.

4 Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 June 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2024 were agreed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

5 Matters Arising

Action Log - July 2024

No	Description	Responsible	Completion
1	CAS Budget 23/24 budget line - clarification sought. Mr Thompson to revisit and email Mrs Blinkhorn who will update governors.	Mr Thompson	Actioned
2	Single Central Record Ms Williams met with the College's HR Manager who explained random checks of staff are made. Mr Gresty noted historically it was random, currently it is now 20% and there is a cycle whereby the oldest in terms of service are checked every 5 years. Action: Mrs Blinkhorn to speak to Mrs Cullen.	Mrs Blinkhorn	Actioned

<p>3</p>	<p>a) SEND Policy Mr Rigby - p9 record keeping - have we got systems in place around access and security of it. Mr Gresty commented on the cyber essentials work, that there would be access by staff involved with the learner and general access on Portal. Anything sensitive has an additional layer. Action: Mr Eccleston to add in 'at an appropriate level'. Mrs Reeves - Somewhere to acknowledge, strengthen the link between SEND and Safeguarding ie cross reference in both. Action: Mr Eccleston to include cross reference between SEND and Safeguarding. Mrs Reeves - p10 - links with outside agencies - additional line around GLYSS - why is it there and jarring with no context. Action: Mr Eccleston to either remove or include context around GLYSS.</p> <p>b) Safeguarding Policy - in line with the TCAT Safeguarding policy. Mr Kahn - Is it usual to have named staff/governors? Mr Gresty noted typically we would go with the role but in certain cases we need names. Action: Mr Eccleston to replace governor names with 'link governor for xx'.</p> <p>c) Learning Support (Bursary) Funds Mrs Reeves - p5 highlighted section may be a direct lift but can we ask Mr Eccleston to check. Action: Mr Eccleston</p>	<p>Mr Eccleston</p> <p>Mr Eccleston</p> <p>Mr Eccleston</p> <p>Mr Eccleston</p> <p>Mr Eccleston</p> <p>Mr Eccleston</p>	<p>Actioned</p> <p>Actioned</p> <p>Actioned</p> <p>Actioned</p> <p>Actioned</p> <p>Actioned</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Student Recruitment Update Governors asked for the proportion of applications and actuals from TCAT schools over the last 4 years. Action: Mr Contos</p>	<p>Mr Contos</p>	<p>Actioned</p>

6 Terms of Reference

Governors received the draft Terms of Reference for the Committee. No changes from 2023/24. Under composition of the sub-committee, Ms Williams enquired about the phrase - will include the TCAT Associate Governor. Mrs Yates stated we have been unable to attract a TCAT Associate Governor and it was agreed to change the wording to read - ... the option to include a TCAT Associate Governor. **Action: Mrs Blinkhorn**
Resolved – To adopt the Terms of Reference for this Committee save for the one amendment.

7 Quality Performance Report (September 2023/24)

Mr Contos shared and took the Committee through the Quality Performance Report presentation and highlighted the following:

National Picture

- A level results - the proportion of A* and A increased slightly.
- A level results - entry patterns - A level entries have increased by 2.4% from summer 2023 to summer 2024. AS entries have decreased by 4.5% from summer 2023 to summer 2024. Average number of A levels is 2.6.
- A level results - no change to the top 5 most popular subjects.
- A level results - high grades - regional differences - London highest performing whereas the East Midlands was this year's lowest performing region.
- A level results - equality analysis - female students continue to outperform males in many subjects but the gap between female and male attainment in top grades has narrowed again this year. Boys still do slightly better at the highest grade of A*.
- Vocational and Technical Qualifications - Most popular subject areas are the same as last year: Business, Administration, Social Sciences with Health and Public Services and Care.
- Headline T Level results - increase in entries from 7,380 students with an overall T Level result across 16 pathways (3,559 were awarded last year).

Governors asked the following questions:

Mr Rigby - is dropping AS entries a trend? Mr Contos confirmed it was, colleges have pulled out of offering AS due to a capacity issue in terms of staffing and examinations. We are one of the few that run them.

Mrs Yates - if students drop out in Y13, how does this impact on the College? Mr Gresty noted this impacts on retention and on achievement rates.

Priestley College

- Headline results - comparison with 2019 and last year revealed a strong performance for the College, above national rates - top level outcomes for Y2 very strong.
- Pathways - strong performance overall - A level A*-A rate, a pleasing increase and following through on vocational.
- T Level - Engineering - requested review of moderation and appealed - still under appeal.
- Foundation - strong, all levels up.

Governors asked the following questions:

Mr Rigby - College results by pathway - number of entries / students in vocational and mixed pathway columns, should these be the other way around? Mr Contos concurred. **Action: Mr Contos.**

Mr Rigby - on the report last year on the vocational pathway currently it reads 62.2 for last year but on the report last year it read 74.6, what is the reason for this?

Action: Mr Contos to double check data.

Ms Williams - A level improvement at high grades, is that due to subjects who had high grades or have we improved those who didn't do so well. Mr Contos reported a mixed picture, some expected to do well didn't, therefore not in line with prediction.

Mrs Yates - how is it some students can get high grades? Mr Contos noted students and staff have worked hard to achieve high grades. This cohort didn't have GCSE grades adjusted.

Mrs Yates noted with regard to the T Level appeal, Mr Contos has written a very comprehensive document. Mr Contos noted we are looking at resit opportunities, likely if we are not successful. Mr Gresty expressed his thanks to Mr Contos and Mr Watson for their work with students, parents, employers and universities.

Mrs Yates - at GCSE, do the figures include November figures? Mr Contos said it was the outcome from the year but that he would check, either way, good results. **Action: Mr Contos**

Mr Contos shared a list of priority areas for the College and lines to monitor, as well as key actions.

Mr Jenkins - asked for an explanation around value added scoring. Mr Contos gave the following example - 0 - Students get the grades that would be expected - -0.1 One in ten students attaining one grade lower than would be expected. Mr Gresty noted that for Priestley, high grades is a priority and that's why we are focusing on these lines.

Mr Jenkins asked were there particular things you want us to focus on as link governors. Mr Gresty said yes and that we are looking at the link governor structure ie why don't we look at 2-3 for each priority - thoughts welcome tomorrow at LGB. **Action: Ms Williams to pick up**

Mrs Yates - will remarks affect outcomes? Mr Contos said yes and that we will redo value added when all remarks are in. **Action: Mr Contos.**

Mrs Yates suggested that at some point governors have a set of statistics with remarks in.

Mrs Yates asked Mr Contos to share a couple of key slides at LGB tomorrow and to have an updated version for the November meeting. **Action: Mr Contos.**

Resolved – To examine the Quality Performance Report

8 Student Recruitment Update

Mr Contos presented the report and highlighted the student recruitment numbers at the start of this academic year in comparison to previous years. He also noted schools where the College has seen an increase in enrolments and those where we have seen a decline. Work is being done to address the dip. To ensure a sound financial model and efficient curriculum planning, the aim is to stabilise recruitment over the coming years.

Governors asked the following questions:

Mr Rigby - vocational figures, do they include T Level. Mr Contos confirmed that they should.

Mrs Yates - students have been offered and accepted places and yet they still don't come. Mr Gresty noted we have increased numbers from our TCAT and Warrington schools in the last 5 years and now hit a dip. There are challenges ahead which we need to navigate. Teams need to be fully engaged in the TCAT hubs, we need more engagement work and need to look at what our competitors offer. We want to be the first choice college for Warrington learners.

Mrs Yates invited, and the student representatives gave their reasons for their college choices. Mrs Scott Herron and Mr Rigby gave feedback on their observations of why students may choose particular colleges. Mr Gresty noted we need to recheck ourselves regarding our marketing. Mr Gresty noted the College feels wonderful and if we can navigate and stabilise recruitment, this would be great.

Mr Jenkins noted positioning is key and has had similar conversations at Edge Hill. He noted that conversion may need some attention.

Resolved – To receive the Student Recruitment Update Report

9 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

10 Date and Time of the Next Meeting

Thursday 14 November 2024 at 4.30 pm

The meeting closed at 5.40 pm confirmed

Action Log - October 2024

No	Description	Responsible
1	6 Terms of Reference - to change the wording to read - ... background and the option to include a TCAT Associate Governor.	Mrs Blinkhorn
2	7 Quality Performance Report (September 2023/24) College results by pathway - number of entries / students in vocational and mixed pathway columns, should these be the other way around? Mr Contos concurred. On the report last year on the vocational pathway, currently it reads 62.2 for last year but on the report last year it read 74.6, what is the reason for this? Mr Contos to double check data.	Mr Contos Mr Contos
3	GCSE results - do the figures include November figures? Mr Contos said it was the outcome from the year but that he would check, either way, good results.	Mr Contos
4	Link Governors - were there particular things you want us to focus on as link governors. Mr Gresty said yes and that we are looking at the link governor structure ie why don't we look at 2-3 for each priority - thoughts welcome tomorrow at LGB.	Ms Williams

<p>5</p>	<p>Remarks - will remarks affect outcomes? Mr Contos said yes and that we will redo value added when all remarks are in. Mrs Yates suggested that at some point governors have a set of statistics with remarks in. Mrs Yates asked Mr Contos to share a couple of key slides at LGB tomorrow and to have an updated version for the November meeting.</p>	<p>Mr Contos Mr Contos</p>
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