

**Priestley College – Quality and Standards Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting Held on 22 February 2024**

**Present:** Gerry Brennan, Sophie Gardiner, Peter Kahn, Louisa Reeves, Bev Scott-Herron, Ian Rigby, Carolyn Williams, Sheila Yates

**In Attendance:** James Gresty, George Contos, Carol Blinkhorn (Minutes)  
Student representatives: Stanley Strong, Charlotte Glover

**1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies received from Amy Heald and Simon Jenkins.

**2 Declarations of Interest**

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

**3 Languages and Applied Social Sciences (LASS) Faculty Update:**

- i. overall performance including actions for improvement**
- ii. curriculum development**

Mr Peacock, LASS Head of Faculty was joined by Mrs Saastamoinen, Curriculum Lead for Health and Early Years and Mrs Piñón, Curriculum Lead for Modern Languages who shared and took governors through a Faculty Update document and highlighted the following:

- Curriculum results as at summer 2023 together with comparison data from last year's mock and this year's mock results - attendance was RAG rated - ALPS grade calculated.
- Two priority lines - one in English and one in Health.
- Link Governor, Mrs Yates is visiting the Faculty next week.

Health and Early Years

Mrs Saastamoinen took governors through the actions - OCR Health and Social Care - networking/sharing ideas with Xaverian College for OCR Health lines - developing exam technique - majority of the team are examiners on OCR - coursework proformas have been re-written for more consistency and clarity - working on consistency in target setting.

T Level:

Health - particularly challenging has been obtaining placements as we are in competition with other establishments for placements. Curriculum staff have been working with the WEX team to help to secure clinical placements.

Early Years - new early years assessor - looking to secure local primary schools placements - majority of learners want to work in the public sector - working on employment skills.

Future Developments - New Health and Social Care specification is being developed with delivery from 2025 - possible option to remove two block Diploma.

**Governors asked the following questions:**

**Mrs Yates** - As the local hospital is now not offering as many placements, have you been able to fill the gap? Mrs Saastamoinen commented that originally it was agreed that they would take the same number as last year (10 places) but now they have to share the placements with other providers, which meant we have 3 or 4 placements and some 6 without. These could be nursing homes if clinical procedures take place.

**Mrs Reeves** - Can you place students in a GP surgery? Mrs Saastamoinen confirmed this could happen.

**Mrs Reeves** - Have you approached the Integrated Care Board? Mrs Saastamoinen confirmed this was an area they are looking at.

Mrs Yates also suggested the team contact the local private hospital.

**Mr Brennan** - How far afield can we look? Mrs Saastamoinen noted that as this group are second years, some may drive a short distance.

**Ms Williams** - Have you looked at contacting TCAT primary schools? Mrs Saastamoinen noted we work with them currently and it may be possible to liaise with them for CACHE.

Mr Gresty noted he has a meeting with Andy Carter MP tomorrow and he will raise the issues there.

Mr Contos noted securing placements is a national issue and that the AoC are looking at feedback nationally with the DfE.

Modern Languages

Mrs Piñón shared with governors actions taken - adoption of booklets in French and Spanish - new paragraph structure PEARL - grammar and exam skills sessions every Thursday - run 3 papers reading, writing and speaking - students use wheel analysis of skills - self reflection - from September to December the focus was on exam skills and coaching and now we are moving onto mastering all the skills - encouragement as well as techniques.

Future Developments - new 20 hour language starter course that would work as an enrichment / specialism and carries 16 UCAS points.

Developing close links with Oxford University who are keen to work with us as we are unique in offering 3 languages. Language assistant for each subject.

**Governors asked the following questions:**

**Mr Brennan** - Walking talking mock papers - what are they? Mrs Piñón commented students sit the mock, these are marked and students then use self reflection. We are training them to be more independent and are encouraged to concentrate on mastering skills.

**Mrs Gardiner** - What causes more or less students to choose language subjects? How do we compare with other colleges? Do students who study languages then go on to take languages? Mrs Piñón noted high schools alternate between language subjects, Spanish is on the increase. Currently we have 10 in Y1 German. Tutor, Mrs Burns goes to different schools and talks to students which is impactful and is built upon. We deliver Y9 taster sessions to attract learners prior

to choosing options and we deliver Y11 booster sessions. Priestley College is the Oxford NW Hub for languages and needs to keep the three languages. Regarding progression, we have a learner who went on to study Spanish with Russian at Oxford last year. This year a learner has received an offer of Spanish with Portuguese. We have a learner who has secured an apprenticeship with a finance company. Overall, we have a good quality alumni.

Mr Strong noted one school that takes their options at Y8. Mrs Piñón noted this was good to know. Mrs Scott-Herron stated very few schools take options at Y8, the majority take options at Y9. Mrs Scott-Herron noted when we go out to feeder primary schools if they have done Spanish, we then offer Spanish. Sir Thomas Boteler CofE High School has benefited from the relationship with Priestley and Oxplore and Mrs Scott-Herron thanked the team for the partnership.

**Mr Kahn** - Extension activities - how does that work? Mrs Piñón explained that learners participate in a European languages day - Lancaster University deliver online taster sessions - Quizlett vocab on phones and encourage learners to use this individually - we signpost to films on Netflix - articles provided on Google Classroom - trips and visits - experience of a lecture in a language, one a year - our French tutor Mrs Jung is going on a France/Belgium combined study visit with History. Students are asking for study visits and we are looking at a French, German and Spanish combined visit. We need to investigate grants and develop partnerships with other schools.

**Mrs Reeves** - Turing Scheme - would that help? Mrs Piñón noted this is an option, and may join up with another curriculum. Currently we are looking at a trust wide bid.

Mrs Gardiner noted her daughter went to Zimbabwe with the College, a life changing experience which cost £200.

Mrs Piñón noted we now have a screen and can run some film sessions in the summer and could join up with Film Studies students.

Mr Peacock noted the talks Mrs Burns' delivers to schools is fabulous but disappointingly we have had a little lack of response from some schools in the Trust.

Mr Peacock noted the work of both Mrs Saastamoinen and Mrs Piñón is great and thanked them and their teams.

### English

Mr Contos and Mr Peacock meet with the team regularly regarding what is needed to continue to improve high grades. They have looked at more parental contact and workshops being delivered. They have looked at how the specification is being delivered, new knowledge organisers, mini tests to test base knowledge, modelling examples in class, changed the NEA date and brought this forward and this has seen around a 25% increase on high grades to where they were last year. They have looked at how they deliver and track homework and held focus groups before half term in all A level Language and Literature classes and then sat down with the team and gave feedback. Future Developments - Mr Peacock noted better advice and guidance and getting the right students on the right course is key. Moving forward we are looking at increasing numbers on the combined course which is more familiar to students from GCSE.

Criminology

Mr Peacock noted 60.1% high grades and really good exam results analysis. Actions - we have tweaked some of the resources and included exam based questions - revision sessions and 1-1 sessions, as well as Easter and Saturday revision sessions are being planned. The team need to maintain what they are doing. The removal of funding for Criminology is a concern. Mr Gresty commented that this is something we can look at at the Governor Seminar. PM data this time is lower than previous and Mr Peacock met with Curriculum Leaders this week looking at mock analysis of those students performing 2 under their target grade. QuIP meetings are being scheduled.

*(Mrs Saastamoinen, Mrs Piñón and Mrs Scott-Herron left the meeting)*

**Governors asked the following questions:**

**Mr Brennan** - What are the numbers? Mr Peacock responded some 200.

**Mr Strong** - Do some universities not accept Criminology? Mr Peacock confirmed the top universities do not accept it. Mr Contos noted, however, a large number of Russell Group universities now offer Criminology.

The Graduate

Governors received a copy of The Graduate Magazine - first one of the year.

Mr Smith, Graduate Tutor and Oxnet Coordinator is doing a really good job.

Ms Glover noted the help from the Graduate has been great.

Oxbridge Interviews - an update was received on numbers and Russell Group offers.

63 on the Graduate this year

Mandatory to attend lecture series

Parental Outreach - 18 March - An evening with Oxbridge

Early Apps tracking: 29 fit the profile for Oxbridge - PM3 trawl to check grades and Mr Smith will speak to these students.

Trips and Visits

English in New York, Languages have visited the Christmas Markets and there have been a number of guest speakers invited into College.

**Governors asked the following questions:**

Mrs Yates commented on only 4 medics. Mr Peacock noted one very strong student was declined an offer and Mrs Khanam is following this up.

Mr Peacock highlighted all the work curriculum areas are doing to manage and address improvements in the faculty which will have a positive impact.

*(Mr Peacock left the meeting)*

#### 4 Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 November

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2023 were agreed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

#### 5 Matters Arising

##### Action Log - June 2023

No	Description	Responsible	Completion
1	<b>English and STEM - Faculty Update</b> Audit of College software - Mr Gresty	Mr Gresty	Ongoing - for the exam season

##### Action Log – Nov 2023

No	Description	Responsible	Completion
1	<p><b>Student Toilet Issues</b></p> <p>Mr Contos to follow up immediately and to establish have we got a system in place ie has the issue been reported, how often are the toilets inspected and the time frame for repair.</p> <p><i>*Cleaners report any issues daily to the Estates team - if possible they repair immediately but sometimes they have to wait for materials to come in. We are now replacing the toilets that were the worst. The work will take some 14-16 weeks and must be completed before exams commence.</i></p> <p><i>Mr Strong noted that it has been reported students use the Crescent toilets as a 'social space'.</i></p> <p><i>Mr Gresty acknowledged the issues. Mr Contos noted these are habits from school which we are trying to break.</i></p>	Mr Contos	Completed*
2	<p><b>PDP Feedback</b></p> <p>Ms Williams to feedback to Mr Eccleston.</p> <p><i>*Mr Eccleston appreciated the feedback.</i></p> <p><i>Ms Williams acknowledged the team's success in the Ofsted Inspection and the Matrix.</i></p>	Ms Williams	Completed*

#### 6 Link Governor Update

- a) HSS - Link Governor Meeting - 7 December 2023 - Mr Rigby shared and took governors through his report and key points for governors. Mr Rigby also noted that he met with Mrs Holt, Head of Faculty just prior to this meeting and noted PM data has gone out, the team are analysing mock results and focus groups are happening.

- b) CAS - Link Governor Meeting - 18 January 2024 - Mrs Scott-Herron  
Governors received the report.

**7 Any Other Business**

PM3 Report

Mr Contos noted that the PM3 Report would typically come to this meeting but given the deadline for input was only very recently, we have shared a link to strategies to impact on student performance. Full PM3 report to follow. Ms Williams asked would the TCAT Safeguarding Audit Report also come to this meeting. Mr Gresty replied that this is being shared at the Governor Seminar.

**8 Date and Time of the Next Meeting**

Thursday 2 May 2024 at 4.30 pm in P1:16

*The meeting closed at 6 pm confirmed*

**Action Log - June 2023**

No	Description	Responsible	Completion
1	<b>English and STEM - Faculty Update</b> Audit of College software - Mr Gresty	Mr Gresty	Ongoing