

**Priestley College – Quality and Standards Committee
Minutes of the Meeting Held on 26 June 2025**

Present: Suzanne Bennett, Simon Jenkins, Joanne Nuttie, Ian Rigby, Bev Scott-Herron (Chair), Sheila Yates.

In Attendance: James Gresty, George Contos, Mark Eccleston, Carol Blinkhorn (Minutes)
Student representatives: Sophie Colledge, Leela Rowlinson and Bryn Williams

Mrs Scott-Herron expressed her thanks on behalf of the Committee to Mr Roxby and Ms Colledge for their contribution over the last year in their capacity on the Committee as student representatives of the College Council. Mrs Scott-Herron congratulated Ms Rowlinson and Mr Williams on their appointments respectively as College President and Vice-President of the College Council and welcomed them in their role as student representatives on the Committee for 2025/26. Mrs Scott-Herron also welcomed newly appointed Staff Governor, Mrs Bennett to the Committee.

Mrs Scott-Herron commented that some governors attended the recent Performing Arts production of Mary Poppins, where the performance was absolutely outstanding and the talent on display was incredible. She managed to speak to members of the cast at the TCAT Celebration of Excellence event on Tuesday and commented they were truly inspirational to the younger members of TCAT.

Mrs Scott-Herron reminded the Committee of the Annual Art Exhibition this evening and if time allowed at the end of the meeting, for governors to take time to visit and appreciate student work.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Ms Williams, Mr Kahn and Mr Roxby.

2 Declarations of Interest

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

3 Professional and Digital Studies (PDS) Faculty Update:

Overall Performance including actions for improvement

Mr Whittaker, Head of Faculty shared and took the Committee through his PDS Faculty Review of 2024/25 Performance Report. He noted significant improvements across multiple areas and strategic interventions driving positive outcomes. Key focus areas: achievement, attendance and student support. He also updated the Committee on the strategies in place across the Faculty to drive future recruitment and engagement.

Governors asked the following questions:

Mrs Scott-Herron - Have the improvements you've made impacted student positive destinations? Mr Whittaker reported yes, we have more students going on to HE and we have been expanding students' awareness of the ranges of courses they can do. There has also been an increase in progression from L2 to L3 this year.

Mr Rigby - What has contributed to the improvement in Economics? Mr Whittaker responded students enrolled on the on right courses and the use of live modelling and visualisers.

			<p>a Sport course, the cost could be subsidised. Mrs Bennett enquired if staff could also use the gym. Mr Gresty confirmed the facility would be open to staff at a similar charge. Mr Gresty noted there would be an induction on how to use the equipment and during the hours of opening staff would be available. Mrs Yates asked if the lease would stay at the same price. Mr Gresty noted the price will go up with inflation. Mr Gresty noted he is looking to have a small working group including governors to look at the offer. Actioned.</p>
2	<p>Role of Link Governors including Link Governor Role - template Link Governor Role document - Mr Gresty with SLT tasked to update the document and bring it to the first meeting of the Committee. To annually review if it is still fit for purpose for the year ahead and reference any online materials.</p> <p>Governor Vacancies Mr Gresty to take vacancies to the SLT.</p> <p>Link Governor Update - LASS - HE&C Mr Gresty to look at arrangements for cover.</p> <p>PDP Mr Eccleston to bring an outline of the PDP scheme to the Committee.</p>	<p>Mr Gresty & SLT</p> <p>Mr Gresty & SLT</p> <p>Mr Gresty</p> <p>Mr Eccleston</p>	<p>Mr Gresty is inviting Ms Williams into College before the end of term to discuss - ongoing.</p> <p>Actioned</p> <p>Actioned</p> <p>Actioned</p>

6 Link Governor Update:

i HSS -Link Governor Meeting - 1 May 2025

Mr Rigby shared and took the Committee through his report on a meeting which took place with Mrs Holt, Head of HSS Faculty and Skills where they looked at progress on priority lines. A key focus was looking at applications to enrolment, where the team have made more appearances at schools and where a lot of work has taken place to make school visits more engaging.

Mrs Yates suggested that if the team are looking for someone to promote Geography, they speak to the student who just delivered a dynamic volcano presentation at the Early App event.

7 Policies review:**a) Safeguarding Policy (and Child Protection Procedures)**

Mr Eccleston shared the draft policy with governors where additions/amendments had been highlighted. The proposal was to review the policy again in September to align with the timing of the release of the KCSIE annual updates and TCAT Safeguarding Policy.

Resolved – Governors approved the minor changes and to review again in September and thereon in change the cycle.

b) E-Safety

Mr Eccleston shared the draft policy with governors where additions/amendments had been highlighted. Mr Eccleston noted the contribution from Mr Birtwell, IT Manager with regards to additional layers of security.

Mr Rigby - AI in classes, what training is in place for teachers to model safe and correct use of AI? Mr Contos noted this is part of our TLA and updates are delivered and shared with staff.

Mr Rigby - What is a software patch? Mr Contos reported a technical term which refers to the process of applying updates or modifications to software to enhance functionality or address security vulnerabilities. Mr Birtwell has recently conducted an audit of software use and Mr Contos confirmed no one can put software onto the College system without IT approval.

Resolved – Governors approved the E-safety Policy.

8 Progress Monitoring - PM5 Summary Report

Mr Contos shared and took the Committee through the end of year final report. He noted a positive picture and that if results are as predicted, this would be a fantastic outcome.

Mrs Yates enquired about feedback regarding T Level Engineering results from last year. Mr Contos reported last year's grades are with Ofqual and as yet they have not reported back, although this year's visit went well.

Mr Jenkins noted the high grades, mixed to A level, the gap has widened up in predictions this year. Mr Gresty noted that value added is the most important measure.

Governors asked the following questions:

Ms Nuttie - What happens if at AS a student doesn't achieve the grades expected? Mr Contos reported that A levels supersede the AS grade. We would invite the student into College to look at their options, offer support and guidance, and apply to see their papers so that we might see where they can improve. We look at each student on an individual basis. Ms Rowlinson shared her College experience to date and commented on the actions she has taken in order to progress and of the personalised support provided by the College.

9 Student Recruitment Update

Governors received an Admissions Update and Mr Contos reported applications overall were not quite where they were in 2024. Although, acceptances are up on 2024.

Governors asked the following questions:

Mr Jenkins - The proportion of applications that get to the offer stage, does this relate to the interview process? Mr Gresty noted that we have changed the interview process and front loaded interview evenings to before Christmas, albeit we have less interview evenings. We have also sharpened up the acceptance process.

Ms Nuttie - How do you allocate who interviews at interview evenings? Mr Gresty noted generally we allocate the most appropriate subject specialist. Mrs Bennett noted that this unfortunately is difficult to do consistently. Mr Gresty noted a teacher would be expected to seek guidance as required from staff and that the measure of success at enrolment is retention.

10 Any Other Business

Ms Colledge enquired about buses for next year and what would be available for bursary students. Mr Gresty reported that a Touch and Go pass and P routes would be made available for those students on bursary.

11 Date and Time of the Next Meeting

Autumn term tbc 2025 at 4.30 pm

The meeting closed at 5.45 pm confirmed

Action Log - May 2025

No	Description	Responsible
1	<p>Role of Link Governors including Link Governor Role - template Link Governor Role document - Mr Gresty with SLT tasked to update the document and bring it to the first meeting of the Committee. To annually review if it is still fit for purpose for the year ahead and reference any online materials.</p> <p>June update - Mr Gresty is inviting Ms Williams into College before the end of term to discuss - ongoing.</p>	Mr Gresty & SLT