

**Tuesday 11th February 2025 at 5.30pm
Remote Online Meeting via ZOOM**

Present:

Kate Bainbridge – Co-opted Governor
Michael Belfound – Foundation Governor/SEND Link Governor
Patrick Kwong – Chair of the Committee
Nader Sheta – Foundation Governor/Chair of Governors
Keni Thomas – Foundation Governor/Travel and Tourism Link Governor
Graham Thompson - Principal
Gabrielle Williams Hamer – Foundation Governor/Vice Chair of the Committee

In attendance:

Clare Baskott - Clerk to Governors
Karen Foan (Associate Principal)
Katy Townsend - Head of Media and Director of Digital Innovation

Apologies:

Chukwuweta Uraih – Foundation Governor

The meeting was quorate throughout.

All Reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Minutes

Item 1 Opening Prayer

The Principal opened the meeting in prayer at 5:32pm.
Apologies were received from Chukwuweta Urai.

Item 2 Election of Chair and Vice Chair for a one-year term of office

Patrick Kwong was elected as Chair of the Committee until the end of the academic year.

Item 3 Subject Presentation: Media Presenter: Katy Townsend

Katy Townsend – Head of Media and Director of Digital Innovation

Studio and Staffing

The Head of Media and Director of Digital Innovation gave an overview of the college's new studio equipment and recent staff appointments made to the Media team.

Academic Performance

The Director reported that A-level Media grades had improved significantly. New courses launched included T Level Media, Broadcast and Production, and UAL Creative Media Production. The Media Plug YouTube channel had recently been launched.

T Level and UAL Discussion

The Director gave an overview of the T Level and UAL courses and explained that the courses shared the same initial induction to enable flexibility for student transfers until October half-term. The UAL merit carried higher UCAS tariff than the BTEC equivalent. It was noted that awareness of the T Level courses needed to improve, particularly to students in schools in Year 9 and 10.

The Committee commended Media department's performance and results across all programs.

Governor question: Are we comfortable that T Levels will be in existence in a few years?

Response: We have received assurance from the Minister at the SFC conference that T Levels are here to stay. They are good for student outcomes and not many schools or colleges are offering them.

The Committee thanked the Head of Media and Director of Digital Innovation for the update.

Item 4 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Chukwuweta Uraih.

Item 5 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest to any items on the agenda.

Item 6 To review and approve the Minutes of previous meeting, (Tuesday 8th October 2024)

With one minor amendment, the minutes of the previous meeting were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting and were approved by the Committee. Clerk to send the link to the Chair of the Committee to electronically sign the minutes. **Action: Clerk/Chair.**

Item 6.1 Matters Arising for this meeting not on the agenda

None.

Item 7 Quality of Provision (Improvement and Outcomes)

The Associate Principal (KF) presented highlights from the Quality Improvement Plan which had also been shared at the recent Quality Morning and included:

Quality of Education

- T Levels and Curriculum Reform.
- BTEC defunding had been delayed and enrolment for these courses remained possible for September 2025.
- Future options included both AAQ and T Level qualifications.

Implementation - Aiming High Focus

A discussion took place about the support given to students to apply to the top third of

universities. There had been an increase in applications for the most prestigious universities this year.

Governor question: What provision is available on A Level results day for those students who just miss their marks for their chosen university?

Response: The Careers team are present on results day, and the days after to support with clearing.

Governor question: What help is available regarding bursaries and other funding?

Response: The Careers team support students by making them aware of available bursaries, targeting those who will benefit most. The bursary process has become more transparent.

Behaviour and Attitudes

The Associate Principal reported that college attendance stood at 92%, this remained above national average, with an aspirational target of 95%.

The Essential 8 Focus addressed mental health support, with appropriate agency signposting.

Personal Development

The Associate Principal (KF) reported that the enrichment programme was well supported and attended.

A discussion took place about student enrichment and the importance of ensuring that all students were involved. The Principal explained that all students participated in enrichment through the curriculum. All students on Level 1 and 2 courses were involved with the Active Lives Active Minds Curriculum. Enrichment helped to build student's leadership skills.

Leadership and Management

Student numbers had exceeded target, with recruitment for next year in progress.

The Catholic Schools Inspection was still pending.

GCSE Maths and English November Resit Results

Governor question: The November GCSE Maths results were lower than last year, why is this?

Response: The college is awaiting the MIDAS data to show student progress, as more students had lower entry level qualifications. Attendance has increased, and the exam board has changed, so we are positive about the added value.

Governor question: Do all students have to re-sit Maths?

Response: Yes, those with grades U- 3 need to re-sit GCSE maths. In the past students were able to take functional skills but this has changed, and all students are now required to sit GCSE Maths.

Keni Thomas joined the meeting at 6:12pm.

Governor question: How is the Maths department performing?

Response: Overall teaching is good, and staff are always looking at innovative ways to prepare students for their resits.

Governor question: Do you think that November is too soon for re-sits?

Response: There are pros and cons to the November re-sits. Many students want to re-sit then because they think they can do better. However, the data shows that they are only likely to improve their grade in November if they already have a GCSE Grade 3 in Maths. The English department feel that all students should re-sit in the November. In future we will only let students with a Grade 3 GCSE in Maths resit in November.

A discussion took place about the 9% fall in English results. The Associate Principal explained that there had been a 6% drop nationally and in the previous year the college had seen phenomenal results. The college was in the top 4% of value added nationally last year.

A discussion took place about enrichment activities.

A discussion took place about difficulties with students re-sitting.

Item 8.1 EQR Report on Vocational L3 Courses

The Associate Principal gave an overview of the EQR report.

Several staff had been trained as reviewers.

The recent EQR review had identified the following:

- Off-task behaviour in coursework lessons.
- Inconsistency in classes and workbooks.
- Digital resources not being fully exploited.

Governor question: Was there a noticeable difference in teaching methods? Were the results a surprise?

Response: The college had been aware that a small number of teachers were not providing sufficient delivery of information. This is not uncommon in vocational courses and is now a key focus area for the college.

Governor question: Will there be another EQR review?

Response: There are two per year and the next review will be of A Level Science. Departments can volunteer for review, and we are keen to include reviews of our most successful departments.

Governors noted the excellent behaviour of students when they had visited the college at the recent Quality Day.

Item 8.2 GCSE Maths and English November resit results

Covered above.

Item 8.3 Curriculum Development

The Associate Principal (KF) gave an overview and explained that the college was focusing on the possibility of some subjects being defunded and was looking at the possibility of offering AAQs. There was an expectation that any defunded courses

were likely to be larger extended diplomas, and the college was looking at the feasibility of offering smaller qualifications.

Item 8.4 UpLearn platform

The Associate Principal and Principal gave an update and explained that the Uplearn platform was being used for Psychology, Maths, Science and Economics. Usage hours for 2025 were higher than previous year. The current Year 13 had been had access to the platform since Year 12. The platform used AI and focused on areas where students needed to improve. The college will have a full set of data next year, to analyse for the current Year 13.

Item 8.5 Skills and stakeholder engagement update

The Principal updated on extensive work with employers through T Level courses, building new relationships with a focus on the SFX Essential 8 transferable skills.

Item 8.6 Catholic Schools' inspection update

No update.

Item 8.7 Focus Morning 8th March 2025

The following agenda items were agreed:

- Continuation of Strategic planning: 2025-30 plan.
- Curriculum update.
- Future curriculum planning.
- Academisation.

Action: Clerk to add to the agenda.

Item 9.1 Student Survey

The Principal reported that the termly survey had been launched in the second half of autumn term, with respondents reporting on each of their courses.

The Principal explained that the Heat Map analysis on page 4, indicated areas where students were less satisfied. However, it was important to note that half were Year 12 students had not been sitting exams and this affected the revision and exam prep responses.

- Engineering students expressed dissatisfaction with preparation.
- Business vocational feedback needed investigation.
- Issues had been noted in Business, Health and Social Care, IT and Maths.
- GCSE maths was skewing some results.

Governor question: Was the Year group information captured in the survey?

Response: Yes, and we are analysing this information.

Highlights included:

- The Digital section score had improved since references to the GSuite had been changed.

- Consistently high scores for inclusivity.
- The platform was praised as "a Godsend".

The Committee commended staff for their hard work.

Item 9.2 Staff Pulse Survey Presenter: Principal

The Principal reported that the staff survey was less detailed than usual, but showed positive results:

- 9/10 staff were happy and would recommend the college as a place to work.
- High scores for student relationships with staff.
- Workload rated 7.2/10.
- 77% response rate (highest yet) despite strike action regarding pay inequity.

Governor question: What about following up on good scores?

Response: We currently only follow up on scores below 5 with comments, but this suggestion should be considered.

The college had changed practices on some areas because of the survey.

Item 10 Link Governor Updates All Governors

SEND

The SEND Link Governor gave an overview of his visit and reported strong SEND support confirmed across diverse student groups, aligning with the November 2023 Ofsted findings.

It was noted that the SENDCo will require additional training if the college was to academise, as set out in the DfE guidance.

It was noted that a new SEND Link Governor will be appointed from June 2024, following the end of term of office of the current post holder.

The Committee commended the ALS department.

Travel & Tourism Update

The Travel and Tourism Link Governor gave an update and reported that he had met with the Head of Department to review the BTEC programme. There were opportunities to explore the National Trust partnership at Merton. Potential future transition from BTEC to A Level were noted. Students were engaging well with work experience opportunities.

The Committee commended the college on the excellent Quality Day.

Item 11 Effectiveness of committee:

Clerk to circulate questionnaire following the meeting and link to Link Governor roles.

Action: Clerk.

Item 12 Risk Management: Have governors identified any new risks or modifications to existing risks on the register?

No.

Item 13 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 10th June 2025

Item 14 Any Other Business

None.

Item 15 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 10th June 2025 at 5:30pm

The meeting closed at 7:29pm.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____