

## **Minutes - Academy Quality Council**

**Monday 11 May 2020**

Present: Peter Eyre (Chair), Sue Myland (Vice Chair), Catherine Cole (Principal), Dawn Arnold, Andrew Freeman, Rachel Holmes, Helen Manning, Justin Slater, Peter Williams, Nigel Wooldridge.

In attendance: Simon Reigh (Assistant Principal), Rebecca Rhodes (Assistant Principal), Matt Smith (Assistant Principal), Helen Ruxton (Assistant Principal), Kate Thomlinson (Clerk),

### **1. Standing Orders:**

**1.1 Apologies:** Miaya KC, India-Rose Marriot, Rhys Chant (post meeting)

**1.2 Pecuniary Interests:** None

**1.3 Approval of Previous Minutes:** Minutes from 16 March 2020 SFCF AQC approved.

**1.4 Chair's Business** No Trust Update

### **2. Main Issues for Consideration and Discussion:**

#### **2.1 Overview of Current Situation**

CC provided an update on the response of the college to the COVID-19 situation.

- IT equipment had been given to students who needed it, prior to lock down.
- 32 students due to take resits for grade improvement where the college has little input. The college is looking at how to mitigate the impact for these students who have little record of work.
- No progression exams for Y12
- Large number of applications for Sept
- Looking at practical implications for reopening in Sept
- College providing work for Y11 in feeder schools

AF questioned whether pupils could be allowed into college for limited hours for socialisation and mental wellbeing. CC responded that it was difficult to see how this could be done safely. AF queried whether it would be possible to enable socialisation in the outside space or provide outside learning. CC responded that outside learning would not be practical as the IT kit had been given to students pre-lockdown. PW pointing out that this would require government approval.

NW asked whether the college site would be more COVID secure for September. CC informed the AQC that the timetable was being arranged so that students will

attend at different times. CC has assigned a working group to address the issues arising.

## **2.2 Remote Learning - challenges and feedback**

RR presented the findings of the remote learning survey that had been issued to students after Easter, noting that around half of all students had responded. DA pointed out that a certain type of student would respond to the survey and that should be considered when looking at the results. DA reported that in her tutor group a number of students found it overwhelming to be set a whole week's worth of work at the beginning of the week (the survey reported that around 60% of pupils prefer to complete the work according to their own timetable).

NW reported that the Google provision enabled by Steve Birtles was very good and that Steve had done a great job in tracking and monitoring engagement. CC added that it was now possible to see what teachers are providing via Google. JS asked how students were adapting to remote learning. NW reported that habits in the classroom seem to follow online. RR reported that the college culture of independent working was producing good results online. RH asked about the provision of tutor groups. Weekly tasks are set, with guidance and 1:1s offered.

PE asked about attendance monitoring. There is once a week identification and participation tracker from each teacher. Teachers are reminded of the importance of this. The discussion moved to the health and wellbeing of the staff, who had reported they felt well supported in the increased workload. The IT team were considered crucial to this support, SR reported that staff who are finding work difficult can get support and workload has been re-distributed in some cases.

## **2.3 Current Grading Process**

SR provided an update on the grading process. Internal systems to weight and assess work have been developed. Prior attainment is considered as is the results from the last 3 years. CC will sign off on all grades prior to submission.

PW queried whether allowance for improvements in subject areas will be permitted. SR confirmed this was the case.

RH queried the potential of a GDPR issue, SR confirmed that the whole cohort would be ranked not by individual class.

PE asked about the use of predicted grades. SR confirmed that these would not be used as they were often too high.

JS asked what consideration would be given to work completed after 20th March 2020. CC pointed out that it was difficult to consider work not completed within the controlled environment of college. Disadvantaged students may be further disadvantaged. JS asked about those students who may have planned to work harder towards the end of the course. CC pointed out that the period after 20th March would not traditionally be a significant work period compared to the rest of the course.

## **2.4 Applications Update**

HR reported that the application numbers were high. Prior to lockdown, over 3,000 interviews had taken place. A virtual 'Getting Ready Day' is being planned for June, including on-line taster sessions.

## **2.5 Safeguarding Challenges arising from COVID-19 Measures - See Part 2 Confidential**

### **1. Date of next meetings:**

5pm, 22 June 2020

Meeting closed 18:45