



**Mission Statement:** *Inspiring learning, developing character, building futures*

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS BOARD

**Date:** Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2016  
**Venue:** The Blackpool Sixth Form College  
**Room:** Committee Room  
**Time:** 5.30-7.35pm

**Present:** Dr P Anderton (Chair)  
 Mr J Boyle  
 Cllr D Clapham  
 Mr J Corry  
 Mr G Curry  
 Ms W Middlemas  
 Ms D Taaffe  
 Ms J Gray (Principal)  
 Mr M Waterhouse  
 Mr N Webster  
 Ms M Wakefield

**Together with:** Ms G Yeadon (Deputy Principal)  
 Mr A Lloyd (Vice Principal: Information Systems and Resources)  
 Ms E Bellamy (Assistant Principal: Academic)  
 Ms T Cooper (Assistant Principal: Vocational)  
 Mrs S Hawitt (FCAT-Governance Administrator)

**Apologies:** Ms J Trembles

		Action
<b>56.2016</b>	<b>Preliminaries</b>  The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Especially Mhairi Mitchinson who delivered Director's CPD.  Apologies were noted	
<b>57.2016</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>  There were no declarations of interest	
<b>58.2016</b>	<b>Consideration of any items of urgent business.</b>  There were no items of urgent business to discuss	
<b>59.2016</b>	<b>Confirmation of Quoracy</b>  It was noted the meeting was quorate	

**60.2016 Directors CPD-The Ogden Trust delivered by, Mhairi Mitchinson**

Mhairi Mitchinson delivered a presentation for Directors on The Ogden Trust. She shared some background information both nationally and locally. The Ogden Trust is a charitable trust that exists to promote the teaching and learning of physics. Mhairi's role within the trust allows her to work with children from under privilege postcodes within the Blackpool area. One of the main goals is to inspire all students, including gifted and talented with physics through a fun and interactive programme which includes a number of competitions. The project is working with a number of students from Year 4-Year 7 within the Blackpool area with a key focus on improving maths skills. She went onto to explain that funding is available from The Ogden Trust for five years, after that period, projects are expected to be self-funding. Four years into the project some areas are starting to be self-sufficient, however sponsorship is being sought.

Directors were invited to a number of key events throughout the year.

**Questions from Directors**

In response to a question about the take up of these subjects at the college it was noted that numeracy skills and the lack of specialist teachers in the area was problematic impacting on results. In response to this, the college has reduced the A level entry requirements.

It was noted that Mhairi played a significant part in the recent STEM Assurance awarded to the college.

*The Chair thanked Mhairi for the training session provided and she left the meeting.*

**61.2016 Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2016 were approved

**62.2016 Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda**

- a) **Employer Engagement Event** (item 42.2016 from the previous minutes the Clerk confirmed a reminder and a current employer list was sent to Directors.
- b) **Minutes of the meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016** (item 43.2016 from the previous minutes the Clerk confirmed the changes have been made.
- c) **Directors CPD** (item 45.2016 from the previous minutes) Clerk confirmed Lesson Observation Grading has been added to the list of training for Directors. Directors requested an overview of financial matters to be delivered Autumn 2017

JB

- d) **Student Voice** (item 45.2016 from the previous minutes) the Deputy Principal confirmed that students have been informed of any catering changes. It was noted that new students will need to hear the same message
- e) **Ofsted Thematic Survey of Study Programmes** (item 52.2016 from the previous minutes) confirmation Directors took part in the survey
- f) **Meeting Dates** (item 53.2016 from the previous minutes) Clerk confirmed changes have been made and re-circulated
- g) **Area Based Review** (item 54.2016 from the previous minutes) confirmation the meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016 was cancelled

## 63.2016 Teaching, Learning and Assessment

### Results by Qualification:

#### A Level Results Report 2016

Directors received a report from the Assistant Principal: Academic (AP) on the A Level results for 2016 (Paper 8.1a) She highlighted the following areas from the report. The pass rate for A2 improved by 0.7 percentage points (pp) with the high grades by 2.1 pp and the upper high grades by 1.4 pp which is higher than the national average.

Improvements were also made at A levels for most subjects that were named on the 15/16 action plan

Alps Value Added (VA) increased to band 3 for A2 level, putting the college in the top 25% nationally.

There has been a decline in the outcomes for many AS subjects in pass rates, high grades, upper high grades and Alps VA; many of these decreases have come from the new reformed A level subjects.

#### Questions from Directors

In response to a question about how we compare with other schools and 6<sup>th</sup> Form Colleges, it was noted that the results are compared internally and are improving but are not yet published externally. It was noted the college still needs to improve A level value added.

It was noted that although VA may not be as important to parents as pass rates, pass rates alone cannot be separated out for reporting purposes. It was noted that the college needs to be creative in terms of marketing strategies by making the most of results.

In response to a question about English Language results the AP: Academic stated that, the results were disappointing and are being looked at in more detail to see what can be done differently next year.

It was also noted that there were similar results in Fine Art and Photography, all these subjects are in the first year of reformed AS.

In response to a question about how the findings of results are managed, it was noted that, Heads of Departments (HoDs) are responsible for monitoring the data against targets throughout the year, overseen by their SLT link. The college Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) details the top-level actions and is presented to the Corporation Board for approval.

In response to a question about the process for managing the actions and targets set it was agreed Directors will make a decision on targets for the QIP and/or Department SARs to provide further quality assurance in November 2016.

Directors/SLT

Asked about the changes regarding the new reformed A level subjects, it was noted that there were things in place to support the students with the changes which included more exams and less course work. It was also noted that these results would not be carried forward to the second year.

It was acknowledged that these are new qualifications and that there is no reference or data to make comparisons. The Principal stated that she is working with the North West Principal Group to develop papers to use as mock exams which can be used to moderate results in the future.

*Directors congratulated SLT particularly Vice Principal: Information Systems and Resources on the significant improvements made in maths.*

In response to a question about the correlation between good teaching and learning and good results, the Principal stated that, this is not necessarily the case and there is more work to done regarding the actual exams. It was noted if AS results are not good there is an increased risk of more students dropping out, something the college cannot afford to happen.

In response to a question about why AS level qualifications are being offered, it was noted that AS exams will cease next year. Directors also stated that, if there is an in-balance between exam boards then The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulations (Ofqual) should be informed. It was noted that there is scope for training for Directors on the new reformed A levels and BTEC.

SLT  
/Directors

### **BTEC Level 3 Results Report 2016**

Directors noted a report from the Assistant Principal: Vocational (AP) on the BTEC Level 3 results (Paper 8.1b). She highlighted the excellent pass rates despite the new assessment rules. She also highlighted the ALPS value added score of 2 has been maintained overall. Directors were invited to ask questions but none were raised.

## **Achievement Rates by Qualification**

### **A Level Achievement Rates report 2016-2016**

Directors received a report from the AP: Academic on the achievement rates by qualification (paper 8.2a). She outlined that the report mirrored the A level report in the fact that achievement rates improved by 2.4 (pp) at A level with 18/34 subjects getting 100%, a continuation of a 3-year trend. However, achievement rates at AS have declined by 1.4 pp due to declines in both pass rate and retention.

#### **Questions from Directors**

In response to a question about any particular themes discussed at student exit interviews, the Principal stated that there were no significant themes identified.

It was noted that an update on how we measure new performance measures should form part of Directors' Conference in February.

Clerk agreed to add to Directors' training schedule

Clerk

### **BTEC Level 3 Achievement Rates Report 2016**

Directors noted a report from the AP: Vocational on the BTEC Level 3 Achievement Rates (paper 8.2b). She stated that the results were very pleasing. Pass rates, retention and achievement rates are all significantly above the national average on the larger BTEC qualifications.

### **Maths and English**

Directors noted a report from the AP: Academic on GCSE Maths and English 2016 (paper 8.3). She highlighted that, in spite of a small dip, results are still significantly above the national benchmark for post-16 providers.

#### **Questions from Directors**

In response to a question regarding dates for completion on the action plan stated as ongoing, the Principal informed Directors that all actions are in fact ongoing throughout the academic year to achieve final outcomes in August 2017

It was agreed to add monitoring dates into the reports

EB

### **Level 2 Plus**

Directors received a report from the AP: Vocational on 2Plus results and achievement 2016 (paper 8.4). She highlighted that pass rates remain high and generally above national average across the 2Plus courses. She also highlighted that retention has declined on the 2Plus programme which has had an impact on achievement rates. Adding creative subjects into the action plan is just one strategy to help keep students interested.

#### **Questions**

In response to a question about section 3 of the report – highlights, it was noted that 3.3 does not necessarily look like a highlight, in response to this the Principal suggested changing highlights to key points in future reports.

SLT

*The Chair thanked both Assistant Principals and acknowledged the efforts gone into providing such detailed reports.*

**64.2016 College Action Plan**

The Deputy Principal highlighted the following areas from the College Action Plan (paper 9.1). Overall out of 25 objectives, 20 have been achieved (80% compared to 74% September 2015 and 61% September 2014) 3 have been partly achieved (12% compared to 26% September 2015 and 39% September 2014) and 2 have not been achieved ( 8% compared to 0% in September 2015 and 2014).She explained to Directors that the college targets have been RAG rated and the percentage changes from the previous year have been identified on the report.

**Questions**

Asked if retention is linked to numbers in mainstream schools and is it lower than the market share, the Deputy Principal stated that there has been a small dip (2 pp) in the market share, however between the date of the report and October numbers are increasing but are still not where we want them to be. It was also noted that data shows students have settled better this year and that demographics are due to increase by 2020.

Directors asked about retention from year 1 to year 2 and asked that the figures be presented to the board after the 1<sup>st</sup> October  
Asked about the amber rating for Lower 6 attendance target 95% and final actual of 94.5%, it was noted that even the smallest percentage change is significant.

*It was noted by Directors that the College Action Plan is extremely detailed and an excellent tool.*

SLT

**64.2016 D1 Resolved: to approve the College Action Plan**

**65.2016 Principal's Report**

Directors considered the Principal's Report (paper 10.1) the Principal highlighted the following areas from her report.

Recruitment to date indicates the overall market share for the school year 11 cohort in the Fylde Coast has fallen from 34.6% to 32.4%. However, this comparison is with 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015 so this is only an interim assessment.

It was noted that recruitment was always going to be difficult with the demographic decline. All students who didn't enrol with the college were contacted.

The Principal explained that she is building strong relationships with Head Teachers and has been invited to be a guest speaker for St Bede's awards evening.

She also highlighted that MW has been appointed as Head of Gifted and Talented and will be visiting schools to promote the new Excellence Programme.

The Principal stated that of the commitment to save £155k there have already been a saving of £122K due to a forensic review of staffing requirements.

The new offer for students eligible for a Blackpool Transport travel subsidy has been launched this term. It was noted that this is an excellent offer to students as it offers them travel 7 days a week, all year with their travel in July and August 2017 completely free.

The Principal outlined some of the activities she will be undertaking this term including the ABR conference.

#### **Questions**

Asked if we are using the subsidised transport scheme as a marketing tool, it was noted that this is not in fact unique to the college. However, plans are in place to promote this further to the public through open events.

#### **66.2016 Special Measures**

The Principal provided a verbal update on the progress of those members of staff on informal support plans. Good news that only one member of staff is being carried forward onto a support plan as a result of the impact the support plans have had. A further update will be provided at the next Standards Board meeting.

#### **67.2016 Compliments, Concerns and Complaints**

Directors considered and received the Compliments, Concerns and Complaints report presented by the Deputy Principal. She highlighted the additional category in the report in response to a request from Directors.

#### **68.2016 Area Based Review Update**

John Boyle presented a tabled paper (14.1) and gave Directors further information regarding the Area Based Review. He highlighted the recommendations to the board and the reasons for these recommendations and invited questions.

He also informed Directors of a letter he received from the Chair of Blackpool and Fylde College outlining proposals for a merger which were rejected. The Principal informed Directors of the outcome of a meeting with the Principal of Blackpool and Fylde College in August.

#### **Questions**

In response to a question about deficit and the how financial security of the college, the Principal was asked to rework the figures based on known recruitment.

It was noted that the alternative does not put the college in a better financial position.

It was noted that (paper 14.1) is in addition to other information Directors have already received.

It was also noted that it is important for staff to know the clear position of the college. The Principal agreed to speak to staff.

**Recommendations in the paper were proposed: John Boyle and Seconded: Jill Gray**

**68.2016 D1 Resolved: Directors agreed to the recommendations.**

JG

*John Boyle thanked Directors for supporting the college.*

**69.2016 Identification of any new Risks**

Outcome of the ABR and emerging message from Blackpool and Fylde College

Funding –shortfall in recruitment

Dip in AS levels

**Date and Time of next meeting**

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016 at 5.30pm

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_