

Minutes of Curriculum and Quality Committee

Date: 30th Nov 2023

Time: 4.30 - 5.53 pm

Location: In College, S10

Present:

Mrs S Hammett (Chair)	Mr C Whitfield
Ms S Garner	Mr Marcus M
Miss S Duggan <i>[left 1745, item 7]</i>	Mrs M Harris-Bridge
Mr M Brown	Mr A Scott (Principal)

In attendance:

Mr B Jones	Miss F McIntyre (Clerk)
Mrs R Stratton	Mr M Jones <i>[arr 1643, item 5]</i>

1 Apologies

1.1 No apologies, all expected were present.

2 Declarations of interest

2.1 None in addition to those previously declared.

3 Minutes of the last meeting

3.1 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 28th September 2023 were reviewed and agreed as a true record.

3.2 Matters arising:
None

4 Provisional QAR report

4.1 The College is compared against 6th form nationally and compares results from this summer against 2021/22.

4.2 Overall the College is above the national average but slightly below other 6th form Colleges. As not a typical sixth form as the majority of students are level 3 whereas Itchen has two thirds at level 3. So when compared to other FE colleges or sixth form Colleges do not sit in either group.

4.3 Last year grading was slightly different with additional support in the form of prior information to take into exams with more generous grade boundaries. This year grade bands have returned to pre pandemic levels so not fully comparing like for like.

4.4 Level two has improved. Nice to see the achievement rate pick up again.

4.5 There was a dip with level one achievement

4.6 16-18 achievement inline with last year

4.7 19+ has improved overall.

- 4.8 *Q: Numbers on level one has dropped by 50% what has changed?*
 A: Same numbers of students doing courses but reviewing which learners are put through on College and which are sub-contract data. Still teaching the same types of students but it is a different contract. It is strategic to put the best work through other sub contracts so they come back.
- 4.9 Variation in different groups is due to small numbers.
- 4.10 Learning difficulties students have improved.
- 4.11 To summarise - QAR data is reasonably good with some ups and downs but consistency across College.

5 Provisional VA report

- 5.1 Report looks at value added for the level 3 programs. Consider the grades from GCSE and would expect a certain level at A levels or level 3. If they achieve above this then they are taught well and added value.
- 5.2 Governors are referred to the table in reports that show the last four years including pandemic years.
- [MJ arrived 1643]*
- 5.3 The report uses GCSE results from 2021 which were generous grades given by teachers.
- 5.4 When they left Itchen, they are possibly where they would have been. So some of the areas are not such areas of concern as would usually be.
- 5.5 *Q: Do you have any worries with different subject areas where scores are blue (low), or are they all explained by context given?*
 A: Would look at with other data such as whether students stayed on courses, student feedback from those areas. Some areas would be concerned as have concerns from other data. Other areas need to look at areas and pick out missing areas from students learning.
- 5.6 Value added is the weakest profile data at the moment.
- 5.7 *Q: Is national data similar and also other Colleges?*
 A: When originally run it was worse but now the correct database is being used and it is more positive. Again the differences between us and other Colleges. With other institutions they may not put grade 4 students onto A level program.
- 5.8 *Q: Is there a correlation with attendance?*
 A: Attendance with A level courses tends to remain high.
- 5.9 Do need to consider and be mindful of the areas where students suffered such as students in 2021 who did Chemistry they would have not done any practical work. Also students did not complete courses so were not able to complete A level work. It is a lot to catch up. It is not down to the teaching and learning but a unique set of circumstances that the students face.
- 5.10 *Q: Southampton in news had worse A levels, are you happy compared to other Colleges?*

A: Hard to compare to other Colleges but on results day was disappointed, with so many students achieving a grade lower than expected. A number of students put in for remark and had grades improved. When looking at the students that achieved U and then considered where they came in and the College journey. Have then put them on other courses.

5.11 *Q: Was it linked to any specific secondary schools?*

A: No it was across the board. Everything happened as it should do and they had support in place but they could not catch up with the work missed.

5.12 The Daily Echo had an article and they looked at attainment only not value added. As discussed in previous meetings the more abled students often leave the city for College.

6 **Destination report**

6.1 Best year so far for collection of data at this point with 73% displaying a positive destination currently.

6.2 It is time consuming for teams but also very useful as students are excited to share what they are doing.

6.3 Numbers going onto University and further education are lower than previous years. But the report looks at postcode data.

6.4 44% quintile 1 students go onto university compared with 21% nationally. Been able to challenge national trends to get students to consider it as an option.

6.5 *Q: Is Solent increasing in popularity?*

A: Over the year had high interest and students like the course with the work experience placements.

6.6 *Q: Do you have concerns about low levels of students going to Oxbridge and Russell group?* College is doing great work getting students who would not have considered university to see it as an option.

A: Do have a program looking at students wanting to go to these universities and have mock interviews and support to encourage students to see it as a possibility and also be as prepared as they can be.

6.7 Last year took 120 on a visit to Solent and Southampton and this year taking 300.

6.8 *Q: Is there a trend in subjects studied?*

A: No, it varies year on year. It is driven by the students.

6.9 Students going to Russell group are similar to the national average. Around 17%.

6.10 *Q: Could governors find out how the departments use the information from destination reports?*

A: Round the College have displays with this information.

7 **The draft SAR**

7.1 The SAR is part of the improvement cycle and the evaluation process. It takes into account feedback from students and lesson visits.

- 7.2 This then feeds into the College SAR and uses the Ofsted criteria. The areas looked at in the QIP are the improvement areas in the SAR.
- 7.3 QIP is important to use throughout the year and the areas want to see improvements in. Some of the points are included are not considered to be areas that need improvements but areas that are going well but want to do more.
- 7.4 Key areas:
- Most areas are rated a two
 - Personal development and high needs are one
 - Faculty grades small number of grade 1 and most 2 and two three in science and media
 - Achievement rates some up on last year which is positive.
- 7.5 Positives are identified here and developed, built on and then embedded.
- 7.6 Negative A level and areas want to see improvement and want to finesse and keep improving. Developing in curriculum and diversifying. Not weak but want to make stronger.
- 7.7 Attendance continues to be an area which has had improvement but would like to see overall attendance improve. Has dropped since pandemic and is a national issue.
- 7.8 *Q: 19+, level 3 has reduced?*
A: It is a very small number of students and predominantly access provision. It is 46 starts. 25 access students and others will be across A level programs. Some students may have tried previously and are trying again which has some risk. Some can leave the course early.
- 7.9 Access achievement rates are strong which was positive and had some challenges.
- 7.10 Would be nice to have this rate higher but it is a small number of students.
- 7.11 Not all the students will be included on ILR and depends on the funding and whether they take out loans. It would then be better than the figure shown.
- 7.12 Review of the SAR grades
- 7.12.1 Have gone through the SAR grading and reviewed the grades may not be as appropriate as they should be
- 7.12.2 During an annual strategic conversation with DfE yesterday discussed funding and quality.
- 7.12.3 Discussed the self gradings and whether grading too harshly. Should use direct comparison for like for like provision. Provision is not typical as sixth form or other FE Colleges.
- 7.12.4 Previously have just used national averages but can compare with other institutions.
- 7.12.5 Encouraged to look at other College Ofsted reports that achieved Outstanding and consider the holistic provision of College too and the aspects of Outstanding that would be similar to Itchen. Outstanding Colleges can still have areas for improvement but need to be aware of what they are.

- 7.12.6 QAR data section in the report and would like to ask governors for feedback.
- 7.12.7 QAR compared to all provisions offered. 85.3. All providers 83.6. As not typical worth considering the two thirds on level 3 then can compare 83.8 Itchen rate and other Colleges comparing similar providers 81.
- 7.12.8 QAR data could be misleading as not comparing like for like so when do so then are ahead. Level 3 16-19 strength. 19+ not so strong
- 7.12.9 With this in mind should the grades be reconsidered? Would want to re-evaluate judgements in leadership, behaviour and attitudes.
- 7.12.10 Feedback invited:

- What explained the behaviour and attitudes having an attendance issue be outstanding.
- DfE is not Ofsted and their guidance may not be relevant.
- Comparing like for like is important but an inspector not be aware of this and would need a challenge that it is robust.

7.12.11Q: *What difference would it make? With the day to day monitoring in College changing to mainly ones instead of two?*

A: We know there are things that need to be done. Consider if it sends the wrong message to staff. Staff do strive to do better.

- 7.12.12 Need to consider outcomes or ambitions.
- 7.12.13 Is putting self at 1 can set College up to be seen as over ambitious. So need to be sure.
- 7.12.14 Inspectors not understanding College was an issue previously. Thinking about the whole picture of college. HAVe shown improvement in attendance and need this to keep going.
- 7.12.15 Considering if being too harsh with judgments.
- 7.12.16 Are we always going to battle with attendance and the context of students which what stop College getting outstanding?
- 7.12.17 SAR is for internal use only but when Ofsted come do produce a version for them. Responding to the local community given a strong and other sixth form Colleges are reasonable. It is a judgement about how to meet needs. No sixth form has got strong yet but judging ourself as strong.
- 7.12.18 Principal proposing revising grades. Attendance is being worked on and above national.
- 7.12.19 The advisor who was leading the conversation was a principal of a college that was outstanding. The FE team are in and out of Colleges.
- 7.12.20 Q: *Can you move forward by reviewing some of the grades but not all?*
- A: Yes. It is not a fair picture of current provision. Working done around enrichment is important. Reports in the last 18 months mention the enrichment and development of students as key points.

7.12.21 Comment some of the students are hesitant as enrichment can affect attendance.

Could change to count as a neutral mark. Can be considered as the purpose to encourage students to try different things and removing worry of attendance can be looked at.

7.12.22 Committee are asked to recommend the report for approval SAR.

7.12.23 Amendments:

- Educational programs for young people 1
- Provision for student high needs 1
- Quality of education 1
- Leadership management 1 2

7.12.24 Overall effectiveness still a 2 and room for improvement.

7.12.25 Committee proposing amended report for approval.

[SD left 1745]

7.12.26 Q: *Are there Colleges elsewhere in the country with similar provisions?*

A: Yes there are some. Brockenhurst is similar locally but other colleges with similarities can be in FE groups.

8 AOB

8.1 Governors are reminded to complete the SAR prior to full board if not already done so.

8.2 Greenlight classrooms are next week and governors are invited to attend.

8.3 Discussions on what Outstanding looks like in College and this could be a potential governor training.

8.3.1 Colleges will all inspected within three years and it will be under the old judgements.

9 Date of next meeting – 14th March 2024

1753 closed.