

Minutes of Curriculum and Quality Committee

Date: 14th March 2024

Time: 4.30 - 5.25pm

Location: In College, S32

Present:

Mrs S Hammett (Chair)	Mr M Brown
Ms S Garner	Mr A Scott (Principal)
Ms S Duggan	Mr M McCauley
Mrs M Harris-Bridge	

In attendance:

Mr B Jones	Mrs R Stratton
Miss F McIntyre	

Apologies: None

1 Apologies

1.1 No apologies, all are present.

2 Declarations of interest

2.1 No new declarations.

3 Minutes of the last meeting

3.1 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 30th November 2023 were reviewed.

6.6 - Russel LL typo

6.10 - Destination data action to see how the information is used

Departments do use it for the faculty SAR and feature of curriculum design. It is not picked up on KPI. Next C&Q can have more information.

Different teams use it in different ways and utilise it differently.

Action - a faculty that uses it in interesting ways.

6.7 Add Universities to sentence.

7.12.1 - SAR grading - grades changes. Was done by Full Board the following week.

7.12.14 - HAVE typo

7.12.10 - clarified. Was discussion on outstanding in all fields and what outstanding attendance looks like.

Q: Question around Brockenhurst, they came out as good. Were they aiming for good or outstanding?

A: They were pleased to get the good. The Principal was relatively new to College. Had been a period of uncertainty with the previous Principal off for two years so interim cover.

3.2 Minutes approved with corrections above.

4 Review of the College QIP

4.1 Attendance

Attendance is currently at 86.2% and 86.5% same point last year so slightly below while retention slightly higher.

Where attendance has dropped slightly working with a number of students who have complex attendance needs. Continuing to make progress on courses and students should be kept on role while they have opportunity to complete qualification. This supports retention but affects attendance.

4.1.2 It is the right thing to support these students to complete their qualification but some will struggle to complete.

Q: Are there particular reasons?

A: It is very individual and generally around mental or physical health needs.

4.2 Value Added Targets

About to complete a review of target grades from entry points. Data from this will look at the value added data and see what final interventions need to be in place.

4.3 KPI

Meetings held in the last two weeks with curriculum managers and directors.

Reviewed attendance and retention. Where students are, staff CPD and staffing.

Been very useful and four left to complete.

4.3.1 *Q: Does this tie with improving ALPS scores?*

A: Yes and the meeting at the end of April focuses on that.

Can also discuss round problems and offer support. KPIs good for two way dialogue.

4.4 Equality objective

Attendance is the weakest at level 1. Majority of students are making good progress.

Working with students to support them to catch up where attendance has been an issue. Do have the opportunity to offer alternative qualification where the larger core aim qualification is no longer going to be achievable.

4.5 Post inspection action plan

Not meeting attendance targets. Level 3 attendance is strong. Level 1 and 2 is where attendance issues occur.

4.5.1 Enrichment is making progress and a good plan in place. Modified and updated to carry on improvements next year. Looking at schemes to take students abroad at no cost. Work to be done. Buy in from staff has developed.

4.5.2 Apprenticeships - did have plans in place to improve but do offer anymore so no longer in the QIP.

4.5.3 Generally good progress and report has details on the actions. The amber items often has progress planned throughout years so will turn green.

4.5.4 *Q: Pro-monitor, what was behind the workshop. Using something different or not using as should?*

A: Brought in during 2020 and initially focused on comments and action and target setting and built up and embedded as gone. Generally positive uptake but markbook was not consistent until this year. Offering training at various points. Training is being offered as refresher and good habits. Have good compliance across College with use but it is refining to improve for staff and students.

Q: Where is progress with value added and target for 6?

A: Not evidence based nut to give governors an idea:

- Biology would get close to 6
- Chemistry should achieve 6 possibly higher.
- English language and literature will struggle this year. It is a very small cohort. This year 2 cohorts had adjusted grade banding.
- Geography and politics 6.
- Law would struggle. Three students that will impact the result.
- Media is unknown and the new teaching and working is effective.
- Photography exceed.
- Physics meet.
- Psychology hope to meet but some staffing issues. Challenge with staff consistent.
- Applied and business should achieve targets
- IT - not sure yet and some concerns.

The variables are often staffing and last year staffing had an impact in Geography. The first years that had negative experiences last year so now offered more support to be where they need to be.

4.5.5 *Q: Three students in law affecting it. How big is the cohort?*

A: Ten. Applied law is more popular with 50/60 students.

Q: The mental health impact of exam withdrawal some students taken out for exams. May be affected in next few years School finding some parents withdrawing students for exams

A: Do have students who come in for exams who are very stressed so make accommodations where possible.

Comment: where they have not done exams due to covid it can be more difficult for some students.

Q: March 2024 attendance figures, best at level 3. What is the sense of the national picture?

A: Not strong. Benchmarking with local Colleges and Level 3 better. Similar to St Annes sixth form.

Q: What is the CPD for adult community teachers?

A: Want to improve consistency but it is underway.

Success criteria engaging with CPD so good target to hit with very part time teachers.

4.6 Quality objective - pass rate March 2024

This is where we are at the moment for students who passed functional skills in January. Started taking some exams already and this will improve.

4.6.1 *Q: Enrichment, student survey to develop understanding of interest. Is there less taking part since Xmas?*

A: Had a high sign up but then students changed mind. The students who attended term 1 attended term 2 also. Have reworked some clubs which are useful.

Plan was always to ask students. Some of the most successful clubs this and last year have been initiated by students so plan to engage with students. Being responsive so chess club requested and started.

5 **Initial report of the Qualification Achievement Rate (QAR) data.**

5.1 QAR data still has not been published in its previous format due to pandemic. Still comparing against 2019 data - information could be May.

6 **Curriculum development update.**

6.1 A Levels

Looking to grow A level courses to have a diverse range of subjects and encourage students to attend their local College. New courses include:

- Dance A level
- Music tech
- Computer Science

6.1.1 Ancient history started last year.

Q: How many are there?

A: Twelve.

6.2 Vocational

Government reviewed applied general qualifications because of perceived overlap with new T levels. Current plan to remove funding for applied generals. A number of courses will be removed. Gaps will be in public services and travel & tourism as qualifications removed but no replacement.

Opposition parties have committed to pause and review if they come into power but this is vague.

Comment: Travel and Tourism is big in Southampton and engages students.

It is also meeting skills needs that will be a big loss.

6.2.1 *Q: How many students are on these courses?*

A: One group on triple travel - around 25 students. Public services around 100 on double or triple. They can do a single beside A Level. But some of the public services students may struggle with A levels.

6.2.2 Sport qualifications are not affected so they could do double sport and a single public service.

6.2.3 *Q: Does this apply to UTC also?*

A: Yes.

6.2.4 In some areas will look at T levels. T Level health and media this year.

Q: Why offer media T level when this is not an area affected?

A: Currently only offer a single in media. Will be a need to broaden the area in triples where we can. Digital media may appeal to some of the travel and tourism industries. Picked the T Level as it attracts additional funding.

Q: What is the impact on funding with T levels?

A: Students on T levels are at a higher rate and for the first year there is an equipment payment. Around £1300 per student uplift. Average funding per student is approximately £6000.

The additional funding will need to spend on getting them out on work placements such as vaccinations for working in hospital

6.3 Level 1

Increased student numbers on level 1 have broadened provision and to meet local needs in a better way. Performance arts and services.

Q: What is SBWAP?

A: Sector Based Work A Plans. It is a plan or work experience. It is designed to be responsive to respond to skills needs in areas. Multiplier contracts have been important in this area.

6.3.1 Will be complex with curriculum planning with student numbers being high.

6.3.2 *Q: Have we undertaken surveys or employers?*

A: Yes, have to work with employers for T levels. Have strong links with employers that have worked with previously. The health route has developed links with University hospital Southampton.

6.3.3 Different factors why choose one route over another but for childcare there was no other option.

Media chose T level partly due to work experience available which will give good links for the students.

Q: So they have input into course runs?

A: Yes they do. They impact by coming in to give guest lectures or discuss the roles. Try not to limit to careers week but embed across provision.

6.3.4 *Q: What is the extent of use of AI in teaching or student use? It is a new learning skill for students but can also be negative.*

A: Encourage staff to use it so they are aware. Google influencers have looked at AI and done sessions on how teachers can use AI in their work and encourage students to use it correctly. It can be helpful in various capacities. One session was how to reduce teacher workload using AI and another was how to spot it in students' work. It is becoming more commonplace.

6.3.5 *Q: In regards to T Levels only one subject. Will more be introduced with announcement of A and T levels going in future?*

A: September there will be two health pathways, media and following September currently planning a marketing pathway which will replace triple business. Criminal justice as well.

Is also government dependent.

Q: The T Levels, the significant work experience, how does this mesh with College? Are they going out different times?

A: Childcare is three days in College and two in placement. Have to start with maths and english GCSE as there is no additional time to fit this in. This will be an issue with other T Levels. Hours are higher for childcare and others have more flexibility. Have to respond to when employers can accommodate placements. If a company can offer placement but for a month will be more challenging to manage.

Health routes will be more straightforward.

7 Report on College performance from external sources

7.1 Nothing to report

8 Policy reviews, as required

8.1 None

9 AOB

9.1 None

10 Impact and Action Review

10.1 Action - input from directors of curriculum back again on how destinations are used

10.2 Impact:

- Questions around attendance and what is being done
- Detailed discussion on value added.
- All feed into QIP for next time.

11 Date of next meeting – 20th June 2024

Meeting concluded at 1725 and was quorate at all times.