

## **Minutes**

### **Curriculum, Standards & Quality Committee (Students and Staff Experience)**

**Tuesday 10th February 2026 at 5:30pm**

**Remote Online Meeting via Zoom**

#### **Present:**

Nader Sheta – Foundation Governor/Chair of the Committee

Elena Cirillo – Foundation Governor

Patrick Kwong – Foundation Governor/Vice Chair

Keni Thomas – Associate Member

Graham Thompson – Principal

Gabrielle Williams Hamer – Foundation Governor

#### **In Attendance:**

Anna Griffiths – Associate Principal

Clare Baskott – Clerk to Governors

Geeta Rautela – Head of Maths Department – partial attendance

#### **Apologies:**

Karen Foan – Associate Principal

**The meeting was quorate throughout.**

**All reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.**

#### **Item 1 – Opening Prayer**

The Principal opened the meeting in prayer at 5:30pm.

The Chair of the Committee welcomed all present to the meeting.

#### **Item 2 – Apologies For Absence**

Apologies were received from Karen Foan.

#### **Item 3 – Declarations Of Interest**

None declared.

#### **Item 4 – Minutes of previous meeting (30th September 2025)**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by the Committee.

#### **Item 5 – Matters Arising Not On The Agenda**

None.

### **Item 6 – Subject Presentation: Maths - Geeta Rautela, Head of Department**

The Head of Maths gave an update on the department and informed the committee that she had joined the college as Head of Department in September 2025.

Below were the focus areas for the department:

- A Level results were below expectations and the department was focused on increasing pass rates and overall achievement.
- Implemented shared teaching approaches.
- Increased homework.
- Exam-style questions had been introduced in every lesson, which had led to measurable improvements
- Mock exams and testing had been used to identify struggling students.
- Interventions had been put in place for Year 12 (January 2026) and Year 13 (February 2026).
- The department was looking forward to improved exam results.

**Governor Question: Did the college change exam boards?**

**Response: Yes, we moved to the Welsh exam board for GCSE Maths.**

### **Statistics**

The Head of Maths explained that some students had been moved from A Level Maths to Statistics as they had been struggling with the Maths syllabus. The department was looking at introducing Core Maths in the future, which will also attract additional funding.

The change to only enter students who joined the college with GCSE Grade 3 Maths into the November re-sits, had resulted in improvements to the overall grades. Students with a Grade 2 or below on entry, will follow a four-year programme and will re-sit GCSE Maths in the June of Year 12.

**Governor Question: Are Grade 2 and 3 students split into separate classes?**

**Response: Most students are in grade-specific groups, although timetabling can be difficult. Targeted lessons are also provided for students with Grade 2 Maths. However, timetabling remains a challenge.**

**Governor Question: How many students are studying GCSE Maths?**

**Response: There are approximately 300 students re-sitting GCSE Maths.**

**Governor Question: How many staff are in the department?**

**Response: There are five full-time and two part-time staff members.**

Governors noted the Maths re-sits was a huge workload for staff. The Principal explained that the Maths department was the largest department, in the college after Religious Education.

A discussion took place about the benefits of pen and paper versus digital/laptop learning. All students had access to the necessary technology.

A discussion took place about AS Levels. The Principal and Associate Principal (AG) explained that most exam boards had now moved away from this model.

The Committee thanked the Head of Maths for her presentation.

**The Head of Maths left the meeting.**

## **Item 7 – Quality Of Provision (Improvement And Outcomes)**

### **Item 7.1 – College Quip**

In the absence of the Associate Principal (KF), the Principal gave an overview and explained that the update was based on the Self-Assessment Report and had been RAG rated.

### **Quality of Education**

**Governor Question: In the overall pass rate of 96.4%, media is at 69%, can you explain this percentage?**

**Response: This is based on the November data pass rate of 69% and represents 13 students in one class. Much of this was down to curriculum planning, with more focus placed on coursework, rather than exam components. The overall progress grade is much higher. The current pass rate is now 89%, with two students not meeting their target grade.**

**Governor Question: Media is a high-performing course, is more marketing needed? Has recruitment increased this year?**

**Response: Media and T Level are predicted at ALPS 1, which is an incredibly strong performance. The open events have been well attended and we have seen an increase in applications and offers being made. The next Open Day will be in mid-March.**

### ***Behaviour and Attitudes***

Attendance was below the target of 95%

The college's key theme was GRIT, and this was delivered through House Days. The college had introduced the 'Finishing Line' programme to support student's mental health, by promoting exercise, sleep, and signposting to key services

**Governor Question: Are there issues with attendance at exams? And is the situation likely to improve?**

**Response: Vocational exams from January have been well attended with good punctuality, as have external exams. The college is keeping closer records of students who are unlikely to attend. Three students did not attend, and meetings have been held with families, and the students are being supported.**

The college is providing more generalised revision support to build student confidence and reduce anxiety.

**Governor Question: Is there a buddying system in place?**

**Response: A buddy system would be beneficial; however, nothing has been formalised yet. The college has a Wellbeing Officer to support students. Staff provide 1-to-1 support and identify students who need additional help. We will consider capacity for peer support among students; however, staff availability has to also be considered. Students who have Severe anxiety have been referred to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).**

### ***Personal Development***

It was noted that Governors had received a presentation on the recent Quality Day. The EDI (Equality, Diversity & Inclusion) position has not yet been filled. The Careers Manager has settled in well. National Apprenticeship Week activities were currently taking place.

It was agreed that Governor, Elena Cirillo's partner, an entrepreneur, will offer entrepreneur sessions with students. **Action: Principal to organise with Business Department and Careers Department.**

A discussion took place about EDI. The committee agreed that EDI was embedded across the college. It was agreed that the EDI coordinator role was vital to bring together student and staff ambassadors and discuss key issues.

### **Community Outreach**

Projects include a planting project at Clapham Common. **Action: Clerk/Principal – add to the agenda for the next meeting.**

### ***Leadership and Management***

There had been a good level of applications for the autumn Year 12 intake. There had been an increase in applications and offers made to students this time last year. The admissions team had worked hard to obtain references for potential students. Approximately 1,000 applications had been received. The college had planned additional open events.

The Principal gave an overview of open events to attract potential students. Work was ongoing to track conversion from application to enrolment.

Governors were invited to the college's **Summer Open Fayre: 24th June 2026 from 2:00pm – 4:00pm. Action: Clerk to circulate dates to Governors.**

### **Financial Health**

Income was on track and the college's finances were well managed. The Annual Strategic Conversation had been scheduled to take place on Thursday 12th March 2026 from 12:00pm – 2:00pm. **Action: Principal to send invites to Chair of Governors and Chair of Finance & Resources Committee.**

### **Item 7.2 – External Quality Review (EQR) Report**

The Associate Principal (AG) provided an update on the External Quality Review programme.

College staff had visited other colleges to focus on the following areas:

- Questioning techniques for vocational qualifications
- Pastoral curriculum and wider outreach
- Vocational methodology
- Criminology and Sociology provision

Future areas will include:

- Art
- Sports
- A Level assessments

**Governor Question: Are students targets short, medium or long-term?**

**Response: Students receive four progress reviews over the course of their study, with short-to-medium-term targets set. Alongside these there are also summative assessments. Teachers can set up to five targets, some of which are extra-curricular. All targets are recorded on the college's tracking system and students can view their targets.**

**Governor Question: Can students' next of kin see the dashboard?**

**Response: Yes, this is available on the parent portal.**

### **Item 7.3 – GCSE Maths And English Resit Results**

The Principal provided an update on the November resit examinations:

**English:**

35% of students entered achieved Grade 4 or above (100 students)

29 students achieved Grade 5

**Governor Question: How do you feel about the number of students achieving Grade 5s, could more have achieved a Grade 6 and above?**

**Response: Students take the foundation paper and cannot achieve more than a Grade 5.**

Governors noted the excellent results achieved within half a term of students joining the college.

**Governor Question: I notice that there were several students who did not attend their exams.**

**Response: Four students did not attend November exams. They have all been placed on learning support plans and and/or have left the college.**

#### **Item 7.4 – Curriculum Development Update**

The principal gave an update on the curriculum and assessment review. Colleges were expecting the Department for Education to provide an extension to courses which were thought to be at risk of defunding. Confirmation was expected by the end of the month.

#### **Item 7.5 – UpLearn Platform Update**

The Associate Principal (AG) reported that UpLearn had changed how it records student use. Following feedback from colleges, the platform moved to Mastery in a topic and Memory Decay. Each student now received a score for these measures, which provided a more effective way of measuring progress.

The Economics department valued the platform as it could identify which students needed interventions and set additional assignments. There was 100% engagement from Economics students. The Psychology department were also using the platform.

The Committee thanked the Associate Principal (AG) for the update.

#### **Item 7.6 – Skills And Stakeholder Engagement Update**

The Principal gave an update. Skills remained a key feature of the new Ofsted framework. The college was currently updating its audit of skills engagement and this was being embedded across the college.

**Governor Question: Does this include visits to organisations?**

**Response: Yes, this includes Geography fieldwork and T Level industrial placements. The college wants to ensure that activities align with the Ofsted framework. Under Quality of Education in the Ofsted framework, colleges must demonstrate how they engage with employers.**

Governor, Keni Thomas, reported that Merton Council offered supported internships for students with EHCPs, and this information had been passed to the Additional Learning Support department. High needs provision continued to be central to the Ofsted framework, supporting the skills agenda. It was noted that the majority of students with Education Health Care Plans who attended the college progressed on to university.

#### **Item 7.7 – Catholic Schools' Inspection Update**

The Principal reported that the college was still awaiting the Catholic Schools inspection. The Associate Principal (CG), who was a trained Catholic School inspector, was currently supporting other colleges with their inspections.

Staff briefings on Monday included departmental reflections.

#### **Item 7.8 – Focus Morning – 21st March 2026**

The Committee agreed the following focus areas for the Focus Morning:

- Ofsted inspection framework
- Catholic School inspection and expectations

- Academisation update
- Mobile phones in class – discussion regarding advantages and disadvantages

### **Item 8 – The Student Experience**

The Principal provided an update on the Student Survey including the Highest and Lowest Scoring Statements.

Response Rate: 73%

The Overall satisfaction rate was 90%, representing a 3% increase compared to the same time last year.

### **SWOT Analysis**

The Principal provided an overview of the SWOT analysis and heat map showing results for each subject.

**Governor question: Is there an issue with Classical Civilisation?**

**Response: This is a small cohort, and the subject is reading-heavy. Sometimes negative scores may occur because teachers push students to achieve their potential.**

**Governor question: Does the Maths and English data include those students who are re-sitting GCSEs?**

**Response: Yes, and it is pleasing as many students are reluctant to re-sit Maths and English. Attendance has been good. The Data can also be drilled down to department level and the Associate Principals analyse the data.**

**Elena Cirillo left the meeting at 7:07pm – the meeting remained quorate.**

### **Item 9 – Staff Pulse Survey**

The principal gave an overview of the staff pulse survey.

The 'Staff Pulse' was an online survey collecting staff views on 21 themes focused on wellbeing.

#### **Key Points:**

- Response rate: 71% (good response rate)
- All categories were at or above the national benchmark for schools and colleges
- 'Recommending the College to others as a great place to work' score remained high at 8.3/10
- Workload was the lowest scoring category. However, at 7.1/10 it scored significantly higher than the national average of 6.1/10

The Committee congratulated the Principal and SLT on the excellent survey results.

### **Item 10 – Link Governor Updates**

Governor, Keni Thomas provided an overview of the two link governor visits/learning walks:

- Travel and Tourism.

- Employers Board and Transition.

The Committee noted an excellent turnout of Governors at the recent Quality Morning.

**Item 11 – Effectiveness Of Committee**

The Clerk will circulate a questionnaire following the meeting.

**Action: Clerk to circulate Committee effectiveness questionnaire.**

**Item 12 – Risk Management**

**The Committee considered whether any new risks had been identified or modifications to existing risks were needed.**

No new risks identified.

**Item 13 – Any Other Business**

None.

**Item 14 – Date Of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 8th June 2026 at 5:30pm via Zoom.

**Item 15 – Close Of Meeting**

The meeting closed at 7:13pm.

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS**

Action	Responsibility	Deadline
Organise entrepreneur session with students (EC's husband) – coordinate with Business and Careers Departments	Principal	ASAP
Provide Community Outreach update for next meeting	Principal/Clerk	Next meeting
Send Summer Open Fayre details to all governors (24th June 2026, 2-4pm)	Principal/Clerk	Completed
Send invites for Annual Strategic Conversation (12th March 2026, 12-2pm) to Chair of Governors and Chair of F&R	Principal/Clerk	Completed
Circulate Committee effectiveness questionnaire	Clerk	Completed

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Attendance Record 2025/26**

<b>Name</b>	<b>30 Sept 2025</b>	<b>10 Feb 2026</b>	<b>8 June 2026</b>
Nader Sheta (Chair)	✓	✓	
Elena Cirillo	✓	✓	
Patrick Kwong	✓	✓	
Keni Thomas	✓	✓	
Graham Thompson (Principal)	✓	✓	
Gabrielle Williams Hamer	✓	✓	