

Barnet and Southgate College Corporation
Quality Committee

Date: 23 September 2020
Time: 18.00- 20.05
Venue: Teams meeting

Attendance:

Governors: Jenny Jarvis Chair

Nana Brew (Governor)
Sheila Dawson (Governor)*
Christalla Tsattala (Staff Governor)

In attendance: Neil Coker (Principal)*
Lorraine Jackson (Head Teaching, Learning and QI)
Lorna Lloyd-Williams Head of Governance &
Corporate Affairs

Item	The meeting opened at 18.01 and was quorate with 3 members attending including two external governors.
1.	Preliminary Items i. Apologies for absence Apologies were received and accepted from Cait O’Riordan ii. Declarations of interests There were no declarations of interest.
2.	Minutes of meeting of 1 July 2021 The minutes of the meeting on the 1st July 2021 were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting. Governors asked for clarity regarding a matter in the minutes concerning safeguarding and governors. The Head of Governance advised that she would be asking all governors to complete online training and there would also be a safeguarding and prevent update at the Board.
3.	Matters arising The Head of Governance advised that matters were on the agenda or completed.
4	Headline report- Student outcomes to date –

The Principal advised the committee that it was a moving picture in relation to outcomes as they are still coming through, with the college working on the detail. The emerging picture at this stage was that there was a 1% drop in overall achievement compared to the previous year. This was mainly due to a drop in class rates and more details of this would be provided in the College self-assessment. The committee were advised that the college was trying to get a picture of the national picture which was hard to obtain as there is no national public data. Governors asked when they might get an update and were advised October. The Head of Governance confirmed there would be an update on outcomes at the October board meeting.

Governors asked whether there were any appeals in relation to vocational courses and whether this would impact on achievements. The Principal advised that he did not believe there would be any impact from appeals as these would not change the grades.

The Principal took the committee through the key challenges and highlighted the following:

- Work in Health and Care which had come in at 2.2% below in achievement
- Engineering was an area of concern and although a small cohort overall achievement was 15% below national average
- Construction was 4.4% below provider average
- Art and media was 1.7 % below national average
- Preparation for life and work requires a lot of work
- Leisure travel and tourism was 1.9 %

Governors asked whether any of these areas of challenge were surprising. The Principal advised the college did not expect the outcomes in Health and Care but this could improve as outcomes were still coming in. The committee asked to hear how some of these areas were developing over the course of the year

Action: Curriculum presentations at committee- Principal and Head of Governance

Governors asked what work would be undertaken to look at these areas of challenge. The committee were advised that there was ongoing discussion about how the college predicts outcomes and informed that there was still work to do regarding tracking and monitoring at board level the progress of students. The Head of Teaching and Learning gave further specifics of the operational measures being taken. The committee asked to hear further on this at the next meeting once the Principal and Head of Teaching and Learning had reflected on the quality monitoring process.

Action: Principal and Head of Teaching and Learning

The committee were taken through key successes and given some detail regarding A Levels in particular areas of high-grade profile. Governors asked if any of the good results were a surprise and the Principal advised of the work that had been done in this area and that the results were due to focused quality improvement. It was noted that there were only two areas where high grades had fallen compared to the previous year

Regarding GCSE maths and English, the committee were informed that the results were as follows:

Maths 47.6%

English 46.7%

	The Principal advised the college was pleased with these results when national averages had been 28-32% prior to the pandemic.
5.	Student survey results 2020-21 cohort The committee were advised that there was a 63% return on the student survey. The average percentage of positive responses was 90%, 1% down from last year. Overall, the satisfaction ratings were noted to be strong, with 11 out of 18 questions in section one rated at over 90. A further 6 questions were rated in the mid-high 80% range. The one question with the lowest satisfaction ratings was "My Maths skills have improved whilst I have been at college." The Head of Teaching and Learning highlighted the following: • Regarding the quality of education most of the respondents agreed their teaching was good and they received enough feedback to know how to progress. • Regarding impact generally students know how well they are doing on their course but the maths skill remains an issue. The committee were informed that some work needs to be done around what the college is seeking to find out from its survey results and potentially the college may have more targeted surveys. • Regarding attitudes and behaviours, it was noted there had been a strong focus on students becoming more independent and taking responsibility for their learning. • Leadership and management: students feel they are treated with respect and the college acts upon student views Governors asked whether the college was able to draw any links between the response to the survey and enrolment and retention. The Head of Teaching and Learning gave a number of examples of this including for example the fact that the student of year had historically often been with the college for a number of programmes Governors asked whether there was any comparison data or insight on outcomes of student survey results. The Head of Teaching and Learning explained that there was not. Governors commented that it was superb that most students would recommend the college but asked about question 12 and what work was being done regarding the fact that 10% of students had said they did not know where to go if they felt unsafe and upset. The committee were provided with details and advised that a lot of information was given within the induction process, with lots of signposting and activity in the classroom regarding students' wellbeing and mental health. Governors were pleased to hear students were being provided with lots of opportunities for engagement. Governor queried the figures in relation to engineering and suggested that there needed to be some deep dive into the answer that they are not satisfied with what they receive. It was confirmed that the college was looking into this.
6	College self-assessment headlines 2020-21 Governors received a presentation on the SAR headlines and it was noted there had been external validation of areas that had said they were outstanding or had some aspect that was said to be outstanding. The Head of Teaching and Learning advised that when looking to past years there was

improvement with the college having now moved to 5 outstanding areas as opposed to 3 previously with more areas with some features of outstanding.

The committee were taken through the key strengths and areas of improvement

It was noted that Ofsted would consider how the college had responded and adapted to Covid and this had been a key strength for the college. Also, that in the majority of areas curriculum intent was strong. Governors asked whether the headlines being presented represented the senior team view of the assessment and it was confirmed this had been presented to the senior team. Governors asked if the college was confident that it had the evidence to support these assessments and were advised that the college did have evidence but was continuing to collate this and put it into a cohesive format.

Governors commented that some more richness around the judgment words would be helpful in the final SAR to come to committee and board.

ACTION: Head of Teaching and Learning

Governors commented that at the last inspection some staff had difficulty in articulating the strengths and questioned what work had been done regarding this. The committee were advised that this was a work in progress but were informed that staff had contributed to their curriculum area SARs. The Principal added that once validated the SAR would be shared with staff. The safeguarding governor was asked whether she could give assurance regarding what was being said about safeguarding and prevent being a strength and the Governor confirmed that this was her view too in her capacity as a safeguarding governor.

Areas for improvement were highlighted as being:

Some areas limited links with employers – specifically engineering and construction

Behaviour and attitudes- in some limited curriculum areas there is still some refusal to go to English and maths class and some lower attendance on main programmes

Personal development – 19+ students felt that they would benefit from more targeted IAG which in turn would help improve retention.

Leadership & Management – looking further at how curriculum areas are using monitoring and tracking progress.

Governors asked about the areas that had limited links with employers and the reason behind this. It was explained that it can be very difficult in construction often because of health and safety requirements of working on site but that the college was making positive steps regarding engineering. Regarding monitoring of QIP actions there has been a shift in focus to ensure staff and management can monitor the actions in the QIP with very targeted and specific actions being incorporated.

Governors asked what the biggest concern of the management team was and were informed the use of assessment and systems for monitoring student progress and the consistency regarding this. Governors asked to hear more on this as things develop. Governors asked whether an overall position had been reached and were advised overall a good college with outstanding features.

It was noted that there would be further ongoing challenge from an external. Governors asked that the message regarding the SAR be given to all staff and received assurance regarding this.

7	Ofsted update The Principal updated the committee on preparation in the College and advised that from next week the college would expect to be in scope for inspection. The committee asked to hear more at the next Board meeting on what would be needed from Governors and how they would be prepared. Action: Principal
8	Governor termly immersion visit schedule The committee discussed the termly immersion visit schedule and the Principal advised that he had not changed the timings and that the dates are the week beginning. Governors advised that would have liked to have a longer period of time with curriculum managers and questioned whether they would see any teachers. Governors also commented that they would like to attend college events too. Governors also asked about more staff or student engagement. It was agreed that this would be discussed further at the forthcoming Search and Governance committee meeting. Action: Head of Governance Governors also asked about having photos of governors at reception and the Head of Governance advised that this would need to be discussed with the executive. Action: Head of Governance Governors also commented that they would like to hear more on the student experience and the Head of Governance advised that she had had some preliminary discussions with the Head of Student services regarding this. Action: Head of Governance to comment further on at next meeting.
9	Committee schedule of business 2021-22 The committee agreed the schedule of business.
10	Other Business There was no AOB except that the committee discussed its performance and directed that a reflection on the meeting should be included in agendas forthwith. In conclusion the committee felt that they challenged well and asked that all papers and slides be provided in advance.
11	Dates of forthcoming meetings 25 Nov 21 @ 18.00 17 Mar 22@ 18.00 23 Jun 22@ 18.00