

# QUEEN ELIZABETH SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

**Minutes of the meeting of the  
Board of the College Corporation  
Thursday 25 May 2017**

Present: Mr C Wiper, Chair  
Mr P Davison, Chair for agenda items 6 to 10  
Ms J Ashmore  
Mr I Clyde  
Mr J Deane  
Miss C Ferguson  
Mr T Fisher, Principal  
Mr S Heath  
Mr C Kipling  
Prof L Oglesby  
Mrs J Pan  
Mr A Teague  
Mr D Warman

Apologies: Mrs J Hillyard  
Mr S Regan  
Mr A Wilson

In attendance: Mr M Baker  
Mrs L Bates  
Mr S Hargrove  
Dr S Hunnisett  
Mr L Job  
Mr N Johnson-Small  
Miss I Joyce  
Mr S Dowson, Clerk

33/17 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

34/17 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017 were agreed by the Board and approved for signing by the Chair.

35/17 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

## 36/17 Student Presentations

### 36.1 Employability skills in Media Studies

Louis Zimmer talked about the **Music Video Study Day**, which had included.

- Advice from a professional music video director
- A filming workshop
- A film editing workshop
- An insight into working on a real shoot
- Embedding the skills learnt into the students' own course work

Governors watched a sample of the music video, which had been made by the students.

Jack Hodgson told Governors about a **residential trip to London**, which had included:

- A tour of the Warner Brothers studio
- A media exhibition at the Tate Gallery
- A talk by the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC)

Evie Webb explained what had been involved at the **Sky Sports Study Day**, which included:

- Encouraging women into sports media
- Hints and tips for getting into the industry from an expert panel
- A presenting, filming and editing workshop
- A social media workshop
- A reporting workshop

Jack Hodgson and Harry Walton described recent examples of **work experience** including media production, journalism, reading/broadcasting and publishing across digital platforms.

Jacob Crow explained what had been involved in the **British Film Industry Craft Skills** residential course in London when 66 16 to 19-year-old students participated in a series of seminars and workshops before producing their own short film.

Louis Zimmer described an **Industry Questions and Answers** session with the producer of, 'Goggle Box' which included hints and tips on how to get into the industry, how to source relevant work experience and how to develop an impressive portfolio of work.

In answer to a question from Mr Davison about how the placements are organised, Nicola Naisbett explained that the aim was to give students as many opportunities as possible. As well as local contacts which have developed over time students are

encouraged to enter national industry competitions and to attend festivals and courses.

Mr Fisher thanked Nicola and the students for their presentations which he described as an outstanding example of how to make links with the real world beyond the college.

In answer to a question from Mr Davison about their own ambitions after college, the students described a range of future careers including film producer, photography, journalism and travel films.

Any Governors wishing to view the students' You Tube sites can request a link form the Clerk.

### 36.2 Interact Club

Vicky Snowball introduced the students giving the Interact Club presentation.

Charlotte Ferguson explained that Interact is a Rotary Club sponsored Service Club for young people aged 14 to 18. Interact stood for **I**nternational **A**ction. The aim was to undertake one local and one international project each year.

Currently there are 8,700 clubs involving more than 100,000 young people in 110 countries.

QE Interact Club has taken part in a number of local and international projects including:

- Stanhope Park litter pick
- Charity music concert, cake and sweet sales, face painting and food challenges to raise money for St Teresa's Hospice
- A shoebox appeal for children in Moldova
- Fundraising for the South Sudan appeal
- Car parking

Proposed future projects include:

- Clothes donations
- HIT SQUAD projects in the local area
- A food bank project known as the 700 Club
- A project giving help to Age UK

Charlotte described the formation of the Sixth Form College Interact Club and the presentation of the Charter by Mr Wiper at the Annual Rotary Club Ball.

Mr Wiper explained that it was hoped to create international links with America and Africa in the near future.

36.3 Wildcat Female Football Activators

Mark Scott introduced the students giving the Wildcats football presentation and explained the long standing links between QE and the Football Association Hub.

Lauren Naisbitt explained that Wildcats are female specific activators sponsored by the Football Association with the aim of at least doubling the number of girls aged 5 to 11 involved in football. The students involved had been subject to a competitive selection process and were now 8 weeks into a (minimum) 16-week programme.

The Wildcats had grown from 8 to 23 participating members with an average of 19 girls attending each week. The aim was to get girls started and to keep them involved in football.

In answer to a question from Mr Davison about increased involvement Mark Scott said that all the girls involved in Wildcats were new to football and more than 100 girls had attended a recent primary school football event. The scheme was definitely working and the results were very positive.

The students described how involvement with the scheme had helped to develop their own leadership, coaching and organisational skills and had helped give them the confidence to give this presentation.

Governors enjoyed a short film which included interviews with girls and their parents.

37/17 Student Destinations Report

Mr Baker summarised the Student Destination Report which gave an account of the destinations of students who left college in the summer of 2016.

The number of students progressing to higher education had increased for the fourth year running. 72% of second year students had progressed to university either directly or with a deferred place.

27% of those second year students had gained places at Russell Group Universities. Thirteen students had been accepted at Oxbridge and eight students had gained places to study medicine or veterinary medicine.

Mr Baker informed Governors about the progress in areas for improvement identified for 2015-16, which included:

- Prioritising work experience for those closest to employment or those who are undecided about their careers
- Increase the number of meaningful work experience opportunities
- Develop work related learning in lessons

Mr Baker described the most popular areas of study and explained that English Studies had overtaken Business Studies for the first time. Although most of the students attended relatively local institutions in the north of England over 100 universities accepted QE leavers

last year. Mr Baker explained that many of the popular universities offered supported entry schemes for local students which is an attractive incentive.

In reply to a **challenge** from Professor Oglesby to ensure students were not drawn to universities by support entry schemes and thereby prevented from taking advantage of wider opportunities Mr Baker explained that it was made very clear to students from the beginning that they should consider all available options. Professor Oglesby warned QE to be aware of universities trying to attract students from deprived areas to improve their rating and funding.

Mr Baker replied that supported entry schemes encouraged students who would not otherwise have considered going to university. Some students were reassured by the proximity of their chosen university to their home. Mr Fisher said that a recent study had confirmed that these schemes worked by enabling students who would not otherwise have gone to university to attend.

In answer to a question from Mr Deane about international places, Mr Baker said that some students attended university in Holland and there had been occasional sports scholarship places in America.

Mr Fisher explained that Dutch universities were very stringent on year end exams and students were becoming more aware of the risks involved of studying overseas.

Mr Baker highlighted the areas for improvement in 2016-17

- To ensure that work experience opportunities have the biggest impact possible on progression planning
- To continue to promote the development of employability skills through all elements of the study programme
- To promote higher education as a positive destination to all students
- To ensure the highest standards of support for progression are maintained during the implementation of the new guidance system

### 38/17 Learner Voice

#### 38.1 Tutorial Views of Students Report

Mr Job summarised the report, which will be changed next year due to the new tutor system. Average scores are high with all year groups returning a score of 3.1 or higher. Students feel well supported at QE. However, there are some inconsistencies that should be addressed with a smaller team of specialist tutors.

#### 38.2 Curriculum Views of Students Report

Mrs Bates summarised the report, which demonstrated high levels of student satisfaction.

Areas of teaching, learning and assessment, which scored the lowest for both first and second year students, were 'how often do you find lessons interesting?' and 'how often are you encouraged to learn in different ways?' This mirrors lesson observation findings; many lessons observed were well planned and with a high

focus on tracking student progress but occasionally lacked the kind of variety we have witnessed in previous years. This will be a focus for staff development for 2017-18.

GCSE response rates are very positive in comparison to previous years and individual teacher scores have improved from 3.38 to an average of 3.4.

Evening Adult Short Courses were included in this report for the first time and showed very pleasing results.

When asked 'Would you recommend QE to others?' Whilst the number of students who say they would recommend us is very high, there has been a small decline in first and second year students saying they would recommend us. As we currently do not ask for extra clarification when answering this question it is hard to illicit reasons why there has been this decline. However, the timing of the survey may offer some explanation. This question will need to be reviewed for 2017-18.

The Governors spent some time talking about security, in particular about identity lanyards.

Mr Fisher explained that the increase in the emphasis on security in the college might make some students more nervous because it implied there was an increased threat.

Lanyards had been introduced to help protect the college community from people we did not know.

Ms Ashmore explained that finding the right balance was important. Some students would always resist any uniform, including lanyards. There was less insistence on lanyards during exams, particularly when students were well known to staff.

Dr Hunnisett explained that the introduction of lanyards this year had been resisted more strongly by some second year students who were not required to wear them in their first year. Next year all students will have been required to wear lanyards from the start of their time at QE.

In answer to a question, Mr Fisher explained that the college had not yet resolved the question of alternative alarms for lockdown and fire.

#### 39/17 Student Activities Report

Mrs Bates introduced the Student Activities Report and gave credit to Nikki Vaughan and Judy Hodgson for producing it.

The Governors were enormously impressed by the huge range of activities and in particular the new emphasis on work experience.

40/17 Student Association Executive Action Plan

Charlotte Ferguson introduced the Student Association Executive Action Plan 2016-17 and highlighted what had been achieved under the headings, Communication, Fundraising and Events, Health and Environment and Participation.

Mr Job said how brilliant the Student Association team had been this year and the contribution made by Charlotte's leadership.

The Chair said he had been exceptionally impressed by the work of the association this year, which had gone well beyond what was expected.

41/17 Whole College

41.1 Whole College QIP – Summer Term Review

Mr Fisher explained that there would be a further opportunity to review the Quality Improvement Plan at a future Board meeting.

42/17 Governance Matters

42.1 Governor Dashboard

Mr Hargrove introduced the Governor Dashboard and explained that there were no causes for alarm. Mr Hargrove highlighted some of the changes which had already been discussed earlier in the meeting.

43/17 Date of next meeting

29<sup>th</sup> June 2017