



MINUTES OF THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday 24th April 2025 at 6.00pm
Meeting held via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Natasha Meade (Chair)
Mark Aulds
Jane Duscherer

John Thater (Vice Chair)
Liz Gilroy-Scott

Oliver Schuster (Guest)
Sagar Patel (Advising Officer)
Catherine Davies (Clerk)

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of business interest from Trustees.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Daniela Kvedaras Rivas and Dave Roberts.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 26 NOVEMBER 2024

The Minutes of the previous meeting of 26 November 2024 were approved as an accurate record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

None

5. UPDATE ON QUALITY ASSURANCE 2024-25

5.1 Departmental Insight Reviews

The Deputy Principal gave an overview of the process to select the areas for a Departmental Insight Review (following the exam results being released in August).

The areas chosen for this year are 2 A Level subjects, 1 Btec subject and the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

The Department submits their Department Self-Assessment Review and Quality Improvement Plan to the Autumn Self Assessment Review meetings and is then selected for a Department Insight Review. The Department is assigned a member of the SLT who meets with the Department Head and Divisional Director to talk through an action plan that is reviewed on a regular basis. Student focus groups also take place.

In A Level subject 1 the focus has been on helping with frameworks and scaffolding for essays. In A Level subject 2 the focus has been on the non-exam assessment part of the qualification.

The Btec subject was also subject to a review last year but improvement was not reflected in recent results. The focus of the 2025 Review has been on how to achieve marks from the written part of the exam. The SLT have also noted that the Btec subject includes a written exam that is not included in the make-up of the A Level of the same arts based

subject (which is entirely practical). The SLT are considering switching to an exam board with more practical elements in the Btec course.

The EPQ Review has led to significant changes to how the qualification is offered to students including starting the EPQ at the end of 6.1 to allow for research over the Summer break and reducing the number of students who enrol on the qualification to ensure those taking up the opportunity will be able to complete it.

A Trustee asked for more information regarding how performance is measured and the Deputy Principal replied that a combination of high-grade performance, JCQ benchmarks & SFCA Sixth Sense data is considered. Going forward the DfE Value Added data will be available.

The Chair asked why the Btec subject had underperformed despite having an Insight Review last year. The Deputy Principal replied that SLT is questioning why a student would choose the Btec option for this subject compared to the A Level (with no written exam) and a change of exam board is being considered for this reason.

5.2 Review of Student Survey 2025 outcomes

The Deputy Principal introduced the outcomes of the Student Survey that was completed by students in tutor time during March. The response rate was 61% (compared to 67% in 2024). The Committee noted that 94.6% of students feel safe and secure at the College and 89.7% feel teachers are approachable and supportive. The small drop from 91.4% in 2024 to 89.2% in 2025 in response to the question “The quality of the campus and facilities is good” can be attributed to the current building work.

A Trustee asked what can be done to ensure the response rate is higher next year and the Deputy Principal replied the SLT will work with the Student Union to show students how the feedback is reviewed and responded too to encourage them to participate next year.

The Deputy Principal will review the Comments section of the student survey in the coming week and report back to the Committee if there are any issues of interest.

5.3 External Quality Review outcome – Modern Foreign Languages

The Deputy Principal gave an overview of the External Quality Review Process explaining this was a peer review process in which external experts review areas of the College. Staff are also external reviewers and undertook reviews at other colleges this year; this valuable exercise helps identify best practice.

The Deputy Principal introduced the EQR outcome for the MFL Department which reflected the high quality of teaching and learning and strong leadership and vision. Areas to consider include how the language assistants teach in the speaking sessions as there is inconsistency across the 3 languages (French, Spanish and German).

A Trustee asked for more information regarding the recruitment of the language assistants and the Deputy Principal replied that the recruitment is steady and the Head of Department is working on creating a MFL culture with the teachers and assistants.

A Trustee asked for the number of students enrolled in the MFL A Levels and the Deputy Principal replied that German is taught in 1 class per year group and French and Spanish have 2 classes per year group. The Trustee congratulated the MFL Department on the excellent review and the profile of the Department. The Committee discussed the difficulties of enrolling students on MFL courses when modern languages are no longer compulsory to take at GCSE, it was noted that the Spanish GCSE is now the most popular MFL GCSE.

A Trustee asked how a department is selected for an EQR and the Deputy Principal replied that the EQR Co-ordinator guides the College through the process of selecting a department for review. In general, the HOD will be engaged in having the review take place.

5.4 Exam Results 2025

The Deputy Principal gave a brief update that the data from the 6.2 mock exams looks similar to data achieved in the 2024 6.2 mock exams.

The Chair thanked the Deputy Principal for his interesting overview of Quality Assurance 2024-25.

Action: Deputy Principal to report back to the Committee if any Comments from the Student Survey are of interest.

6. OFSTED FRAMEWORK CHANGES

The Deputy Principal updated the Committee on changes to the Ofsted Framework from November 2025 which are currently out for consultation with a closing date in May 2025.

The new Framework will have 11 specific areas for inspection with a 5 point grading scale for each area apart from Safeguarding (which will be met or not met). The areas of inspection will include greater focus on attendance and inclusion. The SFCA has fed back to the consultation on behalf of its members and further changes are expected to be announced by Ofsted in the summer, pilot inspections are due to take place in September and the finalised framework published in the Autumn.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – *Wednesday 26 November 2025 tbc*

*The meeting closed at 6.48pm
Attendance was 71%*

Signed and date

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

1	Deputy Principal to report back to the Committee if any Comments from the Student Survey are of interest.
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SUMMARY OF TRUSTEE CHALLENGE [C] / SUPPORT [S]

C/ S	Minute	Topic
S	5	The Chair thanked the Deputy Principal for his interesting overview of Quality Assurance 2024-25.
C	5.2	A Trustee asked what can be done to ensure the (student survey) response rate is higher next year.