



MINUTES
CURRICULUM & QUALITY COMMITTEE
 Date: Wednesday 30 September 2020
 Via Microsoft Teams
 Time: 6:00pm

Chair	Quintin Peppiatt
Corporation Members	Andrew Edwards, Bobby Seagull, Claire Helman, James Beckles; Paul Stephen
In Attendance	Deputy Principal: Jamie Purser Executive Director, Strategy & Innovation: Matt Fawcett Chief Operating Officer: Judith Abbott
Clerk to the Corporation	Judith Nelson

Item No	Item of business
PRELIMINARY PROCEDURAL MATTERS	
1.	Chair's Welcome & Opening Remarks The Chair welcomed Jamie Purser and Matt Fawcett.
2.	Apologies For Absence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ James Beckles
3.	Declaration of Interests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quintin Peppiatt in relation to any matters concerning Learning Revolution Trust ▪ Paul Stephen in relation to any matters concerning Learning Revolution Trust and Digital Skills Solutions Limited
4.	Minutes of the Last Meeting Held on 30 September 2020 The minutes were signed as a true and accurate record.
5.	Matters Arising and Action Points from the Meeting There were no outstanding items to report.
ITEMS FOR CHALLENGE, MONITORING & REVIEW	
6.	Provisional Achievement Report 2019/2020 Governors noted the following pertinent points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The College has broadly maintained its achievement rates in 2019/20, which are above the national rate. The narrowing of achievement gaps will be a focus for the College in 2020/21. ▪ The provisional College achievement rate is currently 90.9%, which is 4.9% above the national rate. ▪ GCSE grades have seen significant increases in 2019/20. Although this is beneficial for many learners and increases the College's overall achievements, it should be noted that nationally, GCSE results have been much higher than previous years. This has caused many 16-year-old learners to have a wider choice of options in more academic pathway. This has had a slightly detrimental affect with enrolling 16-18 years onto a level 1 programme at the College, compared to previous years. Some level 1 programmes in Construction, Humanities and Science have merged when insufficient numbers have materialised to start viable, stand-alone groups. The College has maintained or in some areas slightly increased the overall achievement rates from 2018/19. This is a significant achievement, given the very disruptive nature of last year, with Covid 19 and lockdown.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The achievement of College Apprentices is an area of close monitoring, focus and is targeted for improvement. The Executive Director is thoroughly reviewing Apprenticeship at the College and is working through a comprehensive plan to 'reset', refocus and improve Apprenticeship provision. This detailed piece of work encompasses the transfer of DSS Apprentices into the main body of College provision. ▪ Subcontracted Provision achievement rates are broadly in line with the internal College's learners. ▪ Level 2 achievement rates have improved significantly for 16-18-year-old learners (+12.5%) but have declined for adults (-8.1%). ▪ Level 1 achievement is consistently lower than national average rates, for both adult and young learners, although slightly improved for study programmes in 2019/20. ▪ Learners achieve less well on Level 1 functional skills than entry levels, in particular for both English and maths. Level 1 Functional skills rates for 16-18's are at 58%, with maths achievement at 39.8% currently. This is a priority area of focus for this academic year. <p>The Chair commended staff for the progress made with the learners, in particular during the pandemic / lockdown and continuing with on-line learning.</p> <p>Governors also highlighted an avenue of opportunity in order to encourage 16-18 year old learners, in particular with English and maths, is the possibility of holding a masterclass facilitated by expert lecturers.</p>
7.	<p>Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) Update</p> <p>Governors noted the QIP was a retrospective, pre lockdown report, noting actions will arise upon complete of the College self-assessment (SAR) report.</p> <p>The Deputy Principal to focus on having an aspirational QIP for future reporting.</p>
8.	<p>Governors noted the following pertinent points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The current enrolment has been a uniquely challenging period due to Covid-19 in two specific ways –. Firstly, social distancing has impacted the enrolment process by limiting numbers of people who can wait onsite to be enrolled; and secondly, the enhanced GCSE results have affected demand for certain courses. ▪ The current enrolment position is slightly above allocation with 2,248 16-18 learners, to College is continuing to recruit 16-18 year olds and ensuring young people who are Not In Education or Employment (NEET) are being enrolled. ▪ The College has enrolled 3,903 adult learners against a target of 8,768 (45% of target), a similar pattern to previous years. It should be noted that the main target for adult learners is not learner numbers, but funding drawn down, since not all adult learning programmes are of equal value. This measure will not be known until the learners have all been entered onto the ILR and a funding return has been submitted. The College will additionally tailor additional short work-readiness programmes alongside main learning aims depending on individual learners' needs. ▪ The Executive is currently looking at how the College navigates from a pre-covid to post Covid; aligning its curriculum pathways in tune with the skills response to Covid and making it relevant to the community it serves. ▪ Enrolment at the College's community and outreach venues continues, with its challenges surrounding the timely opening of North Woolwich Centre. The College continues to work collaboratively and in partnership with the Borough to find solutions to the opening of community outreach centres, post Covid and lockdown. It is envisaged that the North Woolwich centre is likely to be opened in a partial capacity prior to the October half term break.
9.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Andrew Edwards reminded members of the impending black history month and the opportunities for the College to invite and organise virtual external speakers.</p>

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10.	The Committee noted the date of the forthcoming meeting as follows and Clerk to reschedule the November meeting to coincide with the College's Self-Assessment reporting. Meeting Schedule for 2020-2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 02 March 2021 @ 6:00pm▪ 16 June 2021 @ 6:00pm