

The Manchester College Board

Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 8 November 2019 at 10am at OP116/117.

Present: Jenifer Burden, Cllr John Hacking, Catherine Hill OBE, Lisa O'Loughlin (Principal), Cllr Sue Murphy CBE, Malcolm Sugden, Pauline Waterhouse OBE (Chair).

In Attendance: Rachel Curry (Deputy Principal), John Evans (Vice Principal - Quality and Standards), Jennifer Foote MBE (Company Secretary and General Counsel), Lindsey Johnson (Vice Principal - Curriculum and Support), Christine Kenyon (Deputy Principal), Kile Moyana (Assistant Company Secretary and Legal Officer), Debbie Sanderson (Divisional Finance Director - College and Income Team) Michael Walsh (Vice Principal and Dean - HE and Higher Skills)

No declaration of interest were received.

Part A

31/19	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2019</p> <p>The Part A minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2019 were received and approved as a correct record.</p>
32/19	<p>Appointment of new Student Co-optee</p> <p>The Board was informed that a new Student Co-optee had yet to be appointed. Members were assured that targeted work with the Student Voice was taking place to point out the benefits of the role. It was hoped that an appointment would be made shortly. The Chair stressed upon the team the importance of student voice in meetings.</p>
33/19	<p>Learner Outcomes Report</p> <p>The Board welcomed the detailed analysis of the in-year Learner Outcomes report. The Vice Principal - Quality and Standards provided an introductory overview of the performance. The report divided into three main parts including achievement gaps, achievement rates and progress monitoring.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Achievement Rates <p>The report indicated a significant increase in departmental achievement rates, particularly GCSE, Access and Health and Social Care positioning the College at almost 5% above national level. In Automotive, the strong performance which was set close to outstanding was evidenced. Members reflected on the remarkable turnaround within management areas in previously challenging departments. However the decline in three curriculum areas, including A Level and Business, due</p>

to poor performance at Level 3 for 16-18 was recorded. A member queried if any empirical review had been conducted on the trend in retention rates. It was explained that the temporary move to two year programmes had impacted how retention rates had been recorded. This was expected to no longer be an issue following the introduction of T Levels.

- Achievement Gaps

The achievement gaps identified by the College and how these compared with national trends were identified and presented to the Board for discussion. Headline commentary and the structured data that detailed the progress measures between diverse student groups was illustrated. It was evident that the gaps had narrowed giving a positive picture in comparison with other GM colleges. The meeting was comfortable with the degree to which the gaps had been closed on White and Black Caribbean students with rates significantly higher than at the national level. In response to a query on evidence of any scrutiny on the balance and mix of provision, it was recorded that Healthcare and Sports provision had experienced growth and was predominantly female oriented. The analysis from the research offered more clarity in identifying areas where high levels of support and staff resources was required. Issues with performance rates on all female student age groups with dyslexia and mental health difficulty was highlighted. An explanation was given that the widening of this gap was due to the upward trend in self-declaration from students with dyslexia. The Board was assured that mental health training strategies to address this had been developed and were due to be rolled out across the College. This would also be coordinated in parallel with frontline safeguarding training and wellbeing support for staff. Members recommended that data evidencing a comparison between students who engaged or were disengaged with the support offered would be useful in helping staff understand in terms of practice.

- Progress

The picture on Alps performance was strong and aspirational with the grade target of 3 achieved. It was recommended that more focus be given to progress monitoring and assessment practices and that these are then reviewed prior to accelerating ambitions for grade 2. The decline in A Level Alps with the grade moved to seven was noted. It was explained that this was due to a decrease in the proportion of students achieving high grades. The outcomes on most vocational qualifications were significantly high, including CACHE which was positioned at grade 2. Following changes implemented by LPUK progress measure calculations positively impacted the level 2 progress scores positioning the College in the top quintile nationally. As a consequence the College was in receipt of an award. It was confirmed that the majority of level 2 students remained within this provision. The report demonstrated continued improvement rates within DfE progress scores. The Board was pleased to note that progress was above national average, with performance ahead of the trends. In response to a query in respect of destinations, it was confirmed that internal progression was reviewed regularly but that a detailed piece of work had been commissioned to track the data. Report findings also evidenced that positive improvement was being made on Non-Alps and that aspirational targets on progression were now embedded.

	<p>In closing on this item, the Chair on behalf of the Board thanked the team for the presentation of a comprehensive report with high level of detail. In addition, members found the format and commentary on each section useful. It was recommended that a cross reference of data with where it was addressed within the QIP would also be useful in the future.</p>
<p>34/19</p>	<p>College SAR & QIP</p> <p>The Board received the above for consideration and approval. The Vice Principal of Quality and Standards provided a contextual overview of the assessed curriculum provision with cross reference to action plans implemented by each course teams across the College. It was confirmed that there were no changes in the grades. Work experience had been fully embedded and significantly improved. The area of improvements formed the basis for the QIP going forward and were considered instrumental to addressing the weaknesses identified. Whilst it was evident that there were no areas graded outstanding, progress within Animal Care (moved up from grade 4 to 2), Automotive and Supported Learning was worthy of note. However, concerns with the underperformance in Travel and Tourism and Media was noted. Assurance was given that targeted support using advanced practitioners was in place to secure the required developments. In addition, CPD for teachers had been fully organised and had begun to materialise in preparation for new Inspection Framework. This meant that the QIP now provided a more holistic picture on the action plans being addressed.</p> <p>A member sought clarification on the steps taken to safeguard the quality of the A Level provision responsibly. It was acknowledged that this remained a focus of management whilst the provision was in the process of being run out. Performance review measures would still be actively used during the wind down process. The Principalship also explained that a process review was in place given that the level and amount of administrative burden identified for front line teaching staff and how this could be managed to free up time for true pedagogical focus. To mitigate this, dedicated sessions and independently facilitated work with HoDs had been coordinated. With reference to performance reviews, members recommended that the College leadership needed to help staff understand that it would be journey and a process to align their outputs with the objectives of the College.</p> <p>The Principalship further reassured the meeting that internal quality reviews were being undertaken to diagnose the issues and employ advance practitioners and quality managers to work intensively to maintain momentum. It was recorded key curriculum areas including Childcare and Construction and other areas with job growth in the city such as Engineering would be the subject of focus in the new year, with a balanced approach to the grade 3 and 2 areas. Members were encouraged that more work with employers would be undertaken to address any gaps.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the College SAR and QIP for 2018/19 be approved.</p>

	<p>RESOLVED that as the items to be considered are deemed commercially sensitive, the Board move into confidential session.</p>
	<p>----- Chair</p> <p>----- Date</p>

The meeting closed at 1:05 pm.