

Agenda No: 2



TEACHING & LEARNING COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 28 JUNE 2017

Report: Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26 April 2017
Author: Clerk
Action: Approve
Status: Open

Present: Nick Hurn (Chair)
Judith Doyle (Principal)
Christine Jones
Chris Toon

In attendance: Helen Hepple
Andrew Robson
David Jackson
John Gray
Sally Cooper (Clerk)
Suzanne Clark (Minutes)

T/133 Welcome / Apologies

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from David Mitchell and Mark Taylor. It was noted that Nick Hurn would chair the meeting in David Mitchell's absence.

There were no conflicts of interest to be declared at this stage. Members were reminded to declare any conflicts that arose during the meeting.

T/134 Minutes of the last meeting dated 18 January 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 18 January 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

T/135 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising that were not covered on the main agenda.

T/136 2016/17 Performance (year to date)

The report was presented by the Assistant Principal – Standards & Performance.

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The report was noted.

T/137 Measures of Teaching, Learning and Assessment Performance

John Gray joined the meeting.

The report was presented by the Assistant Principal – Standards & Performance.

In response to a question from a member, the Assistant Principal – Standards & Performance advised that almost every member of staff had been observed during the current academic year. There are between 15 and 20 staff still to observe. The Deputy Principal: Curriculum & Quality suggested that an additional column be added to the report showing the total number of staff in each area in addition to the number of observations, which would give context to the overall proportion of observations that have been carried out. The Chair commented that observations were only one element of a teacher's performance and asked whether observation grades are being cross referenced with outcomes. The Assistant Principal – Standards & Performance confirmed that a broader range of measures are considered when assessing performance. The Deputy Principal: Curriculum & Quality added that the data collected during observations informs the Teaching and Learning Development team and allows them to plan support around development needs.

The report was noted.

T/138 Teaching and Learning (Development)

The report was presented by the Head of Teaching & Learning.

A member commented that they thought that the recent Learning Walk Week was very positive and that it would help staff to become accustomed to people coming into their classrooms. The Deputy Principal: Curriculum & Quality added that he had witnessed an incredible week where staff were very engaged with the process, with over 300 walks having taken place. The Chair felt that this was a great initiative and indicated that it has been used for a number of years at his school. He has found that staff are now very open to asking for people to come along whilst they try out something new. A member felt that the report was very clear and shows a good range of monitoring strategies. The Principal added that this reinforces the message of having the best quality delivery for all students. This activity underpins the College's strategy, emphasises the importance of teaching and learning and helps to sustain the College's position.

The report was noted.

T/139 A / AS Level Performance (year to date)

The report was presented by the Assistant Principal – Systems & Processes.

The Principal commented that the report was hugely encouraging. The current level of management, scrutiny and support is something that was lacking in the past and positive results are now being seen. In response to a question from the Chair, the Assistant Principal – Systems & Processes advised that year 1 students are working well as this is now the culture. There have been some issues with year 2 students adapting to the changes but the Committee was assured that the curriculum team are working tirelessly with year 2 students to reinforce expected behaviours.

The report was noted.

T/140 Maths and English

The report was presented by the Assistant Principal – Standards & Performance.

In response to a question from a member, the Assistant Principal – Systems & Processes explained that controlled assessments were included in the old style English GCSE exam and have been removed from the new exams launched for this year. The Committee discussed the benefits of moving to the new exams. The Chair asked whether the College had looked at International GCSEs. The Assistant Principal – Systems & Processes responded that he was aware that some colleges are using these exams but following advice that it would not be available after the current year he did not feel it was an option. In response to a further question from the Chair, the Assistant Principal – Systems & Processes confirmed that grade 4 on the new grading is being used as an equivalent to grade C. As the new grading system is not so well known, this may mean that some teachers are less confident about making predictions. The Committee was advised that included in the 'High Grades' figures are a number of learners currently performing at grade E and it is hoped that these students will improve to a grade D. The Deputy Principal: Curriculum & Quality indicated that he was very comfortable with the current data and he is interested in looking at the data in relation to students performing at lower grades, to see whether all students are improving on retakes.

The Principal left the meeting.

The report was noted.

T/141 Any Other Business

A member advised that she had recently used the College's new strategic film as part of the work she does with National College's, delivering a session to trainee head teachers. An incredible response was received from the group, they completely understood the College's vision and they were overwhelmed by the inclusiveness of the work of the College. Some of the head teachers currently working in primary schools had asked for contact details as they were really keen to engage with the College. The member asked that her appreciation be recorded for both the Principal and the Director of Marketing & Communications for agreeing to the use of the film and providing a version that could be used externally.

T/142 Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 28 June 2017 at 4.30pm.