



Meeting of an electronic Standards Committee held at 0900 in 20 May 2020

Present	Ali Abdi	Steve Blackshaw	Martin Buck (Chair)
	Adeshola Onakoya	Kevin Watson (Principal)	
In Attendance	Ralph Devereux (Clerk)	Steve Tracey (Humanities)(71&72/19 only)	Mohanned Khabbazeh (VPCQ)
	Kishan Pithia (VPSS)		
Apologies	Annie Gammon		

71/19 ELIGIBILITY, QUORUM, DECLARATION OF INTERESTS & MEMBERSHIP

The apology was received. No notice had been received of any member becoming ineligible to hold office. The meeting was quorate and no interests had been declared. Electronic meetings confirmed as compliant with Standing Orders.

72/19 MIDDLE LEADERS

- a. The Head of Humanities was asked to brief the meeting on how the remote working process and “examination” assessment was progressing. Teachers had individually reported on progress, in particular, attendance at on-line lessons, which was a mixed picture with, 40-60% participation but some total non-engagements. Microsoft “Teams” and PowerPoint presentations, recorded lessons. 1:1 telephone conversations were being widely used and teachers were evolving imaginative and motivating techniques as experience was being gained. Stretch and challenge remained important. Progressing GCSE students had started preparatory work for the following year. Students were aware that on-line work would be taken fully into account during assessment of qualification under the Ofqual requirements; it seemed that the content had been absorbed by most A Level students and c1000 essays had all been marked and entered on Pro-Monitor for the assessment process. Managers had been fully briefed on developments with the necessary processes, templates had been circulated to ensure evaluation consistency and, after completion of individual scoring, results would be scored by cohort and strictly moderated. Inevitably there had been some generous initial grading by individual teachers but as the process progressed through joint and more detached scrutiny, more realistic assessment emerged. It was a fair and robust process considering a range of evidence, including assessments of the grades that students would have been likely to obtain.

The Head of Humanities left the meeting.

The comments were endorsed and applied equally to academic and vocational students. In addition to the media explained above, extensive use was made of emails and the VLE. In response to Members’ queries, yes, the SMT was generally pleased with progress which, as explained above, had and continued to evolve to meet students’ needs. Non-engaging students were a high priority and robust means were being employed to ensure the continuing students returned when the College was open; there would be a large variety of reasons for their non-engagement and a flexible approach would be adopted.

The information was received.

73/19 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

the minutes of the last meeting (29.04.20) were confirmed for electronic signature, Clerk to action.
(Action 1)

- a. **The information was received.**
- b. **Actions had been identified.** (Register at 82/19)

74/19 MATTERS ARISING AND NOTIFICATION OF URGENT BUSINESS

- a. Matters Arising. There were no matters arising.
- b. Actions from the previous meeting.

		Status
	See referenced minute for full detail.	Complete
Action 1	61/19 IE thanked and wished well.	
Action 2	61/19 Core group to consider SEND provision.	
Action 3	62/19 Last minutes (26.03.20) confirmed for signature.	
Action 4	63/19b Project Hackney to next meeting.	
Action 5	69/19 Trial "Teams" meeting tbh.	

- c. There were no requests for urgent business.

- a. **The information was received.**
- b. **Actions had been identified.** (Register at 82/19)

75/19 COVID-19 UPDATE

There was little to add to the comprehensive update at the last meeting and the comprehensive explanation provided in the previous item on how the remote learning was going. However, it was necessary to look forward and active planning for a phased and progressive re-opening initially with small groups, was underway; arrangements for individual screening, sanitisation and thermal imaging was included. There was likely to be some understandable anxiety, perhaps even apprehension, amongst student and staff over their return to College and robust preparations would hopefully mitigate this, provide reassurance and make all feel safe. The apparently disproportionate effects on the BAME elements of the population had been to the fore in planning. Clearly, particular attention would be provided for special needs and vulnerable students, the non-engaging element and full note was being taken of NHS "Shielded" categories; full pastoral and other support would be there for all. Discussions are ongoing with college Trade Union representatives in regard to the safety of staff. If the opening was on June 1 then there would be three intensive weeks to re-establish the routine and to build momentum for the September start to the new academic year.

The information was received.

76/19 CURRICULUM AND ORGANISATION

- a. Assessment. Elements of the assessment process had emerged during the first item and some further consideration was given, the process was underway and the high level of work had necessitated the target completion date to be delayed by one week. Individual teacher gradings had been through the respective leaders and would then be run through the Management Information System (MIS) and ALPS to check compliance with historical results over the last 3 years. This would probably require some assessments to be lowered. The final moderation would probably not reflect the recent strong and evidenced improvements, particularly for those leaving at the end of term, some of those remaining would sit exams in November.
- b. Foundation and Inclusive Learning (FIL). As explained at the last meeting the future of FIL was under scrutiny, the diversity of courses and initiatives prevented to some degree full integration into the College mainstream. Some FIL students, alternative provision in particular, were seen as challenging when progressing to higher level courses. It was proposed to appoint a (PT 0.4fte) "high needs" manager, responsible for these category students in both college and under "Project Search"; this specialist appointment would bring the financial and professional expertise necessary. ESOL, foundation level courses and alternative provision would continue as at present with an internally appointed Curriculum

Manager. Both appointments would be for 12 months allowing time for a more fundamental review of how best to deliver the commitment to inclusion and foundation level.

The information was received.

77/19 PROJECT HACKNEY

Although some progress has been made in raising the profile of BSix (and NCC) with Hackney secondary school headteachers, the aim of establishing a truly 'special relationship' remains a work in progress. The accompanying paper set out the thinking behind this assumption, acknowledging progress made whilst indicating barriers and limitations. The issue would be further considered at the June meeting. **(Action 2)**

- a. **The information was received.**
- b. **Actions had been identified. (Register at 82/19)**

78/19 RECRUITMENT

a. Progression. Concurrently with the qualification assessment process, work was proceeding on likely internal progressions, students were individually and realistically evaluated and RAG rated, for continuance and whether they were on their appropriate study programme. As discussed at the last meeting the progression target for current students was 85% and the actual was 86.7% (826 students/2019 493 students). The information had been tabulated by individual Department and cohort size and then by Level. As mentioned earlier, attention was being given to those students eligible for progression but who had not engaged well throughout the lockdown; they would be reassured that their place was safe. The detail did not include the "back on track" element of 16 students.

b. New Students. As explained at the last meeting the restrictions had prompted imaginative recruitment initiatives for 2020/21 and a wide portfolio of high quality "on-line" content, including "Microsoft Teams" presentations had been posted up; the scheme was working well. Telephone interviews had been completed for 140 applicants and around half had been accepted; a further 90 were lined up for interview later that day. On-line events and webinars were planned and capacity for high standard 3D virtual college tours would be available in the near future, all necessary hardware had been purchased. Recruitments would be included on the next agenda, **(Action 3)**

- a. **The information was received.**
- b. **Actions had been identified. (Register at 82/19)**

79/19 STAFFING

Staff resignations and appointments had been listed in the accompanying paper and were noted. The Head of Maths post remained unfilled and would be re-advertised.

The information was received.

80/19 URGENT BUSINESS

There had been no urgent business requested,

81/19 NEXT MEETING

The meeting would be held electronically at 0900 on 17 June 2020.

82/19 ACTIONS REGISTER

See referenced minute for full detail.		Action	Date
Action 1	73/19. Last minutes (29.04.20) confirmed for signature.	Clerk	wie
Action 2	77/19. "Project Hackney" to be on next agenda.		17.06.20.
Action 3	78/19b. Recruitment to be on the next agenda.		