Quality & Performance Committee

Tue 21 March 2023, 17:30 - 19:00

SGMC

Attendees

Board members

Dave Vasse (Member), Alastair Owens (Chair), Stephen Jones (Member), Nazia Shah (Member), Barbara Nearchou (Asst Principal), Pauline Odulinski (Observer), Matthew Franks (Asst Principal), Anastasia Dufie (Member), John Kirk (Interim Clerk)

Absent: Sara Whittaker

Meeting minutes

1. Apologies for Absence and Quoracy

Alastair Owens

AO Welcomed everyone, especially Anastasia as the newly appointed Student Member. Apologies were received from Sara Whittaker who has just been safely delivered of baby Louis. Members expressed their warmest congratulations to Sara.

The meeting was declared quorate.

2. Declarations of Interest

Alastair Owens

None

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting 29 November 2022

Decision
Alastair Owens

These were approved as a true and accurate record.

📄 Minutes_Meeting of the Quality & Performance Committee_291122.pdf

4. Matters Arising

Alastair Owens

None

5. Attendance

Matthew Franks

Information

The Committee reviewed the March update on attendance.

MF explained that the 10-minute rule has been replaced with a 5-minute rule for determining absence, so comparison is indicative rather than direct.

Attendance in all sectors of education is reported as poor, up to and including HE. In that context the latest college data suggests current interventions are having a positive impact, which is projected to improve on last year's figures. This is an ongoing task, with fixed-term exclusions showing students increasingly valuing their college place.

AD welcomed the fixed-term exclusions, but asked about the increase in those with less than 70% attendance.
MF explained that with limited resources it is always a question of which groups of students would respond best to interventions.

DV raised the issue of resources being expended on some students, which might have a far greater impact on other groups of students, which is a topic regularly discussed within SLT, where pushing harder on student expectations is viewed as a better option.

SJ asked if resources expended on hard working students would have better outcomes, as opposed to spending time and effort on retention by improving the poor attendance of students.

AD asked what support is in place for those whose individual circumstances mitigate against good attendance.

MF reassured the committee that personal mentors where always consulted before interventions were instituted.

AO asked if there is data available from from other local colleges. MF had recently visited other colleges had where attendance was noticeably lower than at Monoux.

AO welcomed this 'deep dive' paper.

📄 Attendance update March 2023.pdf

6. Literacy Strategy
Information
The Committee received the March Update of the Literacy Strategy.

The strategy was designed in recognition that too many students face challenges with three core facets of literacy; Knowing, Reasoning, and Communicating. The consequences of improving students' abilities in these areas will see positive end-of-year impacts in:

•   Increased percentages of high grades

•   A higher proportion of students progressing to RG/ST universities

•   Newly arrived/EAL students progress to high tariff universities at the same rates as their peers

•   No significant attainment gaps between SEN and non-SEN students

MF Noted the growing recognition of the importance of the literacy strategy to among students. Staff welcomed further CPD and it is apparent that lesson time was better used for the assessment of learning rather than transmitting information.
AD noted that learning assessment was very welcome in her biology classes, giving students the confidence to speak up about their learning.
SJ asked if Literacy Strategy narrows the gap between harder working students and others? MF responded that those students who hadn't done the work were not allowed to take part in the lessons. The Value-Added in sociology indicates the success of this approach, which is expected to be reflected in the year-end outcomes.

AO Welcomed this report and the discussions that followed.

📄 Literacy Strategy Update March 2023.pdf

Matthew Franks

7. English & Maths GCSE Performance
The Committee received the Foundation English and Maths March Update.

Information
Matthew Franks

MF noted that whilst maths had shown an improvement, English results had dropped. English has only two papers, so if one is missed there is almost no chance of a pass. Insufficient exam preparedness and generally poor levels of literacy on entry are the main factors of failing. From September the number of lessons will be increased from two to three per week, with one focussing on literacy and functional English rather than the GCSE exam.

SJ asked about streaming, and if all were put in for the exam.
MF confirmed that all enrolled students were given the opportunity, as sitting any exam is considered valuable experience and preparation.

AO asked about the Maths improvement, and asked if more could be done in this area.
MF noted that English has clearly been a priority, and more could always be done, and every member of staff is committed to everything they can to improve with the resources available.

DV noted that literacy across A Level students is not as good as it should be, and gaps in literacy and numeracy will be addressed by additional courses in the summer.

AO Welcomed this report.
📄 Foundation English and Maths Update March 23.pdf

8. A Level Teaching
The Committee received the report on A-Level In-Year Data

Information
Nazia Shah

NS noted that grades are on track to return to pre-pandemic levels, though there is still some grade inflation within the system as a result of TAGs.

DV noted that some of the data on value-added had been questionable due to TAGs and grade inflation, but the strategy of ensuring students work to target grade is the correct one.

NS noted that there was a degree of caution in forecasts, but predicted grades were realistic.

AO asked about the support for Early Career Teachers (ECTs).
NS confirmed that all ECTs had learning coaches, teaching and learning network meetings are now compulsory, and all have one-to-one sessions with the AP. Staff are also encouraged to become examiners to broaden their knowledge of exam requirements.

AD reported that her biology lessons are well structured, key assessments are stretching, and gaining an understanding of the requirements of examiners is really beneficial.

AO asked about progress made in Yr 13 by A Level students.
NS noted that some contact teaching has already completed, and will be completed in all subjects next week.

AO Welcomed this report and noted the encouraging predicted grades.
📄 A Level FG2 analysis V2.pdf

9. Vocational Achievement (Preparation for Assessment)

Information
Barbara Nearchou

The Committee received the March update on vocational courses.
BN noted there had been an emphasis on examined units where there was room for improvement, and forthcoming assessment results are expected to reflect this with improved outcomes.
A key strategy for staff has been the varying of the different assessment methods.
DV noted the forecast pass rate was 99%, and questioned the understanding of actual student progress. High grade forecast at 24% suggests there is work to be done in high grade attainment.
NB noted that results this week will point to where specific gaps in both predictions and quality checking need further work.

DV requested results be emailed to the committee next week.   **ACTION: BN/CLERK**

AO asked if all staff are using grade predictors.
BN confirmed that all staff had been trained on grade predictors, but more work can be done to improve conformity.

DV noted L3 Yr2 prediction is based on last year's poor high grades
BN confirmed that remedial work has been done, but some students had a limited grade due to Year 1 performance.

AO Welcomed this report and discussion.
📄 Vocational paper.docx

10. Feedback

Information
Barbara Nearchou

The Committee received the report on learner feedback, which had been requested at an earlier meeting.

BN noted there has been much more training on providing feedback to students, which has become a priority for staff, and the response from students has been very positive.
Students are still not fully conversant with how to achieve high grades, showing there needs to be continual testing and developing of how best to deliver optimum feedback for student improvement.

AD noted that feedback which is specific to individual students is most effective, though this is difficult in a class of 24.

BN noted that some staff are recording their feedback on Teams, which some students much prefer, though this would not replace written feedback.

There was discussion about how this might develop.

The excellent level of student voice on feedback was noted.

The committee welcomed this 'deep-dive' report.
📄 Feedback paper.docx

11. KPI Update

Information
Barbara Nearchou

AO noted that this information had already been seen at the last meeting. A paper was tabled paper with in-year

progress, and it was noted that issues and trends revealed by the data had been discussed elsewhere in the agenda.

📄 Copy of KPI update 22-23.xlsx

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12. Skills Agenda Position Paper
Nazia Shah

AO noted that this is mostly a matter for the External Relations Committee, so this is for information as it is part of the Ofsted Enhanced Inspection Framework.

📄 Skills Agenda Position Paper for QP (002).pdf

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13. Governor Preparation for Enhanced Inspection Framework
Information
Dave Vasse

DV noted this will again be largely for the External Relations Committee.

NS noted that there is more work to be done in preparation

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14. Any Other Business
Information

AD asked about attendance at extra-curricular events including Information, Advice, and Guidance (IAG).

DV confirmed that personal tutoring for A Level Students is to be implemented.

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15. Date and Time of Next Meeting
Information
Alastair Owens

6 June 2023 5.30 pm at SGMC