

Present: Prof Mary Dunning, Governor TyneMet (Committee Chair)
Mr David Bavaird, Governor Norham
Mr Jim Coltman, Governor John Spence
Mr Ian Gordon, Governor John Spence
Mr David Baldwin, Executive Headteacher Norham
Mrs Joan Bloomfield, Interim Headteacher, Marden
Mrs Vivien Shipley, Governor TyneMet
Mr Jim Stephenson, Headteacher John Spence
Mr Jon Vincent, Principal TyneMet
Mr Peter Smith, Associate Member
Mr Steve Watts, Associate Member
Ms Lydia Wysocki, Associate Member

In attendance: Mrs Rosamund Moore, Company Secretary
Mrs Ann-Marie Crozier, Deputy Principal: Finance & Corporate Development
Mrs Audrey Kingham, Deputy Principal: Curriculum & Business Development
Mr Lee Patterson, Head of Queen Alexandra Sixth Form College
Mr David Kendrick, QASFC Social Science Teacher
Ms Jane Gibson, QA Sixth Form Student
Mr Matthew Robson, QA Sixth Form Student

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm]

ACTION

Mrs Shipley, Governor of TyneMet, was welcomed to the meeting. She had taken Mr Ward's place on the Committee following his resignation from TyneMet's Board in March of this year.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mr Fran Done, Mr Tim Downing and Ms Erin Hollinshead who had an exam tomorrow, also from Mrs Helen Bower who had submitted her resignation.

2. Declarations of interest and possible resolutions

None.

3. Presentation – Student Trip to Copenhagen

Mr Kendrick introduced the presentation by explaining that he had conceived the idea of developing a link with Denmark as part of his students' studies in Sociology and this had resulted in a link being established with a college in Copenhagen. Initially, links had been developed online and the students from the two colleges had set up a blog. The idea had culminated in 16 QASFC AS and A2 students making a three-day trip to Copenhagen in March 2016 to learn about the differences between British and Danish culture and college education.

Ms Gibson and Mr Robson were invited to speak about their experiences throughout the presentation. They had been made to feel very welcome by their hosts and had been able to attend lessons, visit sites in Copenhagen, including the Danish Parliament, and spend time with Danish families. Mr Robson commented that some students were quite nervous about visiting a Danish family as this was very different to a holiday abroad and some students had never been outside of the UK before. His advice was that future students should grasp this opportunity as the trip had been very insightful. Ms Gibson and Mr Robson

commented on the fact that lessons seemed less restrictive than in the UK; Danish students were set a topic and they were then free to research and debate the topic. In addition, students were encouraged to draw graffiti in the student common room. Bicycles were a very popular form of transport, and students seemed to socialise outside of college more than here. The general feeling was that Copenhagen was a very clean, safe and relaxed place and that the people were very helpful and friendly.

Mr Kendrick commented that the students had been a real credit to the College. A return visit by Danish students was planned for October and Mr Bavaird indicated that he had a contact who could give a tour of the Fish Quay in North Shields. Mr Baldwin suggested that the October visit might also be a good opportunity for the students to link with the three QA partner schools.

It was noted that the Danish students had contributed an article to the latest issue of Purple Milk.

Prof Dunning thanked the Mr Kendrick, Ms Gibson and Mr Robson for their informative presentation.

Mr Kendrick, Ms Gibson and Mr Robson left the meeting at 5.58 pm.

4. Presentation – College Quality Review Process (Head of Quality Improvement)

Ms Tate, Head of Quality Improvement, was welcomed to the meeting and she proceeded to give a detailed presentation on the College's quality review process, its cycle, and the lines of communication and reporting that were in place at all levels of the College up to the Corporation Board. Key to the system was that it was understood and owned by staff and that it was having an impact. The new Ofsted Common Inspection Framework was integrated into the College's processes and was a key driver for improvement.

In response to a question by one Committee member, Ms Tate indicated that the average return rate for satisfaction surveys was around 80% which was considered good.

At the end of the presentation, Prof Dunning thanked Ms Tate for her clear and succinct delivery.

Mrs Shipley then explained her role as Lead Governor for Quality at TyneMet. In particular, she had attended some of the College's self-assessment challenge meetings at department and College level and had been able to provide assurance to the Board that the Self-Assessment Report was accurate and had undergone rigorous challenge.

Referring to the minutes of the previous meeting, one Committee member commented that he would like to consider at the next meeting what the Committee's role was in monitoring the quality of provision of the QA Sixth Form compared with the role that TyneMet's Board played. Prof Dunning responded that as TyneMet's Board had overall responsibility for the quality of provision at the College, Board reports should not be repeated at the QASFC Committee, rather Mr Patterson's regular reports to the Committee might give rise to a specific focus or enquiry by the Committee.

As had been raised in past Committee minutes, Mr Vincent reminded Committee members that the partnership had operated a hybrid arrangement this year as the QASF Executive Management Committee had not met due to interim Head Teacher arrangements being in place at two of the QASF partner schools.

Whether the QASF Executive should be reinstated would be considered in the lead-up to the November meeting. At the same time, consideration would be given to exactly what the QASFC Committee should scrutinise and whether a change to the Committee's terms of reference was required. One Committee member expressed the view that it was important for the QASFC Committee to monitor the quality of the QA Sixth Form provision rather than this being merely discussed by the QASF Executive. Prof Dunning requested a written report for the Committee to consider at the next meeting.

JV

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JV

It was noted that TyneMet's Governance, Performance & Search Committee would review any potential changes to the terms of reference at its October meeting.

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5. Report from Head of Sixth Form

Mr Patterson presented his report which provided a summary of Queen Alexandra Sixth Form's overall performance and development since the last meeting in March. This included a summary of the partnership work undertaken between the QA Sixth Form and John Spence, Marden and Norham High Schools.

Mr Patterson's report provided a range of information about the QA Sixth Form, including the following specific items:

Predicted Results – Summer 2016: Mr Patterson indicated that QASFC staff were confident about the students achieving a good set of summer A level results. In response to one Committee member's questions, he explained that this was due to regular monitoring of students' progress. AS predictions were marginally more challenging as this was the first year of new linear A level programmes. Nevertheless, staff were confident of matching last year's pass rates. In response to further questions, Mr Patterson felt that Value Added indications were better than last year and that there should be a shift to a '0' residual. He confirmed that a Value Added analysis would be on the agenda in November.

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New Course Development: In response to demand from the QA partner schools, four new A levels were being offered from September 2016. The subjects were being delivered by a mixture of current members of staff and new appointees.

Current Applications: The report outlined current applications for AS level. These showed an overall increase compared with the same point last year. While the numbers were higher from QA partner schools, applications from other schools had decreased. It was explained that this could be due in part to Northumberland County Council no longer subsidising students' travel, an increase in the number of sixth forms in Northumberland and the continued difficulty of access to year 11 students in some schools in North Tyneside.

Staff CPD – Summer Term: The report gave details of staff development in respect of linear A levels. Mr Baldwin indicated that there was a lot of expertise in the school sector regarding such things as *The Growth Mind Set* and suggested that the College might wish to access this support.

Progression of Learners: Mr Patterson reported on the intended destinations of the 2016 A2 cohort of students, 81% of whom were planning to go to university. In response to a question by one Committee member, Mr Patterson indicated that this was the same percentage as last year. A discussion followed about the increase in the number of unconditional offers being made by some universities. While it might be viewed as taking the pressure off the students, in some cases the effect was to lessen their motivation to achieve the highest possible grades which in turn negatively affected a college's Value Added scores.

Linear A Levels: Mr Patterson highlighted the challenge of moving over to linear A levels. From September 2016 and depending on enrolment, French, Spanish and Drama & Theatre Studies would be taught as linear A levels.

Partnership Development Group: The work of the Partnership Development Group was outlined in the report and included QA staff working in partner schools (Maths and Science Year 11), joint departmental meetings and progression events, such as Science Expressway. High numbers of applications had been received for the Science subjects. It was pleasing to report that the College had achieved STEM reaccreditation and that the recent Ofsted inspection had gone well although the outcome was subject to moderation and therefore still confidential.

In response to one Committee member's question, Mr Patterson indicated that someone was coming into College next week to encourage QASFC students to take part in the National Citizenship Service.

Other events included *Project Ripple Effect*, year 10 taster days, as well as partner school progression and GCSE results day events.

Mr Patterson concluded his report by saying that his first year as Head of Queen Alexandra Sixth Form, Creative Studies and Access had been both challenging and rewarding and he thanked Mrs Kingham for her support throughout the year.

On behalf of the Committee, Prof Dunning thanked Mr Patterson for his very positive report as Head of the QA Sixth Form.

6. Minutes and Matters Arising of the Meeting of 15 March 2016

The minutes were approved as a true record and duly signed by the Committee Chair.

Under *Matters Arising, item 3, Purple Milk*, Mr Patterson reported that the student newspaper, *Purple Milk*, had sold out except for two copies which he had brought to the meeting for Committee members to view. He confirmed that the newspaper would continue next year and Mr Bavaird reiterated his offer of providing the names of North Shields business contacts who might be willing to sponsor the newspaper.

Under *Matters Arising, item 4, Report from Head of Sixth Form*, Mrs Kingham indicated that a programme of Learning Walks was already planned for next year and this would include a Learning Walk for QASFC Committee members.

AK

Under *Matters Arising, item 9, Any Other Business*, Prof Dunning indicated that the Chair of Governors had been invited to attend the November meeting in order to update the Committee on the North East Area Review which was commencing in September.

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7. 2016/17 Committee Meeting Dates

Committee members were asked to note the meeting dates for next academic year.

8. Any Other Business

Prof Dunning observed that the terms of office of the HE Associate Members were due to end on 31 July 2017 and that it would be perhaps helpful to have continuity in membership going forward. A discussion followed about the rationale for proposing an extension of the terms of office of the current HE Associate Members. The Company Secretary indicated that this matter should be

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considered at the College's Governance, Performance & Search Committee meeting on 29 June.

Norham High School: Mr Bavaird reported that Norham High School had received a notice from the Department for Education that the school was to become an Academy and that a sponsor needed to be sought for the school. Mr Bavaird indicated that he would keep the Committee informed.

Stakeholder Letter from TyneMet and South Tyneside College Chairs of Governors dated 20 June 2016: Prof Dunning invited Mr Vincent to comment on the letter which had been sent to the key stakeholders of South Tyneside College and TyneMet, including QASFC Committee members. Mr Vincent observed that the two colleges had felt it was important to provide an update on the developments since the last communication. He reported that discussions continued to be very purposeful and productive. The Boards of the two colleges were actively considering all available options and mechanisms for working together as the colleges in the North East entered the Area Review process in mid-September. It was noted that the process was scheduled to be complete by February 2017, but that in most regions the process was extending over a longer period up to nine months. Prof Dunning commented on the uniqueness of the QA Sixth Form and that the QASFC Committee would be kept informed. She reiterated that TyneMet's Chair of Governors would attend the Committee's next meeting in November for this purpose.

Marden High School: Mrs Bloomfield stated that this would be her last meeting as the new Head Teacher of Marden High School would be taking up position in September, alongside a new Deputy Head Teacher. She thanked the Committee for inviting her to join the meetings over the last few months.

- 9. Any items to be designated as non-confidential or no longer exempted following this meeting and conversely any items to be designated as exempted/confidential**
None.

Next meeting: Tuesday, 1 November 2016, 5:30pm

The meeting closed at 7.20 pm.