

OPEN – MINUTES

In Person and Virtual Meeting Held On: Wednesday, 22 October 2025

D-Building Room D2/D3 at 16:00– 17:40 hrs

Governors Present: Svetlana Bajic-Raymond [Chair of Governors], Uzoamaka Agyare-Kumi [R], Antonia Corrigan, James Creamer, Marian Curran [Principal], Sr Margaret Harlock MBE, Ramatu Hassan-King, Michelle Hazelwood, Cassie Hogg, Doug Jennings, Paul Ryan, Iain Turri, [12]

Apologies: Roger Bridgeman, Mark O'Sullivan, Peter Turner, Nicholas Ogborne [4]

Absent without Apology: Maragret Abazie-Humprey, Gareth Beynon, Melanie Jonik [3]

Attending: Leanne Sowersby [Governance Professional], David Beesley [Vice Principal, Curriculum, Quality and Innovation], Shane Blackshaw [Executive Director Finance]

Quorum Present: 12/18 [includes required minimum of 4 Foundation Governors]

Note – [R]* – remote attendance in MS Office Teams

Circulation: All Governors, Governance Professional, Principalship, & [College Website after signature if declared OPEN].

ITEM	ISSUES RAISED IN DISCUSSION	AGREED ACTION
1. Welcome	1.1 Welcome: SBR opened the meeting with prayer. 1.4 Quorate: The meeting was declared quorate. Apologies were accepted.	
2. Declarations of Interest	2.1 Declaration of Interest: There were no additional declarations.	
3. Minutes Previous Meetings	3.1 Previous Minutes: 24 September 2025 Discussion around item 8.2 and the inclusion of the Catholic ethos in the college QIP. MC noted that this was a discussion specifically around the college QIP for Ofsted, so did not include that, but for the whole QIP every curriculum area is asked to incorporate what they are doing to include the Catholic Ethos in their planning and teaching. Noting the above, the Minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting, to be signed by the Chair of Governors electronically. The open Minutes to be made available on the College website by the Governance Professional.	
4. Minutes Actions Review	4.1 Actions Report: see actions report for details. 4.2 Matters Arising: None	
5. Summer Examinations Results 2024 Analysis	5.2 Student Recruitment Update: MC talked through the report. There are now 630 applications. MC noted that day 42 will pass in half term. Currently enrolled we have 2269 students.	
7. College Business	7.1 Support Staff Pay Award: MC talked through the report, requesting approval for a 4% pay award. Q – Is this fully funded? Yes, and has been incorporated into the budget. SBk noted we will adopt the new NJC pay scales, with the exception of the lowest pay scales, who will also get a 4% award, but their pay scales do not appear on the NJC scale, due to us being a living wage employer. Proposed MC, seconded JC, approved unanimously.	

6. Diocesan Education Strategy	6.1 Diocesan Education Strategy / MAT update: DJ gave an update on the ACVIC conference. This is a very important and useful network. There is a real will to collaborate, and there are some shared concerns and issues. There is a unanimous view amongst ACIVC colleges with regard to appropriate formation of MATs, which also preserve Catholic Education in terms of Post 16. We are aware, following the Bishop’s letter from July, of the Diocesan strategy for all primary and secondary schools to join a MAT by July 2027: the board noted that we are neither a primary or secondary school, but an FE setting. It was noted that in our July meeting we requested further clarification from the Director of Education on the question we posed. Q – Is there any news on Section 48? Yes, there has been a visit from the Diocese, and there will be feedback at the strategy meeting about the implications moving forward.	
5. Summer Examinations Results 2024 Analysis	5.1 Examinations Analysis Report: DBe talked through the presentation. Q – Do we know exactly what the issues are with the single applied qualifications? It is the way a number of students are completing their coursework. These students often come in with a lower prior attaining score. There is still work to be celebrated on the doubles and best practice to be shared with the singles. <i>UAK joined the meeting</i> Q – Do we know what the cohort of African and Caribbean students are not making sufficient progress? There are a number of reasons. We sit in line with the national picture for different ethnicity groups. It is about cultural capital and the backgrounds of the students. There is a need to balance looking at the students’ ethnicities and the social backgrounds and not focusing on that, while making sure we focus on breaking down barriers for all students. Q – There is national data that black students generally achieve lower than other ethnicities, but they tend to do better here, except for 2024-25 – is there a reason for this? Not that we have been able to identify. Governors need to be aware of this when considering inspection, as well as considering whether this is happening to particular subjects. There is also a need to consider whether there are multiple factors potentially affecting students’ achievement. Q – Is there an issue with students not achieving university places due to overprediction? Possibly. Staff are always very cautious with predicting A*. We regularly review grade boundaries, keep staff in touch with colleagues at other colleges, moderating and there is ongoing work to achieve accurate predictions. DJ noted that about 20% of predictions are correct, the majority are over-predicted. A* boundaries are actually set once the grades have been given and the top level has been assessed. An A* prediction in an overall predicted grade should not be made without an A* in a previous assessment. Discussion around this. Q – Do we enter anyone for functional skills level 2? No, most students come in with level 3. Functional skills is now being rebranded as a, ‘stepping stone’ and is not appropriate for those with level 3.	

	Q – Where do the free college meals come from in terms of the cohort, subject or course area? From across the piece. This is tracked against attendance – it could be possible to find a correlation. The priority with vulnerable learners is to know them, their priorities, barriers, challenges, cultural capital etc. Q – What support is there for students making the jump from level 2 to level 3? For year 12 coming in, the tutor programme, helps with study skills and revision, there is the summer task which supports them to be able to start planning work effectively at the start of Year 12 for them and it should be continual in the subject areas talking to students, understanding their barriers, making sure that when students go and do their independent work, that's structured and modelled before asking student to complete that independently. Q – There was work done with staff to align key assessment and prediction with reality – it would be useful to see where predictions are well aligned in this for TCQ, and to summarise strategies which have contributed to successful predictions. Also, what have been successful strategy with the Big 5 and what other five also subjects you're focusing on this year and what is the change in your strategic approach. Discussion around the value-added graph, and what this means. DBe would like to see this be more accurate, and to explore the reasons for the drop over the two-year period. Governors noted their congratulations to the leadership team, staff and students on the results this year. MC to pass this on.	DBe
8. Other Business	None	
9. Date Next Meeting	Board of Governors Audit Committee Ethos Safeguarding Welfare Committee Finance Committee Resources Premises Human Resources Committee Strategy, Search & Remuneration Committee Teaching Curriculum Quality Committee Governors' Day 2024/2025 – Wednesday 10 December 2025 at 16:00 – Wednesday 26 November 2025 at 16:00 – Thursday 5 February 2026 at 16:00 – Tuesday 11 November 2025 at 16:00 – Wednesday 19 November 2025 at 16:00 – Wednesday 3 December 2025 at 16:00 – Wednesday 5 November 2025 at 16:00 – Friday 13 February 2026	
Minutes Agreed	Minutes Approved Date: Signature _____ Chair of Governors	