

Meeting Minutes of the Board

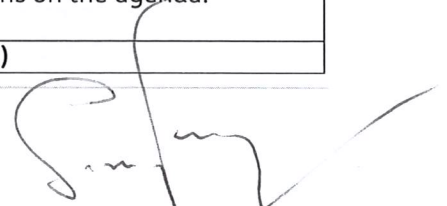
*Held on Tuesday 25th September 2018 at 4.00 pm
at Barnsley College, Old Mill Lane, Conference Suite (AG11A/B)*

- Present:** Simon Perryman (Chair)
Nick Bowen (Vice Chair)
Chris Webb (Principal and CEO)
Kay Dickinson (Governor)
Simon Brian (Governor)
David Shepherd (Governor)
Simon Taylor (Governor)
Peter Clarkson (Staff)
Ross Hooley (Staff)
- In attendance:** Shazia Nazir (Clerk to the Board)
Liz Leek (Vice Principal – Curriculum)
Yiannis Koursis (Deputy Principal)
Laila Lawton (Vice Principal – Finance)
Phil Briscoe (Vice Principal – Quality & Student Experience)
Tony Johnson (Vice Principal – Corporate Services)
Vince Dalton (Vice Principal – Funding, Data and Compliance)
Andrea Clarke (Director of Quality HE)
Denise Jelly (Principal of Sixth Form)

PART A – For Publishing

SECTION A – BUSINESS MATTERS

B18/001	Quoracy The meeting was quorate.
B18/002	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sara Turton (Governor) - Conor Moss (Governor) - Claire Partridge (Governor) - Sam Bentley (Student)
B18/003	Declarations of Interest There was no declarations of interest relating to any items on the agenda.
B18/004	Minutes of the last meetings on 17th July 2018 (Part I)



	<p>It was RESOLVED to approve part I of the minutes of the last meeting as an accurate record.</p> <p>Part II of the minutes were covered at the end of the meeting under any other business.</p> <p>The minutes were signed by the Chair.</p>
B18/005	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>
B18/006	<p>Rolling Action List</p> <p>It was agreed to defer an update of the rolling action list until the next meeting.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to note the information.</p>
B18/007	<p>Notification of any other items of any other business</p> <p>Nothing to add.</p>

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION / DECISION

B18/008	<p>Analysis of Results for 2017/18</p> <p>Phil Briscoe opened with a PowerPoint presentation explaining the results were broken down into 6 sections and would be explained by the relevant members of the senior management team. He explained there had been improved performance in 5 of the 6 areas and the following were highlighted as areas of concern:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCSE English and Maths • Construction and engineering <p>8.1 16-18 Vocational</p> <p>A summary of the 16-18 vocational results was provided by Phil Briscoe which included 2 case studies. Members commented that it was useful to see the year on year comparisons, but asked if performance was in line with expectations and if targets had been met, along with how they compared regionally. Phil Briscoe advised that expectations around GCSE Maths and English and construction and engineering fell below targets, but the rest of the results met the college's expectations, and were key focus areas. He added the college's results were the best in the Sheffield city region. When asked what the split level was between level 2 and 3 students, governors were informed there were 2500 students on level 3 and approximately 900 on level 2 courses.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to note the information.</p> <p>8.2 Sixth Form</p> <p>Denise Jelly opened her presentation with information pertaining to the structural changes to the sixth form, including a move to a 2 year linear a level course structure. The overall achievement rate was 89.1% compared to the national average of 91%. The proportion progressing to Russell Group universities had increased from 14% to 19.2%. In response to a question, Liz Leek explained the difference between Russell Group and Red Brick universities.</p>
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The concerns around geography was discussed, and whilst it was noted that all students had passed there had been some impact on high grade achievement.

Questions were raised about whether the rate of improvement was fast enough, and if there was confidence that Barnsley was a college of choice for students. Denise Jelly acknowledged there had been some challenges this year, but she was confident in the view that Barnsley College was attractive to students. There had been a 2% increase in conversion rates and an increase in admissions to Russell Group universities. Chris Webb added that the sixth form college had over recruited for the first time in 3 years.

When questioned about the 2 year linear programme giving rise to issues, governors were assured that whilst there was recognition that more needed to be done, the college was well placed to improve achievement rates.

The meeting discussed the list of actions which included:

- Developing the leadership team under a flat structure, enabling greater focus on departments and driving improvements.
- Focused support for teachers to include stretch and challenges, exam techniques, scaffolding etc.
- A more robust appraisal system to include challenging and monitoring targets.

There was a positive comment about the commitment to the A2A programme, which many others in the sector were reluctant to offer. It was recognised that A Levels were not suited to everyone and it was admirable that the college recognised this.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the information.

8.3 Apprenticeships

Phil Briscoe presented the overall performance of the apprenticeship programme along with brief case studies. The college's success rates in apprenticeships were 11% above the national average and they were confident this would place them in the top 5 nationally. The priorities for apprenticeships were noted as:

- Further developing the use of target setting to improve learner performance
- Greater focus on quality and timeliness
- Sharing of outstanding practice in assessor assessment feedback to learners

It was commented that the profile of apprenticeships in schools was generally poor. This wasn't considered to be a reflection on Barnsley College, but it was felt the successes of the Barnsley apprenticeship programme should be used to help raise the profile of apprenticeships in schools.

It was questioned if the Maths and English component of apprenticeships had an impact of the overall GCSE Maths and English results. The meeting was advised that there was some impact in terms of the timely completion as they have to complete functional skills before achieving the overall framework.

Chris Webb added that the results were outstanding especially when compared to the national picture, However the college had not met their 85% target on the balance scorecard. Governors were asked to be mindful that it had been a very aspirational target, which would become harder to achieve as they college

progressed into the top 5% nationally. It was acknowledged that a further 5% increase would be unrealistic. When questioned about the impact of the construction and engineering results within the apprenticeship programme, it was clarified there had been some impact on the overall 80% success rate, but the department had generally performed well.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the information.

8.4 Higher Education

Andrea Clark provided an overview of higher education performance, which included continuation, completers and a high grades summary overall of each of the 3 programmes. There were 317 students in total, 63 of which were on foundation degrees, 141 on higher national diplomas and 113 who were studying for bachelor's degrees. It was noted that the number of students on foundation and bachelor's degree programmes had increased, but higher nationals had seen some structural changes which had impacted on the high grades outcomes, resulting in a decline from 65.5% to 45.5%. Further details about the high grades on the bachelor's degree programmes was discussed and case studies were provided. The priorities for higher education were discussed, which included:

- More detailed analysis of when and why students withdraw from higher education
- Greater focus on tutorial delivery and the development of academic skills
- More observations of teaching practice

In response to a question about student numbers, it was clarified that this represented an increase of 53 from the previous year, and a similar increase was expected next year.

Yiannis Kouris assured governors that he expected greater improvements in higher education as a result of Andrea Clarke's leadership and expertise.

David Shepherd left the meeting at 4.45pm.

8.5 Maths and English

It was reported that GCSE maths and English 1-9 had fallen from 79% to 74.9% against national averages of 80%. 4-9 performance had also seen a decrease from 23.8% in the previous year to 18.8%. The college had taken the decision to move away from the 2 year programme which had impacted on 4-9 grades and it was expected that this intervention would help see a result in improvements. Some in year leadership challenges were partly attributed to the decline along with the loss of some key staff. When asked how the results compared with other colleges in the region, governors were informed the data wasn't yet available but it was assumed that other colleges were experiencing similar issues. There was recognition from the governors that the grade boundaries had some impact on the results.

Members asked if there had been any financial impact from the decline in 4-9's. Senior leaders responded that there was actually the potential for increased funding as result of any potential resits. Chris Webb asserted that there wasn't an issue with the GCSE results in general, rather it was specifically GCSE maths and English which had adversely affected the data. He added if the 4-9 results were removed, the college would be much closer to the national GCSE averages.

To help improve the results, the following actions for GCSE Maths and English were noted:

- A move towards a 1 year model to help improve levels of retention.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A change in the relationship between central departments and the curriculum • A change in senior manager responsibility. <p>It was then reported that functional skills results had increased by 12% and were outstanding compared to national averages. This represents a major success for the college and will put it in the top 5% nationally.</p> <p>In terms of actions, there would be a drive to continue to monitor in year achievements, continue work to embed and contextualise delivery, greater focus on attendance and punctuality as well as on level 2 programme in general.</p> <p>Case studies were provided and members sought clarity on what functional skills entailed as well as the number of students enrolled on functional skills courses.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to note the information.</p> <p>8.6 Adults</p> <p>It was explained that performance showed a 4 year improving trend and was now back in line with national average. Phil Briscoe provided an overview of the results in adult education, explaining that there were around 2000 enrolled on courses. Case studies were provided along with a general list of priority areas. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the advice and guidance available • Ensuring the pastoral support is as good as the 16-18 provision. • Financial support where applicable as well as ensuring better promotion of any entitlements and bursaries. <p>A general discussion took place and there was general question about whether students were in receipt of loans. It was clarified that some on level 2 and 3 courses were in receipt of funding whilst others relied on loans.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to note the information.</p>
B18/009	<p>Overall Summary and Conclusion</p> <p>Phil Briscoe summarised the presentation by explaining that overall there have been greater improvements in more areas than those that had seen a decline. It was generally a positive picture, but there was recognition for the need to address concerns in English and Maths, construction and engineering and accelerating the rate of progress in the sixth form.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the executive team for the excellent set of results and extended thanks to Phil Briscoe for his presentation.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to note the information.</p>
B18/010	<p>Discussion</p> <p>Chris Webb asked governors to be mindful that the results formed one aspect of quality, and an annual review would be presented to the board in December. The SAR would also provide a grade for all departments and all the metrics were being used to inform the balance scorecard.</p> <p>When asked what the longer term ambition for Barnsley was, Yiannis Koursis responded that he would welcome the opportunity to set out the difference between the overall picture now and the outturn. He asserted the view that</p>

	<p>marginal gains was difficult to achieve when the college were already 'at the top of their game'. It was suggested the strategic seminar be used as an opportunity to develop a 3 year strategy which underpinned the balance scorecard.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to note the information.</p>
B18/011	<p>Creative Sessions – future Sessions</p> <p>Yiannis Kouris suggested rescheduling the creative session from January to an earlier date as it was just a fortnight away from the planned strategic seminar.</p> <p>The Chair outlined some of the themes for the creative session, which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A session on the 'purpose and vision' (to include a discussion on employers and the role of the college). • Governors and the executive – tension and teamwork. • Tertiary status and how does the board assurance framework link to the dashboard. • A discussion on growth strategy including how we engage with employers. <p>It was RESOLVED to note the information.</p>

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

	Nothing to report.
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ANY OTHER BUSINESS

B18/012	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Part II of the confidential minutes from 17th July 2018 were considered.</p> <p><i>Refer to confidential minutes.</i></p>
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FUTURE MEETINGS

Part I of the meeting closed at 5.57pm

Part II of the meeting closed at 6.12pm.

Signed (Chair) _____

Simon Perryman

Dated _____

