

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Governors held on Tuesday 1 October 2024 at 4.00pm at Barnsley College

Present: Simon Perryman (Chair)
 David Akeroyd (Principal and CEO)
 Kayleigh Bell (Staff Governor)
 Steven Burkinshaw (Staff Governor)
 Carol Cooper-Smith (Governor)
 Billy Cowley (Student Governor)
 Gavin Day (Governor) (by Teams)
 George Graham (Governor)
 Donovan Hutchinson (Governor) (by Teams)
 Helen Jaggar (Vice Chair)
 Jo Mallows (Governor)
 Kalam Neale (Governor)
 Carrie Sudbury (Governor) (by Teams)
 Matt Mills (Governor)

In attendance: Hayley Allsopp (Vice Principal – Students)
 Gavin Batty (Deputy CEO)
 Rob Chamberlain (Director of Curriculum)
 Shaun Cook (Vice Principal – Curriculum)
 Kelly English (Director of Assurance & Improvement)
 Helen Foster (Director of Adults and Higher Skills)
 Steve Hepworth (Managing Director ITS)
 Heather Jackson (Director of Governance and Clerk to the Board)
 Tony Johnson (Vice Principal – Corporate Services)
 Kelly Rinaldi (Principal Sixth Form)
 Christian Smith (Director of Apprenticeships)
 Sue Slassor (Vice Principal – Quality)

Part I

Minute	
PROCEDURAL MATTERS	
B24/134	Agenda Item No. 1: Quoracy The meeting was quorate.
B24/135	Agenda Item No. 2: Apologies for absence

Minute	
	Apologies were received from Marie Lang, Laila Lawton and Tracey Johnson
B24/146	<p>Agenda Item No. 3: Declarations of interest</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
B24/147	<p>Agenda Item No. 4: Board Appointments</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Kayleigh Bell and Steven Burkinshaw as new Staff Governors, Billy Cowley, the new Student Governor and Hayley Allsopp as the new Vice Principal Students.</p> <p>Jo Mallows left the meeting.</p> <p>The Chair updated the Board on recent interviews. The panels had met with two potential governors.</p> <p>The panels had recommended one appointment to the Board and one co-optee appointment to the Audit and Risk Committee.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to approve the appointment of Jo Mallows to the Board and Ethan Sumner to the Audit and Risk Committee.</p> <p>Jo Mallows returned to the meeting.</p>
B24/148	<p>Agenda Item No. 5: HE Fees and submission of Access and Participation plan</p> <p>The Principal updated the Board on plans to increase HE Fees for 2025/26 via submission to the OfS of an Access and Participation plan.</p> <p>It was noted that average local fees were around £8k but the College did not intend to make additional money from the HE offering as it was more important to ensure that there was an affordable HE provision available to the local community. The proposed increase in fees allows the college to grow its provision but within existing margins. The increase would be matched with an increase in staffing to support proposed increases in student numbers. The Access and Participation plan outlines the additional activities the college will undertake to justify the increased fee.</p> <p>Governors noted that the College had not increased its HE fees for 6 years and there was a discussion about the correlations between fees and participation, alignment with competitors, OfS requirements going forward, local need and college principles and aims around supporting the local</p>

Minute	
	<p>community as well as ensuring increased access and attainment and enhanced employer relationships.</p> <p>It was agreed that a paper outlining the proposal would be circulated to the Board by the end of the week.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to approve the increase in HE fees to £6,955 for the academic year 2025/26. The current fee maximum is £6,165</p>
B24/149	<p>Agenda Item No. 8: Results</p> <p>The results were presented to the Board by the Vice Principal, Director of Assurance & Improvement, Principal Sixth Form, Director of Apprenticeships, Director of Adults & Higher Skills, Managing Director Sixth Form and Director of Curriculum</p> <p>Governors discussed T Level retention issues and noted that although some students were moving to Apprenticeships it was important to ensure that they were on the right course for them. Work was being undertaken to develop a career map to support students onto the right programme.</p> <p>Governors discussed trends in student numbers. It was noted that targets had been exceeded for T levels and there was exponential growth. As an early adopter the College had bigger numbers than most colleges going through the T level programme. It was also noted that businesses had excellent levels of engagement with the T level programme ensuring that students received their 315 hours of work experience.</p> <p>Carol Cooper Smith left the meeting at 5:15.</p> <p>Governors discussed the GCSE Maths and English results and the disappointing impact on students of changes in the grade boundaries this summer. The College had been part of a national protest and had worked hard to support the students impacted as well as the staff.</p> <p>Governors noted the positive results from the sixth form and noted that they were moving away from ALPS as a measure and had adopted OneGrade. Governors noted the increase in numbers of students going to Russell Group and Oxbridge Universities and the work the sixth form does to encourage and support aspirational choices through their UCAS choices.</p> <p>There was a discussion on the impact of falling international students on the HE sector and it was noted that the bulk of Barnsley students still preferred to choose local universities but year on year these were increasingly from the Russell Group.</p>

Minute	
	<p>The Vice Chair noted the recent sixth form deep dive and congratulated the team on progress made this year.</p> <p>Governors noted the positive progress made by Direct Entry students.</p> <p>It was noted that achievements for Adult Learning Programmes were still coming into college and the results presentation timing would be reviewed to accommodate this in future years.</p> <p>Governors discussed the Apprenticeships results which in the main were positive although it was noted that Engineering and Construction still needed extra support. Gavin Day noted that as an employer he had seen a positive steps in Engineering since the beginning of the summer. This would be picked up at the Deep Dive meeting on 23 October.</p> <p>There was a discussion on the proposal for self administered EPAs which the College supported either as a College or through peer review.</p> <p>The Board noted the very positive results from ITS and thanked the team for their hard work.</p> <p>The Board thanked everyone involved in producing the results presentation and the wider college for its excellent work in continually improving on its results and outcomes for its students.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to note the results and congratulate the College on its achievements for 2023/24.</p>
B2/150	<p>Agenda Item No. 9: Date and time of next meeting of the Board</p> <p>Tuesday 19 November – 4.00pm</p>

The meeting closed at 18:10

Signed (Chair): **Dated:**