

**The Sixth Form College Farnborough  
Curriculum and Quality Committee Meeting, 16 May 2011  
Minutes**

The meeting opened at 4.30 pm

Members Present: Peter Eyre (Chair), James Bacon, Harminder Dhillon, David Faux, Andrew Tidd, Simon Jarvis

Apologies: William Bagnall, Helena Clough, Gavin Sheffield

In Attendance: Jon Marks, Vince Scannella

**1. CQ 11/15 Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from William Bagnall.

**2. CQ 11/16 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests**

None declared

**3. CQ 11/17 Minutes of 14 March 2011**

The minutes were agreed, and signed by the Chair.

**4. CQ 11/18 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

**5. CQ 11/19 Chair's Business**

Peter welcomed David Faux, as a new member of the committee, and in her absence, Helena Clough as the Student Association Member responsible for Teaching for Learning.

**6. CQ 11/20 Summer 2011 Presentation**

Becky Barnes carried out a quite extensive Action Research Project on how the Student Voice can be used to gauge the College approach to and delivery of courses. Becky explained that the project was also being reviewed by the National Foundation for Educational Research as part of a larger study into the role of Student Voice in driving improvements in curriculum delivery.

A presentation was given to the committee, led by Becky and three of the students involved in the project: Amy Grandvoinet, Rachel Gough and Sophie George as well as one of the teachers involved, Anna White (Senior Curriculum Manager for Sociology).

The pilot Project started in September 2010; 10 students interested in teaching as a career took up the opportunity to take part. The students observed teachers in subjects which on the whole, they themselves were not studying. Areas of focus included observations on student participation, learning styles, recapping learning and teacher interest. The students were trained in how to give feedback to

teachers on their observations; the teachers surveyed commented on the high quality of feedback received from the student researchers.

Rachel explained how she planned and delivered a lesson in Sociology. She felt that the experience was very rewarding and would help with her aspiration to train as a teacher.

Anna White took several students to Richmond College to observe lessons in a different context. Students will now publish their findings and present them to staff on the Hampshire Partnership day on the 6 June 2011.

Anna explained that she would like to continue to be involved in the project next year, and to develop it further based on this year's findings.

8 teachers were observed this year; it is hoped more can be involved next year. Whilst many teachers had volunteered to take part in the project, not all could participate due to timetabling clashes.

Vince commented on how the students had acted in a professional and honest way and had focussed on areas as requested. Students were surprised at how much teachers wanted to listen to their views and opinions.

There was some surprise from the committee that students did not realise that their opinions are taken so seriously by their teachers.

Becky Barnes and all those involved in the presentation were thanked and congratulated.

## **7. CQ 11/21 Lesson Observation for Quality Review (LOQR)**

Summary issued with the agenda. Report tabled.

Jon gave an overview of the report highlighting:

- The observations had followed the same process as previously.
- The two faculties observed were Science, and Mathematics and Technology.
- As part of a trial into how College lesson observation might be made less judgemental and more developmental, rather than giving individual grades (as Ofsted now do) only written reviews were provided for the teachers.
- This process will need to be repeated in order to reach a conclusion as to how successful this approach is, and whether staff feel that not giving grades leads to developmental conversations focused on the nature of the lesson rather than focused on the grade.
- OFSTED will use the written reports and the grade profiles for an area to ensure that this internal quality assurance measure is in line with their own assessments.

- Reports are given to Team Leaders to review.
- For the first time joint observations took place to validate assessments.
- Lateness of students was mentioned in some reports, but was not a significant point.
- Questioning technique was highlighted as something which needed addressing, students were not always given time to consider the question and then answer.
- A survey was conducted to assess the new system, results of which are included in the appendices.

In response to a question, Jon explained that in general OFSTED would query internal monitoring if more than 30% of lessons were observed as outstanding. However in the past, even with the College assessments being higher than the 30% for outstanding, this has not caused a problem.

Factors to be considered when assessments take place are that staff cannot deliver the same quality of lessons all the time – there are good and bad days - and staff will sometimes use new strategies to impress observers, which may not always be successful.

These observations only give a snapshot of how a teacher is delivering lessons. Teachers of subjects identified high on the risk register receive more intensive support.

Jon was thanked for his presentation.

#### **8. CQ 11/22 NQT Induction: assessment visit**

The written report was not available; however Jon had been told by the assessor that the process was "out of this world", and Vince advised that all areas had been marked in the highest category.

The NQT students felt supported in their induction.

Report to be issued when available for reference.

**Action: AV**

Jenny Pearson was thanked for her work with the induction process and the support given to the NQTs.

Staff who volunteered to help with the programme were also thanked.

#### **9. CQ 11/23 Any other Business**

In reply to a question about subjects to be withdrawn, it was explained that each case is reviewed on an individual basis. The review will take into consideration costs and natural wastage in line with current financial planning.

Date of next meeting: TBA

Meeting closed at 6.01 pm