



**MINUTES OF THE CURRICULUM PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
ON WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER 2024 AT 9.15 AM IN T108, THE BOARD ROOM AT
THE ROUNDHOUSE**

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Present: Alan Brady (Chair), Andrew Cochrane, Mandie Stravino, Bismah Latif,
Sophie Sanderson.

In attendance: Heather Kelly, Kate Cox, Aaron Denton, Roberta Hall, Melanie Lanser,
Rose Matthews (Clerk to the Corporation)

	Action	Date
11/24-25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE		
Apologies for absence were received and accepted for Sue Bradley, Jane McNeil and Anju Virdee.		
Kate Martin had also sent her apologies.		
The Chair took the opportunity to congratulate the College on the Ofsted Inspection outcome. He said they should be so proud of what they had achieved.		
The DCEO said the College were delighted with the result, the report read well and there were very few improvement points. She said there had been positive feedback from stakeholders and the staff were pleased.		
12/24-25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, CONFIRMATION OF ELIGIBILITY AND QUORUM		
All members were eligible, and the meeting was quorate. There were no new declarations.		
13/24-25 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 SEPTEMBER 2024		
RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2024 were formally approved as a true and accurate record.		
14/24-25 MATTERS ARISING		
03/24-25 The Terms of Reference were approved by the Corporation on 21 October 2024.		
05/24-25 Educational Outcomes – This action was ongoing. More information on the AI Policy and actions would be presented at a future meeting.	VP QE	10/02/25

09/24-25 The Student Voice, Safeguarding and Little Explorers Safeguarding Policies were approved by the Corporation on 21 October 2024.

15/24-25 2023-24 SELF-ASSESSMENT (SAR) AND 2024-25 GROUP QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN (QIP)

The Vice Principal – Quality for Education provided a summary of the Group SAR focussing on key strengths and areas for development, based on an evaluation of performance against the Education Inspection Framework judgements.

The SAR had been written whilst the College welcomed Ofsted. The judgements in this report had been verified by Ofsted, all of which were a 'good' outcome.

The Vice Principal talked through the moderation and meeting process, which focussed on academy attendance, outcomes and student voice especially. It was a comprehensive review and compared with last year's National Achievement Rate Tables (NART) benchmarks.

In terms of improvement – she had met with those areas that were not so good and under performing academies to focus on driving those improvements.

The SAR outlined detailed analysis outcomes for provision in the Executive Summary report which had been shared.

She drew members attention to the recent Martin Oliver speech which focussed on outcomes as a determiner of the quality of education. **AB said it was interesting how this swung back between behaviour and outcomes.**

The intent behind curriculum was good, quality of teaching was good and this was confirmed by the College's own internal learning walk process. Any session deemed as needing improvement was put into support with mentoring provided. The quality of assessment and feedback and teaching was good.

On the whole the deep dives where were the College was overly positive. The grades for all the academies were included in the Executive Summary. There was a some disparity and students exceeded grades in Engineering (which was celebrated), Landbased, Building services and Electrical.

The Chair said there had been a question about Landbased during the governance Ofsted meeting. The Vice Principal said they had questioned that the College was so practical.

Attention was drawn to the QIP and that Engineering and Motor Vehicle Apprenticeships were above the national achievement rates (including RR). Health Apprenticeships exceeded national average with a majority achieving distinction.

Some areas had been downgraded to inadequate. **The Chair said it had never been done like this before.** The VP said the College

needed to be explicit and shared the areas that had been downgraded.

Apprenticeships in Children and Young People's Services was being run out and the College had looked at a stand alone diploma which had improved massively. There was also a need to improve the study programme in Social Care.

The Chair asked if it was that they weren't achieving or couldn't achieve. The VP responded that the College were not preparing them for the next steps before industry and there needed to be more stakeholders involved in the curriculum.

The Chair asked about attendance and what it had been like the second half of the term. Vocational and academic had been at 90% - the highest it had been for some time and better than last year. Maths and English had been 83% which was similar to last year, but the gap had not widened, it was not a 7pp gap in every academy, some had lower and some higher.

The Chair pointed out all the work that had been carried out to improve attendance and asked if that was not working. It was explained it was better than the national average, but not working as well and more needed to be done.

It was pointed out it might dip with the new conditions of funding as the College had 5% tolerance at the minute. The changes will impact on it, not improve it.

Maths student had been re-enrolled for exams – just the Grade 3's, based on research the quicker maths students take their exams the better they can pass. But the opposite had been found with English students who needed longer.

The Chair said there had been a slight dip in high grades and asked about the current cohort. The VP said it needed to be based on the cohort. This year's cohort had a lower GCSE score, but the value added was still good. This would not be published in the performance tables as last year's students had advance of the GCSEs.

The Chair asked if they were providing formula for this year. The VP said she did not think so.

The academic areas for improvement were discussed in detail and what was being done to improve.

The Chair asked about behaviour and how that compared. It was lower and higher in some academies, but that could be positive and was about setting the expectation from the beginning.

Complaints were less than last year and there had been no compliments.

An action plan was in place for apprentices at risk of not staying.

	<p>Attention was also drawn to careers education as the Gadsby Standards were due to change in March and the College would need to refresh what it did.</p> <p>The Corporation Chair found the actions for improvement in academes useful and did not recall seeing it before. He talked about what more governors could do and it was agreed the Clerk would contact those academies requiring improvement to ensure the Link Governor sees and discusses the progress of the actions as part of the QIP at their link meetings.</p> <p>RESOLVED: The Committee accepted the Self-Assessment Report and Quality Improvement Plan and recommended to the Corporation for approval.</p>	Clerk	10/02/25
16/24-25	<p>ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT (OPMR)</p> <p>The Vice Principal – Quality of Education presented the OPMR which provided a detailed analysis of in-year performance to date, structured around the Education Inspection Framework judgement areas. The report also outlined actions to be taken by Faculty for further improvement.</p> <p>Assistant Principals have been invited to Curriculum Performance Leadership meetings in College, they will receive the OPMR in advance, with any actions to take. It was felt this would have a positive impact and embed a greater understanding.</p> <p>There was a focus on apprenticeship retention and timely achievements particularly for those students with mental wellbeing declarations and Pupil Premium plus status.</p> <p>The Accountability Framework was well within benchmark.</p> <p>The post-induction survey for Year 1 students on a two year programme indicated the College was an inclusive community with a sense of belonging and 99% felt safe. This year they were asked about their journey to and from College. The main gripes related to library inductions and where to get their course handbooks.</p> <p>Attendance was high over 92%, but there was some disparity across academies and the report included a ranked table which created some competition amongst Assistant Principals. There were three academies with attendance below 88%.</p> <p>The Chair questioned the Assistant Principals in Leadership meetings and asked how well received that was. They were core attendees from last year and with the Deputy Principal's role changing it ensured they were more informed about the organisation.</p> <p>Attendance was discussed and the Vice Principal said she was looking at patterns. For those academies under performing there were weekly attendance meetings.</p> <p>The CPD cycle was discussed and a breakdown of teachers being mentored, new starts and those in probation shared and discussed.</p>	Chair	16/12/24

	<p>The Chair asked how those being mentored compared to last year. It was a similar picture.</p>		
	<p>The Clerk to follow up Link Governor meetings with those areas with improvement actions.</p>	Clerk	10/02/25
	<p>RESOLVED: The Committee accepted the report.</p>		
17/24-25	<p>CURRICULUM RISK REGISTER</p>		
	<p>The Curriculum Risk Register had been shared with Members. A full review had been undertaken for 2024-25 and key changes highlighted which related to Student Outcomes and Curriculum Business Planning.</p>		
	<p>RESOLVED: The Committee approved the Risk Register.</p>		
18/24-25	<p>LITTLE EXPLORERS SELF-EVALUATION FORM AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN</p>		
	<p>The Nursery Operations Manager presented quality improvements since September 2024.</p>		
	<p>In terms of overall effectiveness, the Nursery were experiencing parents registering with them a lot earlier than normal, with parents registering at two months pregnant. This related int the main to the enhanced entitlement of funding at nine months.</p>		
	<p>The Nursery had put together a Precious Moments Plan to roll out from September, which provides support to families from bump and beyond. To date there was a 49% uptake from parents, with the first event taking place next week looking at play based evidence.</p>		
	<p>There had been a focus on sustainability and the Nursery did a huge amount of work on sustainable curriculum and the children knew a lot about environmental issues. When this was unpacked they did not do as much about those less fortunate, but that was now included. A recycling clothes point had been put up outside of the Nursery.</p>		
	<p>The Chair asked if parents and carers bought into this. It was acknowledged that they did. The Nursery were hoping to achieve the Green Flag by the summer.</p>		
	<p>Another piece of work focussed on was outdoor curriculum and keeping that momentum during winter months.</p>		
	<p>The Chair asked how the staffing was. It was good with one vacancy filled by the apprentice. They have also got two apprentice vacancies. The Chair asked if the apprentices come through to permanent positions. They did provided vacancies were available.</p>		
	<p>RESOLVED: The Committee approved the Little Explorers Self-Evaluation Form and Quality Improvement Plan.</p>		
19/24-25	<p>HIGHER EDUCATION ANNUAL REVIEW</p>		

The Head of Higher Education (HE) presented an overview of higher education for the year 2023-24 and improvement priorities for 2024-25 which is measured against the OfS B Conditions of Registration, TEF metrics and Guiding Principles.

The evidence presented exceeded the criteria of the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF).

Outcomes were outstanding and continue to be over a three year period and this was recognised by the silver grade award by TEF last year.

The report identified the evidence and process for satisfying the B conditions.

Overall OfS B conditions B1 – B5 are satisfied and registration with the OfS is secured for 2024/25 and evidences Higher Education as low risk for the OfS.

The Corporation Chair asked how gold award would be likely to happen. Student experience was an area to improve on and differentiation between FE and HE was not as distinct as it was limited to a number of students. There was a dedicated area for HE since last year at Broomfield and the IoT now accommodated the STEM subjects.

The Chair notice that there had been a decline in numbers and asked why. This was because there were some programmes that were not viable and a decision was taken not to continue.

The Chair said looking ahead what was to be expected with HE. They were looking to expand in term of HTQs and high degree apprenticeships.

Overall attendance was at 94%, at present it was at 91%, which was good compared with most universities, which rank between 70-80%. In terms of retention it was 93% - most students tend to stay and aren't lost.

Progression was local data and the College had engaged with next steps this year. The OFS measure is 15 months after completing the qualification.

The Chair asked the student governor how aware students were of progression onto HE programmes at the College. She said students tend to look at university from her cohort, but it was recognised if the same question was asked of an Engineering student the response would be different, recruitment tends to take place at Level 3.

The Chair asked how many Derby College HE students had progressed from Derby College FE. It was around 90%. Some students felt comfortable with the FE system and how they are supported and will progress to a Foundation Degree in Landbased or Sport.

	<p>The Chair asked if any students joined the College as mature students. There were a few but not too many on full time programmes.</p> <p>The Apprenticeship side was much more diverse with part time provision for Professional Construction, Engineering and Teacher Training.</p> <p>RESOLVED: The Committee accepted the report.</p> <p>20/24=25 MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY</p> <p>The Vice Principal Student Experience shared the Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy, outlining the strategic intent for 2024-28.</p> <p>The College had signed up to the AoC Mental Health Charter and the strategy had been developed in line with that. It would be out of kilter with the College's strategy cycle as a four year strategy. It related to physical as well as mental wellbeing.</p> <p>The strategy supported investment in the College teams and Mental Health First Aiders.</p> <p>The Chair asked the Student Governor how the students responded to the mental health and wellbeing support in College. She said they had been involved with an external company who provided information to students about drug and alcohol and supported those students with mental health issues. She also explained the role of the Students' Union in terms of societies and groups.</p> <p>The Chair noted on his link visit to the College students were playing board games. It had been a change in culture with more students wanting to do activities together. There was an external Mental Health Team available three times a week in College and with that support it is classed at a College of Excellence as it is the first College to have a group based within the College. This was an enhancement of the service, not a replacement.</p> <p>The Chair asked how the College could monitor the number of students involvement in enrichment activities. At present it was a manual task but other colleges use scanning devices. The Student Governor explained the Students' Union used a QR code to track.</p> <p>The Corporation Chair asked if the challenges the College faced were the same with other colleges. The Vice Principal said they are sector specific changes, but poverty was the main issue.</p> <p>The Vice Principal said part of it was managing work life balance with studying. The Corporation Chair asked if there was any data available to indicate the percentage of students engaged in part time work in the sector. The VP agreed to speak to those he links up with to see if anything was available.</p> <p>RESOLVED: The Committee approved the Strategy.</p>	VP-SE	10/02/25
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21/24-25 CAREERS MARK REPORT

Derby College had achieved the prestigious Quality in Careers Standard, incorporated all Gatsby Benchmarks, and earned the Career Mark Platinum Award, reflecting its commitment to providing high-quality Careers Education, Information, Advice, and Guidance (CEIAG).

The Chair took the opportunity to congratulate the College on achieving the Careers Mark and the key strengths were discussed.

It was explained the College would continue to work through some of the actions on the Development Plan to ensure the careers offer continues to improve.

The Chair said it was interesting the skills contribution of subjects and how that will aid and add to the careers advice.

It was also noted the Gatsby benchmark for FE was changing for the new academic year.

RESOLVED: The Committee accepted the report.

22/24-25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on 10 February 2025.

he meeting finished at 11.00 am