

**MINUTES OF THE REIGATE LEARNING ALLIANCE LOCAL GOVERNING BODY
MEETING HELD ON 15 OCTOBER 2024, 4.30pm**

Present: Mr Spencer Bowen - LGB Member/LGB Chair
Mr Nick Clark – Executive Principal & LGB Member
Mr Chris Whelan - Chief Executive Officer & LGB Member
Ms Yvette Robbins – Trustee & LGB Member
Mr Gerard Weide – LGB Member
Ms Claire Hassan- LGB Staff Member
Ms Sophia Bryant – LGB Student Member
Ms Daisy Vera – LGB Student Member

In attendance: Ms Nadina Bedlow - Clerk
Mr Ryan Bull - Deputy Principal

1 WELCOME

The Chair opened the meeting of the Reigate Learning Alliance Local Governing Body (LGB) welcoming those present.

It was confirmed that the election process for the parent governor vacancy had commenced, the timeline was shared with Governors. Governors were advised that a ballot would be held.

2 APOLOGIES & QUORACY

Apologies were received from Nicola Thompson, Jeremy Garner and Jenny Sharma's absences were noted. The clerk confirmed the meeting was quorate.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Spencer Bowen, Gerard Weide, Yvette Robbins, Chris Whelan, and Nick Clark declared an interest in being members of the Reigate Trust Board.

4 MINUTES

The minutes of the Local Governing Body meeting held 07 May 2024 (Paper 1) were received and approved as an accurate and complete record of the meeting.

5 MATTERS ARISING

There were no follow-up actions or matters arising from the minutes.
Noted that staff and student voice as items has been removed, staff and students expected to engage with all agenda items.

6. ADMISSIONS AND NUMBERS ON ROLL & MARKETING STRATEGIES

The report (Paper 2) confirmed the number of full-time students on roll at the time the report was written was 2,893, compared against 2,840 for the previous year. The analysis of the full-time student population confirmed the following:

| | Totals |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| One Year Intermediate Course (P) | 82 (121) |
| Lower Sixth Advanced Course (L) | 1521 (1442) |
| Upper Sixth Advanced Course (U) | 1385 (1320) |
| Total | 2988 (2883) |

The retention rate for students progressing from the L6 to the U6 was 96%, an improvement on the figure of 94.3% for the previous academic year. It was noted that

it was also the highest on record and more than the 5-year average retention rate (93.8% or 1,312 students). Governors noted the improved retention.

The percentage of students progressing from the Intermediate course was 69.4% (47.5%). Highest figure in recent years, in line with the average. The lower rate of progression in 2023 was noted as being impacted by grade inflation from the previous year's GCSEs. More students gained a place on the programme due to the inflated results, who would have normally not met the requirements and subsequently attended another college. Consequently, those students found the work more challenging and did not achieve the required grades to progress to Level 3.

The proportion of partner school students as a total of all new students had increased significantly to 41.7% from 31.5%. The total number of 24/25 applications from Partner Schools were comparable to 23/24, however it was noted that the conversion rate was significantly higher from interview (75% compared to 56%). Contributing factors were noted as: improved results from Partner Schools, improved information, and additional progression activities with most Partner Schools.

| | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|--|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| Total number of partner school students taking up places | 461 | 493 | 486 | 481 | 634 |
| Percentage of all new entrants from partner schools | 33% | 32% | 34% | 31.5% | 41.7% |

It was noted that the number of applicants taking up places from Partner Schools, as a percentage of those who applied from Partner Schools was 69.9% (74.7%). Slightly lower than 23/24 because more students were rejected prior to and following their interview for reasons including: poor effort, attendance, and punctuality.

The overall conversion rate from interview was 60.4% (62.6%), in line with the average. In 2024 the College interviewed and made offers to slightly more students than previously to exceed last year's enumeration figure.

A full programme of Applicant Events took place, including the College Introductory Day, designed to familiarise students with the College and their new subjects may have positively impacted conversion rates, by making the transition easier for students. Governors who attended the open evening commended, students and staff on behalf of the Board.

Challenges beyond report 25/26 include the impact of independent schools having VAT added to fees. Have seen an increase in applications from those schools.

Governors enquired why the Level 2 Programme was not recruiting, in response they were advised that the majority of students taking the Level 2 Programme would not go onto successful outcomes due to the demanding nature of the qualifications. After consultation with partner schools and stakeholders the decision was taken to stop recruitment.

The report was noted.
See attached appendix for Governors' questions.

7. DRAFT OUTCOME DATA 2023/24

The outcome data presented in the report (Paper 3) dated as of 19 September 2024.

It was confirmed further benchmarking updates will become available from the DfE in February 2025 and April 2025. The data presented was based on exam board data and Six Dimensions – a set of standardised reports used by the majority of Sixth Form Colleges.

The following key headlines were noted from the report:

- i. Grade boundaries for England have returned to 2019 levels. The students taking A levels and BTECs in 2024 had taken GCSE exams in 2022, although with lower grade boundaries, this resulted in some weaker students taking qualifications they might not normally have taken.
- ii. The college A level high grades score was 58.2%, this was above 2019 (53.3%) and above the national 2024 data (53.9%).
- iii. A levels represented 71% of Level 3 entries. Significant increase from 2019, the extend of the split is starker. Softer grade boundaries allowed more students access.
- iv. The value-added score for A levels was above average for Sixth Form Colleges nationally (+0.13 grades per entry), overall, this places the college in the top 20% of Sixth Form Colleges.
- v. A levels needing to be supported to improve include Computer Science, Media, and PE.
- vi. BTEC High Grades were 53% for the main qualification (Extended Certificate). It is not useful to compare this to 2019 as the assessment pattern was very different. We do not have any data about national high grades rates for BTEC yet, however, the score was down 2% from 2023.
- vii. BTECs represent 29% of Level 3 entries.
- viii. The value-added score for BTEC was slightly below average compared to Sixth Form Colleges nationally.
- ix. Retention rate comparisons are available for A level courses and show that one a value-added basis the college is 6% above the sixth form college average and that this is in the top 25%.
- x. The proportion of A level students progressing to higher education was 70%, this was 3% higher than in 2023 and is 3% higher than average for Sixth Form colleges on a value-added basis.
- xi. The proportion of A level students going to elite universities (Sutton 30) was 39%, which was 7% higher than in 2023 and 8% higher than average for Sixth Form colleges. On a value-added basis it was 8% higher than average. Similar comparisons for BTEC students are not available.
- xii. More than 150 students achieved straight A*/A grades in at least three A levels.
- xiii. 80% of students achieved at least one high grade qualification.
- xiv. 390 students were accepted at Sutton 30 universities.
- xv. 88% of students were admitted to their first-choice university, which was 5% above average.
- xvi. Out of 11 EHCP students in the U6, 10 completed their studies and all 4 who applied to university were successful in being accepted.
- xvii. GCSE English 84% reaching Grade 4 (national for retakes = 22.9%), which is 3.7 times the national rate
- xviii. GCSE Maths 57% reaching grade 4 (national for retakes = 18.6%) which is 3.1 times the national rate

- xix. Value added attendance data shows that students at the college are 1.2% above the national average for A levels and 2.4% above average for vocational subjects.

Made available in the report was a detailed breakdown on outcomes for each subject area.

For the few areas requiring improvements, targets have been set as listed in the Development Plan (Paper 5).

The report was noted.

8. REIGATE COLLEGE DRAFT SELF ASSESSMENT REPORT 2023/24 & ANNUAL TARGETS FROM THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

It was confirmed the Self-Assessment Report (SAR) 2023/24 was on schedule to be presented to the December Trust Board for approval.

The report on annual targets from the Development Plan was received for review (Paper 4) summarising any significant new problems, challenges, initiatives and progress made throughout the year.

Governors reviewed the annual targets proposed for each of the 10 strategic aims from the College's Strategic Plan.

It was noted the final version of the annual targets will be published in the College SAR 2023/24 and subject to approval by Trustees at the December Trust Board meeting. Once approved, the annual targets would be subject to on-going review at each meeting of the Trust Board.

9. BOARD ASSURANCE ASSESSMENTS

Under the Board Assurance Framework (BAF), each Committee is asked to conduct, at the end of their meeting, an assessment on their level of assurance agreed against each report received (including briefings and verbal updates) and for the assessment to be reported to the Audit Committee and Trust Board (Green = high assurance - no additional actions or monitoring are recommended at this point; Amber = medium assurance – a further report is likely to be required at the next meeting; Red = low assurance - additional actions are likely to be required and reported at the next meeting).

The Board agreed the following board assurance assessments for agenda items/reports considered at this meeting (Paper 5).

| Agenda Item | Subject | RAG rating | Any recommendation(s) or action(s) arising from discussions on the agenda item. Any comment(s) on the quality of the paper(s)/presentation(s) made available for the agenda item. |
|-------------|--|------------|--|
| 6 | Admissions & Numbers | GREEN | No Recommendations/Actions arising from discussions. |
| 7 | Draft Outcome Data | GREEN | No Recommendations/Actions arising from discussions. |
| 8 | Self-Assessment Report 2023/24 & Annual Targets from the SAR | GREEN | No Recommendations/Actions arising from discussions. |

10. MEETING REVIEW

The Committee was asked if there were any new risks including safeguarding identified because of decisions made at the meeting that might impact upon the College's effectiveness.

It was agreed no issues or risks were identified.


11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 04 February 2025 at 4.30pm.

The meeting closed at 5.48pm.

Signed:  Date: 4/2/25

