**PRESTON’S COLLEGE CORPORATION BOARD MEETING 22ND MARCH 2018**

**PRESENT:**

Mr E Bassa

Dr E H Smith

Mr J Lee (Student Governor)

Ms P Davies (Student Governor)

**APOLOGIES:**

Mr M Collard

Ms L Hornsby

Mr M Driver

Mr R Boswell

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr S Nixon (Executive Director Resources)

Mr C Speight (Vice Principal Enterprise & Engagement)

Mr M Noblett (Vice Principal Curriculum Delivery & Planning)

Mrs M Haworth (Vice Principal Quality Teaching Learning & Learner Support)

Ms J Crowther (Clerk to the Corporation)

Ms H Cross (FE Associates – Via telephone)

**ITEM 1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES -** The chair welcomed members and noted apologies.

**ITEM 2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST** – There were no additional declarations

**ITEM 3 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS**

Minutes in draft form from the Committees were noted

Minutes of the meeting of the 14th December accepted as an accurate record

**ITEM 4 PRINCIPAL AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT**

The Principal asked Members to note that the Qualification Achievement Rate (QAR) data has been released and the College is now ranked 9th in the country for 16-19 Programme of Study achievement for 2016/17. She also confirmed that the trajectory for the current year is very positive. The Principal also asked that Members note the Builders Guild entry achieved a first place. No questions were raised.

**Resolved: The paper was noted.**

**ITEM 5 MID YEAR SELF ASSESSMENT**

Mrs Haworth presented the Mid-Year Self-Assessment report and asked members to note that in year improvements have resulted in Teaching Learning and Assessment now being graded as Good, and the quality of Teaching and Learning now reflects the outcomes for learners in the QAR data. Areas for improvement remain in terms of attendance, high grades in English and Maths, and achievements in Apprenticeships, but any underperforming areas are now in Curriculum Support Intervention to facilitate improvement.

Mr Noblett asked Governors to note that whilst there were still areas for improvement within the Apprenticeship provision, the College could still be graded overall as Good, but with an acknowledgement that Apprenticeships still Require Improvement. A number of Colleges have been in this position.

Members noted the encouraging outcomes and asked how secure the improved position was. Mrs Haworth confirmed that monthly School Reviews are held to monitor performance and ensure that all areas are on target to improve. Early indicators are that performance is better than at this point last year. However, the number of learners taking English and Maths is increasing, and future Btec qualifications will be examination based, so there will be risks. Mrs Haworth advised that the College has an extensive revision programme for English and Maths examinations to support success in that area, and development for Btec staff in supporting learners to prepare for examinations.

Mrs Haworth asked Members to note that the change to ungraded observations with targeted CPD for staff has had a positive impact and provides a sustainable model for improved teaching and learning. The Chair suggested that, having now achieved a self-assessment grade of Good, the College should now be pursuing Outstanding. Mrs Haworth confirmed that standards have been set higher for this year and staff are now geared to not only maintain this improvement, but to achieve more. The Staff Governor confirmed that there is a strong feeling amongst staff that they want to go on to achieve outstanding. She also advised Members that the changes in the observation regime had been very positive as staff know that they can ask for, and receive, help. This is continuing to drive up standards.

Members asked about the areas where the College is not as strong and how they would be monitored and what interventions would be put in place to facilitate improvement. Mr Noblett confirmed that interventions are in place for those areas underperforming, and improvement is being seen in year. Members noted that the English and Maths results were included in the positioning of the College as 9th and as such reinforces that the College is continuing to improve. Members asked what the College needed to achieve to be outstanding. Mr Noblett advised members that the College is planning for sustained improvement. If this trajectory is sustained, then further discussion will be needed at the end of 17/18 with regard to grading. It may be that individual aspects are graded as Outstanding, but it was too early to say. Members asked about improvements in Apprenticeships. Mrs Haworth confirmed that the majority of apprenticeship courses run for two to three years and so improvement takes longer to take effect. However, a substantial amount of work is being undertaken to bring this about including robust Initial Advice and Guidance (IAG) and initial assessment.

Members asked about attendance and how this would be viewed against Ofsted comments about exemplary behaviour if the College failed to achieve its targets. Mrs Haworth confirmed that the two were separate in Ofsted’s view. The Principal asked members to note that work was being undertaken with regard to what constitutes attendance when considering blended learning and on-line learning activities using the new College VLE platform. Mr Nixon advised Members that there is no fixed benchmark for attendance, but that Ofsted would take a view on attendance based on what is seen in the classroom on the visit.

Mr Speight asked Members to note that the good results for learners and the high positioning in the national rankings meant that from a Marketing perspective, the College could now drive a recruitment campaign with a very strong message at the time when prospective learners were making choices for September.

The Chair asked if the Governors could offer any more support to effect further improvement. Mrs Haworth confirmed that staff appreciated Governor involvement in the Learning Walks. It was also agreed that acknowledgement of the achievements from the Board would be welcomed.

**Resolved: The paper was noted and the Mid-Year Corporate Self-Assessment Report, indicative grades and the Quality Improvement Plan were also noted.**

**Congratulations and thanks to be sent to staff from the Corporation Board**

**ITEM 6 FEES POLICY FOR 2018/19**

Mr Nixon asked that Members note the proposed Fees Policy. He asked Members to note that, in general, fees follow funding body expectations and as such there were no changes to the policy from the previous year.

**Resolved: The policy was approved.**

**PART 2**

**Date and Time of Next Meeting:** 5.30pm Thursday 12th July 2018