

Minutes Quality, Learning and Standards Committee

(All resolutions passed were the unanimous decision of the Quality, Learning and Standards Committee members present unless otherwise stated)

Meeting Title	Quality. Learning and Standards Committee	
Date	Additional Meeting 16 March 2022 at 10.30am Single item – proposed reinstatement of A Levels at Kingston College	
Members	Mr G. Willett(GW) Chair Cllr B. Fraser Mr. P. Mayhew-Smith(PM-S) Group Principal / CEO Ms M.Pottinger (MP) Mr M. J. Stone (JS) Ms C. Streliaev-Pivett (CS-P)	
In Attendance	Ms C. Howett Vice- Principal, Further Education Ms S. Marfe(SM) Director of Marketing and Student Recruitment Mr M. Tweedale(MT) Principal, Kingston College Ms C. Veale Head of Study Programmes Ms H. Meredith (HM) Head of Governance	
Key Meeting Outcomes		
	The meeting took place remotely by Teams.	
1	WELCOME, APOLOGIES, DECLARATION OF INTEREST	
1.1.1	Apologies were received from Mr Cheema and Prof Laville	
1.1.2	Members confirmed that they did not have any pecuniary or other interest in any agenda item.	
2.	CURRICULUM PLANNING – NEW CURRICULUM PROVISION FOR 2022-23 A LEVEL AND T LEVEL OFFER UPDATE	
2.1	The meeting was called to continue discussion about the proposed reinstatement of A level provision at Kingston College. At the QLS meeting on 10th March, the committee, in principle, confirmed their support for a vocational pathway model. However they required more assurance about the ability of the College to deliver a quality A level offer.	
2.2	MT reminded the committee about previous issues with A level achievement rates at Kingston College when students studied 3 A levels. KC did not withdraw students from sitting A Level exams even when forecast poor results even though other schools were off-rolling students. The issue was always with the 3rd A level which students did not focus on. In 2015-16 staffing issues resulted in several staff being dismissed . Despite this, the college was graded Good by Ofsted in 2016. in 2017 there were MIS anomaly issues over some students who should have been withdrawn. The management of A level was restructured. Even then 85 out of 104 students obtained university places.	
2.3	MT explained that the difference between then and the proposed offer is that the new A Level Plus programme will only include students sitting one A level alongside a related BTEC.	
2.4	MT pointed out that CH had mentioned the development of an A level plus programme at the Governors Awayday in November 2021 but this appeared not to have been sufficiently highlighted to governors.	
2.5	CV reminded the Committee that under the Government’s Level 3 curriculum review BTECs are being phased out and the college has to develop alternative options for Level 3 learners. Other options include apprenticeships and T levels – but T levels will not suit all learners as they are a much larger and more difficult qualification.	

2.6	CV concluded the presentation on plans for delivery of an A level plus programme at Kingston College from September 2022. Since the last QLS meeting the presentation had been revised to answer governors' questions about the measures to ensure the quality of an A level offer.
2.7	<p>The presentation detailed plans for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality control measures including a small cohort of 5 A level subjects, higher entry requirements for A level students, a fortified induction plan and weekly meetings with the head of study programmes • Staffing proposals with more than one teacher for each subject to avoid a single point of failure, all outstanding teachers- many with masters in their subjects or experience as examiners • Curriculum plan Including timetabling of independent study hours • Accommodation including access to the University Centre
2.8	<p>Following the presentation Governors asked questions including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JS asked about any HR implications from having previously made A level teachers redundant. MT and PM-S confirmed that this many of the teachers were redeployed by the college and this would be a different deployment. PM-S agreed to check this. • JS asked whether teachers understand the difference between teaching a two year course with final exams from teaching BTECs with regular assessments. CH confirmed that the college has already carried out CPD on A level pedagogy to address this. • MP asked how STCG assess teachers as outstanding. CH confirmed the process including learning walks observing TLA in the classroom and reviewing achievement • MP asked how the proposal relates to the growth strategy- whether this anticipates new cohorts of students or is it taking from students who would have come to college for another qualification? CH explained that it provides another option to offer students the most appropriate course. SM confirmed the intention for this to attract additional learners by offering more choice. The most likely student profile is those with medium GCSE results- the highest achievers would probably choose 3 A levels. • PM-S asked whether the plan is to deliver any AS levels? CH explained that there is no plan to introduce AS levels- they no longer exist in all subjects and those that do don't have the same synergy with the second year of the A Level. • PM-S asked for assurance about the college covering the whole syllabus and CH confirmed the work being done on preparation of the curriculum plan to ensure this • PM-S asked about plans to push students by giving them enough homework. CH explained plans to give students a full timetable including independent study periods in college where they will be registered • GW ask asked whether the proposed entry requirements- GCSE Grade 6 in science and maths and Grade 5 in English- are high enough pointing out that school sixth forms have higher entry requirements. CV reported that research shows that other colleges have these entry requirements and MT suggested that quite often schools keep on students with lower grades. • BF asked about the plans for monitoring of students. CH gave more detail about the role of the TLA coach who will have dedicated time to work with the A level teams
2.9	It was resolved that the Committee had received appropriate assurance that sufficient preparation has been made to ensure the quality of the proposed A Level Plus offer for the Committee to recommend that the Corporation approve the re-instatement of the delivery of A Levels at Kingston College.
2.10	Governors commended the team both on the high quality of the presentation and the insight into the development of new initiatives and thanked them for their creativity in developing this innovative approach. The meeting concluded with the Chair wishing the team every success in this development.

	DATE OF NEXT MEETING The next scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday 10 May 2022 at 5.30pm
	The meeting closed at 11.25am Signed: Date: