

**Minutes of the meeting of the Education Committee
of Cheltenham College Council
held on 15 October 2024**

Present

Canon K Wilkinson, Chair
Mr B Beardmore -Grey
Mrs E Hattersley
Mr D Stewart
Mr W Straker-Nesbit

In Attendance:

Mrs N Huggett, Head
Mr T O'Sullivan, Prep School Head
Mr P Attwell, Bursar
Mrs A Cutts, Deputy Head Pastoral, Senior School
Mr T Brewis, Deputy Head Academic, Senior School
Dr M Plint, Deputy Head, Learning & Wellbeing
Mrs C Conner, Acting Deputy Head, Prep School

Mr J Champion, Secretary to Council
Mrs S Hopkins, PA to the Bursar

1. **Apologies** – Received from Mr Beardmore-Grey, Mrs Dallimore, Mr Drake, Mrs Hattersley, Mr McNiffe and Mrs Willgoss.
2. **Declarations of:**
 - 2.1 **Conflicts of Interest** – None.
 - 2.2 **Any Other Business** – None.
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2024** – Approved.
4. **Matters arising not otherwise on the Agenda** – None.
5. **Deputy Heads Academic Reports**
 - 5.1 **Senior School** – The report was taken as read.

Mr Brewis drew the Committee's attention to:

- A Level results - noting that these were better than expected at 75% A* to B - broadly in line with previous years. He also noted that CTec and BTec results were outstanding but not included in the A Level results percentage. It was agreed that these should be included in future presentations of results data if possible.

There followed a wide-ranging discussion in respect of departmental performance, with some already working on improvement plans.

- BTEC/CTEC - Mr Brewis alluded to his previous comments and noted that the headline results had been extraordinary but added that the qualifications were currently under review, and it was possible that College would need to replan its curriculum as well as the extent to

which it could use alternative qualifications to replace the BTEC and CTEC Suite.

- EPQ – Mr Brewis said that he had been happy with the results, adding that the qualification was taken by the whole cohort and had helped a number to get ‘over the line’ in terms of university entrance.
- GCSE Results – Mr Brewis again reported a solid set of results and added that the changes being made to the GCSE curriculum would have a further positive effect.

Mr Straker-Nesbit thanked Mr Brewis for his comprehensive report and asked if there was a simpler way to report predicted grades to the Committee at each meeting. Mr Brewis said not and there followed a lengthy, detailed debate in respect of grade predictions and the way in which they might be reported. In summary, Mr Brewis agreed that he would discuss the matter with his team and see if there was a way in which the presentation of such data could be improved and. It was agreed that a basic presentation in respect of tracking and prediction might be useful for the Committee - Mrs Huggett would investigate.

*Mrs
Huggett to
investigate.*

5.2 **Prep School** – The report was taken as read.

Mrs Conner added /highlighted:

- Mrs Theedom was on sick leave but had continued to do excellent work on literacy which was the major focus this year.
- There was closer collaboration with College HODs to further develop links within the curriculum, whilst joint work on development of the exciting humanities curriculum was continuing
- Mrs Conner advised that she intended to reinstate the Academic Management Team to look at important areas of the school and the post scholarship programme, especially the gap between February and September once CE exams were completed, and to maintain academic rigour.
- The Prep continued to work closely with College on CE, the new curriculum, and the development of the humanities programme; a science booster group was being run by the Head of Science and the Prep was also working with parents; involving them at this stage was key, helping them to understand how to revise in subjects and how they can work with the children at home. Children at this age were still at a stage where they would listen, and parents could make a significant difference.

The Committee discussed ways in which the preparation and presentation of data could be improved. Mrs Huggett emphasized the importance of having as much information as possible about pupils joining from the Prep and collaboration was getting stronger all the time.

Canon Wilkinson thanked Mrs Conner for her very clear and comprehensive report.

6. Heads' Comments

6.1 Prep School – Mr O'Sullivan commended Mrs Conner for the excellent work she was doing as acting Deputy Head Academic.

6.2 Senior School – There was nothing further to add.

7. Any Other Business – None.

8. Date of Next Meeting – 6 February 2025.