

MINUTES

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| Group : | SHREWSBURY COLLEGES GROUP – SPECIAL BOARD MEETING | Date: | 22/05/2017 |
| Location: | CLASSROOM A.41, LONDON ROAD CAMPUS, SHREWSBURY | Time: | 6.00 p.m. |
| Membership: | Gordon Channon, (Chair), Andy Allen, Michael Bishopp, Christine Davies, Sarah Gibbons, Christina Gore, Iain Gilmour, Elizabeth Hird, Nigel Merchant, Josh Prior, David Pulford, Rob Rosson, Rex Sartain, James Staniforth (Principal/Chief Executive), Verity Underhill and Michael Willmot. | | |
| IN ATTENDANCE: | <u>Members of the Senior Leadership Team:</u> Mark Brown, Group Vice-Principal, I.T. and Strategic Development Donna Lucas, Group Vice-Principal - Human Resource Development Paul Morgan – Head of Shrewsbury Sixth Form Chris Pemberton, Group Vice-Principal, Quality and Curriculum Development. Janet Stephens, Group Vice-Principal – Finance and Asset Management Clerk to the Board – Tracy Cottee | | |
| APOLOGIES: | Patrick Bowen, Chris Davies and C. Armstrong, Group Vice Principal, Curriculum Support and Business Development. | | |

PART I – OPEN ITEMS

23/17. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

24/17. **Principal's Presentation**

The newly-appointed Principal and Chief Executive, James Staniforth was invited to present to the Board his first impressions of the College.

The Chair welcomed the Principal to the meeting and Governors introduced themselves to the Principal individually, explaining their backgrounds and skills set.

The Principal's presentation comprised -

- slides he had presented first at his appointment interview and then to staff during his first few weeks. These slides set out his vision for the future vision for the College and his indicators of success to achieve that vision. His considered view was that Shrewsbury Colleges Group should be a destination of choice for both students and employees and should be a beacon of outstanding practice and quality in the sector, where every student achieved outstanding progress.
- an explanation of his Induction so far, which had included meetings with students, both formally and informally, 1-2-1s with all members of the Group Management Team, staff meetings, engagement with unions and meetings with various key stakeholders and key partners.
- key external challenges he considered the Group faced going forward, including -
 - 16 - 18 demography and competition. He presented to the Board data with respect to the local area 16 year old demography 2015 - 2020, to illustrate his points. The Year 11 cohort for 2016, had declined from the previous year; however, the College had positive enrolment

projections. In his view, the College should both build on the developing reputation locally whilst also developing growth contingencies to mitigate the risk of a decline in enrolment crystallising;

- curriculum and assessment change across all areas of Group provision;
- apprenticeship reform; and
- the upcoming Higher Education quality assurance review.

With respect to strategies to meet these challenges, he considered that the College should -

- provide outstanding education for all the College's students, so that they receive outstanding education and training and for the strategic advantages of being outstanding;
- grow apprenticeships to respond to the changes and support the local economy; and
- grow higher education to achieve a successful review outcome.

He presented data to the Board to demonstrate his aspiration to improve the quality of A level provision at the College to be the best in the area. Regarding vocational progress, he explained that, currently, local competitors added more value; this was an area to work on.

Regarding 2016/17, he referred to great progress the College had made since the merger, including -

- achieving a 'good' outcome from the OFSTED Monitoring visit;
- improved retention and attendance;
- improved outcomes in GCSE English and maths and excellent outcomes for AAT;
- increased applications;
- improved Higher Education; and
- curriculum and estates developments, including investment in the College's engineering facilities.

He considered that a successful merger was a three-year project and that positive engagement from all staff and students was vital to its success. He went on to explain the opportunities arising from the merger to improve the student experience including decisions to –

- relocate Art, Fashion and Photography provision to the English Bridge campus;
- create a dedicated Higher Education facility at London Road; and
- phase moving Sport provision to London Road.

He thanked his senior staff for their hard work and support to him since his appointment.

Following the presentation, questions from governors included -

- College preparations for the upcoming HE Provider Review;
- local competition;
- implications of the outcome of the general election for the College.

PART II – CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

25/17. College Branding

The Chair invited governors and SLT members to discuss the current name and branding of the Group and its relation to the desired strategy going forward. Details of the discussion are set out in a Confidential Minute.

Resolved: That

- 1. a Branding Task Force be established comprising G. Channon, E. Hird, J. Prior, R. Rosson, R. Sartain and M. Thompson, with the Principal/Chief Executive and Group Vice Principal, Curriculum Support and Business Development in attendance; and**
- 2. Draft Terms of Reference and an initial meeting date be arranged.**

26/17. Date of Next Meeting – 3 July 2017. Venue to be confirmed.

The meeting concluded at 7.46 p.m.