



**Minutes of the Curriculum Committee held on Monday, 5 May 2009
at 6.00 p.m. in the Conference Room**

Present:

Liz Hird, Cathryn Hodges, Simon Keeble, Robert Rosson and Dominic Wilson

In attendance:

Martin Ward - Principal
Roz Conway – Vice Principal
Janet Jones - Clerk to the Corporation

Election of Chair

13. Resolved:

That Dominic Wilson be elected Chair of the Curriculum Committee for the meeting.

DOMINIC WILSON IN THE CHAIR

14. **Welcome to New Members**

The Chair welcomed Cathryn Hodges and Simon Keeble who had been appointed to the Committee following the meeting of Full Corporation on 16 March 2009.

15. **Declarations of Interest**

None

Minutes

16. Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Curriculum Committee held on 3 November 2008 be approved as a correct record.

17. **Matter Arising:-**

(i) **Business Challenge Cup (Minute 5(i))**

The Vice Principal advised that two Business Cups would be awarded this term by a representative of the Business Chamber.



(ii) **Move From Digital Brain to Moodle (Resolution 7)**

A Member advised that he had been unable to access Moodle. The Vice Principal undertook to ask the Assistant Principal (Information Services) and the Clerk to the Corporation to re-circulate the information to all Governors on how to access the system.

(iii) **Governor Links (Resolution 8)**

The Vice-Principal referred to the Full Corporation meeting on 16 March when it had been agreed to discuss Governor Links once the proposed restructuring proposals and new Committee structure had been considered. The Principal confirmed that proposals would be submitted to the July meeting of Full Corporation regarding the merging of this Committee with Curriculum Committee and that draft terms of reference would be put forward.

(iv) **Curriculum Provision 2009/10 (Minute 9)**

Pursuant to the last meeting, the Vice-Principal advised that the demand for German had increased and that the College was able to offer it as a GCSE subject to partner schools starting in September. She also advised that demand for Psychology had gone up. In respect of informing students about unfamiliar subjects, the Vice Principal advised that extra “taster” sessions had been arranged with schools and that Year 9 students were being made aware of subjects available.

Initial Assessment – Report on Pilot Study (Appendix 7/09)

The Vice-Principal circulated a report on Diagnostic Assessment (basic and keyskillbuilder) which had been piloted between September 2008 to April 2009. She stressed the importance of introducing the assessment in a positive way and being used as an indicator tool and not as a judgement. The Principal advised that the assessment would be beneficial in identifying in a discreet manner students who needed support in a particular area. The results of the pilot would be considered by the Senior Leadership Team in June when a decision would be made on whether to take this Assessment method forward.

18. Resolved:

That the report on Diagnostic Assessment (basic and keyskillbuilder) Pilot be noted.

Curriculum Provision 2009/10 and Curriculum Development (Appendix 8/09)

The Vice-Principal submitted a report summarising curriculum provision for 2009/10 and 14-19 Curriculum Development in college.

In respect of Food Technology AS/A, a member stated that Harper Adams had established a Food Academy which would open in October and suggested that links could be set up with the College in the future.

The Vice-Principal referred to Paragraph 2 of the report (International Baccalaureate) and advised that feedback so far had been mixed, although many Universities held the qualification in high regard. The Principal stated that he was planning to send letters out via



partner schools to parents of Year 10 students to see if there was an interest in gaining an understanding of the Bacculaureate system.

A member referred to the Extended Project event which had taken place earlier in the evening and commented on how impressive the projects had been. The Vice-Principal advised that 70 students had already signed up for the next Extended Project scheme and praised the commitment of the students and staff.

With reference to paragraph 8 of the report (Links with Employers), the Chair undertook to provide the Vice-Principal with a link in respect of studies carried out by the University of Wolverhampton Business School on Employability involving a mapping exercise in employment.

A member also provided a link with the Head of Placements at Harper Adams.

19. Resolved:

That the report on Curriculum provision for 2009/10 and 14-19 Development be noted

Review of Existing Risks – Curriculum (Appendix 9/09)

20. Resolved:-

That Initial Assessment – Pilot Study, be added to the Risk Register in view of the potential risk in implementation if the Assessment is taken forward.

21 **Liz Hird – Staff Governor**

The Chair reported that this was the last meeting of Curriculum Committee that Liz Hird, Staff Governor, would attend as her term of office was due to end on 1 September 2009. On behalf of the Members of the Committee, he thanked Liz for her work over the past 4 years.

22. **Date and Time of Next Meeting** - To be arranged.