

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATION HELD AT 3 PM ON TUESDAY 15 DECEMBER 2020 VIA ZOOM**

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Present: Alan Aston, Jeff Dutton, Lesley Rollason, Bernard Lovatt, Gareth Jones (Chair), Jim Rowley, Francis Tunney, Simon Leech (by telephone), Martin Earnshaw, Karen Dobson

In attendance: Ian Hookway (Director of HR & Communication), Craig Hodgson (Vice Principal), Lesley Morrey (Director of Student Engagement & Partnerships), Shelley Brown (Director of Curriculum & Performance), Andy Bailey (Head of Compliance & Governance), Lisa Saville (Group Accountant), Joy Smith (Deputy Clerk)

It was noted that Simon would join the meeting by telephone and, therefore, for ease it was agreed that Gareth Jones would Chair the meeting.

### **PART 1**

#### **20.4.1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Jeremy Pert, Thomas Degg and Steve Jones.

#### **20.4.2 Declarations of Interest**

Simon Leech, Gareth Jones, Karen Dobson and Craig Hodgson all declared an interest as non-remunerated Directors of Axia Solutions Ltd and Gradbach Ltd.

#### **20.4.3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 November 2020 - Part 1**

Approved as a true record of the meeting.

#### **20.4.4 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **20.4.5 Minutes of the Committee Meetings**

Education & Standards – 9 December 2020

Lesley advised that the focus of the meeting had been on the latest Learner Data Report which contained an overview of the very positive situation relating to retention and attendance at both colleges with very strong predicted outcomes. Work on performance monitoring continues, despite the challenges of the remote arrangements currently in place. The student surveys continue and very useful information has been picked up about the number of students accessing remote learning via mobile phones. The teams continue to work tirelessly and all teaching staff and students have made a tremendous effort. Financial support continues to be provided to students in need and members had been particularly pleased with the level of support afforded to the students with EHCPs.

The latest difficulties and challenges with apprenticeships had been considered and members had been very pleased with the robust achievements despite the situation and they congratulated the team on their work. Online open days continue and are reviewed post-event in order to inform the future approach.

Lesley confirmed that the data and quality of information presented was considered by the Committee to be exceptional and should be commended to the Corporation.

#### **20.4.6 Principal's Report - Part 1**

Karen drew attention to the contents of part one of her report.

##### **1 – Lateral Flow Testing**

Members noted the significant task undertaken over the past weeks to carry out lateral flow testing on students and staff, with c3000 tests carried out in total and 7 positive cases identified. Karen advised that the Government has announced further mass testing in schools and colleges in the New Year and she cautioned that this had been a very time consuming and space utilising exercise.

##### **1.2 - Early Closure**

Karen reported on the decision taken to close the College on Thursday evening for the Christmas break, which will allow a full week before Christmas and hopefully enable students to enjoy the holiday period with their families.

##### **1.3 – Christmas 2020**

Due to the current restrictions, we are unable to hold our normal celebrations but Karen advised that there will be a virtual Carol Service available on the College's social media platforms at 11 am on Friday.

##### **2.1 – Students of the Month**

Members were pleased to note the continuing efforts to recognise Students of the Month from each area of the College, albeit with a different approach from the traditional presentation.

##### **2.2 – Awards and Achievements**

Members noted the information relating to Courtney Pitt, Michael Wrench and Dylan Best and wished them every success.

##### **2.3 - Keep Stoke Smiling**

Karen reminded members of the previous success with the Keep Stoke Smiling campaign. The students involved have now gone on to win the Creatives Award at the Pearson's Game Changer Awards and members congratulated them on this fabulous achievement.

##### **2.4 – Marketing Team Success**

Congratulations were extended to the College's very talented Marketing team on their achievements at the recent HEIST marketing awards.

##### **2.5 – Our Staff**

Karen took the opportunity to officially commend all members have staff who have done a brilliant job throughout this year, no matter what their role in the organisation.