

Minutes of the Quality of Education and Skills (QES) Committee on Tuesday 10 February 2026 at Truro College

Members: S Sanderson (Chair), L Batchelor, R Bray, O Marshall-Whitley, T Merritt, A Pardoe, A Slade and F Wall.

Also Present: L Briscoe (Director of Student Experience), A Bull (Director of People, Culture and Curriculum), L Maggs (Director of Quality), H McKinstry (Director of Business Partnerships & Skills), V Pearson (Director of Learning, Assessment, Support), W Randle (Head of Governance) and R Townsend (Chair of Corporation)

Item	Discussion/Decision	Action
1	Welcome, apologies, introductions and declarations of interest Andy Pardoe was welcomed to his first meeting. AP has joined as a non Corporation member of QES and has skills and experience in AI and higher education. Aoife Slade and Liam Garner were welcomed to their first QES meetings since being elected as Student Governors. Apologies were received and accepted from Chris Wathern, Aofie Loder and Martin Tucker. There were no further declarations of interest to those contained on the register.	
2	Minutes of the previous meeting The minutes and confidential minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2026 were approved as an accurate record.	
3	Matters Arising The Committee reviewed the matters arising report. Update on minute 5 – the systems were reviewed and interim arrangements introduced, including data categorisations with examples shared. Due to the content, it is not appropriate to add this data to CPOMs currently. System links have been strengthened, and the data is now included in the termly safeguarding report. Completed.	
4	Progress against Strategic Objectives: 1.1-1.4 and 3.2 The Committee received the updated report developed using guidance from Governors and were assured that the progress remains in line with proposed timelines. An update was provided on student transport, to include the student rail card trial, how the College is using data to develop suitable transport offers for students and legal guidance being sought on the proposed contract changes.	
5	Risks linked to the Committee The Committee received the paper. Green rag rated risks - following a more cost effective delivery model, the enrichment offer continues to strengthen, with the 'drop-in' element working well. The College is pleased with student uptake and is further exploring SEND participation. Improved data recording is still needed, administration of the offer remains significant, and exam periods limit available space. In response to a Committee member question, the College is satisfied with the	

	questions on enrichment within the student survey and the Student Governor's enrichment experience was shared. Red rag rated risks – further detail contained in the confidential minutes.	
6	Student Data Update The Committee received the data report which included analysis of the below areas. It was noted that updated data systems are being developed which will allow Governors live access to data. ▪ Retention and Early Leavers Data ▪ Progression and Destinations 2025 ▪ DfE Performance tables 2024/25 ▪ Recruitment and enrolment projections 2025/26 ▪ Attendance ▪ Apprenticeship starts Further detail contained in the confidential minutes.	
7	Quality Review Week outcomes The Committee received an update on Quality Review Weeks (QRW). QRW1 took place in November and QRW2 is underway, with positive outcomes noted, particularly the strong support for SEND learners. Staff development held in January is now RAG-rated green, with many staff selecting training aligned to Areas for Improvement (AFIs). No college wide areas for improvement were identified, though some common gaps in recording work experience and attendance which will be addressed. A discussion took place on previous areas for improvement identified in QRW1, particularly access and financial barriers to learning affecting some students, which will continue to be monitored through QRW2, supported by the College's work with the EEF's Evidence Partnership project. Governors' participation in QRWs, via Governors on the Ground, was appreciated. A Governor reflected positively on a lesson observed at Penwith, noting the punctuality of students, use of resources, and AI-supported screen content.	
8	Interim Curriculum Strategy The Interim Curriculum Strategy was developed using working groups involving Heads of Faculty, full SMT participation and wider staff input. The process was viewed positively and is designed to prepare the College for upcoming curriculum reforms, ensuring strong links with employers. Feedback from the incoming Principal is still required, following this, a 12 month action plan will be finalised to support Governor and SMT progress reviews. Sector wide concerns were noted regarding the introduction of V Levels, with speculation that implementation may be delayed beyond September. In response to a Committee question on the inclusion of Higher Education (HE) within the strategy, it was reported that the strategy aligns with the HE Strategy and the Accountability Agreement, with some HE elements being developed in parallel. Career development remains a core focus, with recognition that many young people may not initially aspire to the careers they ultimately pursue; the strategy includes measures to support them in exploring interests and building complementary skills. This is the first time the College has used the strategic planning template, which had been reviewed by the strategic planning task and finish group, and some felt the document contained too much research detail; the summary to be shared externally will focus on commitments and aims rather than underlying research. The Committee agreed to recommend to Board the approval of the Curriculum Strategy.	SS

9	SEND/High Needs Strategy ▪ Progress against Ofsted recommendations ▪ Longer term provision / High Needs Strategy The Committee received the paper. It was reported that a recent NATSPEC external validation visit was very positive, identifying no significant areas for improvement and praising strong staff training, commitment, and overall progress. Governors expressed appreciation and asked the SEND Lead Governor to pass on thanks to staff. The report highlighted that having the right staff in the right roles, combined with a smaller, more focused provision, has significantly improved quality. Learners are showing greater independence, navigating the campus confidently, and are actively represented on the student council. Their Assessment and Intervention Framework (AIF) is consistent with the rest of the college. Governors noted the strong performance and impact of Learning Support Mentors (LSMs), while acknowledging a need to adjust LSM numbers to reflect student need, aiming for a cost recovery provision. Further detail contained in confidential minutes.	TM
10 10.1	Provision for Adult HE Strategy update The Committee received the paper and invited the Associate Director – University Centre Dean to join the meeting. The following highlights were noted: ▪ applications are slightly down due to course closures, as expected. ▪ group size reporting requires review because of co teaching arrangements. ▪ student satisfaction remains high, outcomes are strong, and examiners have confirmed there are no concerns about grade inflation. ▪ UCAS applications have increased by around 16 compared with last year across health programmes. ▪ the College continues to be the preferred partner for Cornwall Foundation Trust nursing provision, with excellent impact data and 100% retention and achievement last year. Future competition for retender is unclear. The College has been awarded £2.2m OfS capital funding to support HE digitalisation. Digital labs and related works must be completed by the end of March/April. These improvements will significantly enhance HE resources and help integrate 16–19 learners into HE environments, making facilities comparable with regional universities. A tour will be arranged once works are complete. Further detail in the confidential minutes.	
10.2	Provision for 19+ (ASF/Tailored) Further details contained in the confidential minutes.	
11	Employer Connect – Business Engagement This agenda item was missed during the meeting. The Committee received a related paper as part of the meeting pack.	
12	EDI Annual Monitoring report Aug 24 – Sept 2025 The Committee received the paper which feeds into the College’s EDI pledge. The Director of Student Experience highlighted the work being undertaken with an external organisation to provide staff training aimed at improving achievement rates for Gypsy/ Romany traveller learners. Governors discussed the decision to combine the EDI and Careers fairs due to space constraints, acknowledging both the potential benefits of joint employer engagement and the	

	need to evaluate whether this should become a permanent arrangement. Governors were invited to attend the event on 05/03/26.	
13	Safeguarding and Prevent update The Committee received the paper, praising the comprehensive report with no key areas of concern. It was noted that the College are beginning to see some more extreme behaviours which has been concerning and will continue to liaise with the Safeguarding Lead Governor where appropriate. It was reported that a Compliance Officer is now in place supporting this team.	
14	Impact of strikes on student experience Details contained in the confidential minutes.	
15 15.1	Governance Governors on the Ground The Committee received the Governors on the Ground (GOTG) reports and Governors were thanked for their time in completing these visits. Details of the visits were shared: - One Governor spent a day with students during the new Principal recruitment, gaining valuable insight into their experiences at College. - Some Governors attended the Cornwall Apprenticeship Awards, marking the event's 10th anniversary. Feedback was highly positive, with strong employer engagement and notable support from MPs and key stakeholders. This reinforced the strong relationship between the College and its apprenticeship partners. - Another Governor met with the HR team and some of the Operational Management Team (OMT) which enabled them to triangulate information received in meetings. The Head of Governance plans to offer training on Governors on the Ground to support newer governors in undertaking visits.	
15.2	Meeting Dates 2026/27 The Committee received the dates for the next academic year.	
16	Any other business None	
17	Dates of Future Meetings Tues 19 May 2026, Penwith, Zennor – might start at 4:30pm TBC Wed 30 September 2026, Truro, Valency Wed 18 November 2026, Penwith, Zennor Wed 10 February 2027, Truro, Valency Wed 19 May 2027, Penwith, Zennor All meetings start at 4pm	