MidKent College

GOVERNING BODY

QUALITY, TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Quality, Teaching and Learning Committee held on Tuesday 3 March 2026 at 17.00hrs via Teams.

Present:

Mr Andy Cole	Chair
Mr S Cook	Principal
Mr P Fleming	GB Chair
Ms C Hart	Exec Director of Student Experience
Miss B Jossi	Staff Governor
Dr J Mawby	Exec Director of Curriculum & Quality
Prof E Sallis	Co-opted
Ms S Vaux	Safeguarding Governor
Mrs A Woodhouse	GB Vice Chair

In attendance:

Ms C Burkin	Clerk to the Governing Body
Mr J Egan	Director of Quality
Ms E Mernagh	Director of Safeguarding

1 Declarations of Interest

Members' interests are numbered and referenced on the Declaration of Interest log available from the Clerk.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mr S Hardie and Mr S Jackson.

3 Minutes of the previous Committee meeting held on 2 December 2025 and inter-meeting notes held on 24 January 2026 paper GBQTL25/413 & 414

The minutes of the previous meetings were agreed and accepted as a true record by the Committee.

4 Matters Arising – Paper GBQTL25/415

No 1 Case study – Student Journey – item 5 - **complete**.
No 2 KPIs – item 6 - **complete**.
No 3 KPI amendments – **complete**.
No 4 College SAR 2024/25 – approved by Governing Body – **complete**.
No 5 College Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) 2025/26 - inclusion of a measure regarding student confidence around E&M with possible links to Student Voice – included in item 6 – **complete**.
No 6 College Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) 2025/26 - approved by Governing Body – **complete**.
No 7 Policies for Review – Admissions - Student Engagement – approved by Governing Body – **complete**.
No 8 Risk Register Review (QTL) – amended under item 10 **complete**.
No 9 Risk Register – feedback to GR&A - **complete**.

5 Executive Director of Student Experience - Paper GBQTL25/416,

Christina Hart introduced the paper which provided Governors with a mid-year overview of the learner journey. It highlighted progress, impact and areas for development across key aspects of student experience, including enrichment, tutorials, safeguarding, ALS, careers and student voice. The report showed how the College has strengthened inclusion, removed barriers and puts students first.

Members discussed the paper and the following were highlighted:

Enrichment and Inclusion – a comprehensive update on detailing approaches which identified and supported students with diverse needs. The process for selecting participants for the Turing trips, was challenged and assurance gained. Members noted the expansion of enrichment activities based on student voice and national initiatives.

Emma Mernagh informed members of the expansion of enrichment activities, including piloting the Duke of Edinburgh Award, and social action projects across various curriculum areas. Members were pleased that the team was working to ensure equitable access to enrichment for all students.

Student Voice – the importance of ensuring enrichment and support initiatives reach all student groups, not just targeted cohorts were discussed. Members noted teams were documenting enrichment across all curriculum areas, to identify gaps, and ensure that every student has access to meaningful opportunities, with ongoing evaluation and leadership strengthening in the enrichment team.

SEND Reforms - C Hart provided a verbal update on the newly published SEND White Paper, noting that the College is well positioned for the proposed changes, which included a shift to a universal and targeted offer and funding based on provision rather than individual students. She highlighted that the impact of the changes is not likely to be seen until 2030. Members noted the College was engaging in self-assessment, consulting with local authorities, and preparing a response to the consultation, with an opportunity for Governor's input and that of local stakeholders.

Action: C Hart

Emma Mernagh presented the Safeguarding Report which highlighted safeguarding practices, Prevent strategies, and the implications of new statutory guidance to members. A robust discussion took place regarding Prevent and Extremism and Governors were assured by the College's Prevent systems, including upgraded filtering and monitoring technology which flagged concerning keywords. E Mernagh informed members of a recent case which led to a successful Prevent referral and was praised by counter-terrorism authorities. Her engagement with the Prevent Board ensured the College remained informed about emerging threats such as online extremism networks.

Members discussed progress with Martyn's Law or Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act, 2025 and Prevent Duty and requested a detailed, minuted session and discussion at the Governing Body in May 2026 regarding the implementation of Martin's Law and Prevent duty once the work is complete.

Action: C Hart

Members discussed the Safeguarding referral system and were assured that the team receive supervision and additional training to support their roles and wellbeing.

E Mernagh highlighted the forthcoming and significant changes in the Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) consultation, including statutory requirements. Members were assured that the College was adapting policies and practices to align with these changes, including updating keyword alerts and staff training. An update for Governors will be given in the new academic year.

Members shared good practice from local projects regarding violence against women and girls and noted the inclusion in the new safeguarding guidance. They were assured by the College's participation with related partnerships and consultations.

It was agreed the overall position showed strong evidence of inclusive practice across the learner journey with clear progress in removing barriers, supporting wellbeing and strengthening belonging. Members agreed a continued focus were needed on SEND capacity, student voice development and sustainable scaling of enrichment and international opportunities.

Members thanked C Hart for the update.

6 Executive Director of Quality and Curriculum Report - Paper GBQTL25/417.

Jim Mawby introduced the paper which provided an overview of performance against KPIs, Maths & English delivery, quality improvement actions, and the impact of curriculum changes.

Members reviewed the College's performance against KPIs and noted the stable or improved retention rates despite student growth, and the positive impact of early identification and support for at-risk students. Members challenged the slightly increased 42-day attrition rate but were assured that this attributed to statistical fluctuation and external factors, with ongoing analysis to distinguish between students leaving for positive destinations and those at risk.

Members discussed the Contextualised Maths & English developments embedded across the curriculum. They noted the positive impact on attendance rates which were aligned to vocational main aim attendance and improved student engagement.

Members were informed of the high participation rate in work placements, with many students securing external placements or engaging in internal or employer-led activities.

J Mawby also highlighted some curriculum reforms and pathways. Members were concerned about the difficulties some students could face transitioning from years 1 and 2 but were confident that the College is preparing to adapt its curriculum and asked to be kept informed.

Members thanked J Mawby for the update.

7 QIP Monitoring – Paper GBQTL25/418

James Egan presented the paper which provided an update on the progress made against the Areas for Improvement (AFIs) in the 2025-26 QIP.

Members were update on:

- progress made against the 2024/25 QIP
- the progress made against the AFI and actions was provided.

- assurance that the College is continuing to focus on driving improvements and making progress.

They noted improvements in English and maths teaching, innovative staff development (e.g., lightning talks), enhanced parental engagement in A levels, improved ESOL assessment processes and focused retention panels for students with additional needs.

Members thanks J Egan for the update and no significant concerns were identified.

8 Policy for Review – Paper GBQTL25/419

James Egan presented the revised Complaints and Appeals policy and explained the following amendments:

- Changes made following corporate learning from a case study.
- Gather more information prior to an appeal.
- Give clear grounds for an appeal.
- State the desired outcome from the appeal.
- Provide additional information relating to the appeal.
- Make staff aware of their responsibility of reporting complaints on behalf of the complainant.
- Any complaints made in relation to the Colleges partner schools should be referred to the school in the first instance.
- Application of a strict escalation period to the formal stage.
- Requirements from the People Team, Safeguarding and Data Protection following a complaint that involves them, replacing the word 'referral' with 'information sharing' to prevent confusion.

The Committee noted the policy had been updated to clarify procedures around vexatious complaints, appeals processes, and certain responsibilities. Updates also address GDPR and People Team involvement, aligning with a forthcoming vexatious complaints policy.

Members thanked J Egan and **approved** the policy for **recommendation** to the Governing Body.

Action: A Cole

9 Feedback from Governors Visits – Paper GBQTL25/420

Members noted the feedback from the following recent Governors Visits:

MSA Peter Fleming/Angela Woodhouse – 5 December 2026
MSA – Stuart Hardie – 16 January 2026
Medway – Andy Cole – 2 February 2026

Peter Fleming highlighting that during his visit he saw positive student experiences, aspirations, and discussions about course accessibility and funding challenges. Angela Woodhouse also attending and highlighted the local need for the courses and accessibility for those who would not be able to access provision outside of Medway.

Andy Cole described a visit to hairdressing and beauty therapy at Medway, noting the quality of facilities and student confidence.

Members noted the following organised visits remain for the academic year:

- 19 March 2026 – Maidstone
- 26 March 2026 - Maidstone - an additional visit directly before the Governing Body meeting.
- 29 April 2026 – SEND at Medway

The Chair thanked Governors for conducting the visits and encouraged all Board members to do the same.

10 Risk Register Review (T&L) – Paper GBQTL25/421

Members were reminded that there was an expectation that each Governing Body Committee reviews and monitors the risks relevant to their remit, from the College Risk Register to support and challenge the Exec Lead. Any amendments are to be reported to the GR&A Committee.

Jim Mawby presented the reviewed current risk register. He acknowledged that it had not yet been updated to reflect recent Committee decisions but confirmed that English and maths remained above risk appetite and will be closely monitored.

Members requested that risk scoring boundaries are reviewed to ensure they are achievable and meaningful.

Action: J Mawby

9 Next meeting agenda and call business

Members were invited to suggest additional agenda items outside the meeting and noted those from the cycle of business will be included.

10 Any Other Business

There was no AOB.

Approved by Committee *Date: 9 June 2026*

11 Date of the next Committee meeting

The next QTL Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 9 June 2026 at 5pm on teams.

12 Date of the next Inter-meeting

The next Inter-meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 28 April 2026 at 5pm on teams with the theme agreed as Ofsted framework.

The meeting closed at 18.26hrs

Approved by Committee *Date: 9 June 2026*