



**Minutes of the Corporation's Special Board meeting
held remotely on Monday 17 May 2021**

Present: - Igor Andronov (Chair)
Sally Cassels
James Caird
Julia Cotton
Tony Ford
Laura Johnston
Debbie Lambert
Alan Layng
Adam Matthews
Jeremy Nicholls
David Williams (Principal)

In attendance: - Edward Gwillim (Director of Finance)
Jo Ricketts (Deputy Principal)
Debra Baldwin (Director of Personnel)
Linda Watkins (Clerk to the Corporation)

The meeting was quorate as eleven Governors participated in the remote meeting. The Chair welcomed everyone explaining that the meeting had been arranged to receive an update on COVID-19 operations along with the Marches Colleges' Strategic Group requesting approval of key documents.

1.
 - I. **Apologies for absence:** There were no apologies.
 - II. **Declaration of Interest:** There were no new declarations.
2. **COVID-19 Operations Update**

The Principal updated Governors that staff and students are continuing to take lateral flow tests (LFT) at home with records showing that more than 4,000 tests have regularly taken tests each week equating to c75% of students; most students have taken tests twice each week. The College is award of more students taking tests, however, registers were not completed and erroneous marks were recorded which are being followed up. There have been two positive cases previously, however, three positive cases have been reported recently by a member of staff and two students following completion of home LFT. These are being managed following Government guidance.

A Governor asked if further tests would determine if the positive cases were the same variant; this would be determined from the PCR tests.

Government guidelines had changed from 17 May with colleges requested to use discretion on the policy of students wearing face

Action

masks and use of communal spaces. The College has taken the decision to strongly recommend staff and students continue to wear masks in communal areas. There has not been any changes to arrangements in communal social areas, such as refectories, where existing arrangements will continue for the remainder of the academic year.

Arrangements are in place to award Teacher Assessed Grades this academic year.

3. Marches Colleges' Strategic Group

The Principal reminded Governors of ongoing discussion about collaborative working with Shrewsbury College and Telford College. The Skills Accelerator fund will also progress collaboration opportunities with a joint bid to be submitted to provide flexible training provision to local health boards. The Marches Business Boards met last week with Herefordshire and Worcestershire Chamber, and Shropshire Chamber to discuss submitting a trailblazer application to the pilot.

The Marches colleges have previously discussed closer working relationships with strong support by each college. The Memorandum of Understanding and terms of reference had been prepared for future collaborative working and to develop a coordinated approach to strengthen links with employers and business representative organisations across The Marches.

In discussion it was noted that arrangements would be reviewed in a year. A Governor asked if there was opportunity for collaboration in other areas which would be considered as appropriate.

The Board agreed: -

- To approve the Memorandum of Understanding and Terms of Reference for the Marches Colleges' Strategic Group

4. Any other Business

No items.

5. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Tuesday 13 July 2021: Governors' Workshop at 2.30 pm followed by the Board meeting at 4.00 pm.

Signed as a true record of proceedings

Chair: **Date:**