Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Governors held on Tuesday 10 December 2024 at 10am at Barnsley College

Present: Simon Perryman (Chair & Governor)
                  David Akeroyd (Principal and CEO)
                  Kayleigh Bell (Staff Governor)
                  Carol Cooper-Smith (Governor)
                  Billy Cowley (Student Governor)
                  George Graham (Governor)
                  Donavan Hutchinson (Governor)
                  Tracey Johnson (Governor)
                  Helen Jaggar (Vice Chair)
                  Marie Lang (Vice Chair)
                  Jo Mallows (Governor)
                  Carrie Sudbury (Governor)
                  Matt Mills (Governor)

In attendance: Hayley Allsopp (Vice Principal – Students)
                  Gavin Batty (Deputy CEO)
                  Shaun Cook (Vice Principal – Curriculum)
                  Heather Jackson (Director of Governance and Clerk to the Board)
                  Tony Johnson (Vice Principal – Corporate Services)
                  Laila Lawton (Vice Principal – Finance)
                  Sue Slassor (Vice Principal – Quality)

Part I

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PROCEDURAL MATTERS	
B24/231	Agenda Item No. 1: Quoracy The meeting was quorate.
B24/232	Agenda Item No. 2: Apologies for absence Apologies were received from Carly Speechley, Kalam Neale, Nina Smart, Steven Burkinshaw and Gavin Day

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B24/233	Agenda Item No. 3: Declarations of interest Simon Perryman declared his interest as Chair of NOCN. Helen Jaggar declared her interest as a Director of ITS and Smartstyle. Carol Cooper-Smith declared her interest as a Director of ITS, Smartstyle, BCDC and Think. David Akeroyd declared his interest as a Director of ITS, Smartstyle, BCDC, ITrust and Think. Hayley Allsopp declared her interest as a Director of iTrust, Gavin Batty declared his interest as Director of Think. Heather Jackson declared her interest as Company Secretary of ITS, Smartstyle, BCDC, iTrust and Think. Tracey Johnson declared her interests as an employee of Barnsley Metropolitan District Council and noted that ITS was a tenant of the Digital Media Centre which she managed. Marie Lang noted her role as Trustee at Barnsley Youth Zone.
B24/234	Agenda Item No. 4: Notification of items of any other business There were no other items of business.
B24/235	Agenda Item No. 5**: Principal's report** The Principal presented his report and noted a number of stakeholder related activities since the last meeting including the Tertiary Colleges conference and networking with other Outstanding Colleges. The Principal also noted that the executive team had all undertaken media training aimed at managing media opportunities. The Principal and Chair updated the Board on the AoC reception at the Houses of Parliament to launch **'Mission Accepted' and discusse**d the role that the AoC had, in determining future policy and the role that the College can play in this. Governors noted the current role of the Chair at the AoC and the regular involvement that the College has with the AoC and other national groups both regionally and nationally. Governors also discussed the importance of having input locally to help determine strategy and future direction in the region. The Principal noted that a Principal/Chair dinner was planned for the new year with all of the South Yorkshire Colleges which would feed into the annual accountability statement. It was agreed that it was key that they worked together.

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	There was a lengthy discussion about the role of schools locally and how the College was feeding into that process.
	Governors also noted the Barnsley Youth Zone and the role it would play in **supporting some of our students 'out of hours.'** They were currently based in Sci Tech and were receiving support from the Business Development Team. The Principal was meeting with the CEO in the New Year and it was noted that there may be some work that the college could do to help them support those not in education, employment and training (NEET).
	It was RESOLVED **to note the Principal's report**
B24/236	Agenda Item No. 6: Capital Update
	The Vice Principal Finance presented the Capital Update.
	The IoT project was continuing on programme and within the agreed budget. Phase 2 design and pricing works approved at the last meeting were currently underway. Aecom continued to support the college in resolving some of the pricing information with GF Tomlinson, identified previously. There were no risks with the contract and it was hoped they would be resolved at the forthcoming steering group meeting.
	It was noted that damp had been identified in the building.
	Donavan Hutchinson joined the meeting at 10:18
	Eastgate works were in the procurement process and it was expected that work would commence before Easter and complete before the end of the academic year.
	Governors noted that the College and the DfE had reached a settlement to allow the College to undertake any works to put the building back to its original state as agreed in the original contract. This money would be used towards the costs of works at Eastgate.
	Governors discussed plans for Park Road once the 14-16 cohort moved to Eastgate.
	Billy Cowley joined the meeting at 10:49.
	Kayleigh Bell left the meeting at 10:50.

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	It was RESOLVED to approve the settlement with the DfE totalling £135k. It was RESOLVED to note the update.
B24/237	Agenda Item No. 7: Financial Approvals The Vice Principal Finance presented the Financial Approvals paper. Governors asked the Vice Principal Finance to review the amount that needed to be approved by Board during the next review of the Financial Regulations. It was noted that plans were in place to move more suppliers, particularly in catering, marketing and estates, to an approved supplier list which would reduce the need for Governor approval whilst retaining appropriate and robust controls. It was RESOLVED to approve: • Brake Brothers Ltd departure from standard procurement processes • The grounds maintenance contract for a period of 2 years at a cost of up to £200k. • The transactions contained in the report and appendix including departures from standard procurement.
B24/238	Agenda Item No. 8: Financial Statements The Vice Principal presented the 2023/24 Financial Statements, Management judgement, audit findings and letters of representation. The College financial performance for 2023/24 was good, the College had achieved its key financial targets and bank covenants. Group income of £55.5m is above budget (£50.6m) and EBITDA of £5.5m is also above budget. The financial health grade is outstanding as predicted in July. Governors noted that the financial statements for the College and subsidiaries are in line with previous reports. The auditors had confirmed that they are issuing an unqualified audit opinion and the audit findings report does not include any significant adjustments. Governors noted that four of the recommendations had not been agreed by the College, this was highly unusual and had been the subject of a

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	lengthy discussion at the Audit and Risk Committee. The committee had agreed with the approach taken by the College. The Chair thanked the Audit and Risk Committee and the finance teams for their work in ensuring a successful audit this year. It was RESOLVED to approve the financial statement for the College and its subsidiaries for the year ended 31 July 2024 and the letters of representation from the auditors.
B24/239	Agenda Item No. 9: Board Assurance Framework The Vice Principal Corporate Services presented the Board Assurance Framework. Governors noted that IT disaster was now considered to be the greatest risk faced by the College. Work in the coming year would focus on disaster recovery and ensuring that the college is able to recover as quickly as possible when it is hit by a cyber attack. It was noted that the IT team regularly tested staff and students to raise awareness of potential attacks and the training that all staff were required to undertake. Governors also noted that the college had insurance against cyber attacks and that there had been a recent link governor visit focusing specifically on cyber risks. Governors discussed 14-16 provision and the plans that were being implemented including relocating the provision to Eastgate. The new Headteacher was in place and learners had noted that they felt safer and more engaged. The team had support to improve the quality of teaching and learning as well as appropriate internal and external support for all learners. Governors welcomed the new BAF and noted that it reflected strategic and honest conversations held at board and triangulated through link governor and other visits. It was RESOLVED to approve the Board Assurance Framework and note the assurance that it provides.
B24/240	Agenda Item No. 10: Self-Assessment Report (SAR) FE 2023/24

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	The Vice Principal Quality presented the Self-Assessment Report and noted that the report had been discussed and recommended for approval by a small group of governors in November.
	Overall the report rated the College as Outstanding with Apprenticeships rated as Good.
	Governors agreed that it reflected the strengths and areas for improvement that they had identified throughout the year.
	Governors discussed the key areas for improvement that the College would be focusing on. It was noted that there was more granular detail in the department level plans. The College was confident that it had a strong narrative to support its skills judgement and that improvements had been made across the board since the last inspection.
	Governors discussed the improvements being made in English and Maths **and noted that this November's resit attendance had been the best** ever at the College. Data to confirm improvement was expected and the next progress board meeting.
	Governors noted that there had been some more changes on English and **Maths from the DfE that replicated the College's existing model**.
	It was agreed that Curriculum link governors would find it useful to attend the SAR meeting next year.
	It was RESOLVED to approve the self-assessment report and note the assurance that it provides.
B24/241	Agenda Item No. 11: Self-Assessment Report (SAR) ITS 2023/24
	The Vice Principal Quality presented the Self-Assessment Report and noted that the report had been discussed and recommended for approval by the ITS Board in November.
	Governors noted that the ITS SAR was produced using a similar process to the College report
	It was RESOLVED to approve the self-assessment report and note the assurance that it provides.

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B24/242	Agenda Item No. 12: Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) The Vice Principal Quality presented the Quality Improvement Action Plan. It was noted that the QIP was informed by the SAR and focuses on key **areas for improvement identified through the College's self**-assessment process. The focus was on a small number of key improvement areas that the College needs to address including apprenticeships in construction and engineering, attendance at GCSE English and Maths and student/apprentice understanding of their societal roles and risks. Governors discussed the QIP and the areas identified for improvement in the coming year. It was agreed that the QIP provided governors with substantial assurance. It was RESOLVED to approve the Quality Improvement Plan
B24/243	Agenda Item No. 13: Reflection Governors noted that the online meeting last week had given an excellent opportunity to discuss and debate in detail all of the recent link governor visits. The online meetings gave board more time to have strategic discussions.
B23/244	Agenda Item No.33: Date and time of next meeting of the Board 21 and 22 January 2025 – Strategic Seminar.

The meeting closed at 12.30