

Minutes of the Quality and Standards Committee Meeting (No 73)

Held on 27 January 2026 at 6pm via Microsoft Teams

Present: A Jones (Chair), J Booker, M Bagley, K Townsley, A Massey, W Johnson (Principal & Chief Executive) and A Burge (from 6.05pm)

In Attendance: D Stewart (Deputy Principal, Education)
J Sherrington (Vice Principal & Deputy Chief Executive)
E Parry (Director of Student Support & Welfare)
C Thompson (Director of Inclusion)
P McGrail (Assistant Principal Apprenticeships)
A Gadsdon (Executive Director of Quality & Performance)
T Landon (Director of Apprenticeships)
D Clayton (Director of Corporate Services)

Observer: R Wallace

70. Attendance of College Management

The Committee noted the contents of Section 8.2 of the Constitution and Terms of Reference, which allows attendance by invitation in an advisory capacity.

It was resolved that College Management be invited to attend the meeting.

71. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from S Gerrard.

72. Declarations of Interest

All members and officers present declared that they had no interests, personal, fiduciary or otherwise in any of the business on the meeting agenda.

73. Minutes of the Committee Meeting (No. 72) held on 25 November 2025

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2025 be approved as a true and accurate record and be signed by the Chair.

74. Matters Arising

There were no outstanding actions or matters arising from the minutes.

75. Co-option of Student Governor

The Chair requested that Committee Members consider and approve the co-option of Ms Burge to the Quality & Standards Committee as Student Governor, on an interim basis, pending the formation of the Student Council and the completion of a formal election process.

The Chair advised that they had met with Ms Burge in the preceding week and were satisfied with her suitability for the role.

Ms Burge joined the meeting at 6.05pm. The Committee welcomed her to the meeting and introductions were made.

76. Safeguarding – Governor Briefing

The Director of Student Support & Welfare presented highlights of the mid-year position in relation to Safeguarding activities, noting that the full report had been circulated to the Committee in advance of the meeting.

It was noted that Board members receive the Safeguarding Weekly Updates circulated to all staff and find them informative. The Committee challenged the level of confidence that students are aware of the issues covered and were assured that topics are contextualised in line with current referral trends.

It was further noted that there are opportunities to influence Participation and Development Schemes of Learning to address emerging issues, including the involvement of external agencies to raise awareness through a range of delivery approaches. In addition, a mechanism exists to revisit key topics through the tutorial programme, and this has recently been utilised to reinforce Fundamental British Values.

The Chair confirmed that the Committee had received assurance that safeguarding is effective and embedded within the College's culture.

77. Inclusion – Governor Briefing

The Director of Inclusion presented highlights of the mid-year position in relation to Inclusion activities, noting that the full report had been circulated to the Committee in advance of the meeting.

Committee members noted and received assurance of significant progress, with 91.4% of learners reporting that they feel supported to develop independence within College.

It was noted that levels of support are reviewed regularly through a variety of mechanisms, including checkpoints and quarterly reviews, enabling effective monitoring of progress and timely adaptation of support strategies to maximise learner outcomes.

The Committee further noted that a subject-specific CPD calendar has been implemented for the Inclusion team, alongside a structured programme of “graduated approach” CPD for teaching staff.

Committee members noted and received assurance regarding effective collaboration with internal teams and external partners, including engagement with Lancashire County Council to inform the development of the post-16 SEND support model.

The Committee received assurance that strengthened data and reporting arrangements provide effective strategic oversight of impact for disadvantaged learners, aligned to the College’s 10-category framework.

The Chair confirmed that the Committee had sufficient assurance regarding the effectiveness of governance oversight.

78. Contribution to Meeting Skills Needs – Governor Briefing

The Assistant Principal Apprenticeships presented highlights of the mid-year position in relation to Contribution to Meeting Skills Needs, noting that the full report had been circulated to the Committee in advance of the meeting.

The Committee noted the significant pace of change since the previous inspection, at which the College was judged ‘*Reasonable*’ for Contribution to Meeting Skills Needs.

Members provided appropriate challenge regarding the extent to which employer and stakeholder engagement is sufficiently embedded and systematic, seeking assurance that curriculum co-creation is strong, consistent, and clearly sequenced to meet current and future employer needs.

The Assistant Principal Apprenticeships cited the strategic partnership with Basketball England as strong evidence of effective employer engagement, and the Committee noted that employer input has strengthened curriculum design and sequencing, enabling learners and apprentices to develop relevant technical and employability skills earlier in their programmes.

The Committee considered the progress made and took assurance from the impact demonstrated. It was however noted that further improvement is required to ensure greater consistency of employer co-creation of curriculum

across all areas, including emerging and smaller provision, which has been identified as a key priority for the College.

Committee members considered governance oversight of Contribution to Meeting Skills Needs and whether the introduction of Link Governors would further strengthen triangulation and challenge. It was noted that the Board currently holds appropriate expertise to oversee land-based and sports provision.

It was resolved that the use of Link Governors to enhance strategic oversight and triangulation be further explored with interested Board members.

79. Curriculum, Teaching and Training – Governor Briefing

The Executive Director of Quality & Performance presented highlights of the mid-year position in relation to Curriculum, Teaching and Training, noting that the full report had been circulated to the Committee in advance of the meeting.

The Committee noted the positive impact of strengthened quality assurance arrangements, including the Blueprint, Quality Risk Assessments (QRAs), SWaNS, Quality of Education learner surveys, learning walks and observations, Curriculum Quality Assurance (CQA) weeks, and Checkpoints. Members also noted evidence of increasing learner satisfaction across all aspects of the College experience.

Committee members noted progress against the areas for further development and received assurance that these relate to isolated pockets of inconsistency. It was confirmed that all issues are accurately captured and monitored through the relevant Quality Risk Assessments.

The Committee reviewed the current performance of the College's GCSE English provision and agreed that the associated concerns should be escalated to the College-wide Quality Risk Assessment. Members provided robust challenge regarding the effectiveness of the mitigating actions, particularly in relation to the learner experience. The Committee received assurance that the risk is being proactively and appropriately managed through a comprehensive and monitored action plan.

It was resolved that the Quality Risk Assessment relating to GCSE English be included in the overall College Quality Risk Assessment to ensure appropriate strategic oversight and visibility at Board level.

The Chair noted that, based on the evidence presented and the assurance received, the overall direction of travel for quality of education remains positive.

80. Achievement Outcomes – Governor Briefing

The Deputy Principal Education presented highlights of the mid-year position in relation to the College's Achievement outcomes, noting that the full report had been circulated to the Committee in advance of the meeting.

The Committee noted the headline performance position, recognising the significant improvement in achievement rates, particularly in relation to pass rates. Members noted however that learner retention remains comparatively static and identified this as an ongoing area of focus.

It was reported that the overall direction of travel across the majority of curriculum areas is positive, reflecting the sustained impact of actions taken to strengthen teaching, learning and assessment. The Committee noted that the remaining areas of concern are being reviewed and monitored through curriculum-level Quality Risk Assessments.

Members considered the presentation and robustness of the College's performance data in the context of Ofsted's Further Education and Skills Inspection Toolkit (FESIT), which is used as a pre-inspection diagnostic. The Committee sought assurance regarding the comparability and consistency of data across systems and received assurance that work is underway to align data sets and strengthen confidence in reported performance.

The Committee considered the level of self-confidence in articulating the College's strengths and areas for development. It was resolved that effective triangulation is in place, as evidenced through Governor attendance at Quality and Performance Monitoring meetings, learning walks, discussions with students regarding their learning experience, participation in CPD activities, and ongoing scrutiny and challenge of key performance indicators throughout the year.

81. Participation and Development – Governor Briefing

The Executive Director of Quality & Performance presented highlights of the mid-year position in relation to Participation and Development, noting that the full report had been circulated to the Committee in advance of the meeting.

The Committee received assurance that robust tracking and intervention processes, alongside embedded tutorial provision (including mental health education), are effectively supporting learner progress and employability.

The Committee received assurance that identified development needs relating to Prevent and Fundamental British Values are being addressed through strengthened and embedded tutorial provision.

Committee members confirmed their assurance through effective triangulation, including attendance at Quality and Performance Monitoring meetings, learning walks, and scrutiny of Curriculum Quality Assurance outcomes and Quality of Education Survey reports presented to the Committee. Members expressed confidence in their ability to articulate these matters from a strategic governance perspective.

82. Leadership and Governance – Governor Briefing

The Deputy Principal Education presented an overview of the mid-year position in relation to Leadership and Governance, with reference to the Ofsted inspection framework and grading criteria.

Committee members noted that the areas for evaluation are strategic leadership, governance, staff wellbeing and workload, professional learning and expertise and stakeholder engagement.

The Committee noted the extent of Board oversight and assurance, drawing on evidence from the skills audit, Governor induction arrangements, mandatory training, the self-assessment process, and the Governance Quality Risk Assessment.

83. Myerscough College SAR 2024/25 and Quality Risk Assessment

The Executive Director of Quality & Performance presented the updated Self-Assessment Report, which had been approved by Corporation in December 2025, subject to the inclusion of additional data. The report evidenced a strong narrative of improvement, supported by robust evidence and triangulated through the Quality Risk Assessments.

The Committee noted the resolution from the Corporation meeting held on 7th December 2025 which stated:

“Resolved: that the Self-Assessment Report (SAR) and Quality Risk Assessment be approved, subject to the amendments identified in paragraph 2.3 of the SAR report being made and a final data check.”

Committee members received assurance that the amendments made were in line with Corporation’s earlier resolution. It was therefore resolved that the College’s Self-Assessment Report for 2024/25 be approved and recommended to Corporation for approval.

The Committee noted that College Management demonstrated a clear and comprehensive understanding of performance across whole-provider and provision-type levels. Members recognised the significant work undertaken and confirmed their assurance regarding the effectiveness of strategic oversight.

D Clayton
27 January 2026