Minutes of the meeting of the Corporation held on 29 September 2017, in St Pancras Renaissance Hotel.

PRESENT: Alex Jackson (Chair); Gill Burbridge (Principal); Taiyyabah Ijaz; Joga Kabra and Sonia Watson.

In Attendance: Dawn Hamilton-Barrett (VP, Staffing, Resources & Infrastructure); Mike Gallagher (VP, Teaching & Learning); Chris Price (VP, Student Experience) and Alan Leak (Director of Finance).

Clerk to the Corporation: Michael Wood

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No Governor declared an interest.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from: Shah Ahmed; Helen Davenport and Hannah Eaton.

MINUTES

00.17 The Minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2017 were approved.

MATTERS ARISING

01.17 There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

TEACHING & LEARNING MATTERS

02.17 The Principal presented detailed reports on Enrolment, 2017/18 and student results, 2016/17, the following key points being highlighted:

i) that the student recruitment target was 2350. As at 28 September, the College had recruited 2338 students and it was envisaged that some additional enrolments would take place up to the census point of 18 October;

ii) that the College continued to recruit from a wide range of schools, including the top five within the Borough. Headteachers have reported that students are still looking at school sixth forms as an option to college;

iii) that the results from 2016/17 were better than expected set in the context of the change to linear A levels. Overall, the College continued to enjoy a 99% examination success rate.

PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

03.17 The Corporation received an update report on Partnership developments which had seen 105 staff across all institutions taking part in ‘Teaching like a Pro’ courses. It was noted, in particular, that several Governor liaison meetings had been scheduled for 10 October, 18 January and 16 May to which all Governors were invited.
CHILD PROTECTION ANNUAL REPORT

04.17 The VP (Student Experience) presented the College’s Annual Child Protection Report, it being noted that there had been an increase in the number of ‘looked after children (LAC)’ with 1 in 4 female LAC students presenting signs of depression.

SUSPENSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

05.17 The Corporation received an annual report on student suspensions and exclusions, 2016/17.

CORPORATION STANDING ORDERS

06.17 The Clerk presented revised Standing Orders for the Corporation’s consideration and approval which had been updated to reflect changes in senior leadership titles, Government agencies (eg ESFA) and minor editorial changes. The Standing Orders were approved subject to an up-to-date Exclusions Flowchart being included and the Governors’ Induction Policy making provision for a half-day development event. It was agreed that the Standing Orders should be reviewed at least every three years.

REPORT FROM AUDIT COMMITTEE

07.17 The Corporation received a report from the Audit Committee which had met on 5 September 2017 to consider a range of Internal Audit reports, the summary detail of which was set out in the report. The Chair expressed his gratitude to Joga Kabra for agreeing to chair the Committee.

MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS

08.17 The Corporation received Management Accounts for the period ended 31 August 2017, the following points being highlighted by the Director of Finance:

i) that the finances for 2017/18 would be more constrained than previously with a limited surplus being projected for the year;

ii) that national staff pay awards may be above the 1% budgeted for;

iii) that loan covenants would require the formal approval of the Corporation at its next meeting.

NEWS/FORTHCOMING EVENTS

09.17 The Principal reported (in confidence) the planned visit to the College by HRH The Earl of Wessex, Prince Edward on 16 November 2017 to meet students and staff involved in the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme.

10.17 It was noted that the Student Awards Ceremony would take place on 13 December and that all Governors were welcome to attend this event. It was suggested that the Corporation itself could have a named award and the Principal undertook to consider this proposal.
ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.17 The Chair, on behalf of the Corporation, wished to record his sincere thanks to Sonia Watson for her service as the Support Staff Governor and wished her well for the future.

12.17 There being no other business, the meeting closed, the date of the next meeting being scheduled for Monday 4 December 2017.