

Preston College

Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 23 January 2025 at 5.30pm, Boardroom

Present:

Mr Jose Sedano-Martinez	Chair
Mr Simon Nixon	Principal and Chief Executive
Mr Steve Browne	
Mrs Helen Curtis	
Ms Giulia D'Ambrosio	
Mr Neil Fletcher	
Mr Malcolm Goulding	
Mrs Janet Harrison	
Ms Joanne Jones	
Mrs Sally Little	
Miss Marya Momand	
Miss Amanda Morey	
Mr Robert Marshall-Slater	Remote (Zoom)
Mrs Laura Mason	
Mrs Jen Walters	From Minute 4
Mrs Andrea Willimott	

Absent:

In attendance:

Mr Mark Airey	Executive Director of Finance
Ms Marie Haworth	Vice Principal - Quality, Teaching, Learning and Learner Support
Mr Mick Noblett	Vice Principal - Curriculum Delivery and Planning
Mrs Clare Rayner	Clerk to the Board
Mr Iain Stott	Vice Principal - Corporate Services

Part 1 (a)

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Clerk reported that Mrs Walters would join the meeting shortly.

It was noted that a quorum was present.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

3. Telephony System

The Principal and Chief Executive reported that, following feedback and queries from members, the Telephony System report would be withdrawn. The College would run a mini competition for the hardware and report back to the Board meeting on 13 March 2025. He explained that the College still planned to use the reclassification grant for this expenditure. However, if there were any timing issues the grant funding could be utilised for other College expenditure.

Mrs Walters joined the meeting.

4. Proposal to Increase Higher Education Fees

Mrs Marie Haworth, Vice Principal - Quality, Teaching, Learning and Learner Support, presented her report Proposal to Increase Higher Education (HE) Fees. Ms Haworth reported:

- that tuition fees for HE had remained largely static for the past 12 years, while inflation had significantly reduced the real value of these fees;
- that the proposed adjustment would allow the College to continue delivering high-quality education and maintaining excellent learning support;
- that due to the size of the College's provision, it was required to have an Access and Participation Statement in place rather than an Access and Participation Plan;
- that there were limits to the amount fees could be changed for part time courses which were prescribed by government and the Office for Students (OfS);
- the importance of ensuring that the College remained competitive.

Mrs Haworth responded to a query on why the HE modular fees had been set at £12k rather than £15k.

The Board approved the HE fee increases for implementation in the 2025/26 academic year.

Resolved: The Board approved the proposed HE fee increases for implementation in the 2025/26 academic year.

5. Date of next meeting

The next meeting would be held on 13 March 2025.