

Meeting: Learning & Teaching Committee		Venue: College Board Room	Date: Tuesday, 31 August 2021	Time: 2.00pm	
Minute Taken By: Jackie Kane		Sederunt: Richard Dockrell (Chair), Marian Docherty, Lisa Angus, Paul Lennon, Duncan Robb, Brian Lister, David Hamer	Apologies: Stuart Moir	Absences:	
FOR DECISION					
No.	Agenda Item	Action	When	By Whom	Status
1.	Apologies	The Chair welcomed everyone to the first face to face meeting since lockdown. He also welcomed Lisa Angus, Depute Principal to her first Learning & Teaching Committee Meeting.	31.8.21	RD	Complete
		Apologies were received from Stuart Moir.	31.8.21	JK	Complete
2.	Minute of Previous Meeting (Paper 1)	Minute of the meeting held on 12 May 2021 was approved as an accurate record with the following exception: "Duncan Robb had attended the meeting."	31.8.21 31.8.21	L & T JK	Complete Complete
3.	Matters Arising				
	Update from Principal:				
	SFC, including Outcome Agreement	There has been no endorsement received from the SFC since the Outcome Agreement was submitted in March 2021. The college is working on the assumption that SFC have accepted the draft Outcome Agreement.	March 2021	MD	Information
		SFC will be arranging meetings with colleges re Outcome Agreements. No date has been received.	31.8.21	MD	Information
		FE/HE Review has been published. The college will need to talk through the implications of the review with SFC.	31.8.21	MD	Information
	SFC Capital Funding Programme	Work is ongoing, allowing the college to complete essential repairs.	31.8.21	MD	Information
		£300K of the capital funding has been allocated to ICT. The Learning &	31.8.21	MD	Information

	2020-2021	<p>Teaching Team attended a positive VLE training. Part of this allocation will include staff development. The committee discussed a collaboration with Borders College, who are ahead with the same technology. This would assist the college going forward. The committee agreed that it would be a good idea to set up a steering group.</p> <p>The new assistive technology will be an asset to both curriculum and corporate events.</p> <p>The Principal will discuss the £90K capital funding for 2021-2022 with the Board.</p> <p>The committee agreed that ICT be a standing agenda item at each Learning & Teaching Committee Meeting.</p>	31.8.21	MD	Information
			23.9.21	MD/Board	Ongoing
			31.8.21	L & T	Information
	Draft Strategic Plan	The draft Strategic Plan had been circulated to the committee for comment but no comments had been received. The committee agreed to look over the Strategic Plan again and send any comments to the Principal within a week.	31.8.21	L & T	Ongoing
	2020 Conference Declaration of Arbroath/Future Newbattle Conversations	<p>A successful online 2020 Declaration of Arbroath Conference took place.</p> <p>Terry Brotherstone had requested that the Board consider another Newbattle Conversations Event or a paper linked to the Declaration of Arbroath Conference. The Principal advised that the priority for this year would be the centenary of the birth of George Mackay Brown. The college will be hosting an event along with the Storytelling Centre. The event will be linked to the curriculum.</p>	31.8.21	MD	Complete
			October 2021	MD	Information
FOR DISCUSSION					
4.	2020/2021 Retention (Paper 2)	<p>The Curriculum Manager spoke to the Retention Paper and the following was noted:</p> <p>Overall attainment broadly comparable to previous years and figures have not been significantly affected by the pandemic. At present, sector-wide data is not available.</p>	31.8.21	PL	Information

		<p>Student feedback indicated that 95% of students responding to the year-end study survey agreed or strongly agreed that the programme studied met their original aims and facilitated progression to an intended route.</p> <p>All students who registered for SWAP progression achieved a grade profile required for their first choice of HE destination. Again, this year saw progression to a wide range of HE programmes across the university sector demonstrating the value and credibility of the college's programmes.</p> <p>The committee congratulated the Curriculum Manager and his team on a set of good figures. The committee looks forward to receiving the sector figures when they are available.</p>			
5.	Curriculum Update	<p>The Depute Principal spoke to the Curriculum Update and the following was noted:</p> <p>Forest College The Forest College Coordinator has had an extremely productive few months since the lifting of some COVID restrictions. This has included:</p> <p>Forest and Outdoor Learning Awards (FOLAs) - 22 completed Between April and August there were 7 FOLA courses delivered: FOLA level 8 x 10 participants FOLA level 6 x 2 teachers at Dalkeith High School. A new approach to delivery with a combination of on-the-job training with an S3 group and twilight training sessions. FOLA level 4 Dalkeith High School S3 participants FOLA level 4 Unpaid Work Team. 5 successful participants applied to Newbattle and were offered places on Rural Skills and SWAP Arts and Social Sciences. FOLA level 4 Health in Mind for 18-24 year-olds FOLA level 4 Community Mental Health for 18-24 year-olds FOLA level 2 P7 Transition programme for Dalkeith High School - the</p>	31.8.21	LA	Information

youngest participants in Scotland to do this award.

Approved Assessment Centres (ACCs) - 12 in total

Four new centres have been added this year and an additional one is currently in process:

Queen Margaret University

North East Scotland Outdoor Learning Group (NESOLG)

Forest School Training Collaborative (FSTC)

SRUC

Rossie Trust

Wildside Adventures

The Ecology Centre

Newbattle Abbey College

Cyrenians Farm

Beath High School

Outlet Play Resource

Midlothian Forest School

The appointment of our new Community Woodland Ranger will support the developments within the Forest College and strengthen quality assurance processes.

Various courses in traditional crafts, mental health & well-being over the summer months. Further programmes are scheduled for next session.

Wisconsin River Falls are interested in incorporating the outdoor learning components from the FOLAs within their programme when they take up residency next year.

Gaelic

The Early Years Practitioners' Gaelic Language Programme (2019-2021) had an in-college session on Saturday 8 May. Their final in-college session takes place on Saturday 28 August, followed by an immersion week at Ceòlas in South Uist, week beginning Monday 13 September 2021.

The SWAP (Celtic Studies) students enjoyed a Gaelic language immersion experience during a residential visit to SMO in June 2021.

The first online Gaelic language programme for beginners and post-beginners, including college students, the Midlothian community, and learners in the central belt has taken place.

Adult Achievement Awards

The assessment and verification of learners' work has continued over the summer period. There have been three new enquiries over the summer from organisations.

There are now 17 AAA partner organisations throughout Scotland. Quality Assurance processes are currently being reviewed to enable organisations to identify their own Internal Verifier, where appropriate.

Adult Guidance

The Adult Learning Strategic Forum Scotland is drafting an Adult Learning Strategy for Scotland, in which adult guidance is a key component. Newbattle Abbey College is part of the Working Group for this strategy and remain key members of the Forum, actively involved in contributing to the final version of the strategy.

Partnerships

In partnership with the Workers Education Association (WEA) Scotland, the college has submitted a proposal to SFC to co-deliver the Preparation for Further Education (SCQF level 4) in selected areas throughout Scotland. This would provide a new pathway to college from some of Scotland's most disadvantaged communities and enable us to extend our geographical reach. A decision on this funding is due on 23 August 2021.

The following new courses are being explored with partners: HNC

		<p>Course (Childhood Practice with Outdoor Learning) in partnership with QMU (leading to an Early Years degree course at QMU); HNC Course (Working with Communities) in partnership with the University of Edinburgh (leading to the new MA Learning in Communities).</p> <p>In partnership with Gorebridge Community Cares, Newbattle is finalising an application to the Young Person's Guarantee Employability Fund. This will incorporate an Elementary Food Hygiene certificate, practical experience in the kitchen, AAA awards, digital skills development, personal development, and outdoor learning to promote wellbeing. Outcome of the application is due the end of September 2021.</p> <p>In partnership with The Scottish Storytelling Centre, Newbattle is celebrating the centenary of the birth of George Mackay Brown in October. The programme will include storytelling sessions and presentations in college and will be open to students, staff and the general public.</p> <p>Contact has been made with MCR Pathways. They are interested in courses to help improve outcomes of senior phase pupils.</p> <p>The committee considered whether a politician should be invited to open the Outdoor Classroom or Unit 1G.</p>			
	2021/2022 Recruitment (Paper 3)	<p>The committee noted a three-year comparison on recruitment. Figures are looking much the same. Interviews will continue throughout September 2021.</p> <p>It was noted that figures are down for the HNC Course.</p> <p>The college will commence recruitment for the Prep for FE Course which starts January 2022.</p>	31.8.21	L & T	Information
6.	Arrangements for start of session	<p>The Principal gave an update on arrangements for the start of session. It was agreed that the college would:</p>	31.8.21	MD	Information

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with the health and safety arrangements agreed for last session, with amendments reflecting Scottish Government guidance issued on 10 August 2021. • Request that staff and students adhere to 1 metre physical distancing in all areas of the college. • Follow Scottish Government guidance re the use of face coverings throughout the building. • Adjust class timetables to enable a maximum of 20 students to be taught in classes in the main building/externally - these groups will operate separately. • Increase ventilation in all teaching areas, communal areas and office spaces. • Maintain 2020-2021 arrangements for the dining room, including staggered student lunches. • Arrange en suite facilities for all residential students. • Update signage in the main building and residency. • Encourage students and staff to receive vaccinations and take regular lateral flow tests, as per Scottish Government guidance. • Continue to operate staff rotas to enable working from home, where feasible • Re-convene the Covid Working Group to review the implementation of revised health and safety arrangements 			
FOR INFORMATION					
7.	Staffing update	<p>The following posts were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Community Woodland Ranger has been appointed and will assist with the FOLAs. • A temporary Lecturer has been appointed for maternity cover. • The college is recruiting for a Sfl Assistant. 	31.8.21	LA	Information
8.	AOCB	There will be no Christmas at Newbattle this year.	31.8.21	MD	Information
9.	Date of Next Meeting	Wednesday, 10 November 2021, 2pm - 4pm.	10.11.21	L & T	Information

