

EASTBOURNE
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BOARD OF GOVERNORS BRIEFING

EAST SUSSEX COLLEGE GROUP

Welcome to the first East Sussex College Group (ESCG) Board Briefing.

The College's governing body is known as the East Sussex College Group Board. We have legal responsibility for the College Group. Our role is a strategic one, and governors do not involve themselves in the day-to-day management of the college group. This is undertaken by the Acting CEO and her Executive Team.

The Board met on 31 March 2020, and as you can imagine, much of our agenda was dominated by scrutinising the College's response to the current CoVid 19 crisis.

The Board heard from the Acting CEO about how our most vulnerable learners are being kept safe, including those with safeguarding needs and special educational needs and disability.

We received a copy of the Academic Business Continuity Plan. We noted how students are being supported to mirror their college schedule at home. It was reassuring to hear how levels of engagement and support to disadvantaged learners are being monitored.

The Board was provided with details of the support available to staff to help them to look after their health and wellbeing during this time. Our Staff Governors spoke highly of College communications.

The Board was impressed by the College's support for community action. You can read more about this [here](#).

The Board approved a request for the Acting CEO to be temporarily able to have the flexibility to nominate members of her senior team for accountabilities that might not be in their regular portfolio. This is in case of any sickness and isolation, which might require the shifting of responsibilities to ensure proper coverage.

Moving briefly away from CoVid 19. The Chair updated on a range of welcomed supports being

accessed by the Board and Executive Team to support the College on its recovery journey.

The Acting CEO and the Chief Finance Officer (CFO's) shared with the Board early analysis of the financial risks and related considerations about CoVid 19. The Board noted that the current operational situation is placing the College under some financial strain. The CFO's request to have a conversation with the funding agency and the College Banking to explore potential additional cash facilities was approved.

The Director of Governance asked for Board approval on the process to recruit new Governors to replace those exiting this year. Expressions of interest have been received from a range of excellent candidates across East Sussex, and they will be invited for interviews later this month. A new committee structure was approved by the Board, and this will take effect after the Easter holidays. Further details will be available on the [ESCG Governance webpages](#).

The Board also approved the creation of a Short Term Board Focus Group. This group will oversee the College business, discuss any matters for urgent consideration and ensure that Governors are kept informed during the 'crisis period'. The group will not be able to decide on any issues delegated to the CEO, or powers and duties reserved by the Board as defined in the [ESCG Scheme of Delegation](#).

It was also agreed for a Strategic Plan Steering Group to be established. This group will consist of the Chair, Vice-Chairs, the Acting CEO and the Director of Governance, to oversee the refresh of the College's Strategic Plan.

The Board agreed proposals put forward by the Interim Director of HR to re-schedule the recruitment to a permanent CEO position in light of the current CoVid 19 crisis.

The meeting ended by thanking two Governors who have come to the ends of their terms of office, after serving a combined 16 years. They were thanked for their commitment and service to the Board.

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