

EASTBOURNE
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BOARD OF GOVERNORS BRIEFING

EAST SUSSEX COLLEGE GROUP



EAST SUSSEX COLLEGE GROUP BOARD OF GOVERNORS BRIEFING JULY

Welcome to the 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, and our role is to give strategic oversight to the College. Governors do not involve themselves in the day-to-day management of the college. Those responsibilities are fulfilled, currently, by the Acting CEO and her Executive Team. If you haven't already, you can read all about the Governors [here](#).

In recent months the Board has undergone a much-needed transformation. The Board performance baseline is currently self-assessed as 'requires improvement' with a plan in place to reach an ambition to be 'outstanding'. After a multi-channel recruitment drive, five new independent governors have joined the Board and a number of specialists have been co-opted to committees. The new governors change the gender balance and age profile significantly and bring a variety of relevant skills sets to the Board. Refreshed Terms of Reference can be read [here](#).

The Board met on 8 July 2020. The meeting opened with an update from the Acting CEO on post-lockdown plans to re-open the College in September 2020 and the support being provided to keep new and existing learners safe.

Ofsted has announced a phased return to inspection, starting with a phase of monitoring visits during the autumn term with the intention to resume full inspections from January 2021. The Acting CEO described plans to strengthen quality assurance processes ahead of an inspection. The Board will be providing increased scrutiny to ensure the College is well prepared.

Dan Shelley, Executive Director, Strategic Partnerships and Engagement, updated the Board on the new curriculum planning process enacted for 2020/21. The Board were presented with a blueprint of the offer. They were assured that every student at every level would receive the same breadth and balance of programme, regardless of the campus they attend. The Board were keen to hear more about the additional adult learning offers, as well as planning for T-Levels.

The budget for 2020-21 was discussed and approved. The Chair of the Finance Committee advised the budget was a statement of best projections at that moment in time, and that his Committee was content with the assumptions. College finances continue to cause concern for the Board. The Board requires further assurance that systems and processes behind the College management accounts are robust. The College is forecast to deliver a total income of £48.5m compared to a pre-Covid19 budget of £50.4m.

The annual safeguarding and Prevent report was discussed, and an increased number of students suffering from depression, anxiety, panic attacks and self-harm was noted. College arrangements to support the safeguarding and promotion of the wellbeing of those students were discussed.

The meeting ended with an update from the three local College Boards. You can read more [here](#).

The Board next meets on 21 October 2020.

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