

**This is Ashton Sixth Form College's response to the Higher Education Review by the QAA in October 2014.**

**This response outlines how we will take forward the good practice that was recognised by QAA and how we will respond to the recommendations.**

**This response will be subject to regular monitoring and review.**

**To read the report in full please click on the link below:-**

**<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/ReviewsAndReports/Documents/Ashton%20Sixth%20Form%20College/Ashton-Sixth-Form-College-HER-14.pdf>**

**The College underwent a QAA Higher Education Review in October 2014. The outcomes of the visit were positive and the following judgements were made:**

- **The maintenance of the academic standards of awards offered on behalf of the degree-awarding bodies **meets UK expectations.****
- **The quality of student learning opportunities **meets UK expectations.****
- **The quality of the information about learning opportunities **meets UK expectations.****
- **The enhancement of student learning opportunities **meets UK expectations.****

**The actions summarised here all feed into the detailed annual review document called the – “Self Evaluation and Quality Improvement and Enhancement Plan”. Copies of this can be made available upon request. The actions outlined below are those that relate specifically to the QAA report and outcomes. The “Self Evaluation and Quality Improvement and Enhancement Plan” is a far more detailed and comprehensive annual cycle of planning and review.**

| <b>Recommendations by HER</b>  | <b>Action</b>  | <b>Deadline</b>   | <b>Progress</b>      | <b>Action by</b> | <b>Date Completed</b> |
|--|--|---|----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Publish Action Plan March 2015   | Publish Action Plan on the College website in March 2015   | 20.3.15   | Completed March 2015 | MO               | 20.3.15               |
| Develop the committee responsible for higher education to include regular monitoring of the Enhancement Strategy (Enhancement).                | Revise the meeting schedule for the HE and Skills Quality Group including the Terms of Reference.<br>Create a sub group to the above to focus on HE Enhancement. | April 2015  |                      |                  |                       |
| Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the recruitment, scope and participation of HE Student Ambassadors (Expectation B5 and Enhancement). | End of Year Review with Ambassadors in June 2015 to inform plans for 15/16.  | October 2015 (to be carried into 15/16 action planning) |                      |                  |                       |

| <b>Affirmations</b>  | <b>Action</b>   | <b>Deadline</b> | <b>Progress</b>      | <b>Action by</b>         | <b>Date Completed</b> |
|--|---|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| QAA affirms the actions being taken to improve the accessibility of information available to students on the virtual learning environments (VLEs) (Expectations B3, B4 and C). | Cross college review of e-platforms as part of ILT Strategy. VP Finance Resources to confirm Strategy with Governors by April 2015. | April 2015      | Completed March 2015 | VP Finance and Resources | March 2015            |

|  |   |   |                 |                  |                      |
|--|---|---|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|
|  | <p>E Learning Technologies Manager to propose suitable e-platforms for 15/16.</p> <p>Existing moodle use to be supported by IT Technician team to ensure student access.</p> <p>Heads to communicate with University partners about Blackboard access issues where applicable. In college alternatives to be arranged where required.</p> | <p>June 2015</p> <p>Ongoing with monitoring added to Quality and Enhancement group agendas.</p> <p>As required.</p> |                 |                  |                      |
| <p>QAA affirms the steps being taken to fully disseminate and implement the strategic approach to enhancement (Enhancement).</p> | <p>Enhancement update training to be delivered at the February 2015 HE Staff Development Day.</p> <p>Enhancement themes focus at June HE Staff Development Day – feeding into 15/16 Self Evaluation and Quality Improvement and Enhancement Plans.</p>  | <p>February 2015</p> <p>June 2015</p>   | <p>Complete</p> | <p>AP for HE</p> | <p>February 2015</p> |

| Good Practice   | Action   | Deadline   | Progress                  | Action by    | Date Completed    |
|---|--|--|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| <p>Academic staff are highly qualified and are actively encouraged and supported to pursue a comprehensive range of continuing professional development activities (Expectations B3, B4 and Enhancement).</p> | <p>Continue to strengthen the CPD and Scholarly Activity opportunities for HE staff to create a distinct offer for members of the HE team.</p> | <p>Ongoing.<br/>Review as part of annual cycle of review – Self Evaluation and Quality Improvement and Enhancement Plan.</p> |                           |              |                   |
|   | <p>Support HE staff with HEA applications.</p>   | <p>June 15</p>   |                           |              |                   |
|   | <p>3 days per year set aside for HE Staff Development and Scholarly Activity sessions.</p>   | <p>Sept/Feb/June</p>   |                           |              |                   |
|   | <p>New HE Review of Learning March-April 2015. Action Plan research on this and dissemination June 15.</p>                                     | <p>April 2015<br/><br/>June 2015</p>   | <p>March 15 completed</p> | <p>AP HE</p> | <p>March 2015</p> |
|   | <p>Education/Early Childhood Conference April 2016 (inviting GM HE in FE colleagues)</p>   | <p>April 2016 (but promote from June 15)</p>   |                           |              |                   |

|  |  |  |   |              |                      |
|--|--|--|---|--------------|----------------------|
|  |  |  |   |              |                      |
| <p>The comprehensive and high-quality support given to students from initial enquiry through to graduation (Expectations B2, B4, B10 and Enhancement).</p> | <p>Continue to strengthen the service and support for HE students.</p> <p>Matrix award renewal</p> <p>Review staffing structure in Admissions to remain fit for purpose</p> <p>Review "Student Journey" – admission, ALS, support points in year/ resources/pastoral / employability</p> | <p>June 2015</p> <p>February 2015</p> <p>June 2015</p> | <p>Additional appointment approved to introduce for September 2015. Member of team re graded to officer grade March 15.</p> | <p>AP HE</p> | <p>February 2015</p> |