



ACADEMY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Monday 6th October 2025

Time: 5.45pm

Venue: Laurus Ryecroft

Clerk: N Burgess

Present: L Casey, N Backhouse, S Marsden, N Alexander, R Carling, J Crawford, H Rizvi, A Maugham (Observer) and J Lancaster for part of the meeting

| No. | Action | Initials |
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| 1 | Governors are asked to inform the Clerk if there are any changes to their Register of Business interests | All |
| 1 | Student Associate Governors to be appointed for the next meeting | RC |
| 2 | Thanks to be passed to all staff for the student outcomes | RC |
| 4 | Clerk to circulate training links | NB |
| 4 | Governors to send their training certificates to the Clerk | All |
| 5 | Governors are invited to the opening of the 3G pitch | All |

Agenda – Part 1

| Category | Item | Notes | Action |
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| 1 | Governance Arrangements | <p>J Lancaster attended to present a safeguarding update to Governors.</p> <p>The training was a summary based on that delivered to staff at the school at the September INSET. Workshops had taken place on building relationships, reporting concerns, counselling and referrals and open dialogue with staff, parents/carers and students. The training also included how to use and report on CPOMs and was reactive to events which had taken place over the summer.</p> <p>Governors were pleased to note that 95% of students felt there was an adult in school they would feel safe to report to.</p> <p>Staff wellbeing is also a big priority as it is important to safeguard staff too. Governors were shown the HR information and guidance available to all staff.</p> <p>JL commented that discussing topics which may feel a</p> | |

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| | | | <p>little uncomfortable was an important part of safeguarding.</p> <p>There had been some uncertainty around the issue of flags in the community. It was important to address from a child centred point of view and to prepare staff to have the conversations with students. It was discussed of when there is a need to intervene. It is ok to have different views, but any challenge has to be done sensitively.</p> <p>Staff training had been done on reporting on CPOMS, and staff knew the importance of recording incidents and concerns. Reporting allows leaders to monitor concerns and to analyse categories of reporting. It was also noted that it was important to ensure that new staff received the training to ensure they were aware of how to report.</p> <p>Q – Can reporting be done by all staff? A – Yes, all staff in school. Training was done for all to ensure they know how to report. We work on the basis of “it could happen here”. As part of the training, we stress the importance of reporting, and even if something may seem like a small piece of information, it helps to build an overall picture.</p> <p>We also communicate to our staff that if a safeguarding concern arises towards the end of the school day they should immediately speak to a member of the safeguarding team as there may be action which needs to be taken before the student leaves school.</p> <p>Governors were informed that in addition to the DSL and DDSL all Heads of Year had undertaken DSL training.</p> <p>SFP (School Focussed Plan) for students were discussed. The SFP are a good reminder to teachers of individual support needs for the student. The SFP is a live document which is used and updated ongoing. Teachers change their practice for the students, in accordance with their SFP, and this can have a big impact.</p> <p>Governors were pleased to note that there had been training and guidance provided to staff on the issue of flags in the community, and that staff had been given the confidence to have the conversations. It was agreed that this would be an issued which would be revisited with staff as more guidance emerges.</p> | |
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| | | <p>Q – There can be a high number of concerns reported each day. Are you confident staff are doing throughout the day, rather than at the end of the day?</p> <p>A – Reporting is normally done throughout the day as some does need reporting in the moment. We have spoken to staff to reiterate, in training and in briefing, and have shared examples of good practice.</p> <p>Governors had no further questions and offered their thanks to JL for the comprehensive presentation.</p> | |
| | Apologies | Apologies were received and accepted from L Broadbent and A Lowe. | |
| | AOB items | There were no other items of business which were not covered in the agenda for this meeting. | |
| | Declarations of interest | There were no declarations of interest made in any of the agenda items. | |
| | Register of interests | Governors are asked to inform the Clerk if there are any changes to their business interests recorded. | All |
| | Code of Conduct | The Code of Conduct was included in the documents circulated prior to the meeting and Governors confirmed they were happy to adhere to. | |
| | Part 1 Minutes | The minutes of the meeting held 16 th June 2025 were <u>approved</u> as a correct record of the meeting and there were no matters arising. | |
| | Membership: Recruitment Update/Succession Planning | <p>Sixth Form Associate Governors were discussed to join the Academy Committee. The students would attend the meetings but would not be able to vote on issues.</p> <p>It was agreed that Student Associate Governors would be appointed for the next meeting.</p> | RC |
| | Scheme of Delegation | Governors received the Scheme of Delegation for 2025 -2026 and there were no material changes to note. | |
| | Trust Board Update | <p>Governors received the Trust Board reports for their May 2025 and July 2025 meetings and had no further questions.</p> <p>It was noted that L Magrath CEO would be retiring in Summer 2026 and that M Vevers had been appointed as CEO for September 2026.</p> | |

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| 2 | School Performance & Accountability | <p>Review Head of School report including:</p> <p>Pupil outcomes</p> <p>Review educational achievement of LAC/PLAC</p> | <p><u>Outcomes</u></p> <p>Governors reviewed the student outcomes for GCSE and A Level. This was the third set of GCSE results for the school and the first A Level results.</p> <p>RC commented that he was very pleased with the results for this Y11 cohort. There had been a couple of issues in stability for the year group as their HOY had left in January 2025.</p> <p>Re-remarks were discussed and the outcomes of the re-remarks. In particular there had been a significant number of grade increases in A Level Psychology.</p> <p>There have also been some good individual department results. Computer Science had done very well with 50% of grades being 7+ and an average of grade 6. Engineering average grade was 6.2. Leaders were very pleased with results across the board.</p> <p>RC reported that the current year 11 were working well. 80 students had stayed after school on Friday to do work across a number of subjects. The next steps for the year group were discussed. It was noted it was vital to ensure the Prom Passport was launched at the correct time. Students are already aware of the impact of extra classes and reward incentives.</p> <p>Meetings had taken place with all Subject Leaders, with LM and MV in attendance, to review outcomes and to see lessons learnt and what would happen moving forward.</p> <p>At Parents Evenings RC will be speaking to parents/carers about attendance, and the importance of the link between attendance and outcomes.</p> <p>The thematic goal is to achieve the best results possible and to work towards this work is being done to review KASH, Attendance, HOY input regarding behaviour and Prom Passport. All areas will be reviewed to ensure the best possible outcomes for the students.</p> <p>The Professional Learning calendar for staff will be included in the Head of School Report for Governors information. PL is to drive attainment.</p> <p>Governors were also pleased to note the Y9 Spanish GCSE results. Following on from these results there will be a focus on increasing the uptake of MFL at KS5.</p> | |
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| | | | <p>KS5 results were discussed. The results were pleasing, and the growth of the Sixth Form is a priority. The best evidence is the destinations data for the students. Governors reviewed impressive destinations list. RC confirmed the school looked forward to hearing from the students again in the future.</p> <p><u>Professional Learning</u> SLT are ARC book leaders for this academic year. There are 7 book groups with a focus on teaching and learning. Staff review the book together and then implement some of the strategies in their lessons and feedback to the group. The first ARC session is taking place in the week of this meeting.</p> <p><u>Attendance</u> The last academic year had ended with attendance just below 93%. The DfE report published on 21 similar schools had rated LR 1st with no targets to improve given.</p> <p>The importance of attendance was discussed, and the link to outcomes, belonging and connectedness.</p> <p>Q – There were 2 students not attending, is this still the case? A – The students are now being educated other than in school.</p> <p>It was discussed the attendance of SEND students is 87%, which is high when you consider the individual needs of some of the students. Student numbers with EHCP are increasing and the difficulty in meeting the needs of some of the students was discussed. It was noted the school was doing the best they could for the students, and was working closely with the LA to ensure the students are in the right provision for them.</p> <p>Q – In terms of the 3.5% unauthorised absence, is this the same students? A – Yes, there are some who report daily to RC. Currently in this week, week 6 of the academic year, there are 8 students who are on holiday.</p> <p>Q – Is this 5-10 days of holiday or longer? A – Generally they are not long-term holidays.</p> <p>RC commented that poor attendance is a definite barrier to outcomes, and that work is ongoing to break down the barriers.</p> | |
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| | | <p>Q – Of the 18.7% PA is this the same group? A – Yes, this is possibly the same group. They arrive at 11am after being collected by the Attendance Officer. It is worth noting that this figure is below national average. Home visits and their impact was discussed. There have been some successes with the visits and they are a vital aspect of safeguarding.</p> <p>RC acknowledged that whilst 93% attendance was good the school would keep striving to improve.</p> <p>Q – Do we have more SEND students than other Trust schools? A – We do have more than some of our schools, but we are not the highest for some year groups.</p> <p><u>LAC/PLAC update</u> Governors discussed the outcomes for the LAC/PLAC students in school, and the individual outcomes.</p> <p>Governors wished to pass on their congratulations to the staff for outcomes achieved by the students.</p> | RC |
| | Share School Development Plan priorities | <p>The updated SDP was circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>RC detailed the 5 themes of the plan for Governors. The thematic goal for the school is outcomes.</p> <p>Priority themes are Outcomes, Attendance, Professional Learning, Literacy and SEND support.</p> <p>Governors agreed the themes were exactly the right focus for the school and looked forward to reviewing progress throughout the year.</p> | |
| | Confirm School Curricula and Assessment in line with Trust approach | R Carling, as Head of School, confirmed the school curricula and assessment is in line with the Trust approach. | |

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| 3 | Governor Monitoring | Finance update including pupil numbers, benchmarking and value for money | Finances are in a better position, and RC offered thanks to ST, Trust Finance Director, for her support and work ongoing. Thanks, were also offered to NA and the team for following up on SEND funding. | |
| | | Ensure curriculum policies are in line with statutory guidance | RC confirmed, as Head of School, that the school curriculum policies are in line with statutory guidance. | |
| | | Policy – undertake school level reviews of relevant policies | There were no policies for approval at this meeting. | |
| | | Safeguarding and SEND Link Governor updates | Safeguarding and SEND link updates will be given at the next meeting. | |
| 4 | Governor Development | Review Trust Training Plan | There are four mandatory training modules for completion. The Clerk will circulate individual training reminders. | NB |
| | | Clerk to minute any training undertaken by Governors since the last meeting | Governors are reminded to send their training certificates to the Clerk for retention. | All |
| | | Academy Trust Handbook | The Academy Trust Handbook was circulated prior to the meeting for Governor’s information. | |
| 5 | Community Engagement | Stakeholder Engagement | The 3G pitch at Laurus Ryecroft will be officially opened on 5 th November and Governors are invited to attend. | All |

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| | AOB | | There were no other items of business to raise. | |
| | Meeting Dates: | Meeting dates | Monday 26 th January 2026 at 5.45pm Monday 8 th June 2026 at 5.45pm | |

| Impact of Meeting / Key Outcomes | |
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| Governors received a Safeguarding presentation | |
| Sixth Form Associate Governors will be appointed to the Academy Committee | |
| Trust Board reports from May 2025 and July 2025 were reviewed | |
| Governors noted the retirement of the CEO and that M Vevers had been appointed as CEO from September 2026 | |
| Head of School report was reviewed including; Outcomes, Professional Learning, Attendance and PLAC/LAC update | |
| School Development Plan priorities for the year were reviewed | |
| Governors received a finance update and reviewed the Management Accounts for July 2025 | |

Meeting closed at 7.15pm



J Crawford
Chair of Academy Committee
26.01.2026