



ACADEMY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Monday 20th January 2025

Time: 5.45pm

Venue: Laurus Ryecroft

Clerk: N Burgess

Present: M Vevers, J Crawford, V Marin-Roman, L Casey, N Backhouse, A Lowe, L Broadbent (via Teams) and S Bridge (for part of the meeting)

No.	Action	Initials
1	To enquire on funding and availability of speakers around violence reduction education	LC
1	To update on the outcome of Oxbridge pending applications	SB
1	Report any changes in register of business interests to the Clerk	All
1	Update on S Marsden return to the Academy Committee	JC
4	Governors to complete the mandatory training modules as soon as possible	All
4	Governors to send their training certificates to the Clerk for retention	All
5	Update on link with school in China	RC

Agenda – Part 1				
Category	Item	Notes		Action
1	Governance Arrangements	Training	<p>R Carling presented to Governors on Safeguarding at Laurus Ryecroft.</p> <p>Prior to the meeting safeguarding documents, which had been part of the staff training, were circulated to Governors. This includes the updates to KCSiE 2024.</p> <p>Governors were informed of the training which takes place in school, and that some of the training is planned around emerging issues. Safeguarding training is attended by all staff in school.</p> <p>Safeguarding is a number one priority in school, assemblies are held to deliver a consistent message to all students on all aspects of safeguarding.</p> <p>It was noted that Police educational videos are a powerful source to be shared with students.</p>	

		<p>Q – Have you had any violence reduction information funding or talks given to students?</p> <p>A – None at present.</p> <p>LC agreed to enquire on behalf of the school and refer back to at a future meeting.</p> <p>It was noted that the DSL in school had delivered a workshop to staff on Misogyny and that staff are aware to challenge students on their behaviour.</p>	LC
	Sixth Form update	<p>S Bridge was welcomed to the meeting.</p> <p>SB updated on the current number of students in years 12 and 13. It is anticipated that from September 2025 there will be a higher number of students enrolling as the first two year groups were from smaller cohorts, due to the school opening in temporary accommodation.</p> <p>Work is being done with the Trust Marketing team to reflect the aspirational offer. SB has also visited all other local schools in the area.</p> <p>August 2025 will be the first set of A Level results for Laurus Ryecroft. Projected outcomes for the students were detailed to Governors, and it is felt that these are realistic staff projections. Once the school has a validated set of results this will be a good marketing tool for future recruitment to the Sixth Form.</p> <p>Governors were pleased to note the launch of the Manchester City Academic Football Pathway at Laurus Ryecroft. This is a very exciting partnership and applications are currently in process.</p> <p>Q – What is the entry criteria?</p> <p>A – Grade 6 in English and Maths, and grade 7 in subject specific. It is a highly academic pathway and we carefully advise our students of their best offer.</p> <p>Year 12 widening participation/super curricular data was discussed by Governors. Students are already considering what they wish to do in the future, including university or Degree Apprenticeships.</p> <p>It was noted that the process to apply for Degree Apprenticeships was rigorous and, in some cases, included an application, a phone interview and an in-person interview.</p> <p>Q – Of the one student recorded as employment what</p>	

		<p>is this role? A – The student will be joining the Fire Service.</p> <p>Governors were pleased to note that 16% of students had applied to Oxbridge, this was against a national average of 6%. It was discussed how well the students had done as it could be very difficult to be granted an interview. The school has sought feedback for students who were either not offered a place, or who did not receive an interview.</p> <p>It was noted that one student at Laurus Ryecroft had been ranked in the top 5% score for the UKAT medical examination.</p> <p>SB agreed to update Governors further on the outcomes of the pending interviews and offers.</p> <p>Q – In terms of postcode data, if the results come to fruition will they be the best in the area? A – Yes, and the results and interest will improve as we grow ongoing. We are planning a big marketing campaign following results day.</p> <p>Q – Have you spoken to the external students about why they chose our Sixth Form? A – Yes, we have quotes from the students. We always knew the Sixth Form would take time to establish. Although we have a lesser number of applications than some, we have a better conversion rate.</p>	SB
	Apologies	Apologies were received and accepted from H Rizvi.	
	AOB items	There were no other items of business not covered in the agenda for this meeting.	
	Declarations of interest in any of the agenda items	There were no declarations of interest made in any of the agenda items.	
	Register of interests	The Clerk circulated the register of business interests and Governors are requested to check and update their record if necessary.	All
	Part 1 Minutes	The minutes of the meeting held 17 th June 2024 were <u>approved</u> as a correct record of the meeting and there were no matters arising.	
	Membership: Recruitment Update/Succes	It was noted that S Marsden will be returning to the UK and has expressed a wish to re-join the Academy Committee. JC will meet and update at a future	JC

		sion Planning	meeting.	
		Scheme of Delegation	<p>The Scheme of Delegation was circulated prior to the meeting and there were no material changes to note. The SoD defines the accountability of the AC.</p> <p>Governors had no further questions.</p>	
		Trust Board Update	Governors reviewed the reports for the Trust Board meetings in October 2024 and December 2024 and had no further questions.	

2	School Performance & Accountability	Head of School report	<p>Mock results for years 9 and 11 were discussed. It was noted that year 11 are needing more encouragement to attend intervention sessions.</p> <p>It was also noted that there are a number of students in year 9 with an EHCP, and that not all of these students are able to access their MFL GCSE in year 9.</p> <p>Governors reviewed the year 11 mock results, and noted that there would be additional mocks held in March for Maths and English.</p> <p>Interventions for identified students will be compulsory from the week following this meeting. There will also be SLT meetings with parents at the forthcoming parents evening. Meetings will include discussions on attendance, preparation, Power Hour attendance, and Sixth Form eligibility.</p> <p>Attendance was discussed at length. Attendance is a DfE priority nationally. Attendance at Laurus Ryecroft is currently tracking at 93.4% against national average of 92%.</p> <p>Laurus Ryecroft and Laurus Cheadle Hulme are leading on attendance across the Trust. A focus group has been set up and one of the implementations has been attendance days, where a slide on attendance is shown to students at the start of every lesson in the day, which means they receive the key message 6 times throughout the day. This is proving a worthwhile exercise to complete. Leaders acknowledge attendance is a concern in some year groups and that work is being done with students. Leaders are working hard to continually drive forward to improve attendance.</p> <p>Q – How many school refusers do you have? A – We have 5 in total. For 2 of these students, from next week, they will be in an alternative provision which is right for them.</p> <p>Q – Looking at the predictions for Science results, the data shows 60% will achieve a grade 4 or higher. Does this mean that 40% will not pass? A – No, the figures are shown differently due to some students sitting combined science, and some students studying triple science.</p> <p>Q – In terms of interventions, do parents know how important this is? A – It is a difficult balance between offering too much</p>	
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			and letting them know the offer which is available to support the students. The vast majority know that Power Hour is there to help students. School need to be clear on intervention, which is compulsory, and Power Hour, which is an additional offer. Parents need clarity in the difference between the two.	
3	Monitoring	<p>Finance update including pupil numbers, benchmarking and value for money</p> <p>It was noted the difficult financial situation in schools at present.</p> <p>Governors were informed of the unfunded 2.8% pay award offer for teachers, which must be funded by schools from efficiency savings. There is also the national insurance increase to consider. Leaders are working hard to find efficiency savings where possible. This could result in increasing class sizes in some year groups, and also not recruiting on a like for like basis.</p> <p>It was noted that it was a difficult situation and there was a need to be as efficient as possible with the financial planning.</p> <p>Q – In terms of class sizes, what does this look like? A – For example in most schools there are 8 groups in KS3 and in KS4 the number of groups increase, but this may not always be possible.</p> <p>Q – What is the maximum class size? A – There isn't one. Our PAN is 210, but one year group has 224 students. Currently there are 8 groups per year group, averaging 26 or 27 students.</p> <p>Q – What about classroom sizes? A – 32 is the maximum we could accommodate.</p> <p>All schools are experiencing the same issues.</p> <p>In addition, Trade Unions are seeking member views on the proposed 2.8% pay award and may possibly ballot for industrial action.</p>	<p>Governors <u>approved</u> the following policies:</p> <p>Safeguarding Policy</p> <p>Attendance Policy</p>	
		Policy – undertake school level reviews of relevant policies		

		Safeguarding and SEND Link Governor updates	Safeguarding Governor AL confirmed he had visited the DSL in school and reviewed the SCR and that all was up to date. There will be a further meeting in this current term.	
		School Risk Register	<p>Governors reviewed the School Risk Register which had been circulated prior to the meeting</p> <p>It was noted that finances were the biggest risk at present. Staff costs are a concern with the pay awards and also national insurance increases.</p> <p>There has been an increase in cyber-attacks worldwide and staff training has been implemented to mitigate such an attack.</p> <p>Recruitment is also a risk due to a national shortage of teachers, this could start to be a much bigger issue for the future.</p>	
		Monitor Pupil Premium spending to ensure it improves the attainment of eligible students	<p>Governors reviewed the Pupil Premium document which is published on the school website.</p> <p>In the current year 11 there are 29% PP and in year 7 35%. These are the school highest numbers to date.</p> <p>It was noted that people are more in need of support than ever before. The budget includes being used to assist parents in funding uniform, theatre trips for year 11 as part of their studies, and also for revision guides. All requests are carefully considered on an individual basis.</p> <p>Governors had no further questions.</p> <p>Governors noted that S Marsden, on return to the AC, had expressed an interest in being the nominated Governor for Pupil Premium.</p>	
4	Governor Development	Review Trust Training Plan	<p>Governors were asked to complete the compulsory modules as soon as possible.</p> <p>The Clerk will send out a reminder of the modules for completion.</p>	NB

		Clerk to minute any training undertaken by Governors since the last meeting	Governors are asked to send their certificates to the Clerk for retention.	All
5	Community Engagement	Stakeholder Engagement	<p>Work is being done to broaden the offer of community work, as part of the Leadership and Service Cornerstone.</p> <p>Bag packs have been carried out in a local supermarket, and work is being done in conjunction with a Foodbank. There was also some community work completed at Daisy Nook.</p> <p>It was noted the school has good links established with local care homes, and these experiences are enlightening for the students.</p> <p>The school is currently in the process of establishing a link with a school in China. This would be a long-term connection, where students would meet online every few weeks. A further update will be given at the next meeting of this committee.</p>	RC
	AOB		<p>Governors were invited to the school production of Chicago, which would be taking place in March.</p> <p>JC offered apologies to the next meeting.</p>	
	Meeting Dates:	Meeting dates for 2024-2025	Monday 9 th June 2025 at 5.45pm	

Impact of Meeting / Key Outcomes
Governors received Safeguarding presentation
Governors received an update on Sixth Form, including applications, destinations and outcomes
Head of School report was reviewed, including attendance and predicted outcomes
Governors received a finance update and reviewed management accounts
Safeguarding and Attendance policies were approved
Safeguarding Link Governor gave a verbal update
Governors reviewed the School Risk Register
Pupil Premium was reviewed

Meeting closed at 7.05pm

Julie Crawford
Chair of Academy Committee

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