



ACADEMY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Monday 26th January 2026

Time: 5.45pm

Venue: Laurus Ryecroft

Clerk: A Maugham

Present: N Backhouse, N Alexander, R Carling, J Crawford, H Rizvi, A Lowe, N Kamran, M Kamran, L Clifton for presentation at start of meeting.

No.	Action	Initials
1	Governors are asked to inform the Clerk if there are any changes to their Register of Business interests	All
4	Clerk to circulate training links	AJM
4	Governors to send their training certificates to the Clerk	All

Agenda – Part 1

Category	Item	Notes	Action
1	Governance Arrangements	L Clifton attended to present a Professional learning curriculum/refresher to Governors. LC updated Governors on professional learning at Laurus Ryecroft for teaching staff, known as a curriculum, built around five threshold concepts identified as a trust, that are repeated and built on each year. Professional Learning sessions take place in the mornings with sessions lasting 15/20 mins ‘Semantic waves’ (is a way of looking at knowledge) it links up, curriculum assessment and pedagogies. Reflecting on lessons, making them more accessible to students. Unpacking knowledge to simplify it and then repacking it for students. Ryecroft is the furthest ahead within the trust, leading the way. LC is working with R Herring, L Booth. Wednesday afternoon sessions are more focused on	

		journal articles instead of books. SLT leads the sessions. In groups of 7 or 8 discuss focus questions. Separate sessions for Early Career Teachers (ECT) which are new this year, offer support in early career frameworks and feedback has been positive, they feel safer to ask each other advice, but miss out on experienced teachers input. Laurus Trust is an associate college of the National Institute of Teaching, which means they can outsource the training sessions. Governors had no questions and offered their thanks to LC for the comprehensive presentation.	
	Apologies	Apologies were received and accepted from L Broadbent, L Casey and S Marsden. A Ali didn't arrive.	
	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
	Part 1 Minutes	The minutes of the meeting held Monday 6 th October 2025 were <u>approved</u> as a correct record of the meeting and there were no matters arising.	
	Membership: Recruitment Update/Succession Planning	Sixth Form Associate Governors were introduced as a pilot scheme at Ryecroft. NK is studying Economics, Psychology and Geography; MK is studying Computer Science, Business and Maths.	
	Scheme of Delegation	Governors received the Scheme of Delegation for 2025 -2026 and there were no material changes to note.	
	Trust Board Update	Governors received the Trust Board reports for their October and December 2025 meetings and had no further questions.	

2	School Performance & Accountability	Review Head of School report including: Pupil outcomes Review educational achievement of LAC/PLAC	Outcomes RC reported he was currently a school in Crewe on a Wednesday, and DHT is covering in school. LC is supporting a school in Lancashire, with general teaching and learning School performance RC commented there is a fine balance between being proud and being kept awake at night. RC started with the visit from Andy Burnham, and the UTC sleeve. The Tech students got to meet him, and it will be publicised on platforms. RC reported about the Christmas show, which he described as “incredible” and made him very proud, it had the students’ using lots of instruments and is now working with Tameside for funding. Sport RC discussed netball, volleyball, rugby, table tennis, chess, Great debate Citizenship To improve the relationship with the local community the school organised a food bank collection, a visit to Daisy Nook care home, helping with community work. Created a link with the local Tesco. Organised litter picking. Sixth Form Associate Governors were invited to add things that had happened in the 6th form, they reported about a treasure hunt, with 99 hidden coins, which brought forms together to earn extra points. RC informed of mirroring the staff well-being program, consisting of a raffle with a daily prize, for the 6th form. Predictions RC described year 11 as a gold year and discussed figures from the Head of School Report with Governors Power hour revisions session after school are popular Q- Did the mocks take place before Christmas? A- Yes, and all results are in. Highest average point score for PE Attendance Still working on improvements targeting students who arrive late approximately 9.30/10 to improve	
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			attainment. Mentoring scheme RC informed that it was a huge success last year. All our teachers had the opportunity to mentor up to three students, keep a close eye on them, check their attendance, discuss their power hour, attendance, basically be that key person. And last year, over 25 staff, signed up The leadership team met this afternoon to discuss boot camps, and the Easter holiday program, intense revision for 2 hours before their exam. Very popular with the students, where they can ask questions and build confidence. Parent Governor comment Her son really liked studying directly before the exam. He thought it was fresh in your mind. because you are studying it and then going straight into the exam, it was a great help. <u>Professional Learning</u> Was covering at the beginning by LC <u>Attendance</u> The importance of attendance was discussed, and the link to outcomes, belonging and connectedness. Just received the Similar Schools Report (SSR). Dropped to third in the table out of 21 similar schools. RC questioned the fact that faith is not taken as a factor, always been higher, and wants to be back at number one. Attendance action planning meeting 27th January, to improve attendance, the report reflects attendance at 93% but dipped to 92%. Aware attendance is best on Wednesdays, because it is the shortest day and students can attend clubs. SSR now shows other schools, previously that data was not published. Q- Is this done every term? A- Yes Q- Do you find the attendance drops in Winter as well, with illnesses? A- Yes, terrible two weeks of norovirus, with students being sick in corridors and attendance dropping as low	
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			as 80%. Which then impacted on the staff being ill. Then reverted to 94%. Analysing this data, the students get ill the third and fourth week of November, they asked the NHS to do immunisations earlier, prior to half term. Building 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' back into programmes. SEN at Ryecroft have the best attendance in the trust. Q- Did you notice anything in terms of attendance during the mock weeks? A- Unbelievable at 98%. Letter were sent home telling parents about 'Mock prep week', following its success they are introducing 'Mock prep week part 2', making it into a 3-week program. Q- When talking about Unauthorised Absence. Why do you think that is, and what sort of unauthorised absence? A- Genuine illness from a student with normal good attendance is authorised. From a student with attendance below 85% we would ask for a doctor's note Q- Is that policy? A- Yes 6th Form numbers Planned taster days with Denton, Fairfield and Audenshaw. Working towards growing Art and Drama Conversations happening about expanding the Academic Football Pathway Health and Social care is one of the reasons students are choosing to study at Tameside. Discussions are in place for adapting it for Ryecroft. History is the best and most popular subject, Geography has booming numbers, and Physics has huge number Student University offers Year 13 student has a conditional offer for Oxford 1 awaiting Cambridge 1 awaiting Medical school	
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		Share School Development Plan priorities	School Development Plan priorities. RC reported that he is happy with where we they are and what they are doing Specialist backing for leadership?? PI is back, and leading on literacy ME increasing her days after returning from maternity leave. Lot of overlaps in the 5 areas that are worked on, constantly working on attendance because he thinks it links to everything leads to better outcomes, better belonging and better safeguarding. Significant numbers of SEND and ECHP students. Target to increase 6th Form number to 80 which triggers more funding Quality of teaching and learning improvements year on year. RC reflected that if there is no improvement, we become stagnant. Q- What is the red line? A- Ongoing work with the Trust Directors, they don't attend as often as the school would like. For example, the Trust Director of History and Geography, hasn't been here. They are directed towards individual schools with greater needs Q- Are any Trust Directors based here? A- No, J Park is a good support for science. Which is great as it's a department we are supporting.	
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		Pupil Premium Spend	People Premium (PP) goes towards teaching and learning, equipment and uniform, but we also ring fence some funds and ask departments to bid for it, justify what they need the money for. Examples given; English had their theatre trip ticket paid for; Duke of Edinburgh (DoE) award; London and Spanish trips History, every PP student has a full set of revision guides for all four parts of the exam. Q- Is part of the overall 409? A- Yes Q- What's the MFL? A- Modern Foreign Languages, Spanish and French The departments are then asked to review whether they've enriched students and more spent justified. RC keen to get to 40% PP as it releases new funding opportunities and grants such DoE. Numbers fluctuate as students leave and join the school. Parents are encouraged by the school to have a chat.	
3	Governor Monitoring	Finance update including pupil numbers, benchmarking and value for money	Governors reviewed the Management Accounts for November 2025 and were pleased to note the current position. RC is Meeting on Wednesday with Trust Director of Finance later in the week.	
		Policy – undertake school level reviews of relevant policies	Governors <u>approved</u> the Safeguarding policy. Mobile phone policy needs to change to support the new guidance from the Department for Education (DfE), considering the careful wording of the policy with the party line of no phones after the bell, you cannot be in the building on your phone because the school day is still ongoing. Q- How will that impact the 6th form mobile policy, because they are allowed their phones now? A – Sixth Form sits outside the policy but will be part of the review with involvement from the 6th form.	

		School Risk Register	RC conveyed that at present the only recruitment needed for next year is an English teacher. Historically need more than 10 staff, putting the school in a strong position staffing wise. Recruitment is not significant, and retention is more of a focus. The building is no longer new, and now has problems with the drains, which were looked at before Christmas, and took the Estates team an entire day to sort out. School has asked the council for support with the blockage unit. Leaky roof for the first time	
		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.	AJM
		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. Q- What are the 4 mandatory modules? RC advised they are on the National College portal. Questions at the end of modules can be retaken, but cannot progress until they are answered correctly. ➤ Prevent ➤ GDPR ➤ ESS Safeguarding ➤ Cyber Security	All
5	Community Engagement	Stakeholder Engagement	Previously mentioned working with local community. A Councillor has been in touch about parking on Cryer Street, which is ongoing.	All
	AOB		There were no other items of business to raise.	

	Meeting Dates:	Meeting dates	Monday 8 th June 2026 at 5.45pm	
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Impact of Meeting / Key Outcomes
Governors received a Teaching and Learning presentation
Sixth Form Associate Governors attended the meeting
Head of School report was reviewed including- Outcomes, Professional Learning, and Attendance
Discussed mobile phone use policy
School Development Plan priorities for the year were reviewed
Governors received a finance update and reviewed the Management Accounts for November 2025

Meeting closed at 7.15pm



J Crawford
Chair of Academy Committee
08.06.2026