



ACADEMY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Monday 9th June 2025

Time: 5.45pm

Venue: Laurus Ryecroft

Clerk: N Burgess

Present: A Lowe, R Carling, N Backhouse and S Marsden

No.	Action	Initials
1	Governors are asked to inform the Clerk of any changes to their record of business interests	All
4	Governors are asked to complete the mandatory training modules before the end of the academic year – links to be circulated by the Clerk	All
4	To send completed training certificates to the Clerk	All
	Calendar invites for meetings for the next academic year to be circulated	NB

Agenda – Part 1				
Category	Item	Notes	Action	
1	Governance Arrangements	Exams update	R Carling will present the update on behalf of R Herring, and this will be included in the Head of School report.	
		Apologies	Apologies were received and accepted from L Casey, L Broadbent, J Crawford and H Rizvi.	
		AOB items	There were no other items of business to raise at this meeting.	
		Declarations of interest in any of the agenda items	There were no declarations of interests made in any of the agenda items.	
		Register of interests	Governors are asked to check their record of business interests, and to inform the Clerk of any changes.	All
		Part 1 Minutes	Minutes of the meeting held 20 th January 2025 were <u>approved</u> as an accurate record of the meeting and there were no matters arising.	
		Membership: Recruitment	Governors welcomed S Marsden back to the Academy Committee after a period of time working overseas.	

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		Update/Succession Planning		
		Scheme of Delegation	There were no changes to the Scheme of Delegation to note.	
		Trust Board Update	Governors had reviewed the Trust Board report from the February meeting and had no further questions.	

2	School Performance & Accountability	Head of School report	<p><u>Outcomes</u></p> <p>Governors were informed that the current year 11 cohort was 210 students, this was the first year group of this size due to the school initially opening with 150 students in temporary accommodation.</p> <p>Governors reviewed the predictions for the year 11 cohort and it was noted that although the predictions are slightly lower than for the previous year, they are reflective of this particular cohort, and that starting points should always be taken into consideration.</p> <p>RC commented that the students were working really hard. It was also noted that the mock data reported was done 5 months before the formal GCSE examinations, and that predictions change in that period as more areas of the curriculum are covered.</p> <p>Governors reviewed the predictions broken down by subject group. It was noted that for the 12 students studying GCSE French this was their second language. It was also noted that last year there was a more significant gap between History and Geography, but this year the gap had closed to a difference of 0.4.</p> <p>Governors went on to review Y13 predictions. This will be the first set of formal results for the Sixth Form. Governors were pleased to note the impressive predictions for Further Maths, Business, Philosophy, Psychology and English Literature.</p> <p>Class of 2025 destinations were discussed. It is important to note that although some students choose not to study outside of the area, it is right that they have the choice. Governors noted that 11% of students had opted to apply for Apprenticeships/Employment and that 70% had applied to Russell Group universities, this is against a potential national average of 24%.</p> <p>Following the A Level results there will be a social media and communications campaign to offer holders, ahead of GCSE results day.</p> <p>Governors had no further questions on the data presented.</p> <p><u>Attendance</u></p> <p>Attendance is currently tracking at 93% to 20th May 2025. It was noted that this may go below due to the two-week primary schools' holiday, but that there were</p>
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			<p>an additional 5 weeks to the end of the school year to maintain the 93%. National average attendance is 91.7%.</p> <p>PA is tracking at 18.7% and the school are working tirelessly to improve attendance for this group of students. The school are also closely monitoring severely absence students and implementing support where possible.</p> <p>Governors were informed that there had been 6 different rewards trips, and that these had been decided by Pupil Voice.</p> <p>RC commented that Ofsted now produce reports to compare data to another 20 schools, and where LR is in the league table. In the first report the school had placed 4th, and in the second report placed 3rd. This is a very good high position to be in, and a position leaders are very proud of, whilst acknowledging that there is still work to be done, and that better is always possible.</p> <p><u>Elective and Super Curricular</u></p> <p>A detailed list of the Electives and Super Curricular offer was shared with Governors to share the opportunities given to inspire the students. Governors were pleased to note the extensive and varied offer.</p> <p>Q – What percentage of students do Electives?</p> <p>A – In KS3 all students. In year 10 it is Unifrog, which is careers based, and for year 11 it is revision. Cricket is proving very popular at LR, and there are teams in years 7 and 8, and a joint team for years 9&10.</p> <p>Q – What is Ryecroft Community?</p> <p>A – This includes Bee-keeping, maintenance, gardening and DIY. There are also aspects of community engagement, including working with supermarkets, food banks and also care homes.</p> <p>In terms of sport, it was noted that nearly all of the school teams made it to a final in their sport. Governors acknowledged the significant amount of work by the PE team to offer these opportunities, and what a good experience it was for the students to be in the finals.</p>
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		School Development Plan	<p>Governors reviewed the SDP which was circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>It was noted that the SDP is now a three-year plan, which is regularly reviewed and updated. The plan has recently been RAG rated which allows Governors to be able to see the progress made towards the targets. The only action which has yet to be implemented is to develop the Combined Cadet Force offer. This has been delayed due to being unable to source an external provider at present. All other targets are in place although some are not yet completed due to the point in time of the school year. RC noted that there is already a lot which has been done and he is happy with the plan driving forward. It was noted that the SLT reflect on the plan on at least a termly basis.</p>	
3	Governor Monitoring	Finance update including pupil numbers, benchmarking and value for money	<p>RC commented that the position was better than at the start of the year and that work is ongoing.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the pay award had been confirmed at 4% for teachers, and that the budget prediction had been for 2.8%.</p> <p>Work is being done to ensure the school is making efficiencies and is more cost effective in all areas. Increasing the numbers in the Sixth Form is a priority. Leaders always knew that opening a Sixth Form with smaller numbers in the early years would be a challenge.</p> <p>Q – Will the 3G pitch bring in additional income? A – Yes, it is hoped so. It will be a good source of income, but there are costs to consider to maintain the pitch ongoing.</p>	
		Policy – undertake school level reviews of relevant policies	<p>Governors <u>approved</u> the following policies:</p> <p>Attendance Policy Behaviour Policy First Aid Policy Mobile Technology Policy PSHE Policy School Uniform Policy</p>	
		Ensure curriculum policies are in line with statutory guidance	<p>RC confirmed that the school curriculum policies are in place, in line with statutory guidance.</p>	

		Safeguarding and SEND Link Governor updates	<p><u>Safeguarding</u> AL confirmed that he was due to attend a Safeguarding Link visit before the end of the academic year.</p> <p>The last visit had been in February 2025, when the data had been reviewed, CPOMs was working well to report concerns, and the SCR had been reviewed and was fully up to date.</p> <p><u>SEND</u> LC would give an update at the next meeting.</p>	
4	Governor Development	Review Trust Training Plan	The Clerk will circulate the training links following the meeting, and Governors are asked to complete the mandatory modules by the end of the academic year.	NB
		Clerk to minute any training undertaken since the last meeting	Governors are asked to send their training certificates to the Clerk for retention.	All
5	Community Engagement	Stakeholder Engagement	It was discussed that some of the Electives offers are in the local community. Student engagement visits will take place following the end of the GCSE and A Level examinations. There are also plans to invite members of the local community to events in school.	
	AOB		There were no other items of business to raise.	
	Meeting Dates:	Meeting dates to note:	<p>Monday 6th October 2025 at 5.45pm Monday 26th January 2026 at 5.45pm Monday 8th June 2026 at 5.45pm</p> <p>The Clerk will circulate calendar invites to the meetings.</p>	NB

Impact of Meeting / Key Outcomes
S Marsden was welcomed back to the Academy Committee
Governors reviewed the Trust Board report from the February 2025 meeting
Head of School report was reviewed, including outcomes, attendance and Electives and Super Curricular
Governors reviewed the updated 3-year School Development Plan
Governors reviewed the Management Accounts from May 2025
Governors approved 6 school level policies
RC confirmed the school curriculum policies are in place, in line with statutory guidance
AL gave a verbal update of the recent Safeguarding Link visit

Meeting closed at 7.00pm

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Julie Crawford

J Crawford
Chair of Academy Committee
06.10.2025