



## ACADEMY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025  
 Time: 4.30pm  
 Venue: Laurus Cheadle Hulme

Clerk: N Burgess  
 Present: J Peet, S Bagnall, C Leek, N Thompson, N Barnes, J Tyrell, M Retburg, R Barlow, G Lunt, S Holmes and D Brown (for part of the meeting)

Action	Initials
Circulate a copy of the PDC presentation and acronyms list following the meeting	NB
Governors to inform the Clerk of any changes to their register of business interests	All
Governors are asked to advise Head of School if there is any further data they would wish to receive in the Head of School report	All
To clarify with the CFO is the Trust is looking at salary sacrifice options	NT
Governors are asked to complete the mandatory training modules before the next meeting	All
Clerk to circulate the training reminder, including links	NB
Governors are asked to send their training certificates to the Clerk for retention	All

Agenda – Part 1			
Category	Item	Notes	Action
1	Governance Arrangements	D Brown, Trust Lead for Safeguarding, attended to present PDC training to Governors.	NB
		The slides of the presentation will be circulated following the meeting.	
		Apologies	
		AOB items	
		Declarations of interest in any of the agenda items	
	Register on Business Interests	Governors are asked to check their record on the Register of Business Interests circulated and inform the Clerk of any changes.	All

		Part 1 minutes	<p>The minutes of the meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024 were <u>approved</u> as an accurate record of the meeting.</p> <p>There were no matters arising which weren't covered in the agenda for this meeting.</p>	
		Membership: Recruitment Update/Succession Planning	NT informed Governors that he had recently been appointed a Trustee of Laurus Trust and would also be joining the Audit and Risk Committee.	
		Scheme of Delegation	<p>The Scheme of Delegation was circulated prior to the meeting and there were no material changes to note.</p> <p>Governors had no further questions to raise.</p>	
		Trust Board update	<p>Governors received the reports for the Trust Board meetings in October 2024 and December 2024.</p> <p>Governors had no further questions.</p>	

2	School Performance & Accountability	Review Head of School Report	<p><u>Attendance</u></p> <p>Governors noted that attendance was improving, but was still not yet back to pre-pandemic levels. Year 7 and 8 attendance is good and Leaders are not seeing persistent absence rates rise.</p> <p>An Attendance Officer has been appointed and is proving to be successful in working with parents. Areas of specific focus are FSM pupils and also SEND.</p> <p><u>Year 11</u></p> <p>Year 11 data projections were considered by Governors. It was noted that this would be the last year of Progress 8 measure for a couple of years, due to no prior attainment. English and Maths figures are currently tracking closely to the outcomes for last year.</p> <p>There is another round of mocks for English and Maths this week, and the results will be known in 2 weeks. JP commented that the students had been working hard in preparation for the exams.</p> <p><u>Behaviour</u></p> <p>It was noted year 7 have settled well. There will be some interventions with year 8 as they move into year 9. It was noted that lateness to school and lessons was included in the data, and that work was being done around lateness. Up to 10 minutes late is a 10-minute detention at lunchtime, and anything above 10 minutes is a one-hour detention the following day, after school. It was noted that following the work done, instances of truancy were rare.</p> <p>Behaviour in classrooms and around school is good, there are a small number of students who make up the majority of the C codes recorded for each year group. Behaviour data is reviewed and monitored every 2 weeks.</p> <p><b>Q – Are staff present on the entrances to inform students they are late?</b></p> <p>A – Yes and this is recorded on Bromcom and parents are notified.</p> <p><b>Q – How do you tackle truancy?</b></p> <p>A – During lesson time one set of toilets is available, which students know is checked. For one lesson truanted there is a sanction of a 90-minute detention the following day after school. For more than one lesson truanted it means withdrawn study. We follow up consistently and look to tighten up where possible.</p>
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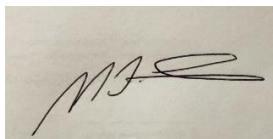
		<p><b>Q – Is it in building truancy?</b> A – Yes, it is very rare for students to try and leave the site.</p> <p><b>Q – Are parents informed of internal truancy?</b> A – Yes, to each lesson, via Bromcom and the MCAS app. We also phone parents, although it should be noted it is a small number of students who do truant.</p> <p><b>Q – What is the target for whole school attendance?</b> A – It is 93.7%. We are second highest in the Trust for attendance.</p> <p><b>Q – Does it compare against last year?</b> A – We were at 93.4% at this point last year. Persistent absence reducing is the key in attendance.</p> <p>Governors were asked to advise JP if they would wish to see any further data.</p>	All
	Monitor Pupil Premium spending to ensure it improves the attainment of eligible students	<p>The Pupil Premium Strategy is published on the school website. Leaders are very proud of the outcomes for disadvantaged students last year. Governors were directed to page 14 of the report for the Progress 8 measure, and the 9-4 outcomes.</p> <p>SB commented he had seen the school performance data in the local press earlier in the week.</p> <p><b>Q – Is the school not in the Times Parent Power report?</b> A – This is due to the fact we do not have A Level data.</p> <p>NT commented that of data recently published, the Laurus Trust was 7th in the country for outcomes in MATS and top in the North West.</p>	
	Review School Development Plan priorities	<p>The SDP was circulated for information prior to the meeting and there are no changes to report.</p>	

3	Governor Monitoring	Finance update	<p>The Management Accounts to December 2024 were circulated prior to the meeting. Finances are a concern and the Risk Register has been updated to reflect this. Governor questions were invited.</p> <p><b>Q – What is TLR3 income?</b> A – A TLR3 payment is temporary for one year, for example funding is received from LFET for the Elite Pathway on a temporary basis.</p> <p><b>Q – What is £1000 from Dow Chemical?</b> A – This is a grant for the Science Department.</p> <p><b>Q – What is the £1500 income for exams?</b> A – This is for exam re-marks which were not put forward by the school.</p> <p><b>Q – What is the £1800 for lockers recorded?</b> A – This is the income from students who rent the lockers.</p>	
		Policies – undertake school level reviews and note phase/Trust level policies	<p>Governors approved the following policies:</p> <p>Attendance policy Safeguarding policy</p> <p><b>Q – In the Attendance policy there is a bullet point which states improve the positive climate in school, what does this mean?</b> A – it means to make the school a place students want to come to.</p> <p><b>Q – Where does the money from fines go?</b> A – It goes to the LA.</p>	
		School Risk Register	<p>Finances and recruitment were noted as high risk on the register. It is currently tough financially and the recruitment shortage is a national issue. The risks are linked.</p> <p>There is also the issue of the not fully funded pay award which is meant to come from efficiencies. We are currently looking at every aspect of the finances, including not necessarily replacing staff like for like. A big issue is that the school is funded on 7 form entry, but actually runs with 8.</p> <p><b>Q – Is the Trust looking at salary sacrifice options?</b> A – It is not known, NT will speak to the CFO of the Trust to clarify.</p>	NT

		Safeguarding and SEND link Governor updates	<p><u>Safeguarding</u> NT updated that he had visited school and reviewed the SCR. He had also received an overview of Safeguarding and related issues in school from the DSL.</p> <p><u>SEND</u> SB had been into school last term and met with SENDCo. The biggest issue is the number of students, and also staff recruitment. Another visit will be arranged for this term.</p> <p>A list of Link Governors for all areas will be circulated after the meeting.</p>	
4	Governor Development	Review Trust Training Plan	<p>Governors were reminded to complete the mandatory GDPR and Cyber training modules as soon as possible, and before the next meeting.</p> <p>The Clerk will circulate a reminder of the training and associated links following the meeting.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>NB</p>
		Minute any training undertaken by Governors since the last meeting	Governors are reminded to send their training certificates to the Clerk for retention.	All
5	Community Engagement	Stakeholder engagement	<p>Governors are invited to attend the performance of Alice which are taking place in May.</p> <p>Two students are to visit Parliament as part of Project Green and will have the opportunity to give their planning views.</p> <p>Charity work is being done via the House team.</p> <p>Duke of Edinburgh award will be commencing in school.</p> <p>Year 11 interventions are currently taking place.</p> <p>National Careers week.</p> <p>Prior to Christmas cards were delivered to local residents, and students visited local care homes.</p>	
6	AOB		There were no other items of business raised.	
7	Meeting Dates:	To note	ACM3- Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 4.30pm	

Impact of Meeting / Key Outcomes
Governors received a presentation on being a member of a PDC panel
Head of School report, including behaviour, data and attendance was reviewed
Pupil Premium Strategy was reviewed by Governors
Management accounts were received and reviewed
Governors approved the Attendance and Safeguarding policies
School specific Risk Register was reviewed
Head of School updated Governors on stakeholder engagement which had taken place

Meeting closed at 6.05pm



Nick Thompson  
Chair of Academy Committee  
12.06.2025