



ACADEMY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Thursday 5th March 2026

Time: 4.30pm

Venue: Laurus Cheadle Hulme

Clerk: N Burgess

Present: J Peet, C Leek, S Bagnall, E Tiddy, N Thompson, R Barlow, N Barnes, S Holmes, and M Retberg

Action	Initials
Student Voice to be an agenda item for the Spring Term meeting each year	JP/NB
Governors are asked to inform the Clerk of any changes to their record of business interests	All
Contact Trust Governance Lead to arrange a Parent Governor election process	NT
Governors to arrange their link visits to school and complete a record of visit form	All
Governors to complete any outstanding training from the four mandatory modules	All
Send training certificates to the Clerk for retention	All

Agenda – Part 1				
Category	Item	Notes	Action	
1	Governance Arrangements	Student Voice	Two year 11 students attended to present to Governors on their experience at LCH and how staff prepare them for exams. The students described to Governors the drivers within themselves to achieve and that there was no additional pressure. One student described a group which had been set up in school for students feeling exam stress. The group is made up of 5 or 6 students and is a very small environment where students can speak honestly about how they are feeling. The student reported finding the session particular useful. The students described how every teacher was good at acknowledging how they feel and what is going on for them. Teachers are considerate of the demands of other	

			subjects and the demands on students both in and out of school. Teachers also give individual support and motivate the students to keep going. Students felt that all the teachers were well equipped to help. The students felt it was particularly useful that staff take can take time to give feedback rather than generic whole class. One student described exam timing being a struggle and that she had been given help to improve. Q – Are there any areas where you feel the school could do more? A – In terms of this last set of Mocks, there was not as much emphasis on them and we did not receive any revision books. This was preferred by some students who preferred to plan their own time. RB commented that there was a short time in between Mocks and it was important that the students had enough time so that they did not experience burn out. JP confirmed that school plan the first Mocks and revision over a six-week timetable, but that for the second Mocks for Maths and English this could possibly be a two-week timetable. Q – How much are you prepared for Maths and English? A – In English we have just done paper one and we were well prepared for this by teachers. In both sets of Mocks we have done all 3 papers in Maths, it was a mixture of classroom environment and exam conditions. We have not finished all of the content in school of the science lessons. Q – Do you feel the school has a good policy to support all students in their approach to the exams? A – We benefit from additional support and it is really well responded to. One student reported that they could approach the SEND team for support. Students are very well catered for and it is unique to the individual. Students felt it was important to encourage a space where other students are able to ask something they are unsure of, and to have an open culture of students knowing how and where to ask, some students don't speak to others in their year. JP commented that staff are trusted to identify who needs additional support.	
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			Q- How do you feel your Form Tutor can support you? A – Our Form Tutors are very approachable and they are good at supporting us. We know there are also subject teachers we can approach for more specific support. Form Tutors are also very good at supporting us in areas outside of our GCSEs. Q – Do you find form time useful? A – Yes, it is a good start to the day. In year 11 Form Tutors can see how we are feeling and coping and it is a good use of time. Form time is not long enough to do any work but it is more useful as pastoral time. Q – What have been the key messages to you this year, for example in form time and in assemblies? Q – Today is the day to start your revision if you haven't already. You cannot get the days back. 4 is not enough, you will need 6/7. Grades open the door to the future of your choice. These are the messages we have been given and they do stay in your mind and motivate you. There is also 4 and 1 – four at weekends and 1 at night. Q – How do you feel supported in applications for post-16 provision? A – This is done in form time and is a big focus. It is handled really well and we know where to apply, we get the information from all angles. It can be an unfamiliar process for our parents too but the support is there. We start the process in year 10. Q – Are you encouraged to visit colleges? A – Yes, we have had subject specific visits but it is mainly us visiting Sixth Form open events. Q – Do you think the timing of applying is right? A – Yes, it is done before we start our Mocks, timing is key. Q – Have you enjoyed your time at LCH? A – One student reported she was devastated to leave. Both students are planning to remain in the Trust in attending one of the Sixth Forms, they didn't want to leave how the Trust does it and want to continue that way. A Laurus school is good for a specific type of person and it has been a very positive experience. The students were thanked for their time and governors wished them well for their GCSEs and their future. The students then left the meeting.	
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			It was agreed that Student Voice would be an item for the second AC meeting of each academic year. Governors commented they would be interested to hear from less motivated students to hear their opinions and how they are feeling on the provision and how they have been supported. CL commented that from a parent perspective there are very positive and consistent messages given to students and which they are taking onboard.	JP/NB
		Apologies	Apologies were received and accepted from J Tyrell.	
		AOB items	There were no items of business to raise which were not included in the agenda for this meeting.	
		Declarations of interest in any of the agenda items	There were no declarations in any of the agenda items made.	
		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
		Minutes of the previous meeting	The minutes of the meeting held 9 th October 2025 were <u>approved</u> as an accurate record of the meeting and there were no matters arising.	
		Membership: Recruitment Update/Succession Planning	N Barnes was attending her last AC meeting as her term of office was coming to an end. Governors recorded their thanks for her work and commitment to the Academy Committee and the school and wished her well for the future. NT will contact the Trust Lead on Governance to arrange a Parent Governor election in the coming weeks.	NT
		Scheme of Delegation	There were no material changes to note to the Scheme of Delegation.	
		Trust Board updates	Governors received the reports for the Trust Board meetings in October and December 2025 had no further questions. NT updated Governors that the new CEO would be in post from September 2026 and that growth opportunities are being considered.	

2	School Performance & Accountability	Review Head of School Report	There were four elements to the Head of School report which were circulated prior to the meeting. <u>Stockport headlines</u> Governors reviewed the LA school performance table. Governors noted on Attainment 8 the school is second place in the LA. 5+ including English and Maths is confirmed as 59.99% which places the school second in the LA. <u>Attendance</u> DfE attendance report for the school was considered by Governors. The report compares the school to similar schools on attendance. Governors noted that attendance is up on last year and that this is a 3 year upward trend. LCH features in the top 4 of schools from 21 and has moved from 4 to 3. Q – Why is LCH not considered in the same report as CHHS? A – This is due to SEND, PP and CIN links. The report is based on social demographic rather than geographic location. The report relates to the other 21 schools in detail. We have made big progress with the attendance of our PP students. SEND attendance is still an area of focus. <u>Year 11 Mock results</u> Governors reviewed the year 11 data from the December mocks. The data looks encouraging at present, and a comparison was shown between the previous 3 years for the school. Staff are becoming more precise and accurate with their predictions as time goes on. Predictions for the summer outcomes are looking very positive and leaders are optimistic based on the strong set of current data. Q – Are there any subject specific issues? A – Combined Science, when you look at the data on our IDSR this is above national average but this is not enough for us. Q – What are you doing differently? A – Staffing is vital, we have strong staff in key groups. It must also be noted that there is lots more teaching time
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			in Separate Science. Q – Are there any other subject issues? A – In English we are fortunate to have the Trust Director for English working at our school this year, and we are optimistic of the impact this will have. <u>Inspection Data Summary Report (IDSR)</u> RB gave Governors an overview of the report. The first part of the report gives insight and context to the school and feeds into the SDP and SIP. The report is reviewed by Inspectors prior to an Ofsted inspection. The report also gives an insight into the school compared to national average. Q – Were there any surprises to you in the report? A – There were some contextual, but it is useful to be able to compare to the national context. The report shows a 3-year trend and it is good for leaders to be able to review. We are above national average but are not yet where we would want to be, better is always possible. The IDSR is updated termly. In terms of behaviour, suspensions have decreased and this has been a trend over time. We are working with students who have had more than one suspension to understand the reasons for the behaviour. <u>Outcomes</u> The report contains performance by subject data and compares to national data. The report will be used to feed into the SDP moving forward. There is an opportunity for SLT to deconstruct the Ofsted criteria to be able analyse what would like to be achieved over a three-year period. Governors had no further questions.	
		School Development Plan	Governors reviewed the School Development Plan and there were no changes to record at present. The SDP will be reviewed before the end of the academic year.	

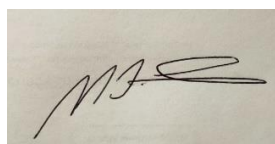
3	Governor Monitoring	Finance update	Governors reviewed the Management Accounts to December 2025. The school is currently tracking against the budget and work is commencing to look at next year. The budget is in a better position and at the same point last year but there is still a deficit.	
		Policies	Governors discussed the School Uniform Policy. It was noted that me some branded PE items had been removed from the policy in line with guidance to reduce the number of branded items. Another change in the policy was to reflect it was only permitted to wear one pair of trousers. A long discussion took place around the inclusion of the referral to one pair of trousers and the reason why. Q – Will there be an explanation to parents on the website? A – There are only four or five parents affected. We have already spoken to some parents individually and we have made the addition to the policy so we can refer back to. Q – Will this be communicated to year 7 parents? A – A summary of the uniform requirements are given on transition and there are also reminders throughout the year. Following discussion, it was agreed the policy would be amended to reflect that undershirts were allowed. Subject to this amendment the policy was <u>approved</u> by Governors.	
		Risk Register	The Risk Register was circulated prior to the meeting. The register has been revised to reflect change to risk profile for staff retention. It was felt that the risk had now decreased. The financial risk remained unchanged. Governors had no further questions to raise.	
		Link Governor visits to school	Culture Creativity and Rhetoric – C Leek Academic Aspiration – Whole Academy Committee Competition and Physical Endeavour – N Thompson Leadership and Service – S Holmes Governors are encouraged to contact their links to arrange a visit to school. Following the visits Governors are asked to complete a record of visit.	All

		Safeguarding and SEND link Governor updates	<u>SEND</u> S Bagnall had completed a SEND visit to school. SB was pleased to note that 62% of year 7 SEND students were included in all aspects of school life and that this was very positive. The number of students in school with a diagnosis of ADHD had increased. SEND attendance is being closely reviewed and monitored. There are a high number of EHCPs in year 7 compared to other schools. Work is being done to strengthen relationships with primary school SENDCOs. A further meeting will be arranged in the next term. <u>Safeguarding</u> N Thompson had completed his termly visit to school. The visit had included review of the SCR and a meeting with the DSL to discuss themes and trends. There is currently an issue in year 9 with a small group of students. Work is being done to engage a third party due to local community issues with this group. NT commented that it was a good visit and he was reassured of the robustness of safeguarding in school. A further visit will be arranged in the next term. Q – Has there been a peer-to-peer review with other students? A – Not yet, this is something which is being considered but which is difficult to facilitate. This could be something for the future. If it is to be done it must be done in the right way to have any impact.	
4	Governor Development	Review Trust Training Plan	Governors are asked to complete the mandatory training modules: - Cyber security - GDPR - Safeguarding - Prevent. Individual reminders were given at the meeting.	All

		Minute any training undertaken by Governors since the last meeting	Governors are asked to send their completed training certificates to the Clerk for retention.	All
5	Community Engagement	Stakeholder engagement	There have been lots of very positive feedback received from both parents and members of the public on the trips the school have run. Governors discussed the recent ski trip and how enjoyable it was for parents to be able to see the photos posted by staff daily.	
6	AOB		There were no additional items of business to raise.	
7	Meeting Dates:	To note	Thursday 4 th June 2026 at 4.30pm	

Impact of Meeting / Key Outcomes	
Two students attended the meeting to present to Governors their experience of LCH	
N Barnes attended her last committee meeting before stepping down at the end of her term of office	
Governors reviewed the Trust Board reports from the October and December 2025 meetings	
Head of School report was reviewed including, LA School Performance table, Attendance, Year 11 Mocks and IDSR	
School Development Plan was reviewed by Governors	
Governors reviewed the December 2025 Management Accounts	
School Uniform Policy was approved	
Risk Register was reviewed	
Safeguarding and SEND Link Governors gave verbal updates of their link meetings	

Meeting closed at 17.45pm



N Thompson
Chair of Academy Committee
04.06.2026