



## ACADEMY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2025  
 Time: 4.30pm  
 Venue: Laurus Cheadle Hulme

Clerk: N Burgess  
 Present: G Lunt, J Tyrell, N Thompson, S Bagnall, J Peet, R Barlow, M Retburg, S Holmes and P Roberts (for part of the meeting)

| Action                                                                                         | Initials |
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| Governors are asked to inform the Clerk of any changes to their register of business interests | All      |
| Staff Governor election to be held                                                             | JP       |
| SDP to be on the agenda for review for ACM1 meeting                                            | JP       |
| Governors are asked to complete the mandatory training before the end of the academic year     | All      |
| To send completed training certificates to the Clerk for retention                             | All      |
| To circulate details of Stockport Music event to P Roberts                                     | JT       |
| To review Governor Link Roles                                                                  | NT/JP/NB |
| Clerk to circulate calendar invites for the meetings for the next academic year                | NB       |

### Agenda – Part 1

| Category | Item                    | Notes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Action |
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| 1        | Governance Arrangements | <p>P Roberts attended to present Personal Development at LCH to Governors. PR informed Governors that the school had been successful in achieving the Rainbow Flag Award.</p> <p>Every student at LCH should feel a sense of belonging, and this encompasses Safeguarding, Connectedness, Character and Life After Laurus.</p> <p>The student experience includes their progress outside of the classroom. The school provides opportunities for them to develop their character, qualities and leadership skills. This then has a positive impact on their progress and attainment.</p> <p>PR reviewed the initial stages from September 2023 in confirming what was needed to promote inclusivity and diversity at LCH, to September 2024 and the implementation. Lots of work has been done to train</p> |        |

E enquiries@laurustrust.co.uk  
 T 0161 485 7201

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|  |  |  | <p>staff. It was noted that renewal of the Rainbow Flag Award had made a visible difference to the students in school.</p> <p><b>Q – We did have the award, why was it not renewed?</b><br/> A – It was not evidenced in the correct way. We have now organised everything in the one place. There were opportunities for students and staff to evidence the work we do, which is obviously more powerful than just staff saying we do something.<br/> In terms of plans for 2025-2026 the school plan to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• continue communication with parents/carers</li> <li>• Continue the theme of celebration, including an LCH culture day</li> <li>• A targeted approach to Personal Development to increase engagement from disengaged students and parents/carers</li> </ul> <p><b>Q – In terms of a Link Governor, what would be involved in the role?</b><br/> A – To be aware of what is going on in school, and to link with PR to enable a forum to share the work of the school. JT was appointed Personal Development Link Governor.</p> <p><b>Q – In terms of discrimination, what is the main area we face in school?</b><br/> A – With regards to our reporting we have changed the way we report. As time goes on we will be able to analyse the data and respond accordingly to any specific concerns and then consider a review.</p> <p>Last year there were 118 reports made, and 68 so far this year. We are hopeful that this decrease is due to the work we are doing in school.</p> <p>We also offer safeguarding workshops and training. Staff feel more confident to recognise concerns and to report. To be able to respond in the moment is very powerful. We can sanction and re-educate.</p> <p><b>Q – Are there any headline themes?</b><br/> A – It is fairly equal. We can sometimes see a change following a media issue and are able to re-educate around language and terminology.</p> <p><b>Q – Is there an anonymous reporting mechanism for students?</b><br/> A – Yes there is an online reporting facility on the website, and we also offer a student drop in at lunchtimes. There is also Libertas on Wednesday</p> |  |
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|  |                                                     | <p>lunchtime, which is run by 2 staff, and where students feel safe to express their concerns.</p> <p>Governors thanked PR for the comprehensive presentation. PR left the meeting at this point.</p>                                                                  |     |
|  | Apologies                                           | Apologies were received and accepted from N Barnes and C Leek.                                                                                                                                                                                                         |     |
|  | AOB items                                           | There were no other items of business to raise 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 on Business Interests                      | The Clerk circulated the Register of Business Interests during the meeting. Governors are asked to check their record and inform the Clerk of any changes.                                                                                                             | All |
|  | Part 1 minutes                                      | Minutes of the meeting held 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2025 were <u>approved</u> as a correct record of the meeting and there were no matters arising.                                                                                                                      |     |
|  | Membership: Recruitment Update/Succession Planning  | <p>Thanks were offered to GL for her time and commitment to the Academy Committee. Governors offered their best wishes for the future.</p> <p>A Staff Governor election will be held in school before the end of term.</p>                                             | JP  |
|  | Scheme of Delegation                                | There were no material changes to note to the Scheme of Delegation.                                                                                                                                                                                                    |     |
|  | Trust Board update                                  | <p>Governors reviewed the Trust Board Report from the February meeting and had no further questions.</p> <p>N Thompson informed Governors that L Magrath would be retiring as CEO from September 2026 and that the recruitment process was currently taking place.</p> |     |

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| 2 | School Performance & Accountability | Head of School Report | <p>The Head of School Report was circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p><u>Attendance</u></p> <p>JP commented he was particularly proud of the Attendance data, which had shown a big improvement since the previous year, in particular for FSM and SEND students. DfE data compares LCH to similar schools and LCH features highly, whilst noting there is still work to be done. It was highlighted that the best day for attendance is Wednesday, and that Monday attendance needs to be monitored closely. In the Spring term, compared to 20 other schools, LCH had been ranked 3<sup>rd</sup>. Governors were informed that the work that school had done around persistent absence should make a difference in September.</p> <p><b>Q – What about staff absence, is that in line with other schools?</b></p> <p>A – We do not have the data for staff absence for this meeting to be able to compare. Supply costs against cover in the budget do compare favourably. HODs and SLT have been very good in terms of providing cover.</p> <p><b>Q – What strategy has made the biggest difference?</b></p> <p>A – It has been a combination. We have made attendance a big focus of what we are doing. We have appointed an Attendance Officer, and are challenging absence. We are able to track the data and monitor closely, and where necessary are able to engage with external agencies.</p> <p><b>Q – Do all schools have an Attendance Officer?</b></p> <p>A – Some schools do, and others designate the role. Our Attendance Officer is working really well.</p> <p><b>Q – Year 11 absence is high, it is a concern that this is their exam year?</b></p> <p>A – There is a significant cohort of persistently absent students in this year group.</p> <p>Attendance for our current year 10 is better than for year 10 at this time last year. There is a small number of students affecting the figure. 90% of students are in school 95% of the time. Attendance in year 11 was better than when the students were in year 10. An improvement from 10 to 11 can mean an improvement in their attainment.</p> <p><u>Behaviour</u></p> |
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|  |  |  | <p><b>Q- In terms of suspensions, from the data we have been given, there is a significant difference between us and CHHS. Are there any lessons we can learn?</b></p> <p>A – We are able to catch more incidents due to the layout of the building. For example, we are quickly able to issue suspensions for vaping. We look at where we can make a difference to re-educate following a suspension.</p> <p>It should also be noted that the number of SEND and EHCP students is higher at LCH. It is a totally different cohort at CHHS. Our incidents of permanent exclusion are low. JP commented that there was no optimum figure for suspensions, and that he was comfortable with those at LCH.</p> <p><u>Outcomes</u></p> <p>As year 11 GCSE examinations are now almost complete, attention turns to the current year 10, with a focus on preparation for their mocks.</p> <p><b>Q – How is it feeling in the exam season at present?</b></p> <p>A – The students seem positive and focussed. They are prepared and are on time. They are working hard and are very focussed.</p> <p><b>Q – Is there no Progress 8 data this year?</b></p> <p>A – None formally reported due to no KS2 SATS for the cohort. The data in the report is something which is done as a Trust.</p> <p><b>Q – What is meant by entry level data?</b></p> <p>A – SATs. We did an assessment with the students on entry in year 7 so that we had a baseline. This was done as this cohort did not sit their KS2 SATs due to the pandemic.</p> <p><b>Q – How do you estimate for mid-year arrivals?</b></p> <p>A – If they had SATs we would use that data to agree meaningful targets which can be revised. We look at what can be done for the individual, rather than grading lower.</p> <p>Governors had no further questions on the Head of School Report.</p> |  |
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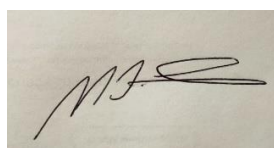
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|   |                     | School Development Plan                                        | The School Development Plan was circulated for Governor's information, and will be reviewed in detail at the Autumn term meeting.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | JP |
| 3 | Governor Monitoring | Finance update                                                 | <p>JP confirmed that the budget was still being closely monitored, and was tracking well. HODs are being told to use their budgets carefully to ensure they last the year.</p> <p>Cover/supply costs are tracking well. SLT costs are reduced as currently the Deputy Head of School is seconded to another school in the Trust.</p> <p>It was noted that the amount of work done by the Trust on the budget has been incredible, but that it is still very finely balanced and remains a concern ongoing.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |    |
|   |                     | Policies                                                       | <p>R Barlow presented an updated Behaviour Policy at the meeting. The amendments made were to underpin the principle of behaviour at LCH. The policy is to keep standards high and deliver the behaviour curriculum to students.</p> <p><b>Q – Who is Tom Bennett, referenced in the report?</b><br/>A – Tom is a Behaviour Advisor for the DfE.</p> <p>Governors discussed AI, and that the Trust would soon be publishing their AI policy. The Trust currently has 2 working parties, one for teaching staff and one for support staff, to look at AI use moving forward. It was discussed that AI is a resource which could be used to help workload, but which should be used cautiously and not used to process student or staff data.</p> <p>Governors approved the following school level policies:</p> <p>Attendance Policy<br/>Behaviour Policy<br/>Mobile Technology Policy<br/>PSHE Policy<br/>School Uniform Policy<br/>Suspension and Exclusion Policy</p> |    |
|   |                     | Ensure curriculum policies are in line with statutory guidance | JP verbally confirmed to Governors that the school curriculum policies are in line with statutory guidance.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |    |

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|   |                      | Safeguarding and SEND link Governor updates                        | <p><u>SEND</u></p> <p>S Bagnall confirmed he had met with KG regarding the new year 7 intake. There are currently a high number of students with EHCPs in the year group, and this number could possibly rise further.</p> <p>The school is looking at how best the students can be accommodated at this time. It was noted that parental choice is key when allocating places to students. It was also noted that there are some students with very complex needs. The transition group of students will have higher numbers than in this current year.</p> <p><b>Q – What is the final number of students for year 7.</b></p> <p>A – Currently we have 220 students, but appeals are still being heard. This is over our current PAN of 210.</p> |     |
| 4 | Governor Development | Review Trust Training Plan                                         | NT asked all Governors to complete the mandatory training by the end of the academic year.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 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                                             | <p>JP informed Governors that the school production, Alice, had received good feedback. The production, and dates for next year will be circulated to Governors in due course.</p> <p>It is a busy term in school with lots of events taking place for students.</p> <p>JT informed that there was an upcoming Stockport Council event with live music and to which schools were invited to perform. JT agreed to send the information to P Roberts.</p> <p>The Year 11 Prom is taking place on 25<sup>th</sup> June. KS3 Awards evening will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> June and Governors are welcome to attend.</p>                                                                                                                             | JT  |

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| 6 | AOB            |         | <p>In terms of Link Roles for the Academy Committee it was noted that SEND and Safeguarding are statutory, and that others are the decision of the Academy Committee.</p> <p>The possibility of Governors linking to the Cornerstones was discussed. It was agreed that JP/NT and NB would clarify the roles required and present at the next meeting for Governors to consider.</p> | NT/JP/N<br>B |
| 7 | Meeting Dates: | To note | <p>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 4.30pm<br/> Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 4.30pm<br/> Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2026 at 4.30pm</p> <p>The Clerk will circulate calendar invites to the meetings.</p>                                                                                                                                                          | NB           |

| Impact of Meeting / Key Outcomes                                                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Governors received a presentation on Personal Development at LCH                           |
| Trust Board Report from February meeting was reviewed by Governors                         |
| Head of School Report was reviewed in detail, including attendance, behaviour and outcomes |
| Governors reviewed the management accounts to 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2025                    |
| Governors approved 6 school level policies                                                 |
| SEND Link Governor gave a verbal update of the recent link visit                           |

Meeting closed at 5.35pm



N Thompson  
Chair of Academy Committee  
09.10.2025