



## ACADEMY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Time: 4.30pm

Venue: Laurus Cheadle Hulme

Clerk: N Burgess

Present: N Thompson, S Bagnall, R Barlow, M Retberg, N Barnes, C Leek, J Tyrell, S Holmes, J Peet and C Carling (for part of the meeting)

Action	Initials
Governors are asked to inform the Clerk of any changes to their register of business interests	All
Amendment to previous minutes before publishing	Clerk
Circulate SEND and Safeguarding visit proformas to Link Governors	Clerk
To complete mandatory training before the next meeting	All
To send training certificates to the Clerk for retention	All
A list of school events to be circulated to Governors	PA
Further details of Governor and Trustee conference to be circulated	Clerk

Agenda – Part 1			
Category	Item	Notes	Action
1	Governance Arrangements	<p>C Carling, DSL, attended to update Governors on Safeguarding at LCH and to present key updates to KCSiE 2024 guidance.</p> <p><u>Key messages from KCSiE include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abuse, neglect and exploitation</li> <li>• Protecting children from maltreatment, whether within or outside the home, including online</li> <li>• Seeing, hearing or experiencing the effects of domestic violence</li> <li>• Persistent absence which is unexplainable</li> <li>• Gender questioning</li> </ul> <p>At LCH vaping in school was identified as a potential issue and therefore the Behaviour Policy was changed to show a suspension will be issued as a sanction for</p>	

			<p>students who are found to be vaping. It is concerning that it is not known what is in the vapes. Staff know how to raise their concerns.</p> <p>Q – Of the 100 incidents recorded is this multiple staff reporting for a small number of students, or 100 different students?  A – It is not 100 for vaping specifically. 100 staff have raised a concern and this is then broken down again by substances. The figures show how many staff have raised a concern, rather than the number of students affected, which will be much lower.</p> <p><b>Q – What other substances do the concerns relate to, alcohol?</b>  A – There could be a wide range. It is not known what is inside a vape. Advice from Stockport LA is not to test and we also do not have the necessary equipment. Sanctions are now clear for vaping.  JP commented that since the changes to the Behaviour Policy there have only been 9 suspensions since September for vaping, and only one repeat suspension.</p> <p><b>Q – How has the change been received by parents?</b>  A – It was been received very positively. We are very clear in the policy.</p> <p>In terms of attendance we have a new Attendance Officer in school who calls home and liaises with parents and carers. We are working hard to implement all elements of our Attendance Strategy.</p> <p>Attendance figures are good at present, in particular in year 7. We are also working to address some of our more complex cases of persistent absence.</p> <p><b>Q – Have you seen any impact of the fines which are issued for absence?</b>  A – We have issued some fines for unauthorised holidays but it is more difficult to fine when it is for sporadic absences.</p> <p>Attendance is a complex issue and we are working tirelessly, and are speaking to staff and students all the time. Our Attendance Strategy has been a year in the planning and the appointment of our Attendance Officer is having a real impact.</p> <p>Thanks were offered to CC, on behalf of Governors, for the insight given into Safeguarding at LCH. JP also thanked CC for her continued work and for always being</p>	
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		an excellent source of advice and support to staff around Safeguarding.	
	Apologies	Apologies were received and accepted from G Lunt.	
	AOB items	There were no other items of business raised which were not covered by 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
	Code of Conduct	Governors <u>agreed</u> to adhere to the Code of Conduct.	
	Part 1 minutes	The minutes of the meeting held 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 were <u>approved</u> as an accurate record of the meeting subject to one amendment regarding the incorrect name of a governor recorded.  There were no matters arising which weren't covered in the agenda for this meeting.	Clerk
	Membership: Recruitment Update/Succession Planning	There were no updates to membership to record for this meeting.	
	Scheme of Delegation	The Scheme of Delegation has been updated for the academic year.  Governors had no further questions to raise.	
	Trust Board update	Governors received the reports for the Trust Board meetings in May 2024 and July 2024.  Governors had no further questions.	

2	School Performance & Accountability	<p>Review Head of School Report including:</p> <p>Pupil outcomes</p> <p>Educational achievement of looked after/previously looked after children</p>	<p>R Barlow attended to present the student outcomes for 2024.</p> <p>To give Governors' context to the results RB showed the Compare School Performance website for additional data. The website will be updated in November 2024 to show this years outcomes, but it is useful to be able to see data from last year to allow comparisons.</p> <p>Students achieving 5+ in Maths and English was 59%. Although leaders were pleased with these outcomes they are not quite where they would wish them to be.</p> <p><b>Q – What was the school target?</b>  A – 80% although we do know this is very aspirational. Progress 8 last year was 0.3 and this year we estimate it to be around 0.45 which is above average.</p> <p><b>Q – 0.45 is a good increase from entry if outcomes were 59% this year and were 60% last year?</b>  A – Yes, 0.45 is based on the students KS2 data. We are pleased with the outcomes but we know there is work to be done.</p> <p>Governors were also reminded that this would be the last year of Progress 8 measure for 2 years due to there being no KS2 data due to Covid measures. Governors discussed there did still need to be some measure in place to be able to see the progress students had made. Governors were proud to see the progress made by students and wished to congratulate the school on the outcomes for the students.</p> <p>It was noted that 21 students achieved a Grade 5 in one subject but not in the other, and that this will continue to be a focus for the school. We are already working with our students in year 10 to maximise their two years of GCSE study.</p> <p>For Pupil Premium students Attainment 8 score is higher than their peers. This cohort of students had lower KS2 attainment.</p> <p>Governors noted that girls outperformed boys this year. Progress 8 for SEND students is estimated to be lower than non SEND which leaders would normally expect. Governors reviewed the results broken down by subject area. The work to address issues in identified subject areas is in progress.</p>	
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			<p>Science was discussed and the issues around recruiting Science specialists at present. It was noted that a Science specialism was crucial in delivering the Separate Science curriculum.</p> <p><b>Q – Is there a subject specialist in all classes in all years?</b>  A – In combined, where possible but there are some very small instances. Separate Sciences are taught for 9 hours per week, 3 hours for each discipline.</p> <p><b>Q – Is there a subject specialist at KS3 for lessons?</b>  A – Yes, we are now fully staffed in Science and all lessons are taught by a Science teacher.</p> <p>JP also confirmed to Governors that E Moroney was looking at the English curriculum in detail, including set up, delivery and teaching. This work will be ongoing. Work to develop the curriculum and the staff is a big focus for the school for this year.</p> <p>We are also looking closely at our year 10 cohort to be able to identify any gaps and to plan and implement interventions earlier.</p> <p>EAL was discussed and the students who had undertaken an additional GCSE, this was done by individual request or referral.</p> <p>Subject Leaders have now all met with JP individually to review the data and their subject curriculum. A big focus is also for year 10 to be able to maximise the 2 years of GCSE study.</p> <p>Examination re-marks was discussed. Scripts are reviewed online before deciding whether to submit a request for a re-mark. If a parent makes the request then they are liable for the cost and if the school submits the re-mark they cover the cost. If a grade goes up all costs are refunded.</p> <p>Year 9 MFL results were reviewed and leaders were congratulated on spectacular outcomes for the students.</p> <p><b>Q – Why is MFL taken 2 years early?</b>  A – This dates back to when CHHS was a Language College and this was done for many years and was always very successful. Students are taught in the mother tongue and learn and speak in the language all of the time.</p>	
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			<p><b>Q – Does this mean less time at KS3 for other subjects?</b> A – There is less Science time in KS3 but then more at KS4.</p> <p>Year 9 GCSE embeds the focus for our students and immerses them in the subject. This is a good basis for us to build on for their future GCSEs.</p> <p>Governors had no further questions on the Head of School report and thanked RB for his presentation.</p>	
		Confirm school curricula and assessment in line with the statutory requirements and Trust approach	J Peet, as Head of School, confirmed the school curricula and assessment are in line with statutory requirements and the Trust approach.	
		Share School Development Plan priorities	<p>The School Development Plan was circulated prior to the meeting. The SDP is now a 3-year plan. The content structure is similar to before and the actions have been made clear. The overriding themes are curriculum and attendance.</p> <p>Governors had no further questions on the SDP.</p>	
3	Governor Monitoring	Finance update including pupil numbers, bench marking and value for money	<p>J Peet confirmed that the school finances are under constant review by Trust Director of Finance and CFO. Savings have been made where at all possible and spending and recruitment is being reviewed ongoing.</p> <p>The fully funded pay award was discussed and how this is actually not fully funded as it is based on pupil numbers and not the number of teachers. The school is funded on 7 forms in each year group but actually has 8. It was discussed that in the future would form groups reduce to 7, or increase the PAN and still have 8. This is not an easy option in terms of space in the school. As the school is only 11-16 there is no additional space to grow into.</p> <p><b>Q – What about the pupil demographic?</b> A – There is a birth rate bulge now but this is then not followed in future years as the birth rate reduces again.</p> <p>Governors had no further questions.</p>	

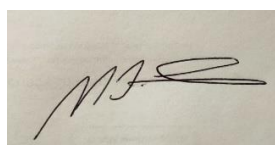
		Policies – undertake school level reviews and note phase/Trust level policies	<p>Governors <u>approved</u> the following policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication with Parents and Carers Policy</li> <li>• Electronic Communications Policy</li> </ul> <p><b>Q – Have you had any complaints from parents who do not have the app?</b></p> <p>A – Not yet, we can communicate between the students and parents and can also email if appropriate. We can view who is engaged with the app and it is a small percentage who haven't. We have also invited parents in to school to work with staff to show them how to access the app.</p>	
		Ensure curriculum policies are in line with statutory guidance	J Peet, as Head of School, confirmed that school curriculum policies are in line with statutory guidance.	
		Safeguarding and SEND link Governor updates	<p>SEND – S Bagnall has a meeting arranged.</p> <p>N Thompson has been into school to review Safeguarding recently.</p> <p>The Clerk will send the record of visit proformas to both Governors to complete for their Link Visits.</p>	Clerk
4	Governor Development	Review Trust Training Plan	<p>Governors' attention was drawn to the revised training area for Governors on Sharepoint.</p> <p>Compulsory training includes GDPR, Prevent, Safeguarding and Cybersecurity. Governors are asked to complete the training by the next meeting.</p>	All
		Resources	The CST glossary of terms was included for Governors' information.	
		Minute any training undertaken by Governors since the last meeting	Governors are reminded to send their training certificates to the Clerk for retention.	All
		Academy Trust Handbook	The Academy Trust Handbook was included in the documents circulated as a reference point for Governors.	

5	Community Engagement	Stakeholder engagement	<p>N Thompson confirmed that in this academic year he would be working with students on their DofE walks and expeditions. There will be a DofE Presentation Evening in November 2024. There will also, for the first time, be a School Governors Award presented at the event. This award will help to build a heritage around the school.</p> <p><b>Q – Are there any opportunities to do beyond Bronze Award in school?</b></p> <p>A – Students can continue at Sixth Form. We do in year 10 at LCH due to Y9 MFL exams and then Y11 there are the GCSE exams. Students have to be 14 to be able to undertake the award.</p> <p>Laurus Live was a concert which had taken place in July at the RNCM and which was all Trust secondary schools. It had been a very successful and breath-taking performance. Thanks were offered to staff for providing such an amazing opportunity for the students. JP confirmed that the school Open Evening would be held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October and Governors were very welcome to attend.</p> <p>A list of dates for events will be circulated to Governors.</p>	GB
6	AOB		There were no other items of business raised.	
7	Meeting Dates:	To note	<p>ACM2- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 4.30pm</p> <p>ACM3- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 4.30pm</p> <p>The Annual Trustee and Governor Conference will be held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 9.00am. Further details will follow.</p>	Clerk

### Impact of Meeting / Key Outcomes

Governors received a presentation on Safeguarding and updates to KCSiE 2024
Governors reviewed the Head of School report, with a particular focus on student outcomes
School Development Plan was shared with Governors
Governors received a finance update
Governors reviewed 2 policies
Trust training plan was reviewed by Governors and mandatory training noted

Meeting closed at 17.50



Nick Thompson  
Chair of Academy Committee  
06.03.2025

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