



## ACADEMY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Time: 5.45pm

Venue: Laurus Ryecroft

Clerk: N Burgess

Present: M Vevers, R Carling, J Crawford, N Backhouse, L Casey, A Lowe, V Marin-Roman, H Rizvi and D Brown (for part of meeting)

| No. | Action   | Initials |
|-----|--|----------|
| 1   | Governors to inform the Clerk of any changes to their register of business interests                         | All      |
| 3   | Pupil Premium review to be on the agenda for ACM2  | RC       |
| 4   | Governors are asked to complete the 4 modules of mandatory training and send their certificates to the Clerk | All      |
| 4   | Safeguarding training document to be circulated to Governors   | Clerk    |

| Agenda – Part 1 |                         |   |        |
|-----------------|-------------------------|---|--------|
| Category        | Item                    | Notes   | Action |
| 1               | Governance Arrangements | <p>PDC Training</p> <p>Governors received a presentation from D Brown regarding their role in a PDC. D Brown is Head of School at CHHS and is Trust Safeguarding, Behaviour and Attendance Lead.</p> <p>The role of a Governor in a PDC is to test and challenge that the Headteacher's decision to permanently exclude was lawful, reasonable, fair and proportionate. To examine all evidence and to question as appropriate. It is very important the Governors take time to read the report in advance and to prepare any questions.</p> <p>Governors thanked DB for the comprehensive presentation which they felt would assist them should they be required to be a part of a Pupil Discipline Committee in the future.</p> <p><b>Q – In terms of an off-site direction, to avoid a permanent exclusion, is there evidence to show this works? What percentage is successful?</b></p> <p>A – Yes they can work. Success rates would look low but for every one which works this is one less</p> |        |

|  |   |   |     |
|--|---|---|-----|
|  |   | permanent exclusion for a student.<br><br><b>Q – Can you question the paperwork received with a student on an off-site direction?</b><br>A – We have a good relationship with our partner schools. There have been some successes with an off-site direction to give the student a fresh start. |     |
|  | Apologies   | Apologies were received and accepted from L Broadbent.  |     |
|  | AOB items   | There were no other items of business not covered in the agenda 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 of interests                               | The Clerk circulated the register of business interests and Governors are requested to check and update their record if necessary.  | All |
|  | Code of conduct                                     | Governors agreed to adhere to the Code of Conduct.  |     |
|  | Part 1 Minutes                                      | The minutes of the meeting held 17 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 were <u>approved</u> as a correct record of the meeting and there were no matters arising.   |     |
|  | Membership: Recruitment Update/Succession Planning  | N Backhouse was welcomed to her first meeting as newly appointed Parent Governor and introductions were made.   |     |
|  | Scheme of Delegation                                | The Scheme of Delegation has been reviewed and updated for the academic year. The SoD defines the accountability of the AC.<br><br>Governors had no further questions.  |     |
|  | Trust Board Update                                  | Governors received the reports for the Trust Board meetings in May 2024 and July 2024.<br><br>Governors had no further questions.   |     |

|   |                                     |  |  |  |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 2 | School Performance & Accountability | Pupil outcomes including Head of School report | <p>R Carling presented the Head of School report to Governors.</p> <p>Headline measures were 80% Grades 9-4 in English and Maths and 54% grades 9-5. Progress 8 measures are not yet released and this will be the last measures for 2 years due to Covid.</p> <p>Governors noted that some requests for re-marks had been submitted but that the outcomes were not yet known.</p> <p>RC commented that staff had worked tirelessly to get the outcomes for the students. RC also commented that he was very proud of both the staff and the students.</p> <p>Disadvantaged students are doing well compared to national average.</p> <p>Governors reviewed the outcomes broken down by subject area.</p> <p>Governors were particularly pleased to note the year 9 MFL outcomes. In year 10 students who have not opted to study a second language are offered a bridging unit until they opt to study a language at A Level.</p> <p>It was noted that cohorts are now 220, an increase from 150 from when the school opened in temporary accommodation.</p> <p>Governors were pleased to note that a number of students had sat GCSEs in additional languages which they have learnt and spoken at home.</p> <p><b>Q – Do you bring in other teachers to teach these languages?</b></p> <p>A – Yes, their spoken language is very strong but not necessarily their written. We prepare them for the examination technique and external agencies complete the speaking exams with the students.</p> <p>MV commented that it was a really good set of results in all subjects. This was a really good message to be able to deliver to staff, that they have all contributed and should be really proud.</p> <p>Leaders are working towards closing the gap between 4+ and 5+ in the coming years.</p> |  |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|

|  |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|--|---|--|
|  |  |  | <p><b>Q – Did boys perform better than girls?</b><br/> A – Yes this year. As an anomaly there were more boys than girls in this cohort. Of the 150 students only 60 were girls. The gender balance has evened out over the later years.</p> <p>In terms of Sixth Form our first external set of results will be in 2025. Further Maths and Level 3 Core Maths were sat by year 12 and they were very pleasing results.</p> <p>Governors offered their congratulations to RC and the team for the excellent outcomes for the students.</p> <p>NB commented that, as a parent, what definitely helps is the extra sessions which are offered to students. Bootcamps and Power Hours help to focus the students and they really bought into them this year. Power Hour is optional but there is a really good uptake.</p> <p><u>Attendance</u><br/> Attendance was discussed. Although the school figure, at 92.5% is above national average (91%) it is still some way from the levels prior to the pandemic. In the first year of opening the school had 97% attendance. It should be noted that attendance is still very strong but is not where Leaders would like it to be and work is ongoing. If year 11 are absent we contact parents, attendance is a priority in all years but in year 11 time is of the essence.</p> <p><b>Q – If attendance is your number one priority what are you doing to increase?</b><br/> A – We are doing everything we can. We make calls home and are looking at accountability of parents. New staff are receiving training and we are also incorporating attendance into SEND reviews. We want school to be seen as a place to learn and where students want to be. We have bespoke plans in place for long term attendance issues and there is lots in place to reintegrate the students.</p> <p><b>Q – How many students do you have with zero attendance?</b><br/> A – Currently only three. If we haven't seen the student, as part of our safeguarding procedures we will complete a home visit. These are very complex cases and we are doing all we can for these students. For some students we are simply not the right</p> |  |
|--|--|--|---|--|

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  | <p>provision for them. 1.5% are currently waiting for an alternative specialist provision and this is the case across a number of schools. EHCPs are currently taking a number of months when they should only take 20 weeks.</p> <p>We are also trying to link more closely with primaries on attendance to identify issues.</p> <p><b>Q – Is there any leadership from the LA?</b><br/>A – None currently.</p> <p>We have produced an attendance counts graph which has been circulated to parents/carers.</p> <p>Governors attention was drawn to the remainder of the Head of School report and the photos contained within it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• House Captains and Head Prefects have been appointed</li> <li>• There was a visit from Chinese exchange students</li> <li>• In the week following this meeting there will be a visit from 11 Chinese teachers</li> <li>• DofE programme continues and this is a very important opportunity to our students, we support some of our disadvantaged students to participate</li> </ul> <p><b>Q – Is uptake good?</b><br/>A – Yes, it is good but we are working to improve further. We continue to drive with the additional funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community links are expanding with care homes, Daisy Nook maintenance, and Foodbank partnerships</li> <li>• Innovation Rocket design by 5 girls</li> <li>• Cheerleading squad placed 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 43 schools</li> <li>• Junior Dance girls finished 7<sup>th</sup> out of 30</li> </ul> <p>In addition to the report the sports teams have already begun this term. There are a number of boys and girls teams and these provide opportunities for teamwork and to represent the school.</p> <p>J Crawford congratulated the school on the quality of the students and their musical ability at the Laurus Live concert at RNCM in July. This was a Trust wide event</p> |
|--|--|--|--|

|   |                     |  |   |  |
|---|---------------------|--|---|--|
|   |                     |  | with students from all Trust secondary schools. It is excellent to see Performing Arts grow as the school grows.  |  |
|   |                     | Share School Development Plan priorities   | <p>The School Development Plan is now a 3 year plan to give more time to embed and to allow monitoring of actions.</p> <p>The SDP is more strategic and there are a number of other plans which feed into the document. The SDP is a live document which is under constant review and will be brought back to this committee in the summer term.</p>  |  |
|   |                     | Confirm School Curricula and Assessment (in line with statutory requirements and Trust approach) | R Carling, as Head of School, confirmed the school curricula and assessment is in line with statutory requirements and the Trust approach.  |  |
| 3 | Governor Monitoring | Finance update including pupil numbers, benchmarking and value for money                         | <p>Management accounts to 31st May 2024 were circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>The number one priority is recruitment and finance. The school is fully staffed at present but this could be an issue in the future. The finances are currently stabilised by being prudent, and saving where possible, whilst protecting the frontline services.</p> <p>We will be looking at recruitment in the coming year and will review ongoing. We will start to recruit in January for September 2025 and will meet with the Trust Finance Director prior to this.</p> |  |
|   |                     | Policy – undertake school level reviews of relevant policies                                     | <p>Governors <u>approved</u> the following policies:</p> <p>Collective Worship Policy<br/>Communication with Parents Policy<br/>Electronic Communications Policy</p>  |  |

|   |                      |  |  |       |
|---|----------------------|--|--|-------|
|   |                      | Ensure curriculum policies are in line with statutory guidance                           | R Carling, as Head of School, confirmed that school curriculum policies are in line with statutory guidance.   |       |
|   |                      | Safeguarding and SEND Link Governor updates  | A SEND meeting will be arranged for the next half term.  |       |
|   |                      | Monitor Pupil Premium spending to ensure it improves the attainment of eligible students | This item was deferred until the next meeting to allow time for a detailed review to take place.   | RC    |
| 4 | Governor Development | Review Trust Training Plan   | Governors' attention was drawn to the revised training area for Governors.<br><br>Compulsory training includes GDPR, Prevent, Safeguarding and Cybersecurity. Governors are asked to complete the training by the end of the year and to send copies of their certificates to the Clerk. | All   |
|   |                      | Resources  | The CST glossary of terms was included for Governors' information.   |       |
|   |                      | KCSiE updates  | Governors were updated on the key changes to Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024 guidance.<br><br>The training document, which had also been delivered to all staff, will be circulated to Governors following the meeting.  | Clerk |
|   |                      | Clerk to minute any training undertaken by Governors since the last meeting              | There has been no training completed to record.  |       |
|   |                      | Academy Trust Handbook   | The Academy Trust Handbook was included in the documents circulated for Governors' information.  |       |

|   |                      |                             |  |  |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|
| 5 | Community Engagement | Stakeholder Engagement      | <p>The recent Open Evening was reported to be the best one yet, with over 1700 visitors on the day. The event was reviewed by SLT and there will be a couple of changes for the next year.</p> <p>The Head of School speech had been succinct and to allow parents and students the maximum time to look around school.</p> <p>H Rizvi had attended as a parent and commented there was a good buzz around the school and it was an exciting environment.</p> <p>Sixth Form Open Evening will be held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October.</p> |  |
|   | AOB                  |                             | There was no other business to raise.  |  |
|   | Meeting Dates:       | Meeting dates for 2024-2025 | <p>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 5.45pm</p> <p>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 5.45pm</p>  |  |

| Impact of Meeting / Key Outcomes  |
|---|
| Governors received a presentation on being a panel member on a PDC                      |
| N Backhouse was welcomed to her first meeting as newly elected Parent Governor          |
| Governors reviewed the Trust Board updates from their May and July meetings             |
| RC presented the Head of School report with a focus on pupil outcomes                   |
| Governors reviewed the revised School Development Plan                                  |
| Governors approved 3 school policies  |
| Governors reviewed the revised Trust training plan and mandatory modules for completion |
| KCSiE updates were presented to Governors   |

Meeting closed at 19.30

*Julie Crawford*

Julie Crawford  
 Chair of Academy Committee  
 20.01.2025