



## ACADEMY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2025  
 Time: 6.00pm  
 Venue: Hazel Grove High School- Library

Clerk: K Warhurst  
 Present: S Blades, E Moroney, B Vickers, C Franklin, M Sackville-Ford, G Vout, J Butler, A Bentley, M Vevers, G Buck, J Crawford and H Jones

Attending D Brown for part of the meeting

Action	Initials
Staff Governor election form to be sent out	KW
Table with targets to be included in HoS report	EM
Clerk to contact Governors regarding their learning plans	KW
Governors to complete four mandatory training modules	All
Governors to send training certificates to Clerk	All
Safeguarding Link visit to be arranged	GV/CF
Governors to read part 1 of KCSIE	All
Overall changes to KCSIE to be sent to Governors	CF

Agenda – Part 1			
Category	Item	Notes	Action
1	Governance Arrangements	<p>PDC training</p> <p>D Brown attended to present to Governors on the role of a PDC, confirming the committee is made up of 3 Governors/Academy Committee members or Trustees. The role of a PDC is to meet to consider the decision made by a Head of School to permanently exclude a student.</p> <p>DB confirmed what a permanent exclusion was and when this decision would be made, stating this is usually the last resort after school have tried a wide range of other strategies without success, with the exception of a one-off serious incident.</p> <p>The Head of School’s power to exclude and the process the HOS has to follow was explained to the Academy Committee.</p> <p>The role of a Governor is to test and challenge the decision in light of the relevant guidance and legislation. They will be provided with a full and detailed pack to review prior to the meeting.</p>	

		<p>The structure of the meeting was explained and the areas of consideration that should be completed prior to the PDC making a decision. DB emphasised the PDC should take their time in the meeting to ensure they have all the information they require and all questions have been answered in order to reach their decision.</p> <p>Governors acknowledged the importance of challenging the school in terms of ensuring that all decisions made had been reasonable, legal and proportionate, they said they found the meeting to be useful and supportive in their role.</p> <p>DB was thanked for the presentation and left the meeting at this point.</p>	
	Apologies	Apologies received from Z Dzhumayeva	
	AOB items	None received	
	Declaration of interest in any of the agenda items	There were no declarations of interest made in any of the agenda items.	
	Annual Declaration form	All Governors completed the annual declaration form.	
	Register of interests	<p>Governors were asked to check their record on the Register of Business Interests circulated and inform the Clerk of any changes.</p> <p>There were no changes to the Register of Business Interests.</p>	
	Code of Conduct	All Governors agreed to adhere to the Code of Conduct.	
	Part 1 Minutes	The minutes of the meeting held on 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2025 were <u>approved</u> as an accurate record of the meeting and all actions were completed.	Agreed
	Membership: Recruitment Update/Succession Planning	<p>Following D Browne leaving at the end of the last academic year, staff were asked to put forward their nomination if they were interested in joining the Academy Committee as a Staff Governor. Two members of staff have put themselves forward therefore an election will take place. The clerk will organise the voting form and collate responses.</p> <p>It was discussed that it would be beneficial for another co-opted Governor to join the Academy Committee and the committee were asked if they</p>	<p>KW</p> <p>All</p>

			knew of anyone who may be interested and to pass on the contact details of the clerk	
		Scheme of Delegation	There were no material changes to the Scheme of Delegation.	Noted
		Trust Board Update	Governors reviewed the report from the May and July 2025 meetings and had no further questions.	

2	School Performance & Accountability	<p>Review of Head of School Report including: Attainment Attendance Behaviour Hazel Grove Sixth form</p>	<p>E Moroney presented the HoS report to the Governors.</p> <p>B Vickers provided the governors with a profile of each year group taking gender, pupil premium, SEN support and EHCP percentages into account.</p> <p>Despite school's locality, there are 7 school buses from all areas transporting approximately 350 students to school.</p> <p>There has been a large increase in the number of Year 12 students entering the Sixth form. There are 73 students in Year 12 compared with 48 students in Year 13.</p> <p><u>Attainment</u></p> <p>E Moroney expressed their disappointment with student outcomes. As a leadership team, they have high expectations and therefore were not happy with the results but appreciate there are reasons behind them.</p> <p>There were lots of subject areas that did well and compared strongly with national, local and Trust wide results. After analysing the data, they will be focusing on English, Maths and Science this year with a particular focus on disadvantaged and SEND students.</p> <p>EM confirmed they are already ahead of where they were last year, heading in the right direction and are more confident about this year. The overarching aim for this academic year is 'Best Results: No Exceptions' which has been shared with all staff and Leadership. This is not just for subjects but also attendance and behaviour.</p> <p>BV summarised the GCSE results were broadly in line with the national average but this was not where the school want to be. The number of students achieving grade 4+ in both English and Maths dipped from last year and was slightly under the national average. However, there were a number of individual students who performed very well. Results in subjects such as Drama, Business Studies, Media, Art and Design were in line with other schools across The Trust. School are aware that there were a number of students who, due to poor attendance or subject predictions being</p>	
---	-------------------------------------	--	--	--

		<p>slightly out, did not achieve the grades they would have wanted. They have started earlier with Year 11 this year, departments have their eye on the detail and leaving no stone unturned to ensure students achieve the best possible results. This is reflected in staff PDRs and department targets.</p> <p>The school had their first set of A-level grades this year with an average of B+ which is in line with the top performing Post-16 provisions in the area. There was success across a wide range of subjects and out of the 38 students going to study at university, 25 of them were going to Russell Group universities, one to Oxford and another to St Andrews. 3 students were going to study medicine, 1 to study Naval Architecture and another to study BioChem at Imperial College London.</p> <p>BV expressed how proud the school were to celebrate a fantastic set of results from Year 12 Mathematics students with 85% achieving grade a-B in Further Maths and 100% achieving grade A-C in Core Maths.</p> <p>The governors expressed how pleased they were with these results.</p> <p><b>Q – With the increase in the percentage of complex needs in all secondary schools, what are school doing to support this?</b></p> <p>School are aware of the increase in EHCP numbers therefore we are proactive and plan for this. HGHS has a new SENCO and we are a needs led school and look at early identification and support.</p> <p>We consider the bigger picture and not just intervention. It involves high quality teaching and professional learning.</p> <p><b>Q – Challenging students don't just appear in Year 11 and should be addressed early. Is school getting and using transition information well enough?</b></p> <p>School have a proactive approach from Year 7. We are aware of these students and have links with external support elements if needed. School have been working with Hazel Grove Primary School. EM has already arranged to carry out some enhanced</p>	
--	--	---	--

			<p>transition between HG and HG Primary School later in the year.</p> <p>The new SENCO is very experienced and we are 100% confident she will do a good job here and has already made significant progress in terms of early identification approaches and responses. There is a lot of experience across all Trust schools so we can draw on their experience.</p> <p>The new SENCO also sits on the leadership team to challenge and ensure SEN is always considered.</p> <p><u>Behaviour</u></p> <p>The final term of 2024/25 saw the school conclude the academic year with a high degree of optimism and progress in terms of behaviour. The end of the year indicating significant progress in terms of reducing suspensions whilst also raising standards.</p> <p>The number of repeat suspensions was also significantly down on the figure from the previous year. This indicates the work done on developing our pastoral work around reintegration support, bespoke plans and SEMH support is having considerable impact.</p> <p>School want students to have a positive behaviour for learning, arriving on time for lessons, focused and engaged. We expect students to arrive with the correct equipment for lessons, completed PP&amp;R and staff are looking at reasons behind B's being issued and how to support students. The start of this academic year has seen a focus on corridor culture, punctuality to lessons and transition times between lessons and from social times to lessons. When the bell rings, all staff step out onto the corridors to keep an eye on behaviour, and engage with students. It has been noticed that the transition between lessons is calmer. C2's have been introduced for late to lessons as this disrupts learning. Students have responded well to this and we are already seeing an improvement.</p> <p>The culture is different to last year and the Estates team have fed back on the positive shift in the level of respect shown from our young people to the school building.</p>	
--	--	--	---	--

			<p><b>Q – There has been a perception that HGHS is the poor relation compared to other schools in the Trust. Do staff feel this?</b></p> <p>A- This is a new chapter and everyone has a role to play to shift the narrative. It's not a terrible picture but we are not where we want to be. Some of our departments performed the best across The Trust and we celebrate the wins. We need to build confidence, unimaginable results are possible as we have quality teachers and students.</p> <p><u>Attendance</u></p> <p>EM acknowledged attendance is not where they want it to be and it will not improve overnight.</p> <p>CF expressed their disappointment with the attendance for 2024-25 which was 91.2% and the target was 97%. This target is achievable with joined up thinking but will take time. An external review took place and they were happy with the strategies / interventions in place but recognised initial steps needed embedding.</p> <p>CF confirmed the current Year 7 attendance is strong but they have seen a decline in some other year groups. School have worked with J Peet (Head of Laurus Cheadle Hulme) to look at a strategy to change this.</p> <p>A focus this year is to ensure all staff are aware that attendance is everyone's business alongside safeguarding. If a child is not in school, they are vulnerable. To keep focus on raising attendance, this will be included in KASH reports, school will continue work around a sense of belonging and connectedness and work on mental health and wellbeing of students.</p> <p><b>Q – What are school doing to include parents in this?</b></p> <p>A communication about attendance and punctuality was sent out last week. Bespoke communications are sent out to certain parents/carers. SEN team will include attendance in their review meetings with parents/carers. SEND champions will be starting again in the next few weeks and attendance will be discussed here amongst other things.</p>	
--	--	--	---	--

			<p><b>Q – Are there different ways other schools are engaging with parents?</b></p> <p>We have invited the Year 7 parents/carers in three different times already this academic year and staff are picking up the phone and having conversations with parents/carers.</p> <p>School are looking at how to do parents evening differently for the hard to reach parents so they can come in. Taking a more bespoke and targeted approach.</p> <p>There is allocated time for the pastoral team to ring parents/carers of absent students to build relationships and show parents the impact of their child’s absence but this also ensures school isn’t missing anything that may be going on with a student.</p> <p>It was mentioned that Year 11 will pilot a different approach for hard to reach parents by arranging a meeting with a senior member of staff to discuss their child’s progress.</p> <p>EM informed the Governors of a new rewards initiative they have introduced – ‘Cake with the Head’ where children from different year groups will meet and have cake with the Head and chat with one another. This has worked well and EM has had children approach her to ask how they can have cake with her too! EM said this is a great opportunity to hear the voices of students too.</p> <p>EM advised the Governors it had been agreed with SB that rather than present the School Development Plan which is a large document with lots of information, she would provide them with a brief synopsis of the key aims for 2025/26.</p> <p>AB suggested it would be good to have a table with a summary of the targets.</p> <p>JB commented it would be nice to include the positive news stories in the HoS report such as the ‘Cake with the Head’ as it’s good to hear about them.</p>	
--	--	--	---	--

		Confirm school curricula and assessment is in line with the statutory requirements and Trust approach	It was confirmed school curricula and assessment is in line with the statutory requirements and Trust approach	
<b>3</b>	<b>Laurus Grace</b>	Review of Head of School Report	<p>M Sackville-Ford presented the HoS report to the Governors.</p> <p>MSF introduced J Crawford and H Jones who will be joining the Academy Committee for Laurus Grace. He confirmed Laurus Grace plan to have their own Academy Committee established by Easter 2026.</p> <p>MSF updated the committee on the growing number of students attending the school and the additional classroom that had been introduced. He confirmed it was much clearer to identify the type of students they can best support. Their typical students are highly anxious, complex young people.</p> <p>The schools overarching theme for this year is 'Opening the doors to the future of their choice'. Most students feel they haven't a future and there is anxiety around another transition to a Post-16 provision. MSF has been working with Cheadle College who have a new building and are very inclusive.</p> <p>MSF confirmed the new school building is coming along and they are excited to make the move as it is becoming increasingly challenging in the temporary accommodation.</p>	
		Policies (undertake school level reviews of relevant policies)	<p>Governors <u>approved</u> the following policies:</p> <p>Collective Worship Policy  Mobile Device Policy  PSHE Policy  Relational Behaviour Policy  School Uniform Policy  Attendance Policy</p>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Governor Monitoring</b>	Finance update including pupil numbers, bench marking and value for money	Governors reviewed the financial accounts to 31st July 2025.	

	Ensure Curriculum Policies (eg Religious Education and Relationships, Sex Education), Behaviour and Welfare policies are in line with statutory guidance	EM confirmed all curriculum policies, Behaviour and Welfare policies are in line with statutory guidance.	
	Policies – undertake school level reviews of relevant policies	<p>Governors <u>approved</u> the following policies:</p> <p>Attendance Policy Behaviour Policy</p> <p>Clerk advised governors that the school has now adopted the Trust Relationships &amp; Sex Education Policy (Secondary) rather than having the policy sit at school level.</p>	Noted
	Safeguarding and SEND Link Governor record of visits	<p>G Vout provided a verbal update as Safeguarding Link Governor. He confirmed he met with MSF earlier in October which was very productive and can see thorough and comprehensive measures in place. The meeting at HGHS was unable to go ahead but a new date will be organised.</p> <p>A Bentley provided a verbal update on his record of visits as SEND Link Governor for HGHS, highlighting the proactive nature of school’s approach and informing the Academy Committee the SEND team had moved into a new space and had changed the way this space was used. EM added that over summer, SEND had moved more central within school providing a positive, bright, fit for purpose space.</p>	GV/CF

5	Governor Development	Review Trust Training plan	Governors were reminded to complete the four mandatory training modules.  AB recommended the Stakeholder Engagement module  The clerk will email Governors individually regarding their training plans.  CF asked all the Governors to read part 1 of KCSIE and will send them all a summary of the overall changes.	All  KW  CF
		Minute any training undertaken by governors since the last meeting	Governors were asked to notify the Clerk of any training undertaken and provide certificates.	
		Academy Trust Handbook	Governors were provided with the link to the Academy Trust Handbook for information.	
6	Community Engagement	Stakeholder engagement – verbal update (Staff/parents/students/Governors)	<b>Q: There is a lot of communication from school, it can feel overwhelming, are there plans to reduce this?</b> EM confirmed the school is looking at better ways to communicate with parents. They are aware a lot of communications can be sent to parents and they are looking to reduce the amount sent and improve the quality of communication.	
	AOB			
	Meeting Dates:		Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 6.00pm Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 6.00pm	

Impact of Meeting / Key Outcomes
DB delivered a training session on PDC
Governors reviewed the Trust Board updates
Head of School report for HGHS was reviewed, including attainment, attendance, behaviour, and Sixth Form
Governors reviewed the School Key Priorities
Head of School report for Laurus Grace was reviewed, including student numbers, profile of students and progress with building work.
Governors approved 2 policies for HGHS and 6 policies for Laurus Grace
Governors reviewed the Management Accounts for July 2025
Governors received verbal updates from Safeguarding and SEND Link Governors

Meeting closed at 8.20pm

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

Steve Blades

Steve Blades  
Chair of Academy Committee  
24.02.2026

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

The Laurus Trust | Registered in England and Wales | Company number 07907463  
Registered office Cheadle Hulme High School, Woods Lane, Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle, Cheshire SK8 7JY

