



ACADEMY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Tuesday 23rd September 2025

Time: 6.00pm

Venue: CHHS – Boardroom

Clerk: N Burgess

Present: I Castledine, M Turnpenney, M Kelly, B Gannon, L Brooks, D Brown, P Benton, K Pearson, G Buck and W Riley (for part of the meeting)

Action	Initials
Governors are asked to read KCSiE part one guidance	All
To pass on Governors thanks to all staff for their hard work in achieving the outcomes for the students	DB
Governors are asked to inform the Clerk of any changes to their record of business interests	All
IC and DB to meet to discuss recruitment to this committee	DB/IC
External data and benchmarking focus for the next meeting of this committee	DB/LB
To arrange link visits to school	MK/SK
Governors to complete the mandatory training modules	All
To send training certificates to the Clerk for retention	All

Agenda – Part 1

Category	Item	Notes	Action
1	Governance Arrangements	<p>B Gannon presented a safeguarding update to Governors.</p> <p>The update provided an overview of safeguarding and the context of some of the issues the school have been dealing with following the return from the summer break.</p> <p>Sophisticated safeguarding systems are in place at school to ensure no student is missed. There are a number of layers of safeguarding in school, including, DSL and DDSL, Heads of Year, SEND and Pastoral staff. There is also a list of identified students which the core team monitor closely.</p> <p>The school uses CPOMS to monitor and log safeguarding</p>	

			<p>concerns. All staff have access to be able to log concerns and this helps to build a bigger picture.</p> <p>Governors were updated on the changes to KCSiE guidance for September 2025.</p> <p>A change for this year is a focus on the 4 Cs: Content – what the students are viewing Contact – who they are engaging with Conduct – sharing of information and behaviour Commerce – scams and online business activity including social media use</p> <p>KCSiE changes are then fed into ongoing staff training. Mis-information is the wrong information spread with no intent. Dis-information is the intent to mislead to deliberately cause harm or panic, fake news. Intent to create a view and manipulate issues. This is all taught to students via the curriculum, and not just specifically in IT lessons. The students are taught to become critical users.</p> <p>The school has a working group looking at AI and how potentially this could be used by students. The work of this group is ongoing.</p> <p>BG updated Governors on some of the training and development which has been delivered to staff: Whole school safeguarding training is delivered at the September Inset, this encompasses CPOMS, KCSiE, professional relationships and medical needs. There is a new first aider in school who will be undertaking additional Diabetes training Specific NEA training at KS4/5 to reflect students independent research and autonomy in their work. EPQ in safeguarding and how to work safely. Training is ongoing and includes new staff and ECTs.</p> <p>Early intervention and support is key. There is a wellbeing pastoral meeting held fortnightly in school. There are also AI risk meetings and progress meetings. These meetings also include colleagues from SEND team to ensure there is triangulation with the students.</p> <p>Governors thanked BG for the presentation and had no further questions.</p> <p>Governors are asked to please ready KCSiE 2025 part one.</p>	All
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		Roll of Honour and exam results	<p>W Riley attended to present the student outcomes from Summer 2025.</p> <p>For the academic year 2023-2024 the school had achieved 71% for 5+ in English and Maths, and 45% of A Level grades A/A*. These were the best ever results for the school.</p> <p>The thematic goal for 2024-2025 was to raise the bar in all areas including outcomes.</p> <p><u>A Level</u> 81% of A Level grades were B+ 50% of A Level grades were A/A* 78% of students went on to Russell Group universities</p> <p>In addition, Year 12 students sat Core Maths and Further Maths qualifications.</p> <p>Core Maths – Grade A 52% and A-B 91% Further Maths – Grade A 82% and A-B 96%</p> <p><u>GCSE</u> 74.6% of students achieved 5+ in English and Maths 88% of students achieved 4+ in English and Maths 90% of students achieved 9 – 4 80% of students achieved 9 – 5 43% of students achieved 9 – 7</p> <p>These were the best results ever at CHHS. The average grade was 6.01. It was pleasing to note there was no subject with an average grade below B.</p> <p>All measures are up on 2023-2024 outcomes. The PP gap has reduced on last year but there is still a gap, which is a focus for the school. PP students at CHHS do better than non PP students at other schools. Their average grade is 5.5.</p> <p>DB commented he cannot express enough how proud he is of the students and staff. A large number of students had gone to Sixth Form at CHHS.</p> <p><u>Year 9 MFL</u> The results are very strong again, 91% of students achieved 4+. Results by language was also presented to Governors.</p> <p>Q – Do you do any comparisons across the rest of the Trust schools to pull out learning?</p>	
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			<p>A – This is a good question. Ours are the best results across the Trust, but genuinely, better is always possible. We know we have some areas for improvement, for example in vocational subjects.</p> <p>Trust Directors have an overview of all 6 secondary schools across the Trust and look closely at all the outcomes.</p> <p>Q – Where were this year 11 at the time of Covid?</p> <p>A – They were in year 6. They missed a lot of year 6 and also the transition into year 7. They were a good strong cohort, and we expected their results to be high, but they were even better than expected.</p> <p>Q – Of the Double Award Science results, are they where you would expect them to be?</p> <p>A – This is a very good question. Science is difficult to benchmark against Maths, English and MFL. 92 students took Triple Science so this does not allow for a comparison with Maths and English. For Combined Science there were good outcomes, in particular for PP students, but this is still not at the rates of Maths and English, and is a work in progress ongoing.</p> <p>Q – The MFL figures are different to that of a previous slide in the presentation, why is that?</p> <p>A – This is due to the combined outcomes of years 9 and 11. Some students opt to take a second language at KS4 and this is their combined scores.</p> <p>DB commented that leaders were reviewing all results in detail to see how it was possible to get even better. For example, in PE all students pass, but why are they not getting the top grades, we go into this in detail with the department.</p> <p>Q – Looking at the MFL results, do you have to have to bring in staff for the home languages?</p> <p>A – Most are already fluent, for example in Urdu they have lessons at Mosque. We prepare the students for the format of the exams, which starts at the end of year 9, and is with minimal input for the school. We do have to pay for interpreters or teachers from another school. Numbers are increasing. Writing is not such a fluent area, and we encourage students to have tuition in this area.</p> <p>In other subjects, staff are working hard in English Literature, with very positive effects. The Maths results were astonishing!</p>	
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		<p>Governors then reviewed the outcomes broken down by groups. In particular EAL students, for whom English is a second language, over half achieved a grade 7 in English. It was noted that there had been an increase in the number of EAL students in all year groups.</p> <p>Governors were then shown the Roll of Honour video of students receiving their results and the headline outcomes. Governors were very impressed and stated this was the highlight of their year. Governors asked for their thanks and well done to be passed on to all staff.</p>	DB
	Apologies	Apologies were received and accepted from C Jamison and S Kiani.	
	AOB items	There were no other items of business to raise which were not on the agenda for this meeting.	
	Declarations of interest in any of the agenda items	There were no declarations declared in any of the agenda items.	
	Register of Business Interests	The Register of Business Interests was circulated during the meeting. Governors are asked to confirm their record and to inform the Clerk of any changes.	All
	Code of Conduct	Governors reviewed the Code of Conduct and agreed to adhere to.	
	Minutes of the previous meeting	<p>Minutes of the meeting held 24th June 2025 were <u>approved</u> as an accurate record of the meeting.</p> <p>There were no matters arising which had not been covered in the agenda for this meeting.</p>	
	Membership: Recruitment Update/Succession Planning	<p>There are no terms of office due to expire for this committee.</p> <p>IC and DB will review membership of the committee at a meeting outside of this one.</p>	DB/IC
	Scheme of Delegation	There were no material changes to the Scheme of Delegation. The document reflects the remit of the Academy Committee and the structure of the Trust Board.	
	Trust Board update	Governors reviewed the Trust Board updates from the May 2025 and July 2025 meetings.	

			<p>Q – In terms of AI training is there any more for us to know and what is the Trust policy and position?</p> <p>A – M Vevers and D Woolley are leading on the broader issues across the Trust and then AI issues are being dealt with at individual schools. AI is also being linked in Further Professional Learning for staff.</p> <p>It is an evolving and changing picture ongoing. There are two staff working groups across the Trust. W Mason is leading one for support staff, and D Woolley for teaching and student facing staff. We are looking at how AI can support with workload, but are guiding in its use.</p> <p>Governors also noted in the reports that Norris Bank Primary School had joined the Trust in September and that M Vevers had been appointed CEO with effect from September 2026.</p>	
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2	School Performance & Accountability	<p>Head of School Report:</p> <p>Pupil Outcomes</p> <p>Ofsted Pilot Visit feedback</p>	<p>DB informed Governors that as part of the revised Ofsted Framework, which has been recently published, CHHS was part of a pilot inspection.</p> <p>The new framework will come into effect for inspections from December 2025. Schools were able to opt in to be a part of the trials. There will be no published report for the inspection.</p> <p>The inspection was carried out by 6 HMI. Deep dives have now gone, and inspectors are more visible in all areas of school, including at social times, and at the start of the school day. There is an entirely new scale and an increase in the number of judgements. There is also no overall judgement. There is a big focus on student and staff wellbeing.</p> <p>Leaders felt it was a useful experience to be a part of the pilot.</p> <p>Governors were informed that for the next meeting of this committee there would be an external data focus, and national benchmarking, and that leaders would welcome questions and challenge from Governors.</p>	DB/LB
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		Confirm School curricula and assessment is in line with the statutory requirements and the Trust approach.	DB, as Head of School, confirmed the school curricula and assessment in line with statutory requirements and also the approach of the Trust.	
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		<p>School Development Plan</p>	<p>The SDP was circulated prior to the meeting, and is now a 3-year plan. There will be a different focus area of the plan for each meeting, this will follow on from mid-year reviews and end of year RAG rating. It was noted that not all aspects of the plan would be rated green at the end of year one, due to it being a 3-year plan.</p> <p><u>Academic aspiration</u> PP gap is a significant piece of work for leaders, and in particular for the current year 11. There is some individual context around some of the students, and this is a big part of the thematic goal. Data is reviewed with subject leaders.</p> <p>The definition of disadvantaged has been widened and now encompasses more students, for example SEND, CLA, PLAC, Social Care and now Young Carers. Staff are aware of who these students are and the pastoral and safeguarding teams work closely with them.</p> <p><u>Professional Learning</u> This is done cross trust, and the focus is back to levelling the playing field. This includes for core, and FPL, and what happens in the departments for subject specific pedagogy. We look at how do we ensure if supports all of our disadvantaged students.</p> <p>We also have discipline reading to identify weaker readers. There are students who do not quite make the threshold, and who could be missed if their literacy is not too strong, we look at how to identify these students.</p> <p><u>Oxbridge</u> This year there was one student who went on to Cambridge. This does not match up with our A Level outcomes. It is too late to start at KS5, and we are going to start this work with our KS3 and 4 students.</p> <p>Q – Does the smaller number reflect that smaller numbers of students are applying? A – This year there were 3 offers. We do need to work on increasing the number of students who apply.</p> <p><u>Belonging</u> Belonging is important for both students and staff. Staff wellbeing is a big priority.</p> <p>Due to the increase in the number of EAL students, we need to work on communication to parents and carers to ensure it is effective.</p>
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3	Governor Monitoring	Finance update	<p>Management accounts to 31st July 2025 were circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>DB commented that there was a small surplus, which was pleasing to report. Following a difficult year the Trust had been able to submit a balanced budget for the year to 31st August 2026. It was noted that there was still a need to be cautious due to future funding.</p> <p>Q – Are there any further difficult decisions to be made, for example larger class sizes? A – We have protected Maths, English and options class sizes at KS4. This year in Performing Arts and Tech we have been able to reinstate groups, but there are always compromises to be made. Teachers are up to their maximum allocation, but are not over. We are monitoring ongoing, and we will always look after our staff.</p> <p>Q – Are there any plans for capital expenditure? A – There are no significant plans. We would wish to bid for funding to expand the Sixth Form, and can only do this by securing bids.</p> <p>Q – What is the on roll number for entry this year? A – For Sixth Form we have 153 of a 150 PAN, and in year 7 we have 277 of a 270 PAN.</p> <p>Q – How many of our students go on to the Sixth Form? A – Typically it would be around 2/3 but this year it was 50%. We are looked at those who chose not to come. A number wished to have a change of environment. We had no students go to our Sixth Form at HGHS this year. We are considering all of this as part of the work we are doing on belonging.</p> <p>Governors had no further questions to raise.</p>		
			Policies	There are no policies for approval at this meeting.	
			Ensure school curriculum policies are in line with statutory guidance	DB confirmed to Governors that the school curriculum policies are in line with statutory guidance.	

		Safeguarding and SEND link Governor updates	<p><u>SEND</u> MK agreed to contact R Odell to arrange a link visit.</p> <p><u>Pupil Premium</u> SK agreed to contact P Gaskell to arrange a link visit</p> <p><u>Safeguarding</u> IC has arranged a safeguarding link visit for the week following this meeting.</p>	<p>MK</p> <p>SK</p>
4	Governor Development	Review Trust Training Plan	<p>Governors are asked to complete the mandatory training modules as soon as possible.</p> <p>GDPR, Safeguarding, Cyber Security and Prevent.</p>	All
		Minute any training undertaken by Governors since the last meeting	Governors are asked to send their training certificates to the Clerk for retention.	All
		Academy Trust Handbook	The Academy Trust Handbook was circulated with the meeting papers for Governor's information.	
5	Community Engagement	Stakeholder engagement	<p>Q – Did the community fair take place? A – Yes, this was run by the Head of RS and KP there were representations from charities, faith leaders and also businesses.</p> <p>Students were able to rotate amongst the representatives and to ask questions, they were able to gain information on what is available in the community. The event was very worthwhile and is something which will be repeated again in the future. The event was a good opportunity for the students to engage with a wide range of individuals and organisations.</p>	
6	AOB		Governor and Trustee Conference Wednesday 10 th December 2025 – 9.00am to 10.30am	
7	Meeting Dates:	To note	<p>Tuesday 17th March 2026 at 6.00pm</p> <p>Tuesday 23rd June 2026 at 6.00pm</p>	

Impact of Meeting / Key Outcomes

Governors received a safeguarding and KCSiE update presentation
Governors reviewed the student outcomes for KS4 and KS5
Roll of honour video was viewed by Governors to show students receiving their results
Trust Board updates from the May and July meetings were reviewed by Governors
Feedback on the Ofsted Pilot inspection was received

Governors reviewed the School Development Plan
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Management accounts were reviewed and a finance update received

Meeting closed at 7.30pm



I Castledine
Chair of Academy Committee
17.03.2026