



ACADEMY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Tuesday 17th March 2026

Time: 6.00pm

Venue: Boardroom

Clerk: N Burgess

Present: A Ballard, D Brown, I Castledine, P Benton, C Jamison, S Kiani, B Gannon, L Brooks, M Turnpenney and P Gaskell

Action	Initials
Governors are reminded to inform the Clerk of any changes to the register of business interests	All
Governors are asked to read part one of the KCSiE guidance	All
Behaviour data presented to be in revised format	AB
Students to attend the next meeting to present to Governors	LB
Clerk to circulate record of visits to school proformas	NB
To pass on thanks to staff who arrange trips and visits on behalf of Governors	DB
Governors are reminded to complete any outstanding training modules	All
Training certificates to be sent to the Clerk for retention	All
School events invitations to be circulated to Governors	AR

Agenda – Part 1

Category	Item	Notes	Action
1	Governance Arrangements	P Gaskell presented to Governors the Careers Provision at CHHS and Governor questions were welcomed. PG updated Governors on the local and national context and that 68% of year 11 students felt career ready, and 83% had a plan for their next steps. Careers Education Information and Guidance (CEIAG) is woven throughout the curriculum at CHHS. The Careers programme at CHHS is named Life After Laurus. Across the Trust there is a team of Advisors, a Lead Advisor and two Apprentice Advisors. The school also has independent support from L Perkins, Head of Media at The Times. LP has also undertaken an independent	

		audit of the careers provision at the Trust The Principles of Careers Education at the school are: Statutory Careers Guidance Gatsby Benchmarks Laurus Baseline CHHS bespoke offer Gatsby Benchmarks are linked to the curriculum, for example Geography themed weeks link to green careers. Experience of the workplace is a government vision to be available to KS4 and 5. Careers legislation means governors should ensure the students receive impartial careers advice throughout their education and that it is meaningful. Q – Does Careers Education take place during the school day? A – Yes, there is dedicated form time, and also extended form time on Fridays. During form time we can show students a pathway and organisation, prior to them meeting the organisation. We then obtain feedback from both the students and the organisation to ensure it is meaningful. Q – Do students come out of lessons, for example in year 11? A – We try to minimise taking students out of KS4 lessons, but for all other year groups it is well planned and meaningful. All staff know CEIAG is embedded throughout the curriculum. Q – Do you have businesses come in as well as A Level providers and colleges? A – Yes, we are building a sustainable relationship with all our partners. We have a good mix of post 16 and employers Q – Is there any evidence around impact, such as particular themes which seem to resonate? A – The students want to know where it fits in in advance. Student voice is so important to us. They wish to acknowledge which sector the employers relate to. They can ask questions, and this also develops their communication skills. Exposure to vocational experience is offered to year 9. The school runs Careers Fairs where the students can meet lots of different providers. In terms of post 16 pathways Governors were informed	
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		that apprenticeships opportunities for school leavers are diminishing. The landscape post 16 is subject to change at present. Destinations were discussed and Governors noted that these were varied. Just under half of students go on to study at CHSF. The destination data shown to Governors is from the last years year 11 cohort. Ultimately it is doing what is right for the student. Q – What is a T Level? A – It is a work placement in industry which also has training alongside. It is equivalent to 3 A Levels and is a bespoke vocational pathway. As a school we are working with voluntary organisations to develop a network of relationships in the community. We are developing a network in Stockport. Governors were signposted to the Careers page on the school website to be able to view further information. Governors were pleased to note the information, guidance and opportunities available to students. It is excellent to see that the programme started in year 7, and that the school goes above and beyond statutory provision to tailor the programme to meet the needs of the students. Governors offered thanks to PG for the presentation.	
	Apologies	Apologies were received and accepted from M Kelly. M Turnpenney informed Governors he would be leaving the meeting at 7.00pm.	
	AOB items	There were no other items of business to raise.	
	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
	Minutes of the previous meeting	The minutes of the meeting held 23rd September 2025 were <u>approved</u> as an accurate record of the meeting. Matters arising: Governors are asked to read KCSiE part one guidance if they haven't done so already	All

		Membership: Recruitment Update/Succession Planning	An election for a Parent Governor will be running this term. Initial expressions of interest have been sought and there will then be an election process. An expression of interest has been received for the vacancy of Staff Governor and an appointment will be made in time for the next meeting of this committee. MT informed Governors that he would be stepping down at the end of the next meeting which would coincide with the end of his term of office. Governors thanked MT for his advance notice.	
		Scheme of Delegation	There were no material changes to note to the Scheme of Delegation.	
		Trust Board update	Governors received the reports for the Trust Board meetings in October and December 2025 had no further questions.	

2	School Performance & Accountability	Head of School Report	The Head of School report was circulated prior to the meeting. Leaders will give an overview of each section and Governor questions are welcomed. <u>Attendance</u> Attendance is moving in the right direction. Work is being done by AO and HO, Assistant Headteachers, in assemblies and also via incentives. We look at what good attendance look like and raise this to the forefront for the students. Q – Is the dip in year 11 normal or is it specific to the year group? A – We are really strong headline figures against national average, but year 11 and PP attendance does stand out. In year 11 there are lots of students with amazing attendance, but there is a borderline group who are difficult to engage. PP student attendance overall is an issue for us, particularly in year 11. Appropriate provision is being sought for some students by the pastoral team, there are some students with very complex needs. Attendance for the vast majority of our students is very good. We are not complacent and know there is work to be done. We will share at a future meeting of the impact of the work which has been done. PP attendance is lower down the school and does decline as students progress through the year groups, this is a national issue. Early identification is key and we look at the start of the week and we review and visit students, attendance is linked to a sense of belonging, and we try to identify any barriers. Transition data received allows us to be ahead and be proactive and not reactive. Q – Do you get data from the primaries? A – Yes, we do and we can act on this immediately. <u>Behaviour</u> Leaders are pleased to highlight to Governors that the percentage of students suspended is below national and LA average, and this is also the same for permanent exclusions. We are using restorative approach and post incident learning to identify barriers and the support our students to try to avoid repeat suspensions. This is an area of focus and we are working closely with the SEND team. We look at is behaviour an indication of a need
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			not being met. The current year 11 made up for the highest number of suspensions when they were in year 10. This relates to a small minority of students. Q – How many managed transfers have been done? A – We have 2 out at present and they are looking to be successful. It is always a last resort for us to send students to another provision. Governors were pleased to note there had only been one permanent exclusion this academic year. Governors requested that the data presented should not go back as many previous years, it was agreed that the data dashboard would be presented in the future. <u>Data</u> Headline data was presented to Governors for year 9, 11 and 13 and included identified groups. Year 11 last year for 9-5 including English and Maths was 75%. The current tracking is 71% which is looking promising. Leaders are cautiously optimistic. Governors noted there was no Progress 8 figure this year due to the students having no KS2 data. An area of focus is the disadvantaged cohort. Year 9 is a new exam specification this year for all schools. There are no past papers but there have been some specimen papers to work on. There has been lots of collaboration and looking at grade boundaries. The estimated progress for disadvantaged students is +1 which is a grade higher than they would be expected to achieve. Year 13 are a very strong year group. There are no changes to any of the specifications which makes for more accurate predictions. It was discussed that for this cohort the destinations are as important as their outcomes. Governors looked forward to hearing the outcomes for all year groups in August and reviewing at the autumn term meeting. Governors had no further questions to raise.	AB
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		School Development Plan	The SDP is a 3-year plan and this is currently year 2. A mid-year review of year 2 has been done and the actions have been RAG rated. The aspect for focus for the purpose of this meeting is Leadership and Service. There has been lots of work done by Heads of House and there have been lots of opportunities for students to become involved in leadership and service, for example charity work. The focus is to ensure there is an opportunity for involvement for all, for example whole year group charity fundraising. We want the students to be able to work to understand how the charity works and why in addition to the fundraising aspect. MT left the meeting at this point. All is going well with the Cornerstones. We have reviewed the range of roles on offer and wish to have good quality opportunities as a focus as opposed to quantity. Roles of the Sixth Form Cabinet are also being expanded, students have already completed some whole school work such as assemblies. Q – Is there any opportunity for students to attend our next meeting? A Yes, we can arrange this as it will be after exams. Governors were pleased to hear about the progress made towards the priorities and had no further questions.	LB
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3	Governor Monitoring	Finance update	Management Accounts to 31st December 2025 were reviewed. Currently the school is running with a balanced budget and a small surplus at present. The Trust Finance Director closely monitors the budget and work is currently in progress to look at next year's budgets. Q – Have the reserves been built back up? A – Yes, last year there was a small surplus, which was a very different position to two years ago when reserves were depleted. We are looking to keep reserves at the level they are. Re-laying the 4G pitch is a big cost project we will need to carry out in the future and we are planning for this in our budget.
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		Link Governor visits updates <u>Pupil Premium</u> A visit has been arranged for Friday 27th March. A record of visit proforma will be completed following the meeting. The Clerk will circulate a link to the visit proformas. <u>SEN</u> A visit has taken place this term and MK will be able to update further at the next meeting. <u>Safeguarding</u> IC has made 2 safeguarding visits since the last meeting. October meeting included SCR check, review of training, Ofsted and the MASSH process. December meeting included review of the Safeguarding Strategy, year 8 and 9 behaviour, SCR check and training plans for staff and Governors. <u>Trips and Visits</u> PB, on behalf of Governors, would like to pass on thanks to staff who arrange trips and visits. This includes multiple page detailed risk assessments prior to the trip. There have been 10 risk assessments signed off this term so far. Staff give up their time and holidays to ensure the students have the opportunities and it is very much appreciated by Governors. Governor thanks were also offered to PB for her time and commitment in reviewing the risk assessments and signing off the trips.	NB DB
		Policies There were no policies for approval at this meeting.	

		School Risk Register	The Risk Register was circulated prior to the meeting. The RR has recently been reviewed by SLT in school. The changes were highlighted within the document for Governor's ease of reference. IC commented that Governors should be aware that the bulge in year groups the school had previously experienced was going to be followed by a decline in future years. The decline is already impacting the primary sector and some local schools are consulting to reduce their PAN. Governors should be mindful to the fact that smaller year groups could be coming through in future years. Governors discussed the building projects planned in the locality and also the catchment area of the school. Last year there were a significant number of students who lived in the catchment area but did not get allocated a place. Q – Are there many students came to CHHS who were not offered a place initially on National Offer Day? A – We always lose a few students to the independent sector and then there are appeals which are successful. Governors had no further questions on the Risk Register.	
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		Monitor Pupil Premium PG presented PP to Governors at CHHS and the strategy plan for the year. The ultimate aim is for students to make the most progress possible. There are 3 distinct disadvantaged cohorts: Persistent absence High attendance and progress Threshold of attendance and progress Persistent absence is predominant in year 11. 90% is not acceptable. We do say to students 90% is good for a test result but is not good when it relates to attendance. Less than 90% attendance could mean students achieve one grade lower than they could do. Q – With regards to persistent absent students what potential do they have academically? A – Some do experience academic difficulties due to their missing time in school. There is a distinct link between attendance and achievement as well as other issues. We look at our PP students and we look at the barriers at different levels including pastoral, SEND, PLAC and social care. We look at our students on a very granular level as individuals, we also track parental engagement. We track the students as a trajectory and this is live tracking rather than after the event. PP numbers for CHHS are 13% of the cohort. Year 10 has the highest number of PP students per year group with 17%. PP students have been eligible for FSM in the last 6 years and there are students who are FSM now, it is important to know the difference. LAC and PLAC are also part of PP and it is vital to be able to know each individual student. As well as pastoral and SEND we also review PP progress by student and subject breakdown. Q – Where do you get the data to be able to track the students? A – We get the information from our MIS and are able to analyse in detail. We look at aspects like participation in school productions and PP students are well represented. We work closely with Music to look at funding for lessons. We look at PGL and MFL trips to look at offering support to enable the students to attend. Student Voice is so important everything which is done. The students can have a lack of confidence and resilience is	
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			a factor which we work to address. We ask students to try a club and if it is not for them to try another. We want them to feel a sense of belonging and connectedness. The Heads of Year know their students really well and are able to help them make connections with other students and clubs. As a school we have recently completed the BeeWell survey via University of Manchester. This was done with years 7,8 and 10. The topline data from the report is a testament to the work done in school, to make the students feel part of the school community. Governors reviewed the CHHS PP performance trajectory over the last 3 years and noted that this was moving in the right direction. The data reflects that PP students at CHHS, when compared against non-disadvantaged students in other schools, outperformed their peers. Governors also discussed the link between attendance and attainment. Q – In terms of attendance, what is meant by the focus on girls in particular? A – This is evidence informed. Positive attainment in our male PP students remains high, but there is a gap between male and female. There are always complex issues to be considered. The funding model for Pupil Premium is currently under review. From September 2026 the automatic transition from year 6 to 7 ends for FSM. An eligibility checker will be circulated to parents and they will need to sign up. This is a big change we which will need to be clearly communicated as part of the transition. Governors had no further questions to raise. Thanks were offered to PG for the comprehensive presentation.	
4	Governor Development	Review Trust Training Plan	Governors were reminded to complete the four mandatory modules by the June meeting.	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	The Drama Production will be presented in the coming months but there is no musical production this year. AR will circulate invites to Governors for all school events and awards evenings.	AR
6	AOB		There was no other AOB to raise.	
7	Meeting Dates:	To note	Tuesday 23 rd June 2026 at 6.00pm	

Impact of Meeting / Key Outcomes	
Governors received a presentation on Careers Education at CHHS	
Updates were given on the progress of the election process for Staff Governor and Parent Governor	
Head of School report was reviewed	
SDP was reviewed with a focus on Leadership and Service	
Management Accounts for December 2025 were reviewed	
Link Governors gave verbal updates of their visits to school	
Risk Register was reviewed	
Governors received a PP presentation	

Meeting closed at 19.45



I Castledine
Chair of Academy Committee
23.06.2026