



ACADEMY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Tuesday 24th June 2025

Time: 6.00pm

Venue: CHHS – Boardroom

Clerk: N Burgess

Present: B Gannon, K Pearson, I Castledine, M Kelly, M Turnpenney, C Jamison, L Brooks, D Brown, S Kiani and R Robinson (for part of the meeting)

Action	Initials
Governors to inform the Clerk of any changes to their record of business interests	All
To arrange link visits to school prior to the next meeting of this committee	IC/SK/MK
To pass on Governor thanks and congratulations to all staff for the Ofsted outcome	DB
Governors to complete the mandatory training modules before the end of the academic year	All
To send training certificates to the Clerk for retention	All

Agenda – Part 1

Category	Item	Notes	Action
1	Governance Arrangements	R Robinson attended to provide an overview of the transition class for 2024-2025 at CHHS. A transition class was trialled for the first time this year, with the aim being for a short-term intervention for vulnerable students, which adopts a ‘primary’ classroom routine. Students are integrated into mainstream classes as the year progresses. The transition class consists of up to 10 students, and is taught by one teacher for approximately half of their timetable. Students are identified by primary school information, class observations, taster days and information from parents. Q – Do parents get a choice as to their child being in the transition class? A – Yes, we would suggest and advise, but ultimately it is the parent/carer choice. This current year there were 7 students in the transition	

		class. In terms of 2025-2026 it is anticipated that there will potentially be 9 students. Final decisions will be made following the Summer School days and contact with parents/carers. The small numbers in the class allow for the teacher to gain an in-depth understanding of each student and their individual needs. There is also the opportunity to appoint external agencies to work with some of the students. A change for the coming academic year is students will attend their Science lessons in mainstream, and time will be spent in the transition class working on PSHE and RE and completing work around SEMH. Regular SEMH check-ins will be introduced on a daily basis. School will use the Boxall profile to accurately measure the impact of the transition group. Q – How long has the transition idea been running for? A – It has been running for a number of years at Marple Hall High School and is a highly regarded programme which is positively received by students and their parent/carers. Students can exhibit in different ways, and is vital that it is the right identification of the right children. Q – Sometimes in a PDC meeting we can see there has been an unidentified need, as far back as primary school. Are you looking at life post the transition class? A – Yes, we are working on that both here at CHHS and Trust wide. The key is short term intervention. We need to ensure we can make a difference in two terms to ensure a good transition back into mainstream for all lessons. We are able to liaise with and reassure parents ongoing. Governors had no further questions. RR was thanked for the comprehensive and informative presentation and left the meeting at this point.	
	Apologies	Apologies were received and accepted from P Benton.	
	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
		Minutes of the previous meeting	Minutes of the meeting held 18 th March 2025 were <u>approved</u> as an accurate record of the meeting. All actions had been completed and there were no matters arising.	
		Membership: Recruitment Update/Succession Planning	Link Governor roles were discussed and the need to appoint Governors to be responsible for these areas. Role descriptions for the role of SEND Link and PP Link Governor were circulated with the meeting papers. The following Link roles were confirmed: Safeguarding – I Castledine (to remain as previous) SEND – M Kelly PP – S Kiani Governors <u>approved</u> the above appointments. Link Governors are asked to arrange a link visit prior to the next meeting in the Autumn term.	SK/MK/IC
		Scheme of Delegation	There were no material changes to the Scheme of Delegation.	
		Trust Board update	Governors reviewed the Trust Board Report from their February meeting and had no further questions to raise. IC informed Governors that L Magrath, CEO, would be retiring in Summer 2026 and recruitment is currently taking place to appoint her successor.	

2	School Performance & Accountability	Head of School Report	Governors reviewed the Head of School Report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. <u>Outcomes</u> Governors reviewed the tracking and predictions for year 11 which looked very encouraging and which were in line with the previous year. The year 9 predictions for the MFL GCSEs were also very strong, and in line with 2024. A Level predictions were reviewed and Governors discussed that destinations for the students were as important as their results. <u>Attendance</u> Attendance is currently tracking at 94.8% which is particularly good against local and national average. Leaders acknowledged they were proud of attendance, but that there is still work to be done. Attendance of PP and vulnerable students is a concern and plans are in place for further work with these students in the forthcoming academic year. Year 10 attendance was discussed. It was noted there were a high number of PP students in the year group, and that work was being completed with these students, including with external agencies. It was confirmed that there are a small number of severely absent students in the cohort. Q – How many students are there who do not attend? A – Around 7-8. It is our responsibility to safeguard the students. We have to be realistic around their attendance and the complex issues behind this, and support them as much as we can. This is a big focus for SLT next year. Q – Will the results be affected next year as a consequence? A – This is a good question. Current year 10 are tracking well, but it will be harder to maintain the results and will be a big focus for us. Q – How many non-attenders are there in the current year 11? A – Currently it is 2 or 3 students. For the current year 10 PP students we are implementing intervention strategies earlier. There will
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			be an SLT link who will monitor, and we will mark the mock exam papers of this cohort earlier. They are a big focus for leaders now so that we can ensure what needs to be in place for year 11 is done so in advance. Challenge from Governors, on the progress of the work we are doing with PP students moving into year 11, is welcomed by Leaders. <u>Behaviour</u> Governors were pleased to note that suspension and permanent exclusion rates at CHHS were considerably lower than LA and National average. Leaders are confident the behaviour in school is good, and is not compromised to lower the figures in order to reduce suspensions. Q – Persistent disruptive behaviour is the highest reason for exclusions, why is this? A – This captures and encompasses a few different behaviours, which is the reason the number of exclusions is higher. <u>Ofsted Report</u> Governors were delighted with the outcome of the inspection, and the subsequent report. The report reflected the impact the school has on the lives of the students. Leaders discussed how valuable it was to have external recognition of the school. Governors confirmed how proud they were of the outcome and report, and asked DB to pass on their thanks to the whole staff for their hard work and effort on behalf of the students. In the day following this meeting there will be a staff celebration event where feedback from the report will be shared. DB agreed would share Governor thanks at this meeting.	DB
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		School Development Plan	The SDP has now moved to a 3-year plan, which is currently being reviewed. An updated version of the plan is contained within the documents for this meeting. It was important to note that success criteria can span the 3-year period, to summer 2027, and that actions will not necessarily be completed in one year. The plan will be RAG rated and any actions will be fed into the School Improvement Plan (SIP). Governor's attention was drawn to the areas which Leaders had noted as priorities: For the basics measure between disadvantaged and other students to be less than 10%. For the school to consistently receive 10 Oxbridge offers each year. It was discussed that to achieve these measures there would need to be a new approach from a wider team, and that this would be on the agenda at all levels. There is lots of experience focussed in the Sixth Form, and staff will be further upskilled with Professional Learning. It is also essential that students know that staff aspire for them. Tracking of Leadership and Service opportunities is identified as an area of focus. The school does not currently have a method of tracking student engagement in community activities. There is also a need to widen the opportunities for charity events. There is a community fair taking place in school the week following this meeting. The success of the fair will be reported on at the next meeting in the Autumn term. Q – Is the Oxbridge aspiration communicated to students on entry? A – They know from our marketing, open evenings and our prospectus, but we do need to raise the profile. External students in particular know and are aspiring to Oxbridge. A/A* students should be applying to Oxbridge and there is more work to be done. This is not only at CHHS but also Trust wide. This is a priority for all departments and for all students, not just for the Sixth Form. Leeds and Liverpool are popular university choices for our students and this could be due to geographical location.	
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3	Governor Monitoring	Finance update	Management Accounts to 31st March were circulated prior to the meeting. The management accounts show a small surplus, which is reflective of the impact of some of the decisions which have had to be made. The reserves currently are good for a school of this size, but we already know of an estimate of £250k to resurface the 4G pitch in a couple of years' time. The 2025-2026 budget will be approved by Trustees at their July meeting, and we hope to be able to share this with Governors at the next meeting of this committee. It should be noted that although the Trust are close to a balanced budget, it is very finely balanced. It was noted that the support staff pay award is not yet confirmed. There are also staff increments and increases to utility charges to factor in, which make it increasingly difficult to balance the budget. The teacher pay award has been agreed at 4%. Funding will be given for 2% and the remainder must be funded by the schools from efficiencies. Staffing costs make up 80% of the budget. Leaders are looking at every leaver to see if the post needs to be replaced in full. There have been increased class sizes and the school has agreed to admit student numbers above the PAN. What was 12 teaching groups at KS3 is now 10, we were fortunate in that we were in a position to be able to do this. We do have to consider the effect on staff in having larger teaching groups. Departments are being asked to monitor their capitation closely, to ensure best value and that the funding lasts for the year. We have also reviewed the TLR structure. Difficult decisions have had to be made but we are now seeing the effects of these decisions on the budget. Q- If you are not replacing a member of staff who had additional responsibilities, how are these being done? A – For example, a teacher paid on UPS 1,2 or 3 has wider responsibilities outside the classroom, but is not paid a TLR. We are aware our staff go above and beyond with trips and visits. Ofsted were blown away by the opportunities available to our students, and the significant amount of time and work our staff put in to ensure these opportunities. We have had conversations with staff and they still wish to offer the trips and visits. We will continue to monitor staff wellbeing and also be mindful of the effect of larger class sizes. We historically give more than the minimum PPA time to staff but this time could now be used up with more lessons. We know that all of our staff work incredibly hard, and staff wellbeing is very high on our agenda. We also have started our staff workload
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			groups. Q – How often do you replace PCs and laptops? A – This is done to ensure that our staff and students always have the devices they need. We have looked at usage ongoing and there are some which will not be replaced. Q – Is there an amount set aside for this? A – Yes, we have known this big expenditure is going and have built in a provision. Governors had no further questions to raise.	
		Policies	Governors approved the following policies: Behaviour Policy Mobile Technology Policy School Uniform Policy Q – When there are changes to a policy, which impact on students, how do you communicate the changes? A – It does get communicated to them if there are big changes, for example a sanction for vaping, they are told in assembly at the start of the year.	
		Ensure school curriculum policies are in line with statutory guidance	DB, as Head of School, confirmed that the school policies are in line with statutory guidance.	
		Safeguarding and SEND link Governor updates	<u>Safeguarding</u> IC is in the process of arranging his next link visit. <u>SEND</u> M Kelly is newly appointed to the role of SEND Link and will arrange a meeting at the start of the academic year.	
4	Governor Development	Review Trust Training Plan	Governors are asked to complete the mandatory training modules before the end of the academic year.	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

5	Community Engagement	Stakeholder engagement	Governors are invited in to school to attend the KS3 Awards evening and the Music performance. Sports Presentation Evening will be held in the Autumn term.	
6	AOB		There were no additional items of business raised.	
7	Meeting Dates:	To note	Tuesday 23 rd September 2025 at 6.00pm Tuesday 17 th March 2026 at 6.00pm Tuesday 23 rd June 2026 at 6.00pm	

Impact of Meeting / Key Outcomes	
Governors received a presentation on the Transition class	
Link Governor roles were reviewed and new appointments made for SEND and PP	
Governors reviewed the Head of School Report	
The updated 3-year SDP was reviewed by Governors	
Governors received a finance update and reviewed management accounts	
Governors approved 3 policies	

Meeting closed at 19.30



I Castledine
Chair of Academy Committee
23.09.2025