

Governors Present: Sean Devlin (Chair) Alex Gwinn
 Matthew Adams Wendy Pickess
 James Adnett Chantal Pottage
 Elle Beale Paul Rushton
 Grahame Davies Ed Senior
 Andrew Forth Caroline Shaw

In Attendance: Jane Jenkins (Vice Principal)
 Jo Payne (Clerk to the Local Governing Body)

1. Apologies: Sam Wilson, Wisal Bishar, Tom Gregory, Sheena Payne-Lunn and Larik Voitenko.

2. Opening Standing Items

- (i) There were no declarations of interest relevant to the agenda.
- (ii) No confidential items were identified.
- (iii) No urgent business was identified.

3. Training: Cross-College Mental Health Strategy

The Senior Leader for Safeguarding and Pastoral Support, the Safeguarding Officer and Mental Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator delivered a presentation on the College's Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The key points were as follows:

- The aims of the strategy focus on building resilience and reaching students across the College, not only those with an identified mental health need and has been formulated using the DfE recognised framework with eight key strands with the approach of other Colleges explored;
- At leadership and management level, reports and data is being used to inform future action and the Governor link for mental health and wellbeing will meet regularly with the Senior Leader for Safeguarding and Pastoral Support and Safeguarding Officer. The next step is to formalise areas of responsibility, accountability and impact;
- There is research which demonstrates the impact of poor mental health on outcomes, and the connection between those from disadvantaged backgrounds who experience poor mental health and their attainment;
- Staff have had training on behaviour management, but linked to this, ideas on how to form positive relations in the classroom and how to undertake restorative conversations and adaptive teaching etc;
- In relation to promoting staff wellbeing, this was focused on opportunities to create a sense of community and health initiatives such as the NHS Health Bus;
- The need for early intervention so that students are retained is a focus along with health initiatives e.g. the vaping social norms project with the health protection team;
- Data indicates that there has been a significant increase in mental health disorders in 17 to 19 year olds since 2017 and, more recently, a significant increase in eating disorders;

- The College provision of Counselling and Mental Health support was outlined to include support for trauma and adverse childhood experiences.

In response to challenge, the following points were noted:

- As part of the drop-ins offered with the Mental Health and Wellbeing Officer, 50 students were seen in April;
- The Safeguarding Officer undertakes verbal handovers with partner schools about the students who have applied so that the College can best support these students from the outset without the need to wait for the transfer of safeguarding files;
- A more formal PHSE curriculum around building resilience was being planned.

The Local Governing Body offered their thanks for an information presentation which they felt offered reassurance that the College was suitably focused on the wellbeing of staff and students and the commitment of all involved was clear.

4. Minutes

(i) Minutes of the meeting on Wednesday, 5th March 2025

The minutes were **confirmed** as a correct record and signed by the Chair and an update was provided on the action points with the following points noted:

- The recovery time objective of the most recent back up test was 4 hours and the reasons for the issues experienced were outlined and had been addressed. The next test was planned for the autumn term.

5. Finance and Resources

(i) Finance & Resources Committee minutes: 12.05.25

The Chair of the Committee presented the draft minutes and highlighted the Committee's concern in relation to the lack of clarity as to whether the Trust's commitment to use central MAT SCA funds for the fire safety works would be honoured following the changes to the allocations awarded and also the use of Trust funds to fully subsidise train travel from Worcester to Hereford.

The Local Governing Body shared these concerns as the uncertainty meant that College leaders could not make plans to invest monies on the replacement of the PV panels for example, nor progress with other sustainability objectives. Governors felt strongly that the College's having the strongest finances of any academy in the Trust should not result in the College being penalised for being able to manage its accounts. The Local Governing Body charged the Principal with getting this clarity by the end of the month, otherwise the Chair would escalate this matter to the Trust Board.

The Committee had also focused on toilets and some data on the ratio of cubicles to student was tabled and further demonstrate a significant shortage of facilities, in particular, for female students. The Principal advised that he is consulted staff on the four new toilets which would be designated for females, being for both staff and students.

The Local Governing Body noted feedback from the Finance and Resources Committee.

(ii) Principal's Update

The Principal provided an update on funding with the Government making additional funding available to enable schools and colleges to pay the 4% award recommended by the School Teachers' Review Body. The budget was based on the assumption of a 3% pay award, but the College would be in a position to pay a 4% award.

6. Quality Assurance

(i) Curriculum & Quality Committee minutes: 14.05.25

The Clerk presented the minutes and reported that the Committee had made a recommendation in relation to the re-appointments of three external governors. The draft minutes were **received** and the Local Governing Body would request that the Trust Board duly ratify the following re-appointments:

- Sean Devlin as external governor and member of the Curriculum and Quality Committee for a four-year term;
- Matthew Adams as external governor and member of the Finance and Resources Committee for a four-year term;
- James Adnett as external governor and member of the Finance and Resources Committee for a four-year term.

7. Governance

(i) Trust Board Summary

The Local Governing Body noted the contents of the Board summary, in particular, that the Chair of the Trust was stepping down from the role in the summer term.

(ii) Clerk's Update

The Clerk advised that Caroline Shaw was retiring at the end of term and thanked her for her contribution to the College and the Local Governing Body. These sentiments were echoed by the Principal and the Chair. A staff governor vacancy will be promoted in the autumn term in addition to the Year 1 student governor vacancy.

A training needs form will be circulated electronically which will also invite feedback on Governors' appetite for a conference to consider strategic matters and for ideas on what governors would like included should this go ahead.

(iii) Stakeholder Feedback

- The March safeguarding link governor feedback was shared and the contents noted. There has been a more recent visit and the notes of this will be shared at the September meeting;
- The Mental Health and Wellbeing link governor attended an online webinar around managing anxiety and exam stress.

The Local Governing Body **noted** the updates provided.

8. Policy Reviews

(i) Trust Policy Update

The Clerk provided an update on the latest policies approved or reviewed by the Trust Board.

9. Closing Standing Items

(i) Chair's Action: No Chair's action had been taken since the last meeting.

(ii) Health and Safety: The consideration of the lack of toilets and the need to ensure that fire safety works were completed were noted.

(iii) Risk Management: The Clerk explained the Trust approach to recording risk registers via an online Portal and provided an outline of the format adopted. Governors requested in the short to medium term at least, that College management continue to populate the version of the risk register which clearly identifies changes to scores and additional controls and assurances alongside updating the version on the Portal. There was also a comment on the high number of risks and tasked the Principal with reviewing whether all of these were required.

- (iv) Impact: Governors' focus on ensuring health and safety works were completed were noted and the safeguarding governor findings also demonstrated positive impact.
- (v) Any Urgent Business: None.
- (vi) Date of Next Meeting: The meeting scheduled for 2025-26 was approved. Consequently, the next Local Governing Body meeting would take place on 10th September 2025.

The meeting closed at 7.05pm.

Signed:
Sean Devlin (Chair)

Date:

LGB ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM MEETING ON 4TH JUNE 2025

Report Reference	Action Point	Person Responsible	Completion	Check
LGB/04.06.25/5(i)	Clarify arrangements for financing the fire improvement works from the CEO/CFO and feedback to governors by the end of the month.	EYS	June 2025	
LGB/04.06.25/9(iii)	Review the risk register to identify if there are any risks that can be closed.	EYS	September 2025	

ACTION POINTS BROUGHT FORWARD

Report Reference	Action Point	Person Responsible	Completion	Check

ACTION POINTS COMPLETED

Report Reference	Action Point	Person Responsible	Completion	Check
LGB/05.03.25/6(ii)	Revisit the sustainability and climate action plan to refine the number of KPIs.	EYS/JJP	March 2025	✓
LGB/05.03.25/6(ii)	Confirm the recovery time objective in relation to network and systems backup.	EYS	March 2025	✓

* Denotes amended action point.

