

**Meeting of Full Governing Body
14th September 2015
Training Room
4.30pm**

MINUTES

Governors Present:	Mick Baker, Richard Bradford, Emma Farrell, Alison Frost, Les Gunbie, Jeremy Holtom, Reg Hook, Jennifer John, Jenny Poore, Alan Sanders, Elaine Stoner, Derek Swindells (Chair), Sarah Windsor
Officers:	Teresa Carter (Clerk)
Others:	Richard Baker, Andrea Cumming, Chris Lee, Ros Stephen

	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Action</u>
1	<p>Introduction</p> <p>a) Apologies for Absence Apologies for absence received from Martyn Allen.</p> <p>b) Declarations of Interest None</p>	
2	<p>Appointment of Chair and Vice Chairs Nominations for the position of Chair and/or Vice Chair of Governors had been sent to the Clerk in advance of the meeting - cut off time 3pm on 13th September. The following nominations had been received: Three nominations for Derek Swindells as Chair of Governors. Two nominations for Jenny Poore as Vice Chair of Governors. Two nominations for Alan Sanders as Vice Chair of Governors.</p> <p>AGREEMENT - The Full Governing Body voted by a show of hands and elected Derek Swindells as Chair of Governors and Jenny Poore and Alan Sanders as Vice Chairs of Governors. All appointments were effective until the first Full Governing Body meeting in academic year 2016/17.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Governors for their support and advised that during 2015/16 he aimed for all Governors to feel able to contribute to the success of the school, more governor engagement and for a succession plan to be developed.</p>	
3	<p>Last meeting Dated 15th June 2015</p> <p>a) Approval of Minutes The Full Governing Body reviewed and approved four pages of minutes from the meeting held on 15th June 2015.</p> <p>b) Matters Arising Not Included Elsewhere on Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of the artificial turf pitch had been completed and was in use following a handover. A standard 5% of retention had been held back to cover any snagging issues over two years. Opening ceremony to be on 24th September at 3.30pm. • The Chair proposed the appointment of Sue Middleton (Retired Deputy Head) as an Associate Member to develop the alumni relationship and work on the school's 60th anniversary celebrations. Other Governors supported the appointment with a term of four years suggested. <p>AGREEMENT - The Full Governing Body appointed Sue Middleton as an Associate Member for four academic years.</p>	

Signature.....Date.....

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governors were advised that following Marilena Ward's resignation there was a vacancy for a Co-opted Governor and that the skills audit currently underway would be used to identify the preferred skill set of potential candidates. 	
4	<p>School Improvement Items</p> <p>a) Student Outcomes 2014/15 and Priorities for Student Achievement</p> <p>Governors having previously been advised by email of the headline GCSE results acknowledged the school's great performance for 2014/15 and congratulated the Headteacher, senior leadership team and whole school staff for the results and for also the recognising the areas where further work was to be done. The Headteacher also acknowledged the hard work of students supported by their families resulting in so many getting the results that they needed and deserved.</p> <p>Andrea Cumming presented a PowerPoint to Governors providing more detailed analysis of outcomes. The following points were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 GSCE A* - C grades including English and maths up to 73% (65). 5 GSCE A* - C grades without English and maths up to 75%, which was noted as a small gap with the above and worthy of more investigation. Below where hoped to be. EBacc up to 35% of whole cohort (25%). Two good sciences up to 69% (55%) but still off the maths and English performance at around 80%. Attainment 8 average grade up to B- (C) Best 8 value added based on last years national figures up to 1013 (previously below 1000) boosted by excellent performance in RS (75%). Progress 8 based on last years national figures up tom +0.1 (0.04). Grade A* - A up to 35% against national trend. 19% of students achieved 8 or more A* to A grades. City comparison data demonstrated how well the school had done outperforming local schools in the majority of attainment and progress measures. Examples of top performing students in both attainment and progress were provided. Whole school key measures were attendance at 94.7% (95.1%), persistently absent down to 43%, though all students within this measure were pupil premium students, exclusions down to 2.82%. <p>Governors asked whether the outcomes were comparable with what an outstanding classified school would achieve and were advised that whilst the school did extremely well with top end students the gap between whole school and pupil premium students was increasing and it was unlikely that an outstanding Ofsted classification would be given though the school considered itself to be high level good.</p> <p>Governors also asked about the potential impact on value added achievement with the removal of statutory levels at primary school. The school responded that whilst 3 levels of progress would no longer be the official progress measure there would be some measure coming from primary which would be a student's official starting point and not the school's own base line assessment on entry.</p> <p>There was a connection made with the higher absences of pupil premium students and difficulties with external factors such as transport. The Headteacher advised that the impact of such issues was hard to quantify and that pupil premium was based on a financial measure not ability or needs measure. Nonetheless attendance of children eligible for free school meals (89.3%) remained an issue for the school.</p> <p>The presentation to Governors then included a summary of the student outcome priorities for 2015/16 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupil premium first initiative to enable teachers to be more aware of students 	

	<p>within that group with simple tools such as marking their books first, ensuring feedback in class given first. Governors were keen to bring an element of “pupil premium first” into their work priorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising boys’ achievement to equal that of girls, particularly in English. • Change the language for students not on track for grade Cs at GCSE so that they do not see themselves as failing to achieve and creating a culture where every grade matters. There was comment that with some colleges having high entry requirements this might be a challenging area for the school. This led to a brief discussion about the school’s experience of inflexibility of entry requirements in some colleges despite the school’s recommendations and students attitudes to learning. • Further development of the stringer learning culture reducing low level disruption in class and raising expectations and consistency. <p>Governors asked about the 27% of students not achieving 5 A*- C grades including English and maths and the % that would not be part of the pupil premium first initiative. The school advised that in both year 10 and 11 there was a list of students not on track and all these were discussed individually with appropriate support put in place, including learning support, booster classes and involvement of parents. Lower down the school each department reported at subject meetings on individual student progress. Governors were invited to attend student progress meetings to get an overview of the process in action.</p> <p>b) School Development Priorities for 2015/16 Governors had been provided with a full copy of the school self evaluation document and priorities summary for 2015/16. In addition to the achievement priorities discussed under 4a above the priorities for teaching and learning, behaviour and safety and leadership and leadership were summarised. The Headteacher highlighted the common theme throughout of embedding staff routines for promoting behaviour for learning through “Stringer Learning Culture” to eradicate low level disruption and thereby increasing student progress.</p> <p>The staff members present at the meeting confirmed that the introduction of a Stringer Learning Culture had been welcomed by staff and was already positively impacting on the school atmosphere, the learning experience for students and the ease of behaviour management.</p> <p>Governors were happy that the key priorities identified met with their own high aspirations for the school and the Chair of Governors suggested that the focus of the next strategic meeting should be progress against on the key priorities in addition to school values and governor engagement.</p>	
5	<p>Governance & Regular Items</p> <p>a) Declarations Register & Update on Publication of Governor Information The Clerk advised that statutory guidance had introduced a requirement for more detailed publication of information around governance including the declarations register, which should include all relevant interests and potential conflicts. A pro forma for reporting was tabled.</p> <p>b) Review and Confirm Individual Governor Responsibilities Including Associate Members The Chair of Governors requested a small working group to look at and confirm individual governor responsibilities ensuring a focus on the school improvement priorities in addition to statutory duties.</p> <p>c) Governing Body Self Evaluation and Skills Audit - Introduction to Process Above working group to also carry out a governing body effectiveness evaluation and analysis of skills audit.</p> <p>ACTION - Jenny Poore to lead on a working group to complete a governor responsibilities review, a self evaluation and skills audit analysis. Report and recommendations to next strategic meeting.</p>	<p>JP</p> <p>All</p>

	ACTION - All completed skills audits to be sent to the Clerk by 12th October.	
6	<p>Any Other Business None</p> <p><i>Are there any financial or safeguarding implications as a result of decisions made or actions agreed?</i></p>	
7	<p>Next Meeting Next full governing body meeting scheduled for 14th December 2015</p> <p>Meeting ended at 6.15pm</p>	