



HARROGATE  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

**Minutes of the Local Governing Body of**

**held on Thursday 8 May 2025 at 5.30pm**

Present: Mr A Lindley (Chair), Mr N Renton (Headteacher), Ms J Watson, Dr J Featherstone, Mr D Hurcomb, Mr C Howard, Miss O Charles, Mrs A Meacher, Dr T Stowell

Apologies None

Also present: Miss K Smith, Mrs K Moat

<b>Minute No.</b>		<b>Action</b>
LGB 1	<b>1. Apologies</b>  None. No declarations of interest were reported.	
LGB 2	<b>2. Minutes of the last meetings</b>  The minutes of the last two meetings were agreed.	
LGB 3	<b>3. Headteacher's Report</b>  <b>Data Dashboard</b>  Mr Renton reported that Y7 are looking in a really strong place and they have had a very positive start to secondary school. Y8 are also in a good position.  Y10 have also made sustained progress recently and as a year group have settled into good habits.  Y11 data is based on CAT data rather than teacher estimates. The approach of Y11 has been very positive. They have now gone on study leave but many students have been in school revising. Their last day in school was very positive and there was a great atmosphere.  Y12 results are largely in line with last year.  It appears that for Y13, teachers have been cautious in their teacher estimates. Mr Twitchin has been looking into this.  The gap between disadvantaged and non disadvantaged students has reduced. The Y11 disadvantaged cohort are making better progress than last year.	

A Governor asked if there was extra provision for Y11. Mr Renton confirmed that we have built on this since last year, eg the mocks were earlier, Saturday school, revision booklets, SLT meetings with key students. In addition, there is a real energy with maths and a renewed focus on English.

Suspensions have been very low this year and staff have done significant work with students to bring these numbers down, particularly SEND students.

### **Attendance**

Mr Renton advised that although we are not where we would like to be, we are still in a positive position. Y11 going on study leave has had an impact on our attendance figures. The gap for FSM students and those with an EHCP has reduced. The biggest gain is around students who are at risk of persistent absenteeism. The recording of attendance figures are ethical and robust. We accurately follow the attendance reporting guidelines.

This year, we have introduced drives that positively impacts attendance, eg kindness week.

A Governor asked about the drop off in attendance in Y9. Mr Renton advised that this does include some Y9 leavers. The pattern is Y7 and Y8 is positive and where we would expect. We need to show a further percentage increase in September to get to pre-pandemic levels.

There are a high number of authorised absences which we need to look at and we will be writing to parents about this.

A Governor asked how to combat parents asking for time off to take their children on holiday. This is a complex area and we are going to write to parents in September and use Open Events to stress key messages about attendance.

We have learnt key lessons this year and continue to drive this forward.

### **Safeguarding**

A Governor asked how the school has been keeping up with things like emojis, particularly since the Adolescence drama on Netflix. Miss Smith advised that we cascade training to staff as soon and as often as we can. We can look at what students are searching whilst in school. Miss Smith receives daily updates from Prevent. We are registered with many different platforms and we regularly receive updates.

The five DSLs each take an area of expertise.

A Governor asked if the safeguarding numbers are steady. Miss Smith said they are increasing but we do have a greater level of diligence in reporting. There are really robust systems in place. There is some evidence of more complex cases. CPOMS is open to all staff.

### **Finances**

We currently have £702,000 in reserves. £800,000 would give us the 5% reserve expectation. We now have a projected surplus of £192,000 this year which is more than anticipated.

	<p>Wolfson have agreed to extend their offer of funding for another year.</p> <p>The current deficit next year is between £40,000 to £70,000. Our reserves at the end of the year are estimated to be £900,000 and we will be setting a small deficit budget. It is likely however, that there will be an uplift by the end of the year.</p> <p>The risk is the teacher pay increase and that would equate to £100,000 if it must be funded outside of existing budgets. This would mean that we have to do some work next year to make it sustainable. Details of how this will be funded will be announced in the autumn term.</p> <p>Savings have been made by a member of SLT and Faculty leader leaving. There has also been an operational 5% staffing reduction. There are 2 roles that could lead to redundancy.</p> <p>We will be able to make a decision on Wolfeson after Christmas.</p> <p>Governors acknowledged the huge amount of work that has gone into this.</p>	
LGB 4	<p>4. Policies for approval</p> <p>The following policies were approved by Governors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessibility Plan which includes details of the student advocacy scheme.</li> </ul> <p>Exams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complaints</li> <li>• Data Protection</li> <li>• Special Consideration</li> <li>• Access Arrangements</li> <li>• Conflict of Interest</li> <li>• Cyber Security</li> <li>• Emergency evacuation</li> <li>• Equalities</li> <li>• Escalation process</li> <li>• Exams contingency plan</li> <li>• Exams archiving policy</li> <li>• Exams policy</li> <li>• Internal appeals procedures</li> <li>• Malpractice</li> <li>• NEA and ICC policy</li> <li>• Shelter in place/lockdown</li> <li>• Whistleblowing</li> <li>• Word processor</li> </ul> <p>Mrs Moat advised Governors that there is a greater emphasis on AI and cyber security from exam boards. This has been shared with faculty leaders.</p> <p>A Governor asked about the IT support for exams. Mrs Meacher commented that so far, things have been better than last year after the review. These policies will be shared with IT Trust colleagues so they have knowledge of these policies.</p> <p>Mr Renton advised that the Deputy IT Director has left and the Trust are not recruiting to the role at the moment.</p>	

	<p>A Governor asked if we receive any complaints about exams. They are very rarely escalated but there have been a few low level ones. In some cases, this has led to special consideration requests.</p> <p>Governors approved these policies.</p>	
LGB 5	<p><b>5. Chair of Governors report</b></p> <p>Mr Lindley reported on the recent interview for Assistant Headteacher and SENCO.</p> <p>Ms Hooper was very impressive and has been appointed on a 12 month contract. She has a lot of potential and real credibility. Mrs Zoccolan will be able to guide and support in her new wider Trust role.</p>	
LGB 6	<p><b>6. Link Governors</b></p> <p>None.</p>	
LGB 7	<p><b>7. Risk register update</b></p> <p>Mr Renton advised Governors that there a number of current risks.</p> <p>Financial – this is an ongoing picture which has already been reported on.  Reputation – following the five proposals, there has been a strike ballot from NEU.  Staff morale – following this disruptive period.  EHCPs – with the new SENCO/Assistant Headteacher.</p>	
LGB 8	<p><b>Ofsted consultation feedback</b></p> <p>Mr Renton reported on the consultation. Next year there is a new Ofsted toolkit.</p> <p>The new reports will not involve an overall judgement, instead there is a graded grid across different areas of the school.</p> <p>Feedback nationally has been mixed to the consultation.</p> <p>Our staff really got behind the visit and it was a really good 2 days. There were 5 inspectors and the visit was more open and consultative.</p> <p>Their identified area of focus was disadvantaged students and it became clear that the new student advocate scheme was the right thing to do.</p> <p>Some areas were identified that we need to improve on.</p> <p>It is clear that we need to prepare Inspectors for iPads and to the level they are used in school. They were impressed with the professionalism and dedication of staff and our students were excellent ambassadors for the school.</p> <p>Schools are unlikely to be exemplary in all areas.</p> <p>A Governor asked about the political relationship between the Government and Ofsted.</p>	

	The new framework will be implemented in September. It does not give schools much time to prepare.	
LGB 9	The next meeting will take place on Thursday 26 June at 5.30pm at Harrogate Grammar School.	