



Minutes of the Local Governing Body of

held on Thursday 25 September 2025 at 5.30pm

Present: Mr A Lindley (Chair), Mr N Renton (Headteacher), Ms J Watson (for the first 10 minutes), Mr C Howard, Mrs A Meacher, Mrs D Reynard, Mr R Sykes, Mjr V Cliffe

Apologies: Dr J Featherstone, Miss O Charles
Also present: Miss K Smith, Mrs K Moat, Mrs L Butterfield

Minute No.		Action
LGB 1	<p>Election of Chair and Vice Chair</p> <p>Andrew Lindley was proposed and accepted as Chair of Governors. John Featherstone was proposed and accepted as Vice Chair of Governors.</p> <p>All Governors agreed these appointments.</p>	
LGB 2	<p>1. Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received from Dr Featherstone and Miss Charles. Mrs Reynard, Major V Cliffe and Mr Sykes were welcomed to the meeting. No declarations of interest were reported.</p> <p>Miss Watson was thanked for her significant contribution to Harrogate Grammar School as a staff Governor over many years.</p>	
LGB 3	<p>2. Minutes of the last meetings</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were agreed by Governors.</p>	
LGB 4	<p>3. Headteacher's Report</p> <p>Admissions</p> <p>Mr Renton reported on the Y13 who have left school and some Y11 who have not joined Sixth Form.</p> <p>The current student total in Y13 is 341, of which 39 are from Rossett. These are classed as part time students so we only receive a part payment for them.</p>	

A Governor queried what the numbers will look like next year in Y12. Mr Renton advised that Y13 numbers next year may be slightly up due to the recruitment into Y12. Mr Twitchin did a really good job with managing over 500 applications in the summer and has the correct processes in place.

Dashboard

Mr Renton advised that Y7 into Y8 had a positive year in terms of attainment.

We are monitoring Y9 closely into Y10.

New Y11 are very much in line with previous year who went on to achieve really good results. SLT have already met with 40 students to support.

There is a larger disadvantaged cohort in the current Y11 than last year.

For the existing Y13 cohort, on the basis of the summer exams, they are in a stronger position at this time than the cohort who has just left. If they make the same progress, with all the support Mr Twitchin has put in place, next years A Level results could look even better.

Mrs Moat advised Governors that the current Y13 have very good study habits.

Culture

Suspensions

There was an increase in suspensions last year for Y8. The new Y9 are still a challenging cohort. This is not just HGS but across the area. We have used suspension with Y9 already but we are hopefully seeing this start to settle.

Attendance

We had made a 1% increase when Y11 left and at the end of the year, we were 0.3% up on the previous year. Miss Smith has access to the Trust dashboard which gives a view with different year groups. The best day in terms of attendance is a Tuesday. Big picture lessons are having a positive impact. Friday is the lowest day.

We have noted about holidays impacting attendance and Mr Renton has already spoken to our new parents about this. The random acts of respect, kindness and gratitude week have had positive impacts on attendance.

A Governor asked about the drop in Y9 attendance towards the end of the year. Miss Smith advised that in a small number of cases, Y9 students do not attend lessons that they are not carrying on with. Equally, you see the impact of some students going out of school to take part in other activities that we cannot claim attendance marks for such as students travelling to a sporting event and travel time takes longer than the registration period.

Mr Renton advised that anywhere near holidays, some students are taken out of school due to the cost of school holidays.

In the summer term, there are lots of activities taking place like trips and sports days and this can impact attendance.

A Governor challenged why the Y11 attendance drops off so much. Mr Renton explained that our current approach is to allow students to go on study leave, during which we offer

optional study sessions that they can sign up for. An alternative method would be to keep students in school for a longer period, even during their exam season. Although we haven't traditionally followed this approach, our review showed that the students who would benefit most from support were not attending the optional sessions. As a result, we have made changes this year: students will begin study leave later, allowing us to provide more structured support beforehand for all. We hope this adjustment will have a positive impact, particularly for disadvantaged students and our overall attendance.

There are currently 11 students who have 0% attendance for complex reasons. A Governor asked if this figure was unusual, Mr Renton advised that it has been around this number in the past but, we know more about the cases now and we are doing everything to support these students. Some are very complex and in some cases, EHCP students are waiting for specialist provision.

Persistent absenteeism and severe absenteeism are down.

Sustainability

We currently have a focus on recycling.

Safeguarding

We are well covered on staff training and Dr Featherstone has taken on the safeguarding role.

Staff updates

Mr Renton confirmed that we had not appointed a Y10 Year Manager before the summer break but we have interviewed today and have offered the position, subject to references.

Finance

There was a significant amount of work and restructuring last year.

There are £702,000 of reserves but surplus for the year was £341,000 and the most recent figures are £284,000 surplus and that puts us broadly in the range of having £1,000,000 of reserves.

There will be a small deficit this year of £80,000 but this includes budgeting for updating science labs, the changing rooms and some updates to the hub.

When we have stripped out some roles last year, the impact of this has been felt in some areas across the school.

A Governor asked which areas are currently most affected. Mr Renton explained that while some operational tasks can be managed, the Finance team is under significant strain due to staff shortages. The greatest pressure is on roles that require staff to be physically present and active around the school, which has been made worse by the absence of a new Year 10 Manager. There was also a question about whether the Sixth Form has sufficient capacity, given it now has 650 students. Additionally, the recent transition to a new cluster team has caused some disruption due to recruitment challenges, although this is expected to stabilise over time.

	<p>We need to replace the carpet on the Astro. The FA and Sport England are keen to work with the school and would support an application for a new 3G pitch here. This would allow us to keep the hockey pitch. We would need to find £350,000 which is a substantial amount, however a new 3G pitch would also generate income.</p> <p>Governors agreed to support.</p> <p>The Sports Academy are performing to a high level and we want to provide them with excellent facilities.</p>	
LGB 4	<p>4. Policies for approval</p> <p>The Safeguarding policy was centrally approved by Trustees.</p> <p>A Governor queried the positive achievement system point 2 in relation to a verbal warning and how this is delivered to students. Ms Smith explained that staff aim to keep the conversation with the student positive and therefore the word 'warning' is not always used. Students are aware that the warning is not always expressly said as it is explained to them at the beginning of the year. Agreed to revise the wording.</p> <p>Mr Renton reminded Governors that we are keeping the distinction that we can consider behaviour out of school as part of the policy.</p> <p>The Respectful Relationships policy was also approved by Governors subject to the wording change around warning.</p>	
LGB 5	<p>5. Chair of Governors report</p> <p>The Chair welcomed the new Governors again.</p> <p>There will be a meeting of the student discipline committee next week to consider a permanent exclusion.</p>	
LGB 6	<p>6. Link Governors</p> <p>The new Ofsted framework has been published and the first inspections will start after the October break. In March 2026, it will be four years since we were last inspected and our next one will be due.</p> <p>We would like to strengthen the link Governors and the following links were agreed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People – Mr Howard • Sixth Form – Dr Featherstone • Attendance and behaviour – Mrs Reynard • Personal development – Major Cliffe • Safeguarding – Dr Featherstone • Curriculum and Teaching – Miss Charles • SEND and Inclusion – Mr Lindley 	
LGB 7	<p>7. Risk register update</p> <p>Mr Renton advised Governors that there are no significant risks at the moment. We will keep the financial risks and staffing under review.</p>	

LGB 8	<p>Results</p> <p>A Level</p> <p>We had the strongest outcomes since the pandemic and overall at 61.3% A*-B. We should note that it is a large cohort but the maths outcomes are tremendous with an average grade of A- at Maths and A in Further Maths. There is also a link with high results in Physics, Chemistry and Economics. The Assistant Headteacher and Maths Faculty leader Mr Hill was thanked for his contribution to these outstanding results. It is a real credit to his leadership.</p> <p>Mrs Moat reported that many of the results reviews that have increased have been Maths.</p> <p>We had a very challenging target at A*-A of 25% and we achieved 31.4%. The national figure is 28.3% which is a good benchmark. We were slightly below target at A*-B but we are up 5.1% on last year. We achieved 61.3% against a national figure of 51.2%.</p> <p>There is a predicted value added of 0.56. 24 out of 27 subjects had a positive value added. The 3 that did not were very small cohorts.</p> <p>Boys have done better than girls and this gap has grown following reviews. More boys have requested reviews of their grades. We are mindful that the current Y13 cohort are girl heavy and this is a focus. Girls did very slightly better at A* but this was the only category.</p> <p>The disadvantage gap reduced very slightly compared to last year. Mrs Moat advised that we need to make sure our disadvantaged students are not put off requesting reviews due to the cost as it is expensive.</p> <p>A Governor asked about Art moderation and if the issue last year has repeated. Mrs Moat confirmed that all our Art grades were accepted this year. We may however consider a change of exam board due to a lack of confidence in the moderation process at AQA in general.</p> <p>We had three subjects that were moderated down in Politics, Literature, Drama and History. This is frustrating as the reasons are not always clear and can impact the overall grade.</p> <p>There was also a reduction in the gap with 'new to' students which is pleasing as this has been a focus.</p> <p>It is pleasing to see Business and Economics performing strongly as these areas were off concern a few years ago.</p> <p>Following the results meetings, Music, Psychology (very large female cohort), Biology, BTEC Music and BTEC Business have been identified as key areas to work on.</p> <p>We are not running the KS5 Digital Media course after this year. There is a new Y12 IT course.</p> <p>These results allowed students to progress with only 9 students in clearing on A Level results day.</p> <p>GCSE</p>	
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LGB 10	<p>The next meeting will take place on Thursday 28 November at 5.30pm at Harrogate Grammar School.</p>	