



HARROGATE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

Minutes of the Local Governing Body of

held on Thursday 5 February 2026 at 5.30pm

Present: Dr A Lindley (Chair), Mr N Renton (Headteacher), Dr J Featherstone, Mr C Howard, Miss O Charles, Mrs A Meacher, Mrs D Reynard, Mr R Sykes

Apologies Major V Cliffe

Also present: Miss K Smith, Mrs K Moat, Mrs L Butterfield, Mr T Eastaugh

Minute No.		Action
LGB 1	<p>1. Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received from Major Cliffe. There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
LGB 2	<p>2. Minutes of the last meetings</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were agreed by Governors.</p> <p>Mr Renton gave an update on the Lighthouse School. Mr Renton has agreed to be a Governor and there will be links with Harrogate Grammar School.</p>	
LGB 3	<p>3. Headteacher's Report</p> <p>Admissions</p> <p>There have been 11 students that have left the school since the last meeting. Ms Smith advised that there has been a higher movement of students but nothing of concern.</p> <p>A Governor challenged where one of the Sixth Form students had gone. Mr Renton gave an explanation.</p> <p>Dashboard</p> <p>Mrs Moat advised that the data shows a pattern of where students should be in KS3 and Y10.</p> <p>We have concerns around the Y11 disadvantaged cohort and the 'supporting success campaign' has already started. Mr Renton explained the provision that we are providing for these students. We have a number of significantly absent students.</p>	

A Governor asked how we reach these children. We continue to offer Saturday revision which is quite different to being in lessons during the school day and we are hoping this may encourage these children to come in so we can support. We are doing everything we can to support these children.

There are 40 disadvantaged students children in Y11. Half of the group are doing well but the other half are a concern.

A Governor challenged by asking who oversees this group of disadvantaged students. Mr Renton advised that it is all of us as part of an over arching programme. However, Nik Mason takes the lead as Director of Upper School.

A Governor asked what categories are used in the data. Mrs Moat explained the category system and how this is used. Of the 18 Cat D students, 10 are PP.

Y12 are in a good position and are closer to target than we usually see at this point.

Y13 mock results were issued to students this week.

Culture

Suspensions

Miss Smith advised that external suspensions are still very low.

Attendance

There has been a impact on attendance nationally following illnesses in December. We have joined the Regional Attendance Hub and are also working with a locality offer.

For the first time this academic year, we will be keeping Y11 in school until the exams have started.

We are slightly down compared to the increase in attendance that we had achieved last year but we are still above the national figures. The number of severely absent students has dropped.

A Governor asked if we impose fines on parents who take their children out of school. Miss Smith confirmed that we do fine but this is overseen by the Local Authority.

A Governor asked how we look after students who are not in school consistently. Miss Smith advised that we implement safeguarding checks. We know these children but they are difficult cases.

Safeguarding

Mr Renton advised that we actively encouraged staff to raise any concerns, particularly around self harm.

Staff updates

Mr Renton highlighted the recent letter from Bridgette Philipson congratulating HGS on its positive impact with disadvantaged children.

	<p>Finance</p> <p>We now have a projected surplus of £74,000. This is partially due to the reduction in the contributions to the local authority pension scheme. This can also be attributed to some roles where colleagues have left but we have not yet replaced.</p> <p>We need to invest in filling a staffing gap in the Sixth Form and we have significant investment to make in IT.</p> <p>A Governor asked if we have ever allowed mobile phones and if they are automatically confiscated. Mr Renton confirmed our policy of immediate confiscation. Further, we do not allow social media on iPads. We did look into Yondr, which is a device to store students mobile phones in school, but ultimately decided against it due to the size of our school and some negative feedback.</p> <p>A Governor asked if there had been progress with the 3G pitch. Following feedback from the Local Authority, we commissioned a noise assessment and we have some remedial work to do.</p> <p>We will keep the astro for hockey although we will have to replace the astro carpet at some stage. We have a bid in with the Trust or could use crowd funding or a specific PTA project.</p>	
LGB 4	<p>4. Policies for approval</p> <p>Ms Smith updated Governors on the mobile phone policy for Sixth Form students.</p> <p>Students with health needs – Miss Smith advised Governors that Edclass is an online provision we use in school as a way to support learning when students are unable to come into school. It uses our curriculum and their safeguarding provision is excellent.</p> <p>In the SEND policy, we have removed reference to the annual report in terms of progress as this has been replaced by the student advocate programme.</p> <p>All policies were approved by Governors.</p>	
LGB 5	<p>5. Chair of Governors report</p> <p>Mr Lindley advised that the next meeting of the Red Kite schools will be in June. They are chaired by the Chair of Trustees.</p> <p>Liv Charles volunteered to attend the next meeting.</p>	
LGB 6	<p>6. Link Governors</p> <p>There was a brief overview of the Sixth Form report.</p> <p>Carl Howard volunteered as the new Sixth Form link Governor.</p>	

LGB 7	<p>7. Risk register update</p> <p>Mr Renton advised Governors that there are no significant risks at the moment.</p> <p>Concerns remain around</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT infrastructure costs • Y11 outcomes because of the disadvantaged cohort • Staffing 	
LGB 8	<p>The next meeting will take place on Thursday 7 May 2026 at 5.30pm at Harrogate Grammar School.</p>	
LGB 9	<p>Governor Ofsted briefing</p> <p>Mr Renton talked through his presentation as HGS approaches the Inspection window and highlighted changes in the new framework and what it means for our school.</p>	

ACTION

LGB 9	Write potential Governor questions that Ofsted may ask.
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