

York High School

Minutes of the meeting of the Local Governing Board held on Thursday 26th September 2024 at 6pm held at the school

Present: Gavin Kumar (Principal) Val Roddis
Andy Pope (Chair) Andrew Waller

In Attendance Katy Lawson (Assistant Principal), Sophie Triffitt (Clerk)

Action

1. **Welcome, Apologies for absence, Declarations of Interest**

The Chair welcomed Gavin Kumar as new Headteacher to the meeting and opened the meeting with introductions.

Apologies were received and accepted for Sally Gordon.

Ian Savage, Sarah Hammond, Richard Lavell, Clare Besant and Amanda Crouch were not present.

3 Outcomes

The Assistant Principal presented the headline provisional data:

- P8: -0.82 (may increase by 0.1 in validated data).
- A8: 3.5 (the cohort had a higher proportion of lower and middle ability than previous year).
- 4+ basics: 44%.
- 5+ basics: 27%.
- Pupil Premium P8: -1.34.
- Non Pupil Premium P8: -0.57.

The Assistant Principal highlighted that challenges for the cohort included attendance, pockets of disengagement and Covid impact and disruption.

The Assistant Principal drew governor attention to departments that had delivered a positive P8:

- Health and Social Care.
- Child Development.
- Religious Studies.
- Drama.

The Assistant Principal presented data to show the impact of attendance on outcomes and noted that for the cohort of young people who had 90%+ attendance and an Attitude to Learning score of 2+ they achieved +0.39 P8.

The Assistant Principal highlighted key trends from the data:

- Females outperformed males (female P8 0.61 / male P8 -1.03) with the gender gap highest in French, English and Food Technology. The gap was less in Maths and Science.
- The disadvantaged did less well than non-disadvantaged and the gap had grown again since the previous year mirroring the national trend.
- Pupil Premium outperformed non Pupil Premium in Art, Music, Drama and Religious Studies with the caveat that the cohorts were smaller in Art, Music and Drama so one young person had greater statistical impact.
- Religious Studies performed strongly year on year.
- The SEND cohort performed below targets across all subjects.
- In most subjects the lower ability pupils made the most progress with the higher ability making the least progress.
- Subject predictions were more accurate than the previous year which means greater accuracy for interventions.

The Assistant Principal presented individual subject outcomes highlighting that:

- Technology, Media and Computer Science underperformed.
- There was a gap between English Language and Literature but there had been a strategic decision last year to allocate greater focus and curriculum teaching time to Language.
- Improvement was reported in Science.
- Religious Studies, Child Development and Health and Social Care reported strong.
- Music outcome was a negative P8 (-0.45) but had made significant improvement on the previous year and improvements were expected to continue.

Challenge: A governor questioned the negative P8 in Biology and Chemistry. The Assistant Principal explained that the P8 was impacted by the 7+ grades and explained the difference with the combined and triple science offer with higher ability students tending to sit the triple so would have higher targets than the combined and the higher ability students made less progress.

The Assistant Principal talked governors through the action plan for 2024/25:

- Outcome review meetings.
- Support plans where appropriate.
- BRAG process to continue.
- Quality first teaching.
- Revision support.
- Y11 intervention.
- Prediction accuracy.
- Attendance (the current Year 11 finished Year 10 on 82% attendance).
- Year 9 pathways.
- Trust focus on Pupil Premium & SEND.

The Assistant Principal explained that the School Led Tutoring funding had finished but the central team had allocated funding for English and Maths tutoring in school which would provide 40 hours per week of additional tutoring particularly focused on those pupils on the borderline of a grade 4.

Challenge: A governor asked how, beyond attendance, the current Year 11 cohort compared to the previous year. The Assistant Principal reported that as a cohort they were more engaged, had better behaviour and engagement from parents was strong. The Principal reported that suspensions data had reduced by 80% on the same period for 2023/24 with a majority of the instances in 2023/24 being from Year 11 and that circa 100 of 132 eligible families attended the recent Year 11 information evening.

The Assistant Principal informed governors of the decision to move exam board for English to better meet the needs of the young people in school and a Lead Teacher role was created in the English department which was having an impact.

Challenge: A governor asked if there had been consideration given to blended learning given the impact of attendance. The Assistant Principal explained that the school works closely with The Place and had offered that space as neutral territory for persistently absent young people. The Principal added that he had met with The Place this week about the potential for small group revision for English and Maths. The Assistant Principal explained that the challenge with those persistently absent was not just attending school, but the value placed on education. Online material was offered and in some individual cases the Specialist Teaching Team were supporting.

The Assistant Principal explained that there were regular conversations around the importance of English and Maths on life chances and next destination but sometimes that does not hit home until results day when they don't get the results they needed.

The Chair noted the need to acknowledge the disappointing set of results alongside the awareness of interventions and leadership plans to address and improve.

The Assistant Principal left the meeting at 6.37pm.

4 Principal Report

The Principal explained that data would now have a greater focus and priority for Ofsted. The P8 measure would not be applied for the next two academic years due to the impact of Covid on KS2 data so the priority was to deliver improvement in Attainment 8 and the basics.

The Principal recognised the hard work and commitment of staff to the community they serve and presented a new student centred leadership structure to support that work and ensure a cohesive working practice. The Principal explained that the model prioritises the pastoral and SEND offer whilst providing some leadership opportunities across the whole staff body.

Nine leadership opportunities had been advertised at a total TLR cost of £15k per annum. The Associate Assistant Principal role would have a yearlong focused brief with staff asked to submit their proposal for a leadership project and there had so far been fifteen expressions of interest.

The Principal reported that English, Maths and Science were in a position to deliver strong outcomes this academic year. Mr Burn had stepped back to Maths subject leadership to maximise the impact of his strong teaching on the department and created an additional option of statistics. The English department were primed to perform strongly under the new exam board and staff were visiting other

local schools who already use that exam board. The decision was taken to only offer double Science next academic year.

Challenge: A governor questioned the decision to remove the option for triple Science and asked how this would be viewed by potential families and the community. The Principal explained that the double award enables access to further science education and careers and he had seen the success of this at other schools and believed it was the right decision for York High School. The Head of Science had moved 30 students from triple to double and increased their outcomes significantly. The Principal explained that the decision could be revisited in future but there was a need to focus on delivering a strong combined offer for the outcomes of the students. The Principal offered to meet with the governor outside of the meeting to discuss in detail the data and reasoning that informed the decision.

Challenge: A governor asked what the plans were to revitalise the careers experience. The Principal explained that he was meeting with Ms Callan about an Aspire Week and careers fair and agreed it was an important part of the building aspiration value. Ms Callan was also working on an alumni project.

Challenge: A governor noted that York High was the only school in York not to run work experience. The Principal confirmed this would form part of the discussion with Ms Callan and if work experience was implemented it would need to be clearly defined to ensure it added value.

The Principal reported that there was a whole school focus on redecoration with Impact designed RAS focused boards due to go up around the school to highlight the values and help develop a sense of belonging. The front fences that had been installed would also have new signage. Impact have taken over control of the social media presence to help raise the profile of the school and establish consistent messaging.

Challenge: A governor suggested that when the front of site sign was replaced to move it to a more prominent location to make the site entry more obvious.

The Principal informed governors of the implementation of the blue line expectation, when a student steps over the line school rules apply i.e. uniform and phones and the young people had been meeting the high expectations.

Challenge: A governor asked if the relevant information from primary was migrating into York High School to support an effective Year 7 transition. The Principal explained that he had not yet had time to address transition but this would form part of deep support under Mr Walker and there was a focus across York on improving the transition process.

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 11th July 2024** (previously circulated)

Resolution: The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and approved.

Matters Arising and Action Plan

Action 1: The Governor Code of Conduct was circulated.

3. **Outcomes**

Presented earlier in the meeting.

4. **Headteacher Report / Weekly Pulse** (previously circulated)

Presented earlier in the meeting.

The Chair noted the improvement in basics data for the current Year 11 compared to the previous year and explained that he would review the Pulse data week on week as part of a weekly Headteacher / Chair meeting.

The Principal noted that he had identified the need to work on how the school reintegrated children back in to school and catching up with work following an absence.

Challenge: The Chair noted the need for Year 10 focus to ensure they are ahead of the curve when they move into Year 11 and suggested that governors can support that.

5. **School Improvement Plan (SIP)**

Was updated as part of the Principal and Assistant Principal updates.

6. **Governing Body Matters**

Governor Link Areas and Visit Schedule (previously circulated)

The Chair proposed restructuring the work of the LGB to align with the school priorities and for the agenda to be reviewed to support meetings being as productive as possible with governors pre reading

the material with an opportunity in the meeting for questions. Governors should undertake regular visits to school and submit reports for the LGB.

Challenge: A governor noted that there had been a number of unexpected changes made in a short amount of time. The Principal acknowledged the pace of change and emphasised that the Year 11 cohort only have a short amount of time left at the school and there was a need to give them the best opportunities to succeed. There was a lot of good practice in the school but there was a need to realign SLT.

Challenge: A governor noted the need to reflect the change in tutoring in the Pupil Premium Strategy.

Challenge: A governor asked for an update on the Head of Year structure. The Principal informed governors that he had secured funding for a Head of Year post which will give five Heads of Year releasing Mr Walker to have strategic overview. The Principal emphasised that the aim was to have a proactive pastoral system and plans were in place to refine the work of the pastoral team.

Action: Chair to circulate proposed link roles.

Governor Visits and Training

There was no update to report.

The below items were addressed as part of the Principal's update or no update was reported.

Action: Clerk was asked to inform governors of any required training.

7. Teaching and Learning

8. Standards

9. Child Protection and Safeguarding

10. Attendance and Behaviour

11. Special Needs

12. Pupil Premium

13. Staffing Update

14. Finance Update

15. Community

16. York High Families

17. School Policies

Governors agreed the below policies:

Directed Time Policy (previously circulated)

School Uniform (previously circulated)

Educational Visits Policy (previously circulated)

Educational Visits Emergency Procedures (previously circulated)

Emergency Evacuation Plan – Main School (previously circulated)

Emergency Evacuation Plan – Inspire (previously circulated)

Science Health and Safety Policy (previously circulated)

Design and Technology Health and Safety Policy (previously circulated)

18. Risk Record (previously circulated)

Governors were provided with the top five risk documents.

19. MAT Business

The Chair noted the Trust Governance Evening scheduled for 12th November 2024.

The Principal reported that there were beneficial collaboration opportunities taking place across the Trust and there was a long term vision on engaging the community.

20. Any Other Business

There were no items for AOB.

21. Future Meeting Dates

Monday 2nd December 2024 – 6pm

Thursday 6th February 2025 – 6pm

Tuesday 18th March 2025 – 6pm

Tuesday 6th May 2025 – 6pm

Thursday 10th July 2025 – 6pm

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.

Approved at LGB on 2nd December 2024

Approval

ACTION POINTS
From the meeting of the Local Governing Board held on 26th September 2024

	<u>ACTION</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>WHO</u>	<u>WHEN</u>
1.	Circulate proposed link roles.	6	Chair	Complete
2.	Inform governors of any required training.	6	Clerk	Complete

Future meeting:

Student Wellbeing Leaders