

Summary of discussions of the Local Academy Committee meeting

held on Thursday 25th September at 5:00pm at Walton Academy

Membership	Initials	Governor category	Absence
Mrs L Crerar	LC	Appointed Governor	(late)
Mr J Horsfield	JH	Parent Governor	
Mr D Morgan	DM	Appointed Governor	
Mrs L Purcell	LP	Appointed Governor	
Mrs K Hardy (Chair)	KH	Appointed Governor	
Mrs A Bellett	AB	Appointed Governor	

In Attendance	Initials	Position	Absence
Mrs C Saxelby	CS	Executive Principal	
Mrs J Leonard	JL	Principal	
Mr M Hoad	MH	Vice Principal	
Mrs L Owen	LO	Assistant Principal -	
Mrs N Benson	NB	Governance Professional	

Quorum required	3	Governor's present	6
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Outstanding Actions Log

C	= Complete	CF	= Carried forward	I	= Incomplete (carried forward more than once)
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Agenda item	Meeting Ref	Action Required	Responsible Person	Timeline	Update	Complete / carried forward
AC/64/2425	Sum2	Complete new declarations for 2025-26	LC/AB/ JH	24/07/25	Outstanding for LC	CF
AC/67/2425	Sum2	Read and sign Code of Conduct 2025-26	LC/AB/JH	24/07/25	Outstanding for LC	CF
AC/67/2425	Sum2	Complete Skills Audits 2024-25	LC/DM	24/07/25	Outstanding for LC	CF

AC/67/2425	Sum2	Send calendar invitations for the meeting on 19 th August	NB	24/07/25	Meeting held 19/08/25	C
AC/70/2425	Sum2	AC/54/2425 Provide the P16 link visit report DM carried forward	DM	24/07/25	DM has another meeting with Lucy (to be scheduled) and the open evening is on 16 th October. A new report will be shared following this.	CF
AC/70/2425	Sum2	AC/54/2425 schedule a 1 to 1 meeting with JH and KH.	NB	24/07/25	Meeting held	C
AC/70/2425	Sum2	AC/56/2425 NB will get in contact with TC to discuss putting a recruitment article in the Grantham journal.	NB	24/07/25		CF
AC/70/2425	Sum2	AC/56/2425 NB to schedule a separate training session on behaviour and attitudes.	NB	24/07/25	It was agreed that a Teams session be scheduled. AB will pick up with KD when they meet next week.	CF
AC/71/2425	Sum2	Villages Facebook pages with regards advertising and sharing socials. Mrs Leonard to discuss with Tao	JL	24/07/25	Combined with AC/70/2425 above	C

Q = Question from Governors

A = Answer from senior leaders

Agenda item	Key points / Summary	Action Required	Responsible Person	Timeline
AC/01/2526	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>No apologies for absence. LC had sent apologies for expected late arrival.</p> <p>KH shared condolences on behalf of the committee for the loss of Wendy Waudby and enquired as to staff wellbeing.</p> <p>JL said it had been a tough few months following the news of Wendy's diagnosis and it has been a difficult time. Wendy was a</p>			

	big part of the Walton, Trust and local community. Staff are being supported.			
AC/02/2526	<p>Vision Mission Values (VMV)</p> <p>JL – Engineering - A team of KS3 students took an engineering project they had been working on to the Newark showground to compete against other schools. ‘Wayne the Crane’. They were one of the youngest teams and the only one with females and won the under 16 category. Walton doesn’t have vast DT resources, and they did the work in the library so is an excellent achievement.</p> <p>KH- attended the open day and long service event in July. The event was fantastic, was diverse in terms of what was shared. On the way out was given an envelope with poppy seeds. Super event.</p> <p>LO – promoted the fashion show to raise money for the prom to help keep the ticket price low. EC is organising and will welcome any help and support.</p>			
AC/03/2526	<p>Governance Report</p> <p>Taken out of order due to acknowledged late arrival of LC</p>			
AC/04/2526	<p>Minutes of the last meeting</p> <p>Minutes were received and agreed.</p>			
AC/05/2526	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>Action log was discussed and updated</p> <p>AC/70/2425 KH asked the committee to consider how we approach recruiting governors. Discussion was held around approaching previous pupils and representatives from P16.</p>	<p>LP offered to support with reaching out to alumni network.</p> <p>DM agreed to discuss at the next P16 link meeting.</p>	<p>LP</p> <p>DM</p>	<p>06/11/25</p> <p>06/11/25</p>

AC/06/2526	Principals Report			
	<p>Review of Exam results</p> <p>LO presented the exam results analysis. Results have improved from previous years. Progress is not a measure this year as students did not complete SATs in year 6.</p> <p><u>FFT</u> (Fisher Family Trust) 5 is a benchmark grade that represents the top 5% progress for students and is calculated based on historical performance of similar pupils taking into account their prior attainment, gender and month of birth.</p> <p>To put the slides into context: P8 aiming for 0 A8 aiming for 40</p> <p>Attendance demonstrates a clear correlation between attendance and progress and attainment.</p> <p>JL- where progress hasn't been a measure in the last 2 years due to covid, attainment is now the measure and therefore this figure becomes more important.</p> <p>During action planning following the summer results, a number of faculties have expressed concern about the attitude of students that unless it's English or maths, it's not important and this seems to be being pushed by parents and wider society.</p> <p>Q - Can the use of film be used to demonstrate the value of education, similar to the work done around advertising P16. A – We don't have the funding; the trust assisted with funding for post 16.</p>			
	<p>ERM</p> <p>Q - What do you mean by buckets/baskets filled?</p>			

	<p>A - The government set 8 distinct areas to form the A8 scores. Please refer to the slide for a clear description. If a student completes exams that fall into all 8 buckets this means 100%. The aim of this measure is to ensure a breadth of qualifications.</p> <p>Q - Within both PP and SEND group it's the girls that are most concerning. Do you know why?</p> <p>A – It is a local contextual picture and there appears to be a higher percentage of more able boys than girls in that cohort.</p> <p>Q - How do we change the impossible task for LO regarding Y11?</p> <p>A – Another staff member has some capacity in their timetable and have met with LO to take on some of the admin elements, KD (Kim Dolby) has taken some of the work on as well. At the moment, it's just a case of prioritisation.</p> <p>JL - informed the LAC that she made the decision and explained that there is a much wider context relating to the trust around why LO has been asked to take this on. JL is confident that it is being managed in the best way it can be and is very aware of the extra pressures. Staff wellbeing continues to be front and centre.</p> <p>Q – Are there measures/data for governors to get the visibility of the pressures such as staff absence, turnover, feedback. What does it look like in a numerical format?</p> <p>A – There is an absence tracker and staff surveys to an extent. Numerically through the HR systems and processes, it is discussed by SLT every 2 weeks and necessary action taken, it is also reported at executive level across the trust. All meeting structures have been developed around keeping in touch with staff to ensure they are listened to. The academy has worked hard to achieve an open-door culture.</p>			
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	<p>Q – In issues / concerns the new head of faculty requires a lot of support, can you expand on this?</p> <p>A – the new head of maths is not new to WA but they are new to being head of faculty and they need some support. There has been a lot of change in the faculty recently with some staff having gone on to flexible working and the changing team needs a close eye.</p> <p>Q - Can we revisit this in the January meeting to see how it is going?</p> <p>A – Yes [ACTION]</p> <p>Q - How do we ensure that Alternative Provisions (AP)are meeting the right standards?</p> <p>A - AP is not just for students with SEND, students some are in AP due to behavioural reasons. There are 2 members of staff working on this, the Inclusion Lead has main responsibility along with the SENDCo who oversees all quality assurance, tracking, meetings and visits for the SEND students. The inclusion lead does the same for the non-SEND students. They both feed directly into KD who has oversight. We have now set up a more robust spreadsheet tracker to monitor everything from an Ofsted perspective and this is reviewed fortnightly. We have also developed strong relationships with the AP providers to ensure that all the processes are tight.</p> <p>Q - Is there a scoring mechanism?</p> <p>A - No, but if we came across a provider that we were not happy with, we wouldn't use them again. All vulnerable students are tracked very closely to prevent anyone from slipping through the net.</p>	<p>NB ensure this is on the agenda in January.</p>	<p>NB</p>	<p>06/11/25</p>
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	<p>Q – The suspensions data says 197 last year and the target is 10 for this year, is this right?</p> <p>A – The 10 shown at the top of the report is not a target for suspensions, it's the actual figure at the time of reporting. The table is not clear, and governors' comments will be fed back.</p>			
	<p>Evaluation of AIP & SEF 2024-25</p> <p>There were no new questions.</p>			
	<p>Overview of AIP 2025-26</p> <p>Q – Objective 1 – how will you know that adaptive teaching is embedded, homework is consistent etc.</p> <p>A - Quality assurance activities led by Fran Gilbert (FG). However, it isn't all quantified with statistics. FG will analyse key threads, and this is addressed at a faculty level and driven by the faculty lead.</p>			
	<p>Complaints, claims</p> <p>There were no questions</p>			
	<p>2025-26 Trips</p> <p>There were no questions</p>			
	<p>Admissions Appendix 2027-28</p> <p>Admission appendix for 2027/28 received. Governors noted were no proposed changes. Governors determined the admissions for 2027/28</p>			
AC/07/2526	<p>Safeguarding</p> <p>Q – It is very positive to see that staff have been trained on Lego therapy and ELSA, have there been any referrals?</p> <p>A – we have a TA trained in ELSA and 1 or 2 trained in Lego therapy. Capacity is dependent upon the TA timetable and the needs of</p>			

	<p>the. It would be nice if they had more time to deliver the interventions. Referrals come from heads of year to KD and SENDCO, there has been some success with both approached. It isn't for everyone, but it is positive that we have been able to increase the number of intervention options internally to allow students that are struggling to try different things.</p> <p>Q - MHST team, do they support the pastoral team or on the ground with children. A – They are on the ground with their own caseload. Young people are referred to them. Following internal referrals, this would be the next step to reach out to.</p> <p>Governors - It is lovely to see the dynamic and changeable package being built at WA.</p>			
AC/08/2526	<p>Stakeholder update Q- How was the INSET day on communication. A – It made a significant impression and there has been positive feedback from all staff members who were involved, site staff as well as teaching staff found it very interesting.</p> <p>Q - what's the plan to keep it alive? A – It is part of the meetings cycle, staff are already starting apply things they have learned from the session.</p>			
AC/09/2526	<p>Complete report to Trustees NB will complete the report to trustees and ensure it contains the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Celebrates the success of exam results - Recognises the clear and informative presentation on exam results 	Complete report to trustees	NB/KH	6/10//25

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acknowledgement that there have been a lot of challenging questions from the governors 			
AC/10/2526	Determine Confidentiality Governors considered whether anything discussed during the meeting should be deemed as confidential. It was resolved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any confidential items discussed have been recorded separately. - There had been no Equality Act implications. 			
AC/11/2526	Next meeting Thursday 20 th November at 07:30 am on TEAMS All governors were reminded to come prepared with questions and discussion points having read any relevant detail beforehand. Closed at 18:45			

Signed by Chair: Karin Hardy	Date 01/10/2025
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