

Summary of discussions of the Local Academy Committee meeting

held on Thursday 21st May at 7.30am at Walton Academy

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

In Attendance	Initials	Position	Absence
Mrs C Saxelby	CS	Executive Principal	
Mrs J Leonard	JL	Principal	
Mr M Hoad	MH	Vice Principal	
Mrs K Dolby	KD	Assistant Principal	
Mrs L Owen	LO	Assistant Principal	
Miss L Cluley	LC	Head of Post 16	
Mrs R Chambers	RC	Governance Professional	
Mr J Robertson	JR	Trustee	

Quorum	3	Governor's present	3
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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/05/2526	2526 - 1	LP will support WA in reaching out to alumni network as potential governors	LP	06/11/2025	Work on this action has started and will be developed further following the next governor's midterm meeting.	C

					LP – on maternity leave so this action is being marked as completed until her return.	
AC/05/2526	2526 - 1	DM will discuss inviting P16 representatives to attend the LAC meetings	DM	06/11/2025	LC will be recruiting the new Head Students in summer term 2 and attending the governor meetings (where applicable) will be included. This will start from September. Action therefore completed.	C
AC/16/2526	2526 - 2	TB to Email the link to the accessibility client to AB.	TB	27/11/2025	JL confirmed the audit has now been completed and the draft report created. Once on the website it will be shared with governors.	CF
AC/38/2526	2526 - 4	Develop and share the recruitment plan - Place an advert onto REACH volunteering, investigate other platforms such as Inspire for the Future, use the flyers to target parents	NB	21/05/2026	Recruitment of governors is ongoing including the use of volunteer sites	ongoing
AC/38/2526	2526 – 4	Make arrangements with JL to send out the letter that KH has put together with parents (focus on year 8).	NB	21/05/2026	Action to be carried forward.	CF
AC/38/2526	2526 - 4	Investigate use of LinkedIn to target alumni as potential governors.	RC	21/05/2026	Recruitment of governors is ongoing including the use of LinkedIn.	ongoing

Blue text = academy committee governor check and challenge

Green text = academy committee governor decision-making / approval

Q = Question from Governors

A = Answer from senior leaders

Agenda item	Key points / Summary
AC/47/2526	Apologies for absence - Apologies received from AB were accepted. - No apologies were received from LP. [Action: RC to follow up] - JR was welcomed to the meeting and also thanked for his support of the academy.
AC/48/2526	Declaration of interests There were no changes to declarations of interest made at the start of the year and no declarations in relation to the agenda.
AC/49/2526	Vision Mission Values (VMV) - JL was thanked for the early production of the paperwork. - It is evident the difference that the 'every mark counts' is having across the academy. Q: Will this continue? A: Yes, and the plan is for it to be across the school.
AC/50/2526	Review of Action Log - Trial of a rotating staff governor to be in place from September. - Space for 1 parent governor and elections will take place in September when the new Yr7 intake has started. Q: Are we in the OFSTED window? A: Yes, from October
AC/51/2526	Governance Report - It was agreed for the meetings in 26/27 to continue on a hybrid model of mornings and evenings with the business meetings being in the morning and the training meetings in the PM with an earlier start time of 4/4.30.
AC/52/2526	Stakeholder update - The Yr11 are in the middle of the 7-week exam window and so well it is going well with limited disruption to the rest of the school site. There have also been no surprises on how they have gone or on the attendance at the exams. - The leavers assembly is taking place on 22.05.26. - The last official day for most of the cohort is 15.06.26. - Planning has started for the result days - Induction day for P16 on 07.07.26 - LO is communicating with parents 3-times a week with what is going on in the academy to keep parents informed.

Q: Has there been good feedback from the parents about exams preparation?

A: This cohort of parents have not engaged as well as in other years but there has been more feedback than ever previously received which is conversely pleasing.

Q: Is there a visibility of the parents who do not communicate?

A: We know who they are and the academy does track attendance at parents' evenings and academy events. KB added that through Reach More Parents, the academy is able to see when parents last logged online and if they have opened a notification.

Q: Are parents advised on the expectations around communication?

A: Yes, it is mentioned but could be highlighted at more events including the year group events. As well as the communication via Reach More Parents, the academy posts on social media too.

Q: Have parents been asked on their preferred form of communication?

A: Yes, a survey was completed at the meet the tutor event and Reach More Parents did come out as the most preferred. If parents do not engage through Reach More Parents, then there is an option for the academy to send an email or print a letter to be posted. Usually only circa 10 letters are printed.

Q: Is there a correlation between parents who don't attend academy events and student absence?

A: Yes

Q: Is there anything that the governors can do to support?

A: The barriers to engagement are deeper than a simple fix but if governors were present at events it may help through informal conversations with parents. KB added that the academy do target communication around event attendance as they are able to see who has accepted and can then target from there.

Q: Could the 'all marks count' strategy be applied to an 'every day matters' strategy?

A: There is work to be done on attendance and the 'all marks count' strategy. JL has been visiting the Yr6 students ahead of their transition to Walton Academy and has been advising on the importance of attendance. The academy is also working on the extra-curricular offer to increase the incentives for attendance e.g. football on the field at breaktime.

Q: How are the numbers for the P16 induction?

A: The induction is on the 07.07.26 and therefore the academy will have a secure set of numbers on that day. Not only are the academy looking at who has applied but also who has applied and met the entry criteria. Looking at the next cohort, there may be some changes to the entry criteria from September.

- Yr13 are also in the middle of exam season and because of the nature of the exams, students are all finishing at different times.
- During tutor period, students are being asked how they are coping with their exams and how they are managing revision.
- Meet and greets are taking place before exams as well as study spaces being available for them to utilise throughout the day.

	- Transition conversations are still ongoing as Yr13 students may still change their minds about September and the academy will support them through that including discussing the process and any options they may have. - Communication with parents, again, continues to happen especially around UCAS. Student finance opened last month so it is ensuring that students have applied so that they get the funding as well as making sure they have applied for bursaries and scholarships. Q: How are many of the students completing their A-Levels are going on to university? A: There are currently 39 in Yr13 of which 25 have applied to university. Until results day, this may still change. All bar 2 of the students have a plan for September but the academy is working with those 2 students to ensure they do go to working employment. Students are being reminded that university is not the only option. LC added that if students opt for a gap year, they can still return to the academy to do their university applications and be supported through the process. Q: Is it a range of universities that have been applied to? A: Sheffield, Manchester, Lincoln and Nottingham are all very popular. Yr12 have also started their UCAS applications with the first drafts of their personal statements being due by the summer. Yr12 are being encouraged to attend all university open days and to ensure they have applied for travel bursaries so that cost is not a limitation to attendance at the open events.
AC/53/2526	Safeguarding - KD gave an update on the safeguarding team. Q: The scale of mental health reported incidents seems vast? A: There are hundreds. All students walk through the door with some scale of complexity which is impacting their mental health it is just variable as to where they are on the scale. Some are more complex than others. Emotional and mental health is the biggest barrier to learning, this is a national picture not just at Walton. There are some students who have hardly attended the academy, and this is mostly down to anxiety and mental health. Q: In light of this, how do we support staff if they have had a bad day? A: From a staff perspective there is the employee assistance programme where they can speak to a councillor 24/7. The programme is very efficient, if staff use it. It is added that some staff have used this service. Q: And for students? A: From a finance perspective, it will not allow us to have external support. A member of the SEND team is trained specifically in various therapies including LEGO therapy and ELSA to name a couple. Pastoral mentors are also mental health first aid trained. Our key aim internally is to upskill our staff to support as much as possible.
AC/54/2526	Standards / Principal's report Governors noted within the AIR report that it noted that teachers do not ensure that students have what they need or access high quality, well targeted support to promote engagement and access to learning at the right level.

	<i>Q: Can this be further expanded?</i> A: It is about the consistency from classroom to classroom, subject to subject. <i>Q: With suspensions, is the detail behind the suspensions known?</i> A: Yes <i>Q: What is the most common reason for suspensions?</i> A: Persistent disruptive behaviour which is seen not only at Walton but across South Kesteven, Lincolnshire and nationally. From the ISDR it is evident that our suspensions may be higher than national average, but where a student is receiving more than one suspension is lower than national average. This means that the majority of the students will receive a suspension once and then will not get anymore. There are a small group of students within each cohort that are continually getting suspensions for persistent disruptive behaviour and are not responding to the intervention, sanctions, support and reasonable adjustments put in place and continue to disrupt the education of others. The academy follows the Lincs Ladder of Inclusion where students are monitored on their pastoral support plans to look at the barriers, look at what is causing the behaviour and then work with local schools on an off-site direction if it is deemed appropriate. Some are successful and some are not, but it is then evident that it is another tool that has been attempted. In terms of academy priorities looking forward, the academy will be looking into a more robust academic reintegration package. <i>Q: How does this compare to other schools locally?</i> A: North and South Kesteven does have the highest number of students in the county but the lowest suspensions. <i>Q: How does it compare in the trust?</i> A: It is important to ensure we are looking at the context and demographic when comparing to academies within the trust as a couple of secondaries have an internal alternative provision setting. <i>Q: Has coming away from Lincolnshire term dates had an impact on attendance?</i> A: Yes, it was acknowledged it would impact heavily which is why the decision has been made to move back to the Lincs term dates from September. Easter was a week out this year which impacted the academies attendance by 2 weeks. It may take a full academic year to see the impact of returning to these, but it will be much better.
AC/55/2526	Complete report to Trustees The report to trustees was completed with input from all attendees.
AC/56/2526	Determine Confidentiality Governors considered whether anything discussed during the meeting should be deemed as confidential. It was resolved: - Any confidential items discussed have been recorded separately.

	- There had been no Equality Act implications.
AC/57/2526	Next meeting Thursday 9 th July at Walton Academy at 7:30am Meeting closed at 8.47am

Signed by Chair: <i>K. Hardy</i>	Date : 09.07.26
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