



MINUTES OF THE LGB CATMOSE COLLEGE MEETING

Thursday 17 October 2024 4pm
The Gallery

PRESENT

Rosemary Dodson, Emma Gautrey (Vice Chair), Thomas Heath, Andrew Holt (Chair), Gary Marsh, Alex Mould, Clive Norgaard Morton, Peter Onslow, Briege Slattery, Stuart Williams (Principal).

IN ATTENDANCE

Alex Emmerson (Vice Principal), Chris Wilson (Chief Finance Officer), Sheryl Wilson (Governance Professional).

1. Election of chair and vice chair

The local governing body unanimously approved Andrew Holt as chair and Emma Gautrey as vice chair for the next academic year.

2. Welcome, introductions and apologies for absence

Andrew Holt welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Peter Onslow as a new governor who had been appointed to the local governing body by the Trust. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Andrew Cross.

Martyn Rhowbotham has recently resigned from his positions of trustee and governor. Martyn was thanked for his dedication and service to the Federation over the last 11 years.

3. Declarations of Personal Interest and Pecuniary Interest

There were none declared.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 4 July 2024

These were signed as a true and accurate record.

5. Matters arising from previous minutes

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

6. Governance Professional

Governors were thanked for completing the annual safeguarding and prevent training. A copy of the National Governance Association booklet was shared with governors regarding latest news and along with the Academy Trust Handbook 2024 and details of changes for this year.

7. Head Students

Head Students Maisie and Oliver were welcomed to the meeting to discuss their experiences of Catmose and they presented their ideas and actions for the forthcoming year which include:

- Yearbook and Prom – fundraising bake sales at progress evenings.
- Lunch duties for prefects
- Academic scholars - mentoring programme for younger scholars
- Charities and fundraising – student councillors to choose worthwhile causes
- Student council – termly meetings
- Extracurricular and house activities - they would like to offer a wider range of student-led activities, for example, cross country and dance club.

8. Principal's update

Stuart Williams reported that Open Evening was once again very popular and there had been many prospective parents and students requesting tours during the last week of term. Year 7 students have settled into College and the new uniform has been adopted well, with a second supplier offering the new uniform, fewer branded items and competitive prices.

Overall, the GCSE results were a strong picture, with very few areas of weakness, and a significant Progress 8 score (approximately approx. 0.5). Significant improvement was seen in the Free School Meal students' performance, which is now similar to national for all students (0.1). There was particular strength in the arts, humanities, maths, English Language and applied courses and relative weakness in Spanish, biology, chemistry, and physics.

A strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats analysis had been completed and discussed with governors.

Strengths

- Ofsted Outstanding
- Experienced, motivated staff and excellent teaching
- Accuracy of assessment and intervention
- Student progress (0.5 P8) and attainment (76% 4+ 57% 5+ English and maths)
- Breadth and strength of curriculum (GCSE and Applied)
- Trips and visits, DofE.
- Sport (varsity, county and national), music (concerts) and drama (Addams family/Shakespeare)
- Student welfare and safeguarding support
- Behaviour is *usually* exemplary (76% <5 CPOMS) (50% 'zero' heroes)
- Careers (Gatsby benchmark 100%)
- Inclusion of our SEND students

Relative Weakness

- Free School Meal (FSM) students: attainment, attendance, behaviour and engagement.
 - Attendance: FSM: 90%, All: 95%, B/G: 0.5% (Na: 0.2% CC 1.4%)

- Behaviour: FSM: 13% but 23% of CPOMS current, reduce to 20%. All, 75% <5 CPOMS.
- P8: FSM 0.1, English and maths 4+ 60% (55% 2024).
- P8: 0.51 overall, English and maths 4+ 75%.

Opportunities

- New Government – finances, curriculum, positive emphasis
- Pay award
- Staff wellbeing (Gym, Employee Assistance Programme)

Threats

- New Government – e.g., Ofsted/curriculum changes/exclusions
- Additional students and impact on ethos
- Staff recruitment
- Increasing SEND needs
- Adolescent mental health crisis

Priorities for the 2024-2025 Transformation Plan include:

- Continue to focus on routines for learning
- FSM First, if we improve this group, we improve.
- Student wellbeing. Social media, violent gaming, pornography and its impact on anxiety and extreme views.
- Subject reviews for physics, chemistry, biology and Spanish.

Governors approved the Transformation Plan for 2024-2025 which will be shared with all stakeholders.

Admissions Scorecard

The admissions scorecard was shared with governors which detailed the gender split for each year group, including numbers of K code and FSM students along with those that have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or are service children. There have been 17 in-year admissions applications during term 1 which range from families either relocating, a move from another local secondary school, previously home educated or, the child has been educated at an independent school. Leavers' destinations and number of students on the waiting list were also shared.

Question: If students are permanently excluded, does this prevent any other siblings attending the school?

No – the College is an inclusive, community school.

9. Safeguarding update

The number of referrals is low; therefore, it is not possible to comment in any further detail. A safeguarding scrutiny panel will be held on Thursday 7 November and details of the annual governor safeguarding visit will be shared then.

10. SEN Governors' report

The updated SEN Governors' report was ratified by governors and this will be published on the website.

11. Update from Resources

The year ended with a surplus of £69,700 which was an excellent outcome, considering the deficit forecasted. The SEN income increased and savings were made on the utility costs along with not all of the budget lines being fully used. Trustees approved a 5.5% pay increase for teachers and support staff which will be backdated to 1 September 2024.

12. Pupil Premium Review

Alex Emmerson explained that the document was the third year of the pupil premium strategy which had started following Covid. The results of the pupil premium cohort have been very good, and the Year 7 and 8 accelerated reading programme have equally made a difference. Catmose Challenge continues to be beneficial for the younger year groups and considerable work is done with the careers programme in order to support students for when they leave College. Governors approved the pupil premium strategy, which will be available on the website.

13. Behaviour and Attendance Scorecard

Term 1 data indicates that across the year groups an average of 98% of students have less than 5 behaviour entries. Data was also shared with how this is split between Free School Meal children, K code, gender and ethnic minority students.

House points per year group was also shared, with greater house points currently obtained in Year 8 and an even split of house points awarded between boys and girls in all year groups. Attendance for term 1 is at 96%.

14. Policies

The below policies were shared with governors prior to the meeting with details of the amends. These were ratified.

- More Able Students
- Attendance and Inclusion
- Child Protection Policy
- Examination Policy
- Designated Teacher Policy

15. A.O.B

Stuart Williams' PR document had been shared with governors which had been reviewed by three trustees and an independent reviewer.

The dates for the scrutiny panel meetings are as follows:

Thursday 7 November 2024 – Safeguarding

Thursday 13 March 2025 – topic TBC

Thursday 12 June 2025 – topic TBC

Date of Next Meeting

- Safeguarding Scrutiny Panel 10.30am, Thursday 7 November 2024
- Governors' Day – Thursday 7 November 2024
- College Presentation Evening - Tuesday 19 November 2024, 6.30pm
- Local Governing Body Catmose College - Thursday 5 December 2024, 4pm
- Christmas Concert – Wednesday 18 December 2024, 6.30pm, All Saints' Church, Oakham