



MINUTES OF THE HARINGTON SCHOOL LGB MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 3 OCTOBER 2024 8.15AM

Present: Rob Guthrie (Chair), Oliver Teasel (Head of School), Tessa Leuchars, Liz Birchall, Briege Slattery, Dyl Powell, Stuart Williams, Tony Nice, Tessa Leuchars, Matthew Holt, Andy Wright and Andreas Menzies.

Absent: Ben Solly, Andrew Robinson, Phil Dalby

In attendance: Natalie Henry-Oliver (Deputy Head of School)
Rob Kerley (Deputy Head of School)
Sara Kane (Governance Professional)

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Following an invitation for expressions of interest for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair, Rob Guthrie was nominated as Chair and Liz Birchall was nominated as Vice Chair. These appointments were unanimously approved by those present.

Dyl Powell was elected as the governor responsible for Safeguarding.

2. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Diane Wensley and Henry Price.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

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

The minutes of the meeting were agreed to be a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

5. Matters arising from the previous minutes

Safeguarding Newsletter

The termly Safeguarding Newsletter will be circulated to parents shortly and shared with governors.

6. Governance Professional's Update

Governors' attention was drawn to the updated Academy Trust Handbook and Governance Matters publication available on the VLE. Governors were also reminded of the statutory requirement to complete safeguarding and prevent training annually.

Staff Governor

Tessa Leuchars' term of office comes to an end in November. Tessa Leuchars was thanked for her support over the last four years. Expressions of interest will be sought. It is anticipated that a staff governor will be appointed prior to the next local governing body meeting in December.

7. Head of School Report

Oliver Teasel referred to his previously circulated report, the following points were highlighted.

Highlights of the term

The highlights of the term were discussed including welcoming 176 new Year 12 students to Harington and the Year 13 fantastic A level results, The Greenpower team reaching the international finals, two students receiving the prestigious Arkwright Engineering Scholarship. Four students winning the Irish schools sailing competition.

Question: What is the Arkwright Engineering Scholarship?

Through a rigorous assessment process an Arkwright Engineering Scholarship identifies, supports and nurtures future engineers. The programme supports students throughout their A levels to encourage them to pursue a career in Engineering, computing or technical design. Students are provided with a sponsorship and mentoring opportunities.

Transformation Plan 2023

The key priorities from the Transformation were highlighted and the outcomes discussed. Each of the key priorities had been addressed.

- A level Design Technology was introduced this academic year with 10 students studying the course.
- The A* grades have increased from 9.1% to 10.8% partly due to targeted intervention.
- The interhouse system has grown with over ten competitions taking place. The School Senate have started to improve the School's rewards system and embed the pledge passport. The student survey showed that over 80% of students agree that their achievements are recognised and rewarded.

Question: How many parental and student surveys are returned?

Approximately 50% response rate.

The approach to attendance has been refined, specifically around monitoring and intervention, attendance is now approaching 95%. Attendance will be scrutinised at a governors panel in December to look at improving attendance further.

An external safeguarding review was conducted and a positive report was received in October 2023 to ensure that the School remains fully compliant with Keeping Children Safe in Education and other relevant legislation.

A SWOT analysis of the Transformation Plan was shared which highlighted the strengths, weakness and threats for 2024.

The Transformation Plan for 2024/2025 will be shared after half term, outlining key priorities for the next academic year.



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Admissions

On results day offers were made to 181 students. The number on roll as of today is 175 superseding the planned number on roll (PAN 150). The School is over subscribed. A record number of 332 applications were received. This shows the trend that more students are applying year on year and that that the School can demonstrate a high level of demand in the local area.

The number of students applying from Catmose College remains stable, however there has been a decrease in applications from students that attend Uppingham Community College. There has however been an increase in demand from other schools in the area such as Casterton College, John Ferneley College, Long Field Spencer Academy and Stamford Welland Academy.

The class sizes for individual subjects were discussed. There are high numbers of students in English Literature and maths groups.

Tessa Leuchars left the meeting.

Question: With the relatively low number of students studying Design Technology is the course sustainable?

It is hard to predict numbers wishing to study Design Technology in the future, however, this year's cohort are predominately from Uppingham Community College and it is predicted that the number of students interested in studying A level Design from Catmose College will increase.

Question: Is there adequate equipment to run the science courses given the large number in each class?

Yes, there is enough equipment, additional resources have been procured, and further equipment can be ordered if required.

Question: Have there been an increase in admissions enquiries from the independent sector?

Yes, a small number but not a significant increase.

Question: Can the subject option blocks be modified to ensure class sizes smaller?

This is looked at prior to each academic year and we have already started looking at the option blocks from September 2025.

Teaching Ofsted analysis

The strong quality of teaching is reflected in both the student and parental surveys. During lessons observations carried out by senior leaders across the Federation 100% of lessons were judged to be meeting the expected standard and 64% of lessons were judged as exceeding that standard. This year there is a focus on ensuring that schemes of work are robust across subjects.

It was explained that all lesson observations are quality assured by Stuart Williams. The outstanding Ofsted judgement at the College in April 2024 should also provide reassurance around the accuracy of internal lesson observation judgements.



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National Picture

Rutland is the highest performing county on the A*, A*/A, A*-B and A*- C measures. This position has become stronger over this academic year. There are two independent Schools and Harington within the county providing Post 16 provision.

A Level results 2024

The results have remained stable and the School once again achieving an average points score of over 39 (B=). The A*-C results are very strong, A* grades have increased by 0.1%. Next year the School will try to increase the number of students receiving A* further. Staff are reviewing the sequence of their curriculum and students receiving the right intervention at the right time may allow further gains to be made.

Question: Is it difficult to increase outcomes due to the larger number on roll?

The School has grown quickly and the results have also increased which is a fantastic achievement. The importance of having the right students on the right courses was highlighted. Students are regular assessed and tracked. The importance of good assessment data was discussed. The assessment and reporting model across the Federation is being scrutinised to ensure that students are identified and intervention is signposted sooner to improve any marginal gains.

Question: What is residual?

Residual is when you compare results in one A level that a student has studied compared to the other subjects that they have studied. This data assists in identifying subjects for review. This year, for example, based upon the data physics, maths and Spanish will undertake a subject review.

Question: Some of the outcome analysis has been based upon selective schools, what are selective schools?

Harington School is classed as a free school. The Ofqual definition of a selective school is not independent therefore grammar schools would make up the majority of this category. Harington has performed well in comparison to selective schools.

In some subjects Harington is as selective as grammar schools in our entry requirements to ensure the right students study the right course for success. However, the intake at Harington is not exclusively selective across subjects such as art, craft and design, physical education, psychology, business studies and history for example.

Destination data

The destination data of students was shared. 50% percent of students have joined one of the top 30 universities as voted by The Times Good University Guide. This is an increase from 35% in 2023.48% of students have gone to Russell Group Universities and 78% have achieved their first-choice university. Five students have gone to study degree level apprenticeships at prestigious companies such as KPMG and the police. The remaining students have gone into employment or taken a gap year.

Four students have gone to study a medical science based subject, whilst there were no successful entries to Oxbridge this year.



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In the student survey 97% of students agreed that they had been well supported with their UCAS application.

Question: Why is there an emphasis on Oxbridge?

The School wishes to support each student to fulfil their potential. The aim of the School is to support students that wish to go to Oxbridge and are of the right calibre. This year 20 students began the application process and 16 were interviewed. The School is considering what it can do to further support the small number of students who wish to apply.

Liz Birchall left the meeting.

Question: Is there a group for students wishing to apply for Oxbridge?

Yes, sessions are held in Term four on Wednesday afternoon. These are supported by experienced staff.

Stuart Williams, Natalie Henry-Oliver and Rob Kerley left the meeting.

Attendance

Attendance is currently 95%, which is inline with the target achieving the target of 95%. Approved absences for university open days, work experience and driving lessons impact attendance figures. Overall attendance is very good particularly when compared to other sixth form providers.

Safeguarding

Due to the small number of students who are receiving external support, it would be inappropriate to share this information.

Student Achievement

A number of students joined the meeting to share their achievements as part of the schools sailing team and obtaining the Arkwright Engineering Scholarship.

Governors asked students the following questions.

Question: What things come to mind when you are asked what is good about Harington?

The support provided by teachers and the opportunities available to discuss any issues that you may have to ensure that you are able to fulfil your potential. Students reported that they are happy with the post 18 guidance received in School.

Question: What could be done to improve the School?

The students could not identify area areas where the School could be improved.

Safeguarding Update – Changes to Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2024

The amendments to the guidance and topics to be aware of were highlighted.

CPOMS

It was reported that there is a robust welfare log on CPOMS where any concerns about a student are logged. Any safeguarding concerns are highlighted to the DSL. Safeguarding data is often transferred electronically from other schools using CPOMS, any paper records are also requested.

Filtering and monitoring

Oliver Teasel reported that he will meet with the Technologies Director to ensure that the filtering and monitoring in School is effective. It was reported that the School uses Smoothwall software which notifies the DSL of any student accessing inappropriate material when using the School Wi-Fi.

Online searches for shortlisted candidates

Online searches for shortlisted candidates are carried out for any newly recruited staff or volunteer as part of the safer recruitment checks.

Allegations of people hiring out facilities

The School does not hire out any facilities.

Low Level Concerns

Low level concerns are reported to the Head of School and logged. A low level concern is where there has been a minor breach in a staff members code of conduct. These are recorded on a log and the member of staff is made aware of this record

8. Student Leadership and Senate

It was reported that the student Senate meet termly with the next meeting due to take place on Friday 11 October. The Senate meetings provide the opportunity for the student voice to be heard. Currently the Senate are discussing the dress code policy which was last reviewed two years ago along with the use of mobile phones in School. There are 20 students which form the Senate made up from form representatives and senior students.

9. Policies

Governors' attention was drawn to the policy overview document which detailed any amendments. The following policies were ratified by the governors:

- Admissions
- Attendance and Inclusion
- Child Protection
- Designated Teacher
- Home School Agreement

10. Any Other Business

Executive Principal - Performance Review

Governors attention was drawn to Stuart Williams' (Executive Principal) Performance Review document which provides a comprehensive view on the three schools within the Trust.



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Scrutiny Panel – Attendance

It was agreed that Tony Nice, Andy Wright and Dyl Powell would form the scrutiny panel focussing on attendance which would take place on Thursday 12 December.

Single Central Record

It was agreed that Dyl Powell (Safeguarding governor), Natalie Henry-Oliver in her role as DSL, Oliver Teasel and Sophie Dawson (HR manager) would meet prior to the next local governing body meeting to discuss the Single Central Record to ensure that the School is compliant.

11. Dates for Diaries

Harington School Open Evening – Tuesday 5 November 2024
Governors Day – Thursday 14 November 2024
Harington School Presentation Evening – Tuesday 17 December 2024
Federation Christmas Concert – Wednesday 18 December 2024
LGB- Thursday 12 December 2024 @8.15am
Scrutiny Panel – Attendance Thursday 12 December 2024 @10am
LGB- Thursday 13 February 2025 @8.15am
LGB Thursday 3 April 2025 @8.15am
Scrutiny Panel- Thursday 3 April 2025 @10am
LGB- Thursday 22 May 2025 @8.15am
Scrutiny Panel – Thursday 22 May @10am
LGB- Thursday 3 July 2025 @5pm