



**Minutes of the meeting of the Local Governing Board
of Holderness Academy & Sixth Form College
Monday 28 April 2025 at 5.00pm**



PRESENT: M Kitching (Chair, MK), J Bagnall (JB), K Batty (KB), S Fellows (SF), K Harding (KH), N Holder (Headteacher, NH), S Laud (SL), L Smith (LS)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

E Buckley (Assistant Headteacher, present for minutes 50-58, EB), J Lovel (Assistant Headteacher present for minutes 50 to 53, JL), G Stafford (Governance Professional), J Tupai (Assistant Headteacher, JT), M Watts (Designated Safeguarding Lead, MW), Mr D Wobbaka (Deputy Headteacher, DW)

Throughout these minutes a question is indicated by Q followed by the initials of the questioner and a comment is marked by C.

50 WELCOME

M Kitching welcomed everyone to the fourth meeting of the academic year.

51 APOLOGIES

Absent without apology T Marrow

ACTION: GS to request the reason for TM's absence from the meeting

52 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made specific to this meeting.

53 PRESENTATION – ARRK CURRICULUM – J Lovel

- Priority 5 of the Development Plan – 'To adapt Personal Development for all pupils, so that they have access to a wide and rich set of experiences and careers guidance that prepare them for a successful adult life'.
- Legal requirement to deliver RSE (relationship and sex education) and PSHE (personal, social, health and economic education) as part of the curriculum.
- Ofsted (March 2023) found that students did not have a secure understanding of other faiths or protected characteristics so a review of the ARRK curriculum took place in March 2024. This led to a range of recommendations which have since been implemented.
- A weekly ARRK lesson now takes place in KS3 and a fortnightly lesson in KS4.
- Whole school curriculum half termly themes are 1. health and well-being, 2. relationships and sex education, 3. life beyond school, 4. celebrating differences, 5. rights, responsibilities and British values and 6. staying safe online and offline.
- This is taught as a spiral curriculum; each learner focuses on the same themes each half term which also links to assemblies and tutor.
- There is a high level of student engagement in books and lessons.

Q: (JB) When did you introduce all these changes?

JL: March 2024, with the curriculum being in place from December 2024.

Q: (JB) What has been the student feedback?

JL: Really positive. They like it and find the lessons useful. They like the real examples and have fed back that the knowledge is making a difference. I also plan to have an ARRK section in the library with related resources.

Q: (KB) What program do you use?

JL: Creative.

Q: (MK) Will you arrange a formal review?

JL: We feel Ofsted validated it.

C: (SF) You could further develop the curriculum between Key Stage 2 and 3 transition by providing information to cluster schools.

Q: (KB) Have you had any parental feedback as yet?

JL: Not as yet.

C: (MK) You should be very proud of what you have achieved, well done.

JL left the meeting at 5.25pm.

54 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (10 February 2025)

Resolved: The minutes of the last meeting held on 10 February were accepted as a true record and approved by the Chair.

55 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

55.1 Governors to inform GS if they would like to be Vice Chair – JB volunteered to take on this role

55.2 Organogram to be circulated showing number of staff and vacancies per department – complete. There are currently 4 vacancies – one in Creative Arts, Maths, MFL and PE. However, successful appointments have been made to the posts in Creative Arts, Maths, and MFL

55.3 JOB to discuss with the Director of Finance the request for a Trust statement explaining GAG pooling to accompany each school's PP Strategy - ongoing

55.4 KA to add the proportion of PP students benefitting from each strategy - ongoing

55.5 KH to raise with the Executive Director of Education that maths has had five platforms- it was confirmed that maths will use Sparx from September

55.6 MG to circulate the KS4 and KS5 mock data to governors as soon as available – complete, extra meeting took place 31.3.2025

55.7 KH to look into the routes of the late buses to maximise P6 attendance – will be considered in time for next year

55.8 NH - In year joiners and leavers to be reported by year group on HT Reports -complete

55.9 J Bagnall (Behaviour), K Batty and S Fellows (Curriculum), K Harding (Careers), M Kitching (Safeguarding), L Smith (Community), S Laud (Literacy) and T Marrow (SEND) to complete their link visit and send the completed form to GS by 21 April – see minute 62

56 HEADTEACHER'S REPORT

- From September there have been 20 mid-year joiners and 31 mid-year leavers (19 left for elective home education)
- Top 2 risks:
 - Recruitment of staff – Vacancies in MFL (including the Head of MFL)
 - Student numbers – Year 7 2025 intake may be 180 (PAN 210), approximately 50 students leave at the end of Year 9 to go to RDC or Hull College

Q: (JB) Do you think that a positive Ofsted report will affect staff recruitment?

NH: Yes, very much. Staff joining will know they have time to settle before the next inspection.

Q: (KB) Are the staff numbers per department based on the learner numbers for September?

NH: Yes, we have had 3 staff resign since Christmas and have chosen not to replace them.

Q: (KH) I understand the draw of Ron Dearing College for engineering and technical courses but why are students leaving to go to Hull College?

NH: Hull College is now offering more vocational courses. With a positive inspection report some of those that were considering leaving may stay.

C: (MK) 19 leaving for elective home education (EHE) seems high.

C: (SF) This is a national picture. Parents may choose to do this if they have a disagreement with the school.

Q: (MK) How many EHE do you typically see come back to the school?

JT: Some, we believe that if a parent chooses EHE then they should go back to the original school that they left but at present they can apply to go to any school that has room on roll.

57 SEN REPORT

- 72 students have SEN support (K) and 48 have an EHCP (E)
- There are a high number of students with an EHCP in Year 8 (13) and Year 11 (14)
- SEN K attendance is 92.5% (national SEN K is 86.7%, regional 85.4%)
- SEN E attendance is 89.9% (national SEN K is 82.2%, regional 81.4%)
- SEND team are relocating to the Sixth Form building.
- Transition activities are underway with primary feeder schools for Year 6 pupils to ensure continuity of support for SEN pupils.
- School recently passed an Access Arrangements inspection.
- Anxiety workshop has been held to assist parents .

MK requested the national and regional averages for number of SEN K and E students in future reports.

ACTION: SENDCO to provide SEN K and SEN E national and regional averages in future reports

58 QUALITY ASSURANCE SUMMARY REPORT

The report highlights the commitment to Quality First Teaching, which is monitored and evaluated through the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Development (MED) schedule.

- **Quality Assurance** focuses on teaching and learning priorities: adaptive teaching, behaviour management, Holderness Communicator, questioning, assessment for learning and modelling, practice and retrieval Quality assurance is supported by learning walks, work scrutiny, and student voice.
- **MEDs:** 230 MEDs have been conducted this year. These are carried out by middle leaders and quality assured by the Trust School Improvement Leads (SIL) and Director of Improvement and Standards.

- **Areas of Strength:** teacher talk, questioning, modelling, independent practice and SEND support.
- Both GCSE Photography and GCSE Psychology will be offered from September.
- Director of Maths and Head of Performing Arts have been appointed.
- SEND review carried out by G White.

Q: (GS) Do you find *Learner Insights* gives sufficient detail?

EB: No, it does not give as much as *Sisra Observe* that gives bespoke information; more granular detail. *Learner Insights* umbrella modelling works well for book looks but is not bespoke enough to capture student voice or learner walks. We have met as teaching and learning leads to discuss the shortfalls.

Q: (MK) Term 2 CPDL includes use of technology in learning – does Holderness have sufficient resources use artificial intelligence in learning?

EB: No, it would need significant investment. We are developing ChatGPT for lesson resources as that would significantly reduce workload.

Q: (JB) ChatGPT is a safeguarding risk – have you looked at Co Pilot?

EB: Co Pilot is expensive. We would only use AI for teacher resources and not include any student data.

59 ATTENDANCE AND BEHAVIOUR REPORT

59.1 Attendance

- Whole school attendance to date is 93.3% (same period last year was 92.4% and national 91.9%).
- Boys' attendance is 93.9%, girls' 92.8%.
- Non – PP attendance is 94.7%, PP 88.9%.
- Non – SEND 93.5%, SEND 91.8% (this is 7% above SEND national average).
- 11% students have 100% attendance.
- 18.5% students are persistently absent (attendance of <90%).
- Area in need of development is Y7 EHCP attendance.

Q: (LS) How many Y11 are not permitted to attend the Prom?

JT: 138 students have been invited, 40 have not as they have not met the clear expectations of attendance and behaviour that we communicated at the start of the year. We intend to send out the expectations letter even earlier this year so that parents are aware if they book a term time holiday this will affect their child attending the prom.

59.2 Behaviour

- 348 days have been lost to 238 suspensions since the start of the academic year (compared to 634 days and 295 suspensions YTD 2023/24)
- Most suspensions involve girls (more than 2:1)
- Most suspensions are from students in Year 8
- There have been 3 permanent exclusions YTD

Q: (MK) You have commented that 5 minutes of lesson time are lost due to disruption and nationally research reveals nationally this is 14 minutes. To me, 5 minutes is too many. What is causing it?

JT: Teachers raised this in the staff survey. The disruption is due to students arriving late for lessons. I intend to add this to the list of expectations needed to qualify for the Prom.

Q: (MK) When is the cut off time for being late?

NH: Lunch finishes at 12.47pm. Students then have 8 minutes travel time to get to class. If they are 5 minutes late they get a comment. This is not a high issue – it is a certain Year 10 small group.

C: (JB): So they effectively have 13 minutes to get to class – that is more than reasonable.

Q: (MK) How many students were involved in the 238 suspensions? It would be useful to know this so we know how many repeat offenders there are.

ACTION: Number of student suspensions to be shown by year group

60 SAFEGUARDING REPORT (data up to 31.1.25)

- Strong safeguarding culture in the school
- 14 Children in Need, 3 under Child Protection
- 8 families have been referred to Early Help
- 27 Operation Encompass notifications
- Increase in Smoothwall alerts. To address this the curriculum covers radicalisation and a session has been held by the police regarding hate crime, giving first hand case studies.

C: (GS) Thank you for breaking down the safeguarding incidents by year group. There are more incidents than number of children offending so there must be a number of repeat offenders.

MW: Yes, lots; there are small pockets of re-offenders in each year group. The number of child sexual exploitation logged cases will reduce as some are not proven as such. We are looking into the CPOMs categories further.

Q: (JB) The number of Smoothwall alerts at 36 seems low. How are these displayed?

MW: We receive an itemised breakdown – racist comment, website blocked etc. Some are just searches for a topic within the curriculum.

Q: (JB) How does this affect your workload?

MW: The alerts come in fits and starts. I also have a pastoral team to support if needed.

Q: (KH) Are you seeing a growth in misogynistic behaviour or Andrew Tate references?

MW: We do not discuss his views in lessons. We view all logs on CPOMs and address any of concern. The Police have also delivered a session on hate crime. These are not common issues.

Q: (MK) Regarding the closing the loop reference, did staff with concerns of another member of staff not follow process and report the concerns to the Headteacher?

MW: No, it was reported to me so I have reminded staff that concerns about other staff must go to the Headteacher. I have added a low level concerns form to the staff dashboard.

61 COMPLAINTS REPORT

- Total number of formal complaints across the Trust since September 2024 is 127
- 23 are from Holderness parents; 17 autumn term and 6 spring term
- The spring complaints were around communication from the school, SEN needs not fully met and sanctions received.

C: (MK) It is re-assuring to see the number of complaints drop significantly from term one to term two.

NH: I think this is reflective of the work we have done to build relationships with the community. Engagement has increased and we can see that from the number of parents attending parents' evenings. The majority view toward the school is positive.

62 GOVERNOR LINK VISITS

Two Link visits have taken place since the last meeting, in careers and safeguarding.

The Clerk requested to be copied in to communications if governors were finding it difficult to contact their school link regarding a visit and also stressed that visit forms must be returned a week before Board meetings.

ACTION: J Bagnall (Behaviour), K Batty and S Fellows (Curriculum), K Harding (Careers), M Kitching (Safeguarding), L Smith (Community), S Laud (Literacy) and T Marrow (SEND) to complete their summer term link visit and send the completed form to GS by 23 June

63 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Monday 30 June 2025 (pre-meet 4.15pm)

64 AOB

KB and SF announced that they intend to stand down at the end of the academic year after 5 years of service. SF offered to remain as a governor to sit on student and staff panels, but not attend LGB meetings. This offer was gratefully accepted.

65 ACTION POINTS

- 65.1 ACTION: GS to request the reason for TM's absence from the meeting (minute 51)**
- 65.2 ACTION: JOB to discuss with the Director of Finance the request for a Trust statement explaining GAG pooling to accompany each school's PP Strategy (minute 55.3)**
- 65.3 ACTION: KA to add the proportion of PP students benefitting from each strategy, where possible (minute 55.4)**
- 65.4 ACTION: SENDCO to provide SEN K and SEN E national and regional averages in future reports (minute 57)**
- 65.5 ACTION: Number of student suspensions to be shown by year group (minute 59)**
- 65.6 ACTION: J Bagnall (Behaviour), K Batty and S Fellows (Curriculum), K Harding (Careers), M Kitching (Safeguarding), L Smith (Community), S Laud (Literacy) and T Marrow (SEND) to complete their summer term link visit and send the completed form to GS by 23 June (minute 62)**

The meeting closed at 6.30pm