

Date: Wednesday 13th May 2026

Present:

Mr R. Benson (Chair)-(RB)
Mrs. Jane Turner (JT)
Prof T. Sadat-Shafai (TSS)
Mr J. Green (JG)
Prof. P. Horrocks (PH)
Mr S. Worthington (SW)

Apologies:

Mrs K. Powell (KP)

Absent: n/a

In attendance:

Ms H. Thurland – Headteacher (HT)
Mrs L. Salt – Deputy Headteacher (LS)
Miss J. Boulton – Assistant Headteacher, Head of 6th Form (JB)
Mr R. McQueen (RM)- Assistant Headteacher
Mr C. Capey (CC)- Assistant Headteacher (Quality of Education)

All staff members except HT left at the end of part one.

Students: Harriet Worthington and Olly Payne -left after item 2

Clerk: Mrs S. Pomeroy

Administration

1. Welcome, Quoracy, Apologies and Declarations

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed that it was quorate. Apologies were received and accepted from Katy Powell.

2. Presentation from the Sixth Form Leadership Team

Harriet and Olly delivered a presentation to governors outlining their aims and achievements over this academic year. The aims of the leadership group were:

- Student voice to be heard
- Engage in charity work
- Ensure school is a diverse, welcoming environment
- Promote connection with all parts of the school

Student Parliament

Changes had been made to the structure to include leadership at all levels and effective communications.

Ambassador Groups

The following groups had been formed:

- Charity Group
- Science Ambassadors
- Mental Health Ambassadors
- Diversity and SEND Ambassadors
- White Ribbon Ambassadors

Achievements

- The work of the 6th from leadership group had brought their year group together
- Made a positive difference for the future
- Increased engagement in charity work and raised £10.5k, the largest amount for several years.
- Increased engagement with the White Ribbon Charity
- Improved the lunchtime experience of students
- Represented the school at the Congleton Remembrance Day Service
- Ran a stall at the Careers Fair
- Increased the number of Year 11 students interested in staying on into Year 12 by 10%

The Chair commented that he had attended a session of the Student Parliament and had been impressed. **He thanked** the students for their presentation and thanked them and their group for their work over the year. **HT added** that she was very proud of the leadership group and what they had achieved.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

- a) The part one minutes of the CHS LGB Meeting held on 21st January 2026 were approved as a correct record of the meeting.
- b) The action log was reviewed and the following items discussed:
 - HT would provide the safeguarding audit to the clerk for uploading.
 - SW, PH and KP are required to update their Prevent training.
 - HT to provide Wi-Fi access at future meetings.

All other actions had been met and closed as appropriate or would be addressed on this agenda.

4. Membership update:

- There are two vacancies on the LGB for appointed governors. The Chair would review the most recent skills audit and discuss the recruitment of new governors with AH. **ACTION**
- There are no terms of office due to expire before the next meeting of the LGB.

Strategic Direction and Progress Against Priorities

5. SIP and SEF

School Improvement Plan (SIP) and Self Evaluation (SEF)

a) Summary of progress towards targets

HT referred to the slide 4 of the Governors Presentation-May 2026 and highlighted the following:

- A new SENCO is due to take up their role shortly and will have a significant impact.
- Analysis from the Reading Strategy is included and shows that it is starting to have an impact, especially with students at the lower ability range. The reading strategy was new last year and implemented with the support of the Trust.
- 100 new books have been introduced for Year 7/Year8 as part of the Reading Roots programme which will be extended if successful.
- Attendance is holding steady, though the IDSR shows that there is more work to do. The Trust Attendance Strategy is having a positive impact. There has been a reduction in the number of pupils on part-time timetables. HT had just received an Attendance RoV from the Trust lead, and the clerk would upload this to the meeting folder on Governor Hub. **ACTION**
- A summary of progress and next steps are included on slides 6 and 7.

Governors challenged on the national SEND reforms and if the school had identified any risks. **HT explained** that she sits on the CE SEND Partnership Board and is aware that there are opportunities for additional funding but that there is a risk that provision will not be regulated or coordinated. The “Expert at Hand” system is good in principle, but the deployment of resources to support this is unclear. The school needs to prepare carefully and consider what is right for the students at the school.

Governors questioned what the school is doing to encourage more students to stay on into the sixth form. JB informed them that work has been done to build relationships with Years 10 and 11 with both staff and existing sixth form students. The school has reviewed pathways and the PD Curriculum. The school has seen an increase in the numbers of students choosing the school for Year 12.

b) School Improvement Record of Visit Reports

There were no reports to receive at this meeting. The next SI RoV would be available the LGB meeting on 08.07.26.

Quality of Education

6. Admission and Pupil Numbers

- The school is forecasting 160 students for Year 7 in September 2026.
- There has been an increase in applications from middle school students.
- Numbers remain low over the following years, and so pragmatic numbers have been assumed in the budget.

- Sixth form numbers remain static but may reduce as smaller year groups progress through the school.
- HT has visited all the feeder primary schools to attend events and build relationships.

Governors challenged on whether the school was confident about the pupil number forecasts. **HT responded** that she was, based on the information available. **Governors also asked** whether there were still plans for a new primary school in Congleton. **HT informed** them that this was unclear at present. It had been proposed to build a new school on the north side of the town but there are spaces currently in the existing schools and there is a drop in the birth rate nationally.

Governors discussed whether it would be prudent to make a further reduction to the PAN. HT explained that the school would review the situation in July 2026 and provide a recommendation to governors at the next meeting of the LGB. **ACTION**

The school would need to follow the consultation process if a further reduction in PAN was agreed.

7. Curriculum Update: Careers (Slides 11-13) and 7 Careers Paper Governors-May 2026

- RB commented that he had attended the Careers Fair and that it had been a very good event.
- JB informed governors that a survey revealed that 80% of students had found it useful and 20% had highlighted some gaps.
- Few schools hold a whole school Careers Fair. It had inspired many students, including vulnerable groups.

Governors asked whether the fair focussed on just careers or whether higher education institutions were also represented. **JB explained** that that both were covered. Invitations are sent to all the universities that the school has connections with. Year 10 students also receive a presentation on courses and careers.

Governors challenged on how the school makes students aware of new opportunities and future/unusual careers. **JB explained** that a significant amount of information is available on Arbor to students. Careers in the Curriculum is also on the development plan.

PH has recently taken on responsibility as Careers link governor. He commented that there are increased expectations around work-based experience which raise issues around governance, investment, safeguarding and insurance. Five-day placement can be difficult to organise, but can be highly impactful.

8. Pupil Performance:

Key Stage 4: LS provided an update:

Key Stage 4 Mock 2: Slide 14

- 56.9% of students achieving the 9-4 benchmark in English and Maths, this is slightly down on the previous cohort at the same point but is a 11.8% increase on the Mock 1 Exam data.
- The FFT targets are ambitious, and this is a lower attaining cohort.
- Decisions around tier entry in science have been addressed.
- Slide 15 Shows progress by subject against FFT targets. Shows that some areas such as English Language are above target.
- Vulnerable group analysis (Slide 16) shows significant improvement in attainment and estimated progress of vulnerable groups.
- Gender gap: boys are outperforming girls due to the weighting of girls in the outlier group. There is an increased number of outliers this year (21) of which 17 are girls and two of these joined in Year 11 having previously been educated abroad.
- The English & Maths matching strategy has been effective in facilitating an increase in students meeting the 4+ benchmark. There has been positive engagement from students and their families this year.
- Slide?? Shows the position with IDSR highlighted subjects. History is slightly below the previous cohort at the same point and student engagement is an issue. For the first time, the school has received requests from parents for their children to drop humanities subjects.
- Summary Key Stage 4: SEND and disadvantaged pupils are doing well. Outliers (especially the girls) are a limiting factor. Generally, the data shows that the school is moving in the right direction.

Governors asked how the school is dealing with requests from parents for students to drop humanities subjects. **LS explained** that adjustments have been made for a small number of students with SEND but in

general the school has informed parents that the subjects are compulsory, that structured revision is available and that the students can achieve a grade.

Governors challenged whether the school could evidence impact of the RADY programme. **LS responded** that it is too early to see the full impact as the programme needs to be embedded over a whole phase. However, RADY principles are kept at the forefront, for example in pupil progress meetings, and this has led to progress being made.

Governors challenged on how the data is related to school improvement priorities. **HT explained** that impact statements are produced following each data set and are linked to self-evaluation forms.

Governors questioned whether issues in particular subjects are related to cohort issues and/or quality of teaching issues. **CP explained** that in some subjects it is both. The school is addressing this in the short term by producing an action plan to structure the course to support students in the exam. In the long-term, staff are visiting excellent schools and the approach to teaching the subject is changing. This is leading to an increase in the quality of learning.

HT informed governors that three schools in the Trust had recently undergone Ofsted inspections and lessons have been learned. CHS is expecting an inspection around January/February 2027. The IDSR will be very important. The school is demonstrating good momentum with increased attendance and pupil outcomes. It is important to maintain stability in outcomes. The SEF would be shared with governors at the July 2026 LGB meeting. **ACTION**

Key Stage 5: JB provided an update:

- APS is similar to the previous cohort.
- The school achieved an ALPS score of 2 last year and is on track for similar results this year. This is in the top 4% nationally for progress.
- Concerns:
 - Geography. This subject will not be part of the offer next year. The curriculum is being changed at Key Stage 4, and it will then be reinstated at Key Stage 5.
 - Art. There is a challenging cohort this year and the school has a narrative around each student.
 - History: predictions are similar to last year, but the actual grade increased last year from the prediction.

9. Link Governor Monitoring

The following visit reports were noted:

- Academic Performance-JG 24.04.26
- Careers-PH March 2026
- Safeguarding-KP 12.09.25
- SEND-RB 08.12.25
- Student Parliament-RB 03.12.25

RB informed governors that he would take on responsibility for SEND and Safeguarding in the short-term. He stressed the importance of governors visiting school to improve their knowledge and understanding of strengths and areas for development.

10. Pupil Premium: Slides 35 and 36

LS provided an update:

- PP spending is split between teaching, targeted academic support and wider strategies which constitutes the largest proportion of the spend.
- The PP funding is not ring-fenced.
- 5+ in English and Maths is still a focus for improvement.
- There have been positive results from pastoral support.
- Significant impact has been seen from the reading strategy (including NGRT testing) and Mathswatch, an online learning platform.
- LS shared an anonymous PP case study of a Key Stage 4 pupil. It detailed the barriers to learning and interventions used and showed significant improvement in terms of attendance, behaviour and progress. LS stressed the importance of knowing the pupils well and providing the correct package of support.

Governors asked if the school could justify its spending of the PP funding and evidence the impact. LS informed them that the school has evidence both at school level and individual pupil level of the impact. It is important that staff can articulate the strategy.	
Personal Development	
11. Attendance	a) Latest data • PA is much lower than in 2024-25. • Meetings are held to focus on students in the 70-90% banding. • An escalation strategy is in place, and the school has worked closely with the Trust. • K coded students and girls continue to be a focus for attendance. • Attendance is currently similar to what it was in January 2026. In previous years, attendance has declined at this point in the term. The school is meeting its DfE target of 90.7% but is striving to improve further. • Incentives to promote good attendance in the last week of term are in place. • Attendance will remain on the SDP for 2026-27. b) Trust attendance reports HT informed governors that she had just received the latest report and that she would provide it to the clerk to be uploaded to Governor Hub. ACTION
12. Rewards and Behaviour	RM referred to slides 46-48 and highlighted the following points: • Behaviour foci: ➢ Decrease suspension (increasing attendance) ➢ Create a proactive On Call model to decrease disruptive classroom behaviour ➢ Increase Mentoring capacity beyond 1 year group • The data shows an improvement of the work carried out. Suspensions reduced by 29% compared to 24/25 (End point Easter holidays). HT3 & HT4 40% reduction in Y10 reset incidents (compared to 24/25). Mentored student numbers have increased from 16 students in 1 year group to 54 students in 5 year groups. 75% of PP students mentored are in line or have improved attendance compared to end of 2024/25. • There have been no permanent exclusions in this academic year. The school has worked closely with the LA to find suitable alternative placements to avoid permanent exclusion.
Welfare	
13. Safeguarding	The Spring Term Safeguarding report had been shared on Governor Hub. HT Provided an update: • Overall, this year has been more settled. • There are some concerns about behaviour in the community and some issues around misogyny. • Pouches for mobile phones will be introduced across the secondary schools in the Trust from September 2026. There will be a Trust Policy on mobile phones. • Approval has been granted for the final section of fencing, and this will improve entry into school in the mornings.
14. Welfare and Wellbeing-Students	HT referred to slides 49-51 • Student voice this year has been mature, constructive and solutions focused. • Pupils value fairness, inclusion, communication and real-world relevance, with strongest engagement where they see their views reflected in action. • Pupils have mixed views about the mobile phone policy.
15. Welfare and Wellbeing-Staff	Governors noted slide 52
Local Matters and Stakeholder Engagement	
16. Polices	

Local Policy Review/Approval

Statutory Policies

- Careers-deferred
- Charging and Remissions
- School Food-deferred

JG highlighted changes which are required to the Charging and Remissions Policy. The school would amend the policy. **ACTION**

Governors requested that changes to policies be highlighted and stressed the importance of version control.

Non-statutory Policies

None for this meeting

Trust Policies

None for this meeting

17. Governor Training Update

a) Report on Compliance

Governors are requested to ensure that their Prevent training is up to date (re-do if undertaken prior to 2025):

[Prevent duty training - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prevent-duty-training)

b) Summer term training

Governors were requested to complete Cyber Security training and to record this on their training profile Governor Hub.

[Cyber security and governance | National Governance Association](https://www.nga.org.uk/cyber-security-and-governance)

18. Stakeholder Engagement – Parents/Carers

- The school had gained the “Leading Parent Partnership Award” in April 2026. Priorities and next steps have been identified.
- Over 60 students are involved with the Duke of Edinburgh scheme.

19. Stakeholder Engagement – Wider Community

Governors noted the range of activities outlined on Slide 56.

20. Communication to Trust

The clerk was requested to forward the following items:

To the ES&P Committee:

- Risk register. The LGB had identified risks from the lack of SENCo and absence of DHT/DSL but is unaware of how these risks are recorded and managed by the Trust.
- When will the Trust Assessment Policy be available?
- Support for governors to prepare for an Ofsted inspection.

To the Trust:

- Issues round timely and effective communication from the Trust to the LGB.
- Governors requested greater clarity around role and purpose of LGB

21. Communication from Trust

The clerk provided an update:

- Skills audit:** Governors were reminded to complete the audit by Monday 18th May 2026 if they had not already done so.
- Update on Governance Conference 2026:** It had been decided to postpone the conference due to low numbers and the absence from work of the Director of Quality. Some of the content from the conference would be delivered at the remaining LGB meeting in July 2026. Governors commented that they valued the opportunity to network at a conference and suggested that the spring term 2027 would be a suitable alternative date.
- Ofsted inspections:** Three schools in the Trust had recently been inspected by Ofsted. The report from Knutsford Academy had been published and the reports from Sir William Stanier and Daven Primary were still awaited. The Trust was pleased with the result of each inspection.

20. AOB None for this meeting.
Next Meeting: Wednesday 8th July 2026 at 5:00 pm at Congleton High School

Staff members left and the meeting moved to the part two agenda.

The meeting closed at 8:15 pm.

Summary of actions

From the meeting held on 21.01.26

Agenda item	Action	Assigned to	Deadline
3	To consider the recruitment of new governors. Review skills audit, identify gaps etc. Contact AH if required. Update 13.05.26: The skills audit would be reviewed once completed and gaps identified. RB to discuss recruitment then with AH.	Chair	May 2026
17	To complete the requested training and update the training record on Governor Hub: Prevent training (if completed before 2025) Prevent duty training: Learn how to support people susceptible to radicalisation Prevent duty training Update 13.05.26: PH, KP and SW to update Prevent training. TSS and JT to update safeguarding training record on G Hub.	All governors	13-May-26
AOB	To provide a WIFI code at future LGB meetings for governors.	HT	

From the meeting held on 13.05.26

Agenda item	Action	Assigned to	Deadline
6	To consider reducing the PAN and to provide a recommendation to the LGB at the July 2026 meeting.	HT	July 2026
7	To present the SEF at the July 2026 LGB meeting.	HT	July 2026
8	To take temporary responsibility for Safeguarding and SEND link monitoring visits.	RB	Autumn term 2026
8.1	To upload the Safeguarding Action Plan to G Hub (Uploaded 14.05.26)	HT	May 2026
15	To amend the Charging and Remissions Policy to ensure that it aligns with current legislation.	HT	June 2026
17	To share dates for school events in the summer term 2026 with governors.	HT	May 2026
19	To feedback the following items to the Trust:	Clerk	May 2026

	• When will a Trust assessment Policy be available? • Trust Risk Register-how are LGBs involved in raising risks and actions to mitigate risk? • Governors requested support to prepare for an Ofsted inspection. • Governors requested greater clarity around role and purpose of LGB. • Governors requested clearer and more effective communication from the Trust.		
Part 2	To present the results of the staff survey to governors.	HT	July 2026 LGB