



The Learning Partnership

Crewe UTC LGB

Crewe UTC

Part 1 Minutes



Crewe Engineering
& Design UTC

Date: Tuesday 12th May 2026 at 4.30pm – in person at Crewe UTC

Present:

Mark Marsh (MM) – Chair

Clare Greenhalgh (CLG)

Nastasha Hibbert (NH)

Jess Rawlinson (JR)

Apologies:

Helen Tattersall (HT) – Vice Chair

Harry Wain (HW)

Greg White (GW)

Chris Geddes (CHG)

Dr Allan Howells – TLP Dir. of Quality

Jason Conliffe (JC) – Governor in approval process

In attendance:

Will Chitty (WC) – Principal

Charlotte Casewell (CC) – Assistant Principal

Steve Fergusson (SF) – Assistant Principal

Sarah Hatton-Tonge (SHT) – Assistant Principal (Quality of Education)

Clerk: Sharon Dutton (SD) – TLP Governance Clerk

The following documentation was shared with the Governors on GovernorHub prior to the meeting:

- Crewe UTC Draft Agenda LGB3
- Principal's Report May 2026
- 2a. Crewe UTC DRAFT LGB Minutes 27.01.2026
- 2b. CUTC Matters Arising Action Log
- CUTC Newsletter March 2026
- Employability & Digital Upskilling Workshop 04.03
- End of Term Letter March 2026
- KS4 Uniform consultation documents
- Industry Ready
- Pastoral
- Quality of Education
- SEND
- Pupil Premium Strategy Statement Dec 2025
- 15a. CUTC Behaviour & Conduct Policy Aug 2026
- CUTC Phone Policy and Procedure Sept 2026

Governance and Administration

• Welcome, Quoracy, Apologies and Declarations

The meeting started at 4:40 pm.

The Chair (MM) welcomed everybody and the meeting was confirmed quorate.

Apologies were received and accepted as recorded. Introductions took place for new members of the LGB (NH and JR). It was noted that assigned clerk SW was unable to attend due to illness and SD was sitting in.

There were no additional declarations of prejudicial or personal interest.

2. Minutes of the last meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the Crewe UTC LGB meeting held on 27th January 2026 were approved without amendment.

Action Log:

- Governor HT reminded to upload the Governor safeguarding visit report.

ACTION: Clerk to remind HT to upload Safeguarding visit report onto GovernorHub.

- SLT to include trend progress over time data in next cycle – included in the HT report.

- HT to schedule workshop to review admissions criteria for new academic year – completed.
- Pupil Premium strategy to be uploaded to school website – completed.
- Chair to highlight staffing issue within maths department – MM has this to leadership level outside of committee.

3. Membership Update

The Chair welcomed newly appointed governors NH and JR to the meeting. It was confirmed that recently approved governor Neil Travis had stepped down from the LGB due to his retirement from Amazon. He had suggested another Amazon employee who WC is in contact with. There is currently only one vacancy remaining on the LGB.

HW confirmed that he would be happy to extend his term of office for a further 4 years.

WC and MM are continuing to engage with JC.

Strategic Direction and Progress Against Priorities

5. School Improvement Plan (SIP) and Self-Evaluation (SEF).

See Principal's Report May 2026

a) To receive an update on progress.

The Principal presented a detailed update on progress against the School Improvement Plan. Governors were reminded that the Principal's Report provides a high-level summary aligned to school improvement priorities.

Leaders highlighted continued progress across priority areas, particularly:

- Teaching and learning development
- Curriculum implementation
- Attendance improvement

Context & Vision:

The college continues to deliver a specialist curriculum focused on producing "industry-ready" students through integrated learning, strong employer engagement, and professional expectations.

Student Profile:

301 students on roll (191 in KS4, 110 in KS5). Higher-than-average disadvantaged (39%) and SEND cohorts.

Many students join with historically low attendance, prior exclusions, or below-age reading levels.

Ofsted & Progress:

Rated "Good" in all areas (Nov 2024). A key improvement focus is strengthening consistency in teaching strategies across staff.

Key Improvement Priorities & Impact:

1. Embedding "Industry Ready" outcomes. Strong destination outcomes, with 75% progressing into engineering/design pathways.
2. Improving teaching & assessment. Measurable improvements in teaching quality (e.g. assessment/feedback scores consistently rising)
3. Strengthening numeracy. Whole-school strategy implemented; intervention programmes show positive progress (average gains in Year 11).

Student Outcomes & Destinations:

Increasing progression to university (forecast 37%) and sustained uptake of apprenticeships. Majority continue into engineering/design sectors.

Recruitment:

Student numbers stable (291 total). Strong applications for 2026/27 entry (e.g. 170 Year 10 applications, 100 accepted).

Staffing & Wellbeing:

Early Career Teachers progressing successfully; continued staff development in place.

Overall Summary:

The UTC is performing well, with a strong Ofsted judgement, improving attendance, and positive student outcomes. Key priorities remain consistent teaching quality, attendance gains, and continued development of an industry-focused curriculum to support student success.

b) School Improvement Records of Visits reports

No additional visit reports were presented at this meeting.
Quality of Education 5. Admission and Pupil Numbers See Principals Report May 2026 Pupil numbers remain stable at c.300, following a period of growth. Recruitment is strong overall, particularly at Sixth Form, but the Year 10 intake has declined slightly, requiring ongoing monitoring. Current Position (2025/26) Total students: 301, KS4: 191 and KS5: 110. Overall numbers are consistent, with minor fluctuations due to in-year movement. Growth has stabilised after reaching a peak in 2024/25. Admissions – September 2026 Year 10 applications: There have been 170 applications for 100 places. Demand is healthy but cohort size lower than previous peaks. Year 12 applications: 144 (62 internal / 82 external). Accepted: 81. The college could cope with 100 but is unlikely to reach that figure. There is continued demand for technical pathways. The SLT have arranged a “taster” day to which 48 prospective students have responded positively. Key Trends KS4 recruitment: Decline in Year 10 intake (from 105 to 88). KS5 growth: Stronger retention and increasing Year 13 numbers. Majority of KS5 students enrolled on T Levels. Contextual Factors High proportion of students join with poor prior attendance (48%) and exclusions/suspensions stand at 36%. UTC plays a key role in re-engagement, which can affect recruitment consistency and cohort stability. Strengths: • Sustained roll of about 300 students • Strong Sixth Form recruitment, particularly external • Clear alignment with engineering and technical pathways • Positive retention into Year 13 • Improvement in the calibre of applicants. Risks / Areas for Monitoring: • Declining Year 10 cohort size • Slight reduction in total roll since 2024/25 peak • Conversion from applications to enrolment • Impact of complex intake on capacity, financial sustainability and outcomes • Schools in the catchment area increasing their efforts to retain their own pupils for higher learning. Governors noted that the increasing popularity of the UTC reflects improved reputation and effective outreach. Governors challenged the fairness and transparency of admissions processes given increased demand. SLT confirmed that admissions arrangements continue to follow statutory criteria as laid out in the relevant Admissions Policy. Governors enquired as to the impact of lag funding. WC explained to governors the significance of this but assured them that the college had taken this into account in their year-on-year budgeting.
6. Curriculum Update a) SLT provided an update on the continued development of the curriculum, including improvements in teaching methodology through the “Framework for Excellence.” Key developments include: • A strong focus on modelling and cognitive strategies in lessons • Introduction of tools such as visualisers to improve clarity in teaching. These are to be launched in Sept 2026 and will be issued to each member of staff. • Increased consistency in pedagogical practice across departments b) MMU T Level Integration An update was provided by SF on partnerships working with Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) and other higher education providers including Wrexham and Staffordshire universities. This includes:

- Delivery of specialist units by university staff
- Access to university facilities and equipment
- Development of real-world project opportunities

Governors **recognised** this as a significant strength, enhancing both curriculum quality and student progression pathways.

7. Pupil Performance

A **discussion** took place around targets and how realistic these were to achieve. The college defended these ambitious and aspirational targets, explaining their use of the FFT50 A level targets which the Trust expected the college to use.

ACTION: NH to investigate a resource for teacher mentoring and report back to the college.

Governors **queried** if the T-Level targets could be higher or if the college was concentrating its resources too heavily in this area. A **discussion** took place around the methodology used and the challenges of the current cohort, the context with which they are working and the continuous recalibration of the examinations board.

SHT went on to elaborate the Year 11 data forecast outlined on Page 4 of the Principal's report where GL forecasts are expected to be met (shown in green) in a range of subjects. Statistics is a new course trialling this year, so forecasting is not as accurate. Art is a concern as the marks are generated by the averages of Maths, English and Science which is unhelpful and the college is looking at external interventions and additional resources in this area. This involves 20% of the cohort.

There are also concerns with regards to English and Maths GL and the college has secured six days of external consultancy to assist in this area.

Governors **asked** about the setting of homework as there seems to be no evidence of homework feedback and some felt that revision could become an issue during exams preparation if no homework was set. WC **responded** that there was no good quality evidence to prove that homework improved overall results, but that focus should instead be on rehearsal and revision. This avoided the danger of reinforcing mistakes away from supervision. Governors sited the need for deadlines and SF agreed that these were important and to facilitated this, the 6th form had a study day one day a week. In addition, CC had delivered revision training with lessons and mocks, and it was agreed that this self-management approach was more closely aligned to the university model the college wishes to achieve.

CLG confirmed her agreement with this but was still of the opinion that communication could be stronger between the college and parents as to what to expect with regards homework. NH shared that in her experience she was able to focus on the curriculum and do her own research as opposed to feeling pressured to complete homework set.

ACTION: SLT to investigate how to improve parental awareness in this area to increase reassurance.

The Principal's report gave further details on numeracy intervention as requested previously:

- Pilot phase was completed in the Autumn Term 2024, demonstrating that all students made progress from their baseline.
- GL Assessment Maths data has been used to guide baseline testing for Tier 2 & Tier 3 intervention groups for Year 11 students – they have completed their first term of intervention.
- GL Assessment Maths data has been used to guide baseline testing Tier 3 intervention for Year 10 students – they will be retested at the end of the summer term as the program is being rolled out in phases.
- The staffing situation has to date remained unresolved, but the Trust has secured funding for a fixed term appointment for the next academic year which will be advertised shortly.

ACTION: SLT to report back on recruitment at next meeting.

8. Link Governor Monitoring See Matters Arising re HT's Safeguarding report. ACTION: Clerk to check with CG regarding any SEND visits and reports outstanding.
9. Pupil Premium a) To review the impact of the spending of Pupil Premium funding SLT presented the Pupil Premium strategy and impact. Funding is directed towards: • Attendance improvement • Pastoral care and wellbeing • Literacy and academic support Impact includes: • Improved engagement • Reduced behavioural incidents. • Continued gaps in attainment, primarily linked to attendance. Governors emphasised the importance of: • Clear linkage between spending and measurable outcomes • Continued focus on addressing attendance barriers. b) Governors acknowledged the Pupil Premium statement 2025/2026.
Personal Development
10. Attendance See Pastoral Report May 2026 Attendance currently stands at 91.4%. Figures show a sustained improvement, now broadly in line with national expectations. Strong attendance in Years 10–12 with Year 13 being the main concern (lower mean attendance). Pupil Premium has improved significantly with SEN and EHCP well above national average. Major reduction in persistent absence, especially for PP students. However, this remains a key challenge at approximately 28% although formal enforcement is contributing to improvement. This includes layers of intervention with “disappointing start” letters being issued, early warning systems in place and improvements celebrated. Strengths: • Strong upward attendance trend • Significant improvements in PP, SEN, and EHCP groups • Persistent absence sharply reduced. • Punctuality steadily improving. Areas to monitor: • Year 13 attendance • Sustaining gains as attendance approaches national average.
11. Rewards & Behaviour See Principal's Report May 2026. Improvements in: • Classroom disruption • Mobile phone-related incidents CC reported that she is working with SF on some motivational work placements. Areas of concern: • Increase in on-call removals. • Verbal abuse incidents (linked to a small number of students) A consistent and firm approach is in place, including zero tolerance for abusive behaviour. ACTION: Governors requested further breakdown of behaviour data by year group to identify trends.
Welfare
12. Safeguarding See Pastoral Report May 2026 • Positive external safeguarding review • Strong safeguarding culture across staff and students

• Reduction in high-level cases, with more cases stepped down to family support. • Positive SCIES visit carried out with actions captured accurately. A new safeguarding monitoring system is due to be implemented (in conjunction with The Oaks Academy) to improve data accuracy and responsiveness. Governors were assured Safeguarding remains effective and congratulated the pastoral team on their successful work in this area.
13. Welfare and Wellbeing – Students An annual Trust survey had been completed but formal feedback from the Trust is outstanding. Responses showed that: • A strong understanding of safeguarding is in place. • There is confidence in reporting concerns. • The curriculum and wider pastoral support provide multiple opportunities for discussion and awareness.
14. Welfare and Wellbeing – Staff See Principal's Report May 2026 included staff survey results. • Early Career Teachers (ECTs) - three ECT2 teachers are on track to successfully complete their induction in July. • Teacher development pipeline - one unqualified teacher is progressing onto the Assessment Only QTS route from September. Staffing is stable supported by clear development pathways, encouraging retention and internal progression into qualified teaching roles. • SLT reported very low levels of staff absence this academic year with little requirement for cover teaching.
Local Matters & Stakeholder Engagement
15. Policies The following policy was reviewed by the LGB and accepted with no amendment: • Behaviour & Conduct • Phone Policy and Procedure There were no Trust policies to receive.
16. Governor Training Update All governors were tasked with completing the NGA training Cyber Security and Governance before the end of the academic year and posting their certificate on GovernorHub. ACTION: Complete NGA Cyber security training Clerk also reminded Governors to view the Ofsted video and undertake refresher Prevent training (if not yet undertaken or completed prior to 2025) and post onto GovernorHub. Prevent training is outstanding for MM, JR, CHG, HW and NH
17. Stakeholder Engagement – Parents / Carers See Principal's Report May 2026 Discussions highlighted the importance of supporting parental engagement in student progress.
18. Stakeholder Engagement – Wider Community See Principal's Report May 2026 SLT reported strong progress in developing partnerships with universities within the region, industry and employers. Headway is being made for college representatives to attend local school assemblies.
19. Communication – To Trust There was no communication to the Trust.
20. Communication – From Trust ACTION: Governors to complete the recently issued Skills Audit as soon as possible.
21. AOB a) Introduction of mobile phone pouches in line with new guidance and legal duty. WC gave a presentation explaining how, going forward, the school would be dealing with mobile phone usage and restrictions. He demonstrated the pouches and outlined the new policy in detail; SLT reported how

successful early trials had been with most pupils and parents supporting the new rules with little or no pushback. Expected benefits include:

- Improved focus in lessons
- Reduction in disruption
- Enhanced social interaction.

A trial period will be implemented prior to full rollout, and WC is meeting with other UTC's next Tuesday to discuss and champion the initiative.

Governors **queried** how the college would deal with pupils saying they have no phone or more than one phone. WC explained that spot checks using metal detectors would be put in place.

Governors **asked** how pupils were accessing timetables which are usually kept on their phones. WC responded that highly visible timetables had been put up on all floors of the college. In addition, breaktimes would be increased by 10 minutes and lunchtime reduced by 10 minutes in order to manage any related stress. Phones required by pastoral staff to be clearly housed in red pouches.

ACTION: WC to feed back to the governors at the next meeting on the efficacy of the new policy

b) Framework for Excellence : A uniform approach to Pedagogy.

See UTC approach to uniform pedagogy - May 2026. This was highlighted as:

Read, Extract, Substitute, Calculate, Units and Evaluate (RESCUE). WC to deliver CPD to relevant staff on 04.06.26 emphasis gradual release of responsibility "I Do, We Do, You Do".

c) Uniform consultation update

WC presented to the governors a sample of the new uniform which had been agreed on by consultation with all stakeholders, documentation for which had been posted on GovernorHub. 275 responses had been received and the uniform and accompanying amended website documentation will be ready for September 2026.

NH gave her apologies for the June LGB meeting.

Date and Time of Next Meeting: Tuesday 30th June 2026 at 4:30pm

Meeting Closed at 6:35pm

Minutes Prepared by: Copilot in collaboration with the Clerk.

Minutes approved:

Date:.....

ACTION LOG FOR MEETING 12.05.26

	ACTION	BY WHOM	BY WHEN
2	Remind HT to upload Safeguarding visit report onto GovernorHub.	Clerk/HT	After meeting
7	Investigate a resource for teacher mentoring and report back to the college.	NH	After meeting
7	Investigate how to improve parental awareness around homework to increase reassurance.	SLT	After meeting
7	Report back on Maths fixed term recruitment at next meeting.	SLT	30/06/2026
8	Check with CG regarding any SEND visits and reports outstanding.	Clerk/CHG	After meeting
11	Supply further breakdown of behaviour data by year group to identify trends.	SLT	30/06/2026
16	Complete NGA Cyber security training	Governors	Sept 2026
20	Complete the recently issued Skills Audit as soon as possible.	Governors	30/05/2026
21	Feed back to the governors at the next meeting on the efficacy of the new mobile phone policy.	WC	30/06/2026