

# **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WHITCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY HELD AT THE SCHOOL ON 16<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2025**

<b>PRESENT</b>	Sian Hopkins	Partnership (Chair)
	Max Vine	Partnership
	David Collins	Partnership
	Dr Paul Bulpin	Community
	Maria Boffey	Community
	David Roylance	Community
	Dr Tessa Bailey	Parent
	Dr Catherine Bushell	Parent
	Jayne Catherall	Parent
	Lisa Williams	Parent
	Paul Lloyd Davies	Parent
	Andrew Davies	Local Authority
	Nick John	Headteacher
	Jonathan Davies	Teacher
	Noreen Linforth	Teacher
	Richard Burge	Staff
	Scott Britt	Deputy Headteacher (Observer)
	Ceri Garland	Deputy Headteacher (Observer)
	Wayne Lilly	Business Manager (Observer)
	Steve Williams	Estates (Observer)
	Gareth Coombs	Clerk to the Governors

## **46 APOLOGIES**

Joyce Slack; Dan Walsh.

## **47 APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNORS**

Governors re-appointed David Collins and Max Vine as Partnership Governors.

## **48 MINUTES**

The minutes of the following governing body meetings were confirmed as a correct record:-

- (i) 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025 (subject to the inclusion of David Collins under apologies for absence)
- (ii) 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025

## **49 HEADTEACHER UPDATE – Nick John**

A very detailed update was provided which could be accessed on Teams. The following matters were highlighted:-

The current situation with the school budget. The LA continued to work with the school regarding funding. The LA had accepted the school's application for a deficit school budget of £555,894.

The appointment of a new Assistant Headteacher was noted.

The school was concentrating on consistency and challenge and progress continued with the progression for the Alex Model to be at the heart of what the school was doing.

The school would operate a hybrid model for results days this year.

Estyn review meetings would continue and are now very much being used to refine the school's final report in preparation for a call from Estyn to discuss progress made. A brief summary of the school report which would be presented to Estyn was given.

Self-evaluation and School Improvement Plan updates were provided which included feedback from the Self-Evaluation and School Improvement Plan Sub-Committee which met on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

The Curriculum Sub-Committee had met on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025. A verbal report was given by Jonathan Davies which included curriculum updates.

SLT changes were highlighted. The Headteacher and Governors wished to record their congratulations to Lauren Sharpe on achieving a Deputy Headteacher role at St Julian's in Newport from September 2025.

With the introduction of a new SLT role the following update of the current structure was provided:-

- Nick John, Headteacher – Vision and Values.
- Scott Britt, Deputy Headteacher – Teaching and Learning, Staff Development.
- Ceri Garland, Deputy Headteacher – Self-Evaluation, School Improvement and Community Engagement.
- Jonathan Davies, Assistant Headteacher – Curriculum and Learning Pathways
- Damien Farrow, Assistant Headteacher – Assessment, Progress and Skills.
- Caroline Robson, Assistant Headteacher – Lead for years 7 to 9 and Transition
- Paul Morgan, Assistant Headteacher – Additional Learning and Ty Calon (DSP for Ty Calon)
- Claire Hollings, Assistant Headteacher – Lead for years 10 to 11 (DSP for years 10 to 13)

- Emma Aston, Assistant Headteacher – Personal Development and Community Engagement
- Wayne Lilly, Business Manager – Finance and Support Staff
- Linda Shepstone, PA to Headteacher and SLT support.

Other staff changes/updates were noted.

An Estates update was provided. Thanks were recorded to Steve Williams and his team for all their work and support in this matter. Further updates would continue to be provided in the school report.

A summary of progress on skills was provided in the report by Emma Aston, Literary co-ordinator.

A report on Numeracy and DCF was provided in the report by Wendy Johnson, Numeracy and DCF Co-ordinator.

The AI Working Party had convened twice to date with constructive discussions shaping the direction of the school's strategy. Maria Boffey was thanked by the Headteacher for facilitating valuable connections which had resulted in partnerships with SBARC and Cardiff University. Further updates would be provided in school reports to the Governing Body.

The focus on INSET days held was reported.

Term dates for the 2025-2026 were noted.

With regard to the use of mobile phones at the school, students, staff and parent carer surveys were issued on 21<sup>st</sup> May with a deadline of 9<sup>th</sup> June for responses. These had been analysed by SLT. It was clear that whatever decisions were made regarding the use, non-use or restricted use of mobile phones by pupils would not please an overwhelming majority of pupils, parents and staff. At the suggestion of the Headteacher It was agreed that a working party consisting of governors and SLT members be established to consider a possible school policy regarding the use of mobile phones at the school.

An update on student attendance was provided by Andrew Miles, Attendance Officer. The attendance position across the school continued to be encouraging.

With regard to EFSM statistics the school was doing very well.

At present there were 12 pupils on home tuition.

Pupil exclusions were reported and noted. Numbers were down on the previous year.

Ceri Garland gave a review of activities report and thanked those governors who had offered to come in to school to view and assist in this matter.

The following Faculty Updates were provided:-

TECHNOLOGY – Lauren Saleh  
ENGLISH - Kirsty Price  
PERFORMING ARTS – Laura Jones-Price  
HEALTH & WELLBEING – Sarah Smith  
SPORT & EXERCISE – Gwyn Morris  
HUMANITIES – Noreen Linforth  
SCIENCE – Dave Eyles  
LANGUAGES – Janine Davies  
SKILLS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDIES – Kelly Gambold  
MATHS – Fiona Harding  
Year Group updates were provided and noted.

The Job Description for the post of Assistant Headteacher for Personal Development and Engagement was provided and received by governors.

**50 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

None

**51 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To be confirmed.

Meeting concluded.

Signed:   
Chair of Governors