



Notes and Action Record of the Holgate Local Academy Committee Summer 1 Business Meeting Held on Monday 11th May at 16.30 at The Holgate Academy

Membership	Initials	Governor category	Absence
Kate Turner (Chair of Governors)	KT	Appointed AC governor	
Phil Bailey	PB	Staff AC governor	
Emma Paine	EPn	Appointed AC governor	
Emma Paling	EPl	Appointed parent AC governor	
Emma Redgate	ER	Appointed parent AC governor	
Scott Comer	SC	Parent AC governor	
Paul Simpson	PS	Appointed AC governor	

Staff In Attendance	Initials	Position	Absence
Heather Widdup	HW	Executive Principal	
Henry Diamond	HD	Principal	
Lynsey Parker	LP	Governance Professional / Clerk to Governors	

Quorum required	4	Governors present	
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Action Record:

Agenda / action ref	Meeting Ref	Action Required	Responsible Person	Timeline	Update	Complete / carried forward
THA/29/2526	Spring 2	Circulate Spring 2 HT Safeguarding report to governors	HD/LP	Next meeting – 11/5/2026	Safeguarding report circulated ahead of Summer 1 meeting.	C
THA/30/2526	Spring 2	Update link visit report template to include a specific section to cover inclusion of disadvantaged students	LP	11/5/2026	Visit report template updated and shared. Please can governors use this version for any Summer term link visits,	C

					pending some further updates for the 202/27 academic year.	
THA/37/2526	Summer 1	Raise with SM if governors can routinely see the outputs of the Student Forum and what has changed as a result of student feedback	ER	End July 2026		
THA/37/2526	Summer 1	Clarify Trust lead for PSHE and report back to governors	LP	Next meeting 29 June		
THA/38/2526	Summer 1	Include 6 th form reporting in LAC agenda planning cycle	HD/KT/LP	End July 2026		
THA/40/2526	Summer 1	Share Feedback reports from S&O with the LAC	LP	Next meeting 29 June		

Notes of meeting:

Bold blue text = academy committee governor check and challenge

Bold green text = academy committee governor decision-making / approval

Q = Question from governors

A = Answer from senior leaders

Agenda item	Key points /summary of discussion	Action Required	Responsible Person	Timeline
THA/34/2526 Welcome and apologies	There were no apologies for absence			
THA/35/2526 Declarations of Interest	There were no interests to declare in relation to any items on the agenda. Governors confirmed that the declarations previously given were correct.			
THA/36/2526 Notes of last meeting & update action log	Notes of the previous meeting received and accepted, and updates provided for all actions (see above)			
THA/37/2526	David Schwarz (DS) gave an update on his role and some recent work at board level:			

Update from David Schwarz, Chair of the Board	Introduction: 2nd year as Chair Joined Diverse Academes Trust in 2019 Chair of Governance and Partnerships (G&P) committee and member of Standards and Outcomes (S&O) committee All Trustees visiting as many LACs as they can this term. Current work includes: • Re-examining relationship between Trustees and local academy committees • Understanding how governance layers fit together • Opportunities to look at effectiveness of our governance afresh – positive feedback from first 2 Ofsted inspections under the new framework • Trustees review all reports from LACs following their meetings, look at common themes, and prepare a short feedback report – though considering how this 2 way communication can be improved • Opportunities for Chairs of Governors and Trustees to come together through 1:1s, twice yearly Chairs of Governor and Trustees meetings. Feedback from recent board meeting: Moving from current HQ to new space – taking experience from recent new builds at Horizons and Yeoman Park. Interactions between different layers of governance, DS passed on his thanks to everyone present who volunteers to give time and skills to the organisation. Review of corporate risk register. The aim is for this to be a ‘living’ document and part of operational discussions. After the latest iteration of the corporate risk register changes will filter down to other layers of the organisation including individual academies and local academy committees New SEND Hub at SBPA development underway. LA commissioned, recognition of strong SEN practice within the Trust. Will enhance SEND provision / specialist places locally.			
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	Met new member of staff with a new role focused on income generation and developing relationships with business / support in kind from businesses e.g businesses providing our schools with speakers, work placements, sponsorships for events, charitable donations (e.g. library books and other resources) HSFC sale completed Announcement on Holgate new build. HD gave a further update on work that has taken place since the DfE announcement in March: Trust Execs attended a recent DfE meeting We will be moving to next stage between Jun-Aug where planners/architects are involved (at this stage still unclear if we have permission/funding for full new build or partial) Opening likely September 2030 Fairly straight forward build with regard to space and any land leasing issues Trust site walk today looked at 4 year plan for capital expenditure for the existing site now that a DfE decision on the new build is known: Initial work agreed: Hillcrest D and B block décor and flooring Upgrades to ceiling in gym Surface water drainage surveys Windows cleaned quarterly rather than twice yearly Nabbs window aesthetically and conditionally in a poor state, but need to justify spend between now and new build. Investment must demonstrate good value for money. It was agreed that the information on the new build and capital expenditure plan is not confidential. DS invited questions from the Holgate academy committee governors. Q – Do individual academies get air time at Board-level or is all data aggregated? A – It is absolutely not all summarised together. Information on individual academies comes to S&O and to Board. e.g. Holgate new build, need to balance short term vs long term spend e.g. toilet block was considered at Board level and decision made.			
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	S&O every half term receives Holgate RISE progress report as an item in its own right. DS noted that the trajectory feels extremely positive. Other academies also have their own agenda items, depending on their priority areas. Trustee visits – S&O Committee has a programme of visiting 6 academies per year. Not all Trustees have overview of all academies, especially as we have some recent new appointments, but most do. Q – In relation to Trustee and Exec leaders visiting the shop floor and Trust level Exec reviews – are these focused on quantitative data? Is there a need for more of an understanding of the student journey and student experience in the round at different academies? A – HD advised that there are times to be formally ‘on show’, and other times to be open and honest. There is a high trust relationship with Trust colleagues and RISE partners and staff are engaging with the support on offer. e.g. AIR is very much a developmental tool, Trust Execs have an absolute warts and all view of strengths and areas needing improvement and development. DS confirmed from a Trust perspective how powerful is when pupils stop and talk to Trustees, and to talk to middle leaders and junior staff to get a rounded view. Q - Student Forum is exemplary at Holgate and well attended by governors. Is there any appetite for school forums across the Trust to come together so students can meet and share ideas? DS advised this could be developed. He asked if Holgate had considered having students on LACs as a method of hearing student voice also, but stressed that this was a decision for individual academy committees. DS confirmed that the reports from LAC meetings are shared at each S&O and a response is provided, though they are looking at how to do this better HW confirmed governors visit parents evenings, and other academy events to talk to staff and students.			
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	All agreed it was key to maintain openness and dialogue at all levels.			
THA/37/2526 Governance Report	Academy committee governors noted the resignation of MN and that this leaves a vacancy for the Vice Chair and SEND link governor. Any governors with an interest in the roles to contact KT. <u>Link visits:</u> EPn feedback on her recent 6th form visit. Issues covered included: Intake no.s vs quality so can access and achieve at A Level. HW advised that the academy could lower entry requirements which may increase student numbers but that the academy would then be doing them a disservice if they do not have the academic ability to achieve their A Levels. Higher achieving students still choosing to go elsewhere. Subject offer limited as need to achieve viable cohorts. HD and HW confirmed that Ashley Broewn (AB), Head of 6th form has carried out a huge amount of work with the student body on subject offering. HW explained the model for the joint extended offer with National and explained the terms of reference for enrolment and cost sharing, with half-termly meetings to review. A discussion took place on the 6th form 'offer' in its widest sense e.g. facilities, entrance to the centre. Governors considered how can the 6th form could be made separate from the rest of the school but also having a strong link to the school to enable 6th formers to be role models for the younger children. It was noted that making the 6th form more independent from the rest of the academy comes with a cost and that the 6th form already runs at a loss and the school is in a budget deficit due to 6th form provision. HD updated the governors that there have been 160 applications for September 2026 entry. Huge pull for our students is the continuity, knowing the staff and the site. Q – does the academy look at destinations of all Year 11s? A – Yes this is tracked. High performing students likely to go to Bilbrough College. Increasing numbers go to West Notts College. Small numbers go to Level 2/3 apprenticeships, which are more appropriate for some learners.			

	Q – What about middle achievers at Holgate? Are vocational courses needed at Post-16? A – We do deliver some as part of our offer. Many come with huge specialist facilities needs or costs. Still considering a hybrid/online Trust-wide offer. Q -- Is any consideration being given to the new V Levels? A – We are looking at this across the Trust. These qualifications may be high cost to deliver, the model is that students are on work experience for half of the year. It was agreed to carry forwards feedback from two behaviour / PPSR link visits to the July meeting when the focus will be on governor training and development around the AIP priority on behaviour. PS and ER feedback on recent Student Forum visits and advised that the students were extremely engaged and positive. Q – How are students advised of outcomes/decisions following the Student Forum? A – Sophie McKenna (SM), Assistant Principal who leads on the Student Forum creates a report, the Principal then either attends the following Frum or sends a written response back to students Q - Could governors receive a summary of what has changed as a result of student feedback? A - ER agreed to follow up with SM at future visit. KT gave a brief update on 2 recent Safeguarding link visits. HD gave an update on Safeguarding staffing at the academy: SM taking over Safeguarding as part of her portfolio and will become the DSL, she remains PP lead Patrick Knight (PK) Trust Safeguarding strategic lead will be visiting the academy to support handover and shadowing Keir Mather (KM) before he leaves. Systems and process KM has introduced will remain. Most recent staff survey results positive. Most recent student survey results are positive and much improved. Highest category currently is unkindness – KT feedback on some of the work that has been undertaken as discussed in her recent visit.	Raise with SM if governors can routinely see the outputs of the Student Forum and what has changed as a result of student feedback	ER	End Jul 2026
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	<u>Policies</u> Governors confirmed that they had received the summary of recently updated Trust policies in advance of the meeting. Q – Who is responsible for the RSHE policy at Trust level? A – Recently changed due to previous Trust strategic lead leaving. LP to follow up and report back to governors.	Clarify Trust lead for PSHE and report back to governors	LP	Next meeting 29 June
THA/38/2526 Principal's Report	ERM HD gave an overview of the information contained in the ERM report circulated in advance, and invited questions from the governors. <u>Attendance</u> Positive direction of travel, huge improvement from this point last year. Y13 – some targeted work on systems and processes now back in-house so consistent with the approach across the rest of the academy, though note this is non-statutory provision. 16 fewer PA students – lowest it has ever been. Targeted intervention work has been trialled. Q – Do 29.2% of Y11 have less than 90% attendance? A – Yes. This was around 40% last year. Key targeting of this cohort this year, using data to identify those students needing interventions. PA has gradually reduced over the year. HD explained that the closer it gets to GCSE exams, more Y11 have been attending. <u>Outcomes</u> Key work stream through RISE working closely with RISE partners Spencer Academies Trust. Focus on English and Maths. Refocused intervention programme targeted through data and includes timetabled interventions as well as tutor time and before/after school. As a result, there has been around a 10% increase in the numbers of children achieving 4+ and 5+ - HD reminded governors that there will be no Progress 8 due to Covid so outcomes at 4+/5+ is our measure. English and Maths faculty have worked really hard on interventions and improvements. There has been more mixed engagement especially for the after school sessions.			

	Really positive start to GCSEs – English today, all except 1 student attended. <u>Ofsted readiness – SEF</u> SLT member is accountable for each area. With support of HW we are self-assessing against the Ofsted criteria. Personal Development and Wellbeing, and Post-16 already assessed as at Strong Standard. Currently at Needs Attention in a number of areas – though the academy is close to Expected Standard, we need to demonstrate secure fit on all criteria. Inclusion is the closest of these to Strong Standard. Q – Who supports the SEF and Ofsted readiness? A – HW as Executive Principa. Trust continues to have oversight of RISE. Various plans / initiatives are ongoing – these now need to be weaved back together into a coherent plan with Trust planning support, so that there is a clear and concise overall picture of strategic priorities. Q – is there any data on Post-16 in the ERM? A – Trust Execs set the agenda for each ERM, Y13 not included this time. Q – Should governors see more Post-16 data so we have an overview of whole-school performance and can hold academy leaders to account? A – We can look at this in LAC agenda planning so focus on 6th form is included. HW explained that 6th form students achieve well. Analysis has also shown that SEND students and students in receipt of the PP/6th form bursary achieve better than peers. Q – What would governors need to review in readiness for Ofsted? A - SEF document will have key data. DS feedback that experience of inspections under the new framework across the Trust so far is that the governance aspect focused on knowing the school and understanding reasons for priorities, rather than knowing every piece of data. Option choices KS5: Subject offer / model developed based on interest / applications.	Include 6th form reporting in LAC agenda planning cycle	HD/KT/LP	End Jul 2026
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	A few courses have been withdrawn, some will be delivered through the extended offer with National. We have gone back to applicants after remodel to advise of subjects available. Out of our current application we expect between 41-57 students to enrol. Q - How does this compare with National? A – their numbers are lower than ours. Reminder that reciprocal arrangements and extended 6th form offer in place. Q – Has the subject withdrawal had any impact on staffing? A – We have not reached the deadline for teacher resignations / notice period Currently out to recruitment in various subjects. KS4 : Geography take up has increased over history. Curriculum has been revamped. Q – Are there any particular reasons for this increase? A – no hard data, believe enjoyment of the subject. and the teachers Overall, governors commented that it is evident that there is a broad and balanced curriculum offer. September 2026 Y7 admissions 253 students allocated places. PAN is 270. Those who have been offered but not yet accepted places may be appealing decisions elsewhere. Year 7 parent information event was held last week and was well attended but not as well as year before, feedback from the event was positive. Safeguarding Q – There is a huge amount of data on categories of concern. How are concerns acted upon? A – Common issues addressed in personal development curriculum, tutor time, assemblies. Q – Are there any duplicate concerns or double counting in the reporting?			
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	A – 1 incident may have up to 3 ‘tags’ / categories so is as accurate as possible. Stakeholders <u>Uniform parent survey</u> Academy and Trust review over last 18 months. Approach is to offer more options for uniform rather than a wholesale change which would take longer to consult on and for policy approval. There have been high levels of engagement and feedback to the survey and other conversations with parents and students. Considered cost of new / replacement uniform in making any decision, to support our families. HD explained the rationale for phasing out old style crest and move to Holgate logo, rather than wholesale changes. Worked with suppliers. New supplier is Schoolwear Solutions, who were chosen for price, supply chain (carry more stock, will drop off at school). Academy leaders are confident that relationship will work well. They will come in at transition days to measure and order uniform for new Y7. Q – feedback from recent Y10 parents evening is will there be stock in school to try on? A – Yes, and they will organise pop up shops. Parent information has gone out to all year groups Parent governor feedback was that communications from school implied uniform would only be able to purchase online rather than seeing in person and being able to try on. It was agreed further comms would be arranged. <u>Fire Safety report</u> Q – In relation to the fire safety report received, has all of the required work been costed? A – All costed and supported by the Trust Internal inspections will be carried out Meeting with Trust colleagues tomorrow Due to time constraints governors did not discuss the complaints report or stakeholder engagement report on recent events, though it was agreed that parents evenings and transition evenings had been covered under other agenda items.			
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THA/39/2526 Determination of Confidentiality	Governors determined that there were no confidential discussions			
THA/40/2526 Report to Trustees and receive report from Trustees	A report will be submitted to Trustees following the meeting It was agreed that LP would share the recent Trustee feedback report with the governors.	Share Feedback reports from S&O with the LAC	LP	Next meeting 29 June
THA/41/2526 Date and time of next meeting	The meeting closed at 18.07 Next meeting 29th June 2026			

Signed by Chair: K Turner	Date:
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