



Beech Academy Council
Friday 06 December 2024 at 10.30 am
Beech Academy, Fairholme Site, Fairholme Drive, Mansfield
NG19 6AH

Those Present:	Role	Initials
Katie Craig	Head of School	KC
Neil Davies	Executive Headteacher, Beech Academy	ND
Sue Elliott	Community Governor	SE
Tracey Geeson	Staff Governor – Non-Teaching	TG
Kathryn Johnson	Staff Governor - Teaching	KJ
Paula Williams	Executive Regional Director	PW
Sacha Schofield	Chair	SS
Also Present:		
Rebecca Horne	Governance Clerk	RH
Apologies: None		

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Actions
1.1. To receive apologies for absence None.	
1.2. To accept apologies for absence None.	
2. BEST WE CAN BE AWARDS	
2.1 Presentation to staff nominee(s) Four members of staff JB, JFR, SB, and SH were presented with their Best We can Be Awards. ND and KC read out the nominations and all nominees were celebrated and congratulated accordingly.	
3. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS	
3.1. Chair to determine any items of urgent business to be considered Chair to determine any items of urgent business None. 3.2 Confirmation of new Staff Governor – Tracey Geeson The academy council unanimously approved the confirmation of new Staff Governor, TG.	
4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	
4.1. Individual Governors to declare any personal, business or other governance interests on any item on the agenda There were no declarations received.	
5. BEECH ACADEMY LOCAL GOVERNANCE MINUTES	
5.1 Approval of the Academy Council meeting held on 22 March 2024. The minutes from the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.	
5.2 Review of Action Tracker The outstanding actions on the tracker were reviewed and updated.	
5.3 Matters arising from the Minutes None raised.	

<p>ND stated in terms of an update on governance, adverts have been put out again for Parent Governors. Some interest has been received this time round and ND is hopeful they will have two new representatives at the Spring Academy Council meeting.</p>	
<p>6. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED</p>	
<p>6.1 Headteacher Report</p> <p><u>Leadership & Management</u></p> <p>ND explained the overall culture of the school is still strong with a great group of colleagues and children. The school is doing really well compared to 3 years ago prior to inspection.</p> <p>The school have further increased pupil numbers over the course of the autumn term to the highest level in the school’s history, now with 113 pupils currently on roll across both Fairholme and Westfield sites. From a physical perspective they are full to capacity. Discussions are ongoing with the Local Authority (LA) in relation to expansion and utilising different accommodation within the local community.</p> <p>SS – Is there a pressure to take on more pupils? ND, there is always pressure. We are in discussions with the Local Authority (LA) in relation to possible growth options and moving forward.</p> <p>PW explained they have had conversations already with the Local Authority (LA) as the sites are restricted. Other alternatives have been looked at. The LA are working alongside Nexus in relation to this.</p> <p>In relation to capital works, the school undertook a significant project during the autumn term to upgrade the playgrounds and redevelop the outdoor spaces across both Fairholme and Westfield sites. The majority of the work was completed after the start of the autumn term.</p> <p>ND explained there have been boiler issues at the school. There is a need to consider whether the boiler needs replacing at the Fairholme Site. ND will speak to Lana Stoyles, Nexus in relation to this. ACTION – ND to speak to Lana Stoyles regarding potential new boiler.</p> <p><u>Sickness Absence Data</u></p> <p>ND reported staff sickness is quite low within the school.</p> <p><u>Workforce Turnover Data</u></p> <p>ND reported there are currently 4 vacancies amongst the support staff cohort and are working closely with partner agencies to fill these roles.</p> <p>SS highlighted the proactive efforts Nexus is undertaking to address recruitment challenges. By exploring avenues like career fairs, targeting school leavers and graduates, and collaborating closely with HR, it’s clear that recruitment is being approached strategically and comprehensively.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">ND 21/03/25</p>

Quality of Education

KC explained the quality of teaching in the school was graded as good across both sites, with particular strengths in English, Maths, and Science.

KC reported a range of quality assurance activities relating to quality of education have taken place over the autumn term, including:

- Developmental Drop Ins for DEAR time
- Book-Looks
- Subject Review (Creative)
- Developmental Drop Ins for quality of teaching

KC stated many strengths have been identified in terms of the curriculum and teaching and learning.

KC highlighted the successful integration of the Teaching for Excellence Model across all lessons and both sites, with a high standard of delivery.

The school has a clear and well-defined curriculum intent at its core, which is consistently mirrored across all curriculum areas.

KC highlighted that she appreciates the recent improvements in the PLD (Personalised Learning and Development) offer, particularly its shift toward a more tailored approach. She felt that last year's offerings were too generic and didn't meet individual needs effectively.

KC reported 4 teaching colleagues are working towards Chartered Teacher status with the Chartered College of Teaching.

Behaviour and Attitudes

ND has reported a reduction in the number of recorded behaviour incidents compared to previous years. Having only one recorded suspension for the school this year is a significant achievement.

ND informed the members the Pastoral Team has expanded with an additional member of staff employed at the Westfield site.

Attendance Data

ND explained that there was a decrease in attendance compared to the previous academic year.

There are currently two pupils not accessing school at all. The school is collaborating with the Local Authority (LA) to address the situation.

SS – Are they getting any education at all? ND, one pupil is currently at home.

A significant impact on the school's data has been a spike in families taking their children on holidays in school time.

Personal Development

<p>ND explained pupil parliament is thriving and remains an effective tool for capturing pupil voice.</p> <p>ND stated that online safety was identified as a priority and is an ongoing piece of work.</p> <p>The pupil voice exercise has highlighted a drop in take-up of lunchtime clubs. Senior leaders are discussing and planning different enrichment options.</p> <p>ND explained the school has recently transitioned from utilising ideas4careers to a Nexus appointed Careers advisor for independent careers advice for young people.</p> <p>ND reported the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) is committed to maintaining strong communication with families and regularly sharing updates about the school's work. Weekly 'good new stories' are also shared via the school social media channels and 'X' feed, which is available via the school website.</p> <p>6.1.1 Appendix 1 – Updated SIP</p> <p>This was sent for information only.</p> <p>6.1.2 Appendix 2 – Updated SEF</p> <p>This was sent for information only.</p>	
<p>6.2 School Dashboard Summary</p> <p>SS reported this was sent for information only.</p>	
<p>6.3 Budget Report</p> <p>SS reported this was sent for information only.</p>	
<p>6.4 Teaching Staff Appraisal Outcome Report</p> <p>SS reported this was sent for information only.</p>	
<p>7. TRUST MATTERS</p>	
<p>7.1 Trust Verbal Update of Key Issues</p> <p>PW gave an update on Trust matters.</p> <p>The CEO of the Trust is placing a high priority on the Academy Councils and actively engaging with them. The CEO plans to attend some of the pupil parliaments having already visited Beech recently.</p> <p>The Trust has expanded to include two new special schools, one located in Nottingham and the other in Sheffield. Both schools have successfully completed the academisation transition, officially becoming part of the Trust.</p> <p>Two more special schools in Sheffield have applied to join the Trust, with a potential start date of September 2025.</p>	

<p>The CEO has taken steps to grow the Central Team. The Trust has significantly developed the ways in which it supports its schools over the past few years, ensuring tailored assistance to meet the needs of each institution. Members of schools have expressed positive feedback about the quality and impact of the support they receive.</p>	
<p>8. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS</p>	
<p>8.1. To consider any other urgent business.</p> <p>SE raised the concern about the quality of school meals. The current contract with Relish coming to an end, this is a timely opportunity to reassess the school's catering options. KC plans to discuss the matter with the Central Team. ACTION – KC to discuss catering options with Lana Stoyles.</p>	<p>KC 21/03/25</p>
<p>9. CONFIDENTIALITY</p>	
<p>9.1 To consider the confidentiality of any items discussed during the meeting.</p> <p>None.</p>	
<p>10. DATES OF NEXT MEETING</p>	

Friday 21 March 2025	10:30-12:30	Beech Academy Council
Friday 04 July 2025	10:30-12:30	Beech Academy Council

Minutes approved

CHAIR	SIGNATURE	DATE
Sacha Schofield		