



Beech Academy Council
Friday 21 March 2025 at 1:30pm
Beech Academy, Fairholme Site, Fairholme Drive, Mansfield NG19 6AH

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Actions
<p>1.1. To receive apologies for absence</p> <p>None.</p>	
<p>1.2. To accept apologies for absence</p> <p>None.</p> <p>1.3 Confirmation of Vice Chair</p> <p>This will be carried forward to the summer meeting as no decision has yet been made on a new Vice Chair. Action – Clerking Services to add Confirmation of Vice Chair to the summer agenda.</p>	<p>Clerking Services 21/03/25</p>
2. BEST WE CAN BE AWARDS	
<p>2.1 Presentation to staff nominee(s)</p> <p>Four members of staff BG, BSG, ED, and SB were presented with their Best We can Be Awards. ND and KC read out the nominations and all nominees were celebrated and congratulated accordingly.</p>	
3. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS	
<p>3.1. Chair to determine any items of urgent business to be considered Chair to determine any items of urgent business</p> <p>None.</p> <p>3.2 Confirmation of new Parent Governors – Katie Sudlow, Lucie Hawke and Charlotte Edwards</p> <p>The academy council unanimously approved the confirmation of new Parent Governors, KS, LH and CE.</p>	
4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	
<p>4.1. Individual Governors to declare any personal, business or other governance interests on any item on the agenda</p> <p>There were no declarations received.</p>	
5. BEECH ACADEMY LOCAL GOVERNANCE MINUTES	
<p>5.1 Approval of the Academy Council meeting held on 22 March 2024.</p> <p>The minutes from the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.</p>	
<p>5.2 Review of Action Tracker</p> <p>The outstanding actions on the tracker were reviewed and updated.</p>	

<p>KC provided an update on recent concerns regarding school meals. Relish has appointed a new catering manager at the school. Significant improvements have been made and feedback has been shared with Relish. This will continue to be monitored.</p>	
<p>5.3 Matters arising from the Minutes</p> <p>None raised.</p>	
<p>6. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED</p>	
<p>6.1 Headteacher Report</p> <p><u>Leadership & Management</u></p> <p>ND reported the current academic year continues to be very positive and following a successful Ofsted year the number of pupils on roll at the school is currently 114 across both Fairholme and Westfield sites. This is the highest in the school's history.</p> <p>ND stated that the school is in a secure and stable position regarding leadership, with a strong middle leadership team supported by capable sub-leaders.</p> <p>ND explained that the school's vision, values, and culture remain a strength, as evidenced by stakeholder feedback and the support and challenge insights gathered from scheduled visits throughout the year.</p> <p>ND emphasised that a key priority within leadership and management is ensuring sustainable growth for the school. Work is underway with the Local Authority (LA) to explore sustainable models for expansion.</p> <p>Regarding site extensions, Sport England has prohibited further development of the existing sports areas at the Fairholme site, while building regulations present challenges at the Westfield site.</p> <p>PW added that multiple possibilities for each site have been explored, but various regulations and restrictions limit expansion options. Discussions with the LA have progressed and they are now exploring the possibility of acquiring an additional site. The LA is currently assessing several potential locations before presenting options to the school. If another site becomes available, it could be designated for the post-16 cohort of pupils. No final decisions have yet been made.</p> <p>ND stated that the school currently has the highest number of Parent Governors it has ever had. Efforts are ongoing to provide support for Parent Governors and their involvement in the Academy Council.</p> <p>ND reported that a new SENCO has recently been recruited and is working closely with KC and Richard Webster, Executive Assurance Partner,, along with other schools within the Trust, to introduce a more pupil-centred annual review process. This is expected to be in place by September.</p> <p><u>Quality of Education</u></p>	

KC reported that mock exams took place in January and she is pleased with how they went. The pupils approached them maturely and were very well prepared. Additionally, there were more external exams conducted than in previous years.

KC explained that the focus of CPD (Continuous Professional Development) has shifted. She highlighted that the school's offerings have been greatly complemented by those from Nexus MAT and expressed appreciation for the professional learning opportunities provided by the Central Team.

KC discussed in detail the options available to the pupils, their choices, and the areas they are most interested in. Various approaches will be tried with the pupils, and action research will be conducted. In the summer term, the findings and learning will be shared across the organisation.

SS suggested that it would be a good idea to assess what the pupils have learned. A written summary or learning profile would be a helpful way to capture this. **Action – KC to provide learning profiles for the summer meeting.**

KC
04/07/25

KC provided an update on the Dashboard and confirmed that there were no concerns.

KC reported that they continue to carry out Internal Quality Assurance and greatly value the support from Nexus.

Behaviour and Attitudes

ND reported that behaviour incidents have decreased at the school and it is now very settled.

Suspensions and exclusions were discussed in detail.

A detailed discussion took place regarding a pupil who is unable to access school but remains on roll. PW explained that regular monthly meetings are being held with the Local Authority (LA) to address this and hopefully resolve this issue.

Absence

ND highlighted that a significant factor affecting the school's attendance is both unauthorised absence and authorised absence. Attendance is also impacted by the significant increase in holiday requests.

SS – Do you still continue to use reduced timetables? ND – Yes, in a small number of cases, we do use reduced timetables for young people who are finding it difficult to cope with school on a full-time basis. These timetables are reviewed on a fortnightly basis. The intention is they are only ever used for a short period.

PW stated that under absence in the report, it was highlighted that further work is planned for the spring term to focus on attendance policies and procedures, with an emphasis on embedding best practices.

PW asked if the work on the attendance policies and procedures had been completed? ND – I would need to check the progress of this work. **Action – ND to check work progress on policies and procedures.**

ND
04/07/25

<p><u>Personal Development</u> ND explained that, in terms of personal development, pupils are very positive and actively engage in opportunities within the community.</p> <p>ND highlighted that the school receives 5 days of additional support from the Central Trust to focus on developing key areas. A few of the areas currently being supported include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maths • Annual Reviews • Developing clarity to illustrate personal development offer <p>ND explained that pupil voice across the school is very strong, and one of the key requests from pupils is to have more music included in the curriculum. ND and KC are working on reintroducing music into the curriculum.</p> <p>The school has recently started working with Ridewise to enhance the cycling experiences of pupils.</p> <p>6.1.1 Appendix 1 – Updated SIP This was sent for information only.</p> <p>6.1.2 Appendix 2 – Updated SEF This was sent for information only.</p>	
<p>6.2 Draft School Dashboard Summary SS reported this was sent for information only.</p>	
<p>6.3 Budget Report SS reported this was sent for information only.</p>	
<p>6.4 School Calendar SS reported this was sent for information only.</p> <p>SS suggested that ND consider keeping the Governors in mind for any special events, in case they might want to attend. Action – ND to email SS and PW of any special events that may take place at the school.</p>	<p>ND 04/07/25</p>

<p>6.5 Cabinet Member & MPs' Feedback from Pupil Parliament</p> <p>A Year 11 pupil, who has taken on the role of Prime Minister for the school's pupil parliament, attended the meeting to provide feedback on the pupil parliament process.</p> <p>In November, the pupil parliament elections took place.</p> <p>A recent pupil voice survey was conducted, and based on the results, planned changes are underway around the school. An assembly was held to explain the survey findings and discuss potential improvements.</p> <p>Additionally, Red Nose Day was organised, along with a non-uniform day.</p> <p>This year, a budget has been allocated, and discussions are ongoing regarding the best ways to utilise it.</p> <p>The Year 11 pupil will return to attend the summer meeting and provide further updates.</p>	
<p>6.6 Skills Audit – Governor Self-Assessment</p> <p>The Governors were reminded of the deadline to complete the Annual Skills Audit is two weeks after the meeting. The form can be downloaded from Governor Hub but clerking services will be emailing and editable copy to the cohort. Action – Clerking Services to email Governors Annual Skills Audit.</p>	<p>Clerking Services 21/03/25</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>PW highlighted the launch of the Learning Enterprise Institute, where all schools can explore the learning opportunities available.</p> <p>A Trust-wide conference recently took place at Magna, with all schools in attendance. It was a highly valued day for all members of the schools.</p> <p>PW explained the addition of two new schools: Bents Green and Seven Hills. There is also potential for collaboration with HHELC, a Nottingham Hospital School, starting in September 2025.</p> <p>PW reported that Nexus recently won the MAT Association award for Specialist MAT of the Year.</p>	
<p>8. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS</p>	
<p>8.1. To consider any other urgent business.</p>	

PW explained to the new Parent Governors the process of the Academy Council meetings, noting that papers will be made available prior to each meeting to allow time for review.	
9. CONFIDENTIALITY	
9.1 To consider the confidentiality of any items discussed during the meeting. None.	

10. DATES OF NEXT MEETING	
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Friday 04 July 2025	10:30-12:30	Beech Academy Council
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Minutes approved

CHAIR	SIGNATURE	DATE
Sacha Schofield		