



MINUTES OF THE HARINGTON SCHOOL  
LGB MEETING HELD ON  
THURSDAY 5 OCTOBER 2023 8.15AM

**Present:** Rob Guthrie (Chair), Oliver Teasel (Head of School), Tessa Leuchars, Briege Slattery, Dyl Powell, Tony Nice, Liz Birchall, Matthew Holt and Stuart Williams

**In attendance:** Natalie Henry-Oliver (Deputy Head of School)  
Sara Kane (Governance Professional)

**Absent:** Tiffany Arntson

**1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Following an invitation for expressions of interest for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair, Rob Guthrie was nominated as Chair and Liz Birchall was nominated as Vice Chair. These appointments were unanimously approved by those present.

Dyl Powell was elected as the governor responsible for Safeguarding.

**2. Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Andreas Menzies, Ben Solly, Andy Wright and Phil Dalby.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6 July 2023**

The minutes of the meeting were agreed to be a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair subject to the following amendments.

- Apologies were made by Tessa Leuchars.
- Point 6. Liz Birchall (Safeguarding Governor)

**5. Matters arising from the previous minutes**

It was reported that Rob Guthrie had written to staff to thank them for their work at the end of the last academic year.

The results from the governors' survey will be included within the Transformation Plan which will be presented to governors at the next meeting.

**6. Governance Professional's Update**

Governors' were reminded to complete the statutory safeguarding and Prevent duty training. Completed certificates to be returned to Sara Kane.

Henry Price's term of office expired on 24 September 2023. The Trustees at Oakham School have confirmed that that he was reappointed as the Oakham School governor for Harington at their AGM which took place on Thursday 15 June. Governors' attention was drawn to the recent resignation of Margaret Miles.

During her time as a governor Margaret gave invaluable support to the School and the governing body. The resignation of Margaret has led to a vacancy for a governor appointed by the Harington LGB. Rob Guthrie will write a letter of thanks to Margaret Miles This vacancy will be filled in due course.



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### 7. Safeguarding KCSIE 2023 update

Oliver Teasel highlighted the key changes to KCSIE 2023:

#### **Filtering and monitoring the internet**

There are robust systems in place across the Federation using Smoothwall. Most reports of inappropriate searches at the School are due to students researching for their EPQ rather than a safeguarding concern. However, the DSL speaks to each student that has been blocked by the Smoothwall.

#### **Question: What is Smoothwall?**

Smoothwall software works when any device is connected to the Schools Wi-Fi. The software monitors internet traffic and blocks and notifies the DSL of any inappropriate content searches.

#### **Students who are absent from School on repeat occasions or for prolonged periods are greater risk of harm.**

It was reported that there are no school refusers at the School. The School has clear processes in place to ensure that students that are absent from School are safe in accordance with the School's Attendance and Inclusion Policy.

#### **Staff are responsible to report allegations about individuals or organisations who may hire the School premises.**

It was explained that the Harington building is not available for hire and is used for the sole purpose of Federation students and staff.

It was also reported that since February 2023, it is illegal to cause a child to marry under the age of 18.

#### **Question: What is the government's advice regarding mobile phones in school?**

The government are currently recommending that mobile phones are not used in schools. However, the use of mobile phones at Harington is not currently an issue. Students use their mobile phones for learning and to listen to music during private study periods. The use of mobile phones will be discussed during PSHE assemblies throughout the year.

### 8. Head of School Report

Oliver Teasel referred to his previously circulated report, the following points were highlighted.

#### **Highlights of the term**

The highlights of the term were discussed including an inspirational talk from Scott Simpson (Olympic pole vault coach) and the Greenpower team's recent race where they finished a creditable fifth place.

The sports day held at the end of last term was successfully organised by the sports ambassadors.



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### **Question: Is the sports day competitive?**

The sports day consists of a variety of competitive and non-competitive events including the 100m race and traditional sports day activities such as the egg and spoon race. It was positive to do as a school community with both students and staff.

### **Year 12 Parents Evening**

It was reported that the format of the Year 12 parents' evening in Term 1 has changed. Parents were previously given the opportunity to meet with their child's form tutor for a five minute slot. This year a presentation highlighted the core purpose and ethos of the school, along with an introduction from the head students. Following Q&A session parents were given the opportunity to meet their child's form tutor.

It was explained that by the time students enrol at Harington they and their parents had have received a high level of contact and all parties are therefore invested. Students receive individual one-to-one meetings, are invited to taster sessions and induction and parents receive a high level of communication.

Governors agreed that the ethos and culture of the School is not based purely on academic outcomes. It was reported that the feeling of family and community is evident when governors have visited the school.

The Deputy Head students were welcomed to the meeting and were introduced. They explained that one of the main strengths of the school is the sense of community. It is easy to integrate into the school during lessons, break, private study and the wellbeing and enrichment activities. During the first term Year 12 students felt that there were lots of opportunities to make new friends and integrate with students from different secondary schools.

### **Question: What is good about Harington?**

Students reported that the high level of support is good at Harington in preparing them for their next steps. The extra-curricular opportunities on offer for example the Doc Soc (ran in conjunction with Oakham School) help support university applications. There is also a high level of support with writing UCAS personal statements.

### **Question: Do you like the structure provided at Harington?**

Yes, other sixth form providers may have a more flexible approach to attendance and uniform, however students like the structure and the sense of belonging at Harington. Students explained that A levels are challenging and they like the structure to the school day to support with this. There are opportunities for freedom and choices during lunch, wellbeing and enrichments activities.

### **Question: What activities take place as part of Doc Soc?**

Students receive mock interviews, and advice on their personal statements. Students meet with doctors and medical students, listen to podcasts and medical news and then discuss with the group. There are five students involved in the Doc Soc at Harington.

**Question: Is it hard to learn how to use private study periods effectively?**

It is a big transition from studying GCSEs' to A levels. However, students quickly get used to new ways of learning and working.

Tessa Leuchars left the meeting.

**Senate**

Each tutor group in the school has a representative at the student senate. The senate provides students with a forum to have a voice and be involved in the decision-making at the school. Students were involved in the decision to amend the school uniform policy. The senate is currently looking at the rewards system along with equality, diversity and inclusion.

90% of students agree that the school is looking after the wellbeing of students. The role of the wellbeing ambassadors, the wellbeing handbook, the focussed wellbeing activities that take place on a Friday were discussed.

The introduction of house points, inter-house competitions, the house shout, cup stacking and seed growing competitions are encouraging integration and rewards. Postcards for appreciation are also being used and reward assemblies are held at the end of term.

**Admissions**

163 students were enrolled into Year 12. The school is oversubscribed with a planned admission of 150.

Stuart Williams joined the meeting.

The number of students applying to join Harington and therefore the number on roll is likely to increase over the next few years. There is both demand from families out of county along with the PAN at Catmose College increasing to an intake of 240 per year. The College has expanded to accommodate the increased number on roll.

The Harington building was designed to accommodate 300 students, there is currently over 320 students on roll. It was agreed that governors need to investigate how the School could grow to cope with an increase in the number on roll.

**Question: Had there been any admissions appeals?**

There had not been any appeals and the school is oversubscribed.

**Safeguarding**

There were no safeguarding concerns to report.

**Behaviour**

There were no issues to report.

### **A Level Results**

Comparisons have been made to the 2019 results data due to the considerations made examination grades due to the Covid pandemic. On comparison every measure has improved from the 2019 data. It is expected that results will continue to improve due to strong cohort and that intervention is quickly put into place when required to support students to obtain the best outcomes. There has been an increase in Science grades, this is partly due to the increased entry requirements for sciences.

90% of students of students received A\*-C and 31% of students received A\*- A. It was agreed that the results are very pleasing and are higher than the national figures.

It was reported that Rutland is the highest performing county nationally for A Level results this year.

The School continues to be a local sixth form provision for the students of Rutland.

### **Subject Reviews**

Subject reviews in Computer Science and Religious Studies will take place this academic year due to slight decrease in results. These reviews will form part of the Transformation Plan. The outcomes from the Computer Science review will be presented at the next governors' meeting.

#### **Question: What is the process of a subject review?**

The teaching and learning are scrutinised looking at the curriculum, lesson delivery, assessment analysis, book scrutiny, lesson observations and student interviews

The subject reviews are non-judgemental. Areas for development and strengths are identified and discussed. The process is transparent and open.

### **Post-18 outcomes**

The parental and student surveys have shown that over 90% of students and parents agreed that the School supports the next steps.

74% of students achieved their first choice university offer, 47% achieved a place at a Russell Group university, three students went to Oxbridge universities and three are now studying medicine. Nationally students receiving first choice offers was 79% The School will spend more time with students to offer more support regarding offers and first choices based upon UCAS predicted grades. Five students have secured degree level apprenticeships in law, engineering and finance. Each year the number of students applying for apprenticeships is increasing.

A UCAS parents information evening has taken place for Year 13 parents, students are also offered UCAS guidance during tutorials. The University of Leicester will be visiting shortly to discuss student finance.

Students are increasingly deciding not to go via the university route, an assembly on taking a gap year will take place along with discussions during tutorial.

**Question: Do students see the support provided during UCAS personal statement writing as a strength?**

Yes, students feel well supported. Additional personal statement checking windows have been introduced where students obtain more regular feedback. During academic enrichment there are members of staff available to support student in writing their personal statements.

**Question: Does the School have relationships with tutors at Oxbridge universities?**

Yes, the School has links with St Catharine's College, Cambridge. Representatives from St Catharine's visit the School and offer advice on writing personal statements.

### **Design Technology**

There has been an interest from parents and students regarding the School offering A Level Design Technology. The School is keen to broaden the curriculum offer should there be sufficient demand to ensure that it is sustainable.

**Question: Is it planned to offer a Design and Technology A Level course during the next academic year?**

Yes, subject to demand. This will be accommodated initially at the College. Market research to determine interest will be carried out and the subject will be marketed at key events, such as Open Evening and via social media.

## **9. Policies**

Governors' attention was drawn to the policy overview document which detailed any amendments. The below policies were ratified by the governing body:

- Admissions 2024

Governors agreed that due to resources available the entry requirement to study Psychology would be amended from GCSE grade 6 or above in English, Maths and Science to GCSE grade 6 or above in English and Science and GSCE grade 5 or above Mathematics.

- Assessment and Reporting
- Attendance and Inclusion
- RDSF Safeguarding
- Child Protection
- Communication
- First Aid
- Designated Teacher Policy
- Home School Agreement





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### 10. Any Other Business

Governors were encouraged to attend the Open Evening on Tuesday 7 November.

#### Scrutiny Panel

It was agreed that the scrutiny panel on Wednesday 14 December would focus on the PSHE programme and the role of the tutor, It was agreed that Tony Nice, Dyl Powell and Rob Guthrie would attend the scrutiny panel meeting.

#### Safeguarding Audit

On Wednesday 11 October an external safeguarding audit would take place at the School. Oliver Teasel would provide feedback at the next governors meeting.

#### Governors' Day

Governors' were encouraged to contact the governance professional with any areas of the School offering that they would like to see on Governors Day which would take place on Thursday 16 November. Further information would be circulated shortly.

### 11. Dates for Diaries

Open Evening Tuesday 7 November, 6pm  
Governors' Day Thursday 16 November  
Presentation Evening Tuesday 12 December, 6pm  
LGB- Thursday 14 December 2023, 8.15am  
Scrutiny Panel – Thursday 14 December 2023, 10am  
LGB- Thursday 1 February 2024, 8.15am  
LGB- Thursday 28 March 2024, 8.15am  
Scrutiny Panel – Thursday 28 March 2024, 10am  
LGB- Thursday 23 May 2024, 8.15am  
Scrutiny Panel – Thursday 23 May, 10am  
LGB Thursday 4 July 2024, 5pm