



MINUTES OF THE FEDERATION TRUST MEETING

Thursday 27 March 2025, 8.15am
The Gallery

Present

Andrew Cross, Rob Guthrie, Andrew Holt (Chair), Lindsey Madeley-Harland, Guy Magrath, Alex Mould, Clive Norgaard Morton, Mark Tinkler (Vice Chair), Stuart Williams (Executive Principal).

In Attendance

Kelly Jackson (Head of Catmose Primary), Oliver Teasel (Head of Harington School), Chris Wilson (Chief Finance Officer), Sheryl Wilson (Governance Professional).

- 1. Welcome introductions and apologies for absence**
Andrew Holt welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2. Declarations of Personal Interest and Pecuniary Interest**
There were no declarations of personal or pecuniary interest.
- 3. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6 February 2025 & Minutes from the Audit and Risk Scrutiny Committee meeting, topic cybersecurity**
The minutes were signed to be a true and accurate record.
- 4. Matters arising from previous minutes**
Trustees queried if there was any progress with a pathway being made from the Barleythorpe Road onto the College site. Further quotes are being obtained due to this being very expensive.
- 5. Principal's update**
Stuart Williams advised that the Year 11 mock data looks to be in a strong place. Attendance is currently at 95%, with a target to increase to 96%, which was the figure before Covid. There has been one permanent exclusion and 18 suspensions (4 repeats) up until the end of term 3.

The Spring Concert was held earlier in the week which showcased the choir, orchestra, solo performances and ensembles. All who attended agreed that it was a super evening.

Alicia Kearns (MP) visited the College to present to the student council a campaign to save the ceremonial status in Rutland, students enjoyed the visit and enjoyed asking questions.

6. Head of Harington School update

Ofsted visited Harington School on 5 and 6 March, the official report has not yet been released.

Year 13 mock data looks to be strong, which is broadly in line with 2023/24 data. Highlights of the last few weeks at Harington include; an oil painting workshop with Scott Bridgewater, a Hamlet theatre trip, French theatre trip, Odd Balls assembly, Fire and Rescue assembly, Careers Fair at King Power Stadium, Alicia Kearns (MP) visit and a trip to Jump Giants.

Trustees thanked Oliver Teasel, staff and students for all their hard work, especially during the Ofsted visit.

7. Head of Catmose Primary update

Pupils from Catmose Primary had taken part in the Catmose Dance Show which included students from all three schools, there were 90 dancers taking part. The school welcomed visitors from Barmstedt, a town in Germany that is twinned with Oakham, pen pal letters have been exchanged between pupils attending the two schools. For World Book Day pupils enjoyed decorating t-shirts with their favourite characters.

A music review is due to take place at the primary and the findings will be presented to the local governing body. Applications for school places in September 2025 indicate that the school will be full. There had been some positive comments about the school on Oakham online.

Trustees commented that the reputation for all 3 schools is in an amazing place. Stuart Williams replied that this also has a positive impact when recruiting staff and the partnership between the 3 schools works.

Clive Morton joined the meeting at 8.30am.

8. Phone Mast update

An agent has been instructed to liaise on behalf of the Federation and the phone mast company. Trustees agreed that the Federation should retain the land in order to have control of the lease.

9. Finance

Trustees were made aware that 2025/2026 looks to be an extraordinarily challenging year financially. The teachers' unions are currently proposing a 2.8% pay award and a decision will need to be made about a pay rise for support staff. There is no indication at the present time that this will be funded. Costs will also be incurred for the national insurance levy, which is not fully funded for both this year and the following. Reserves will be used this year for capital expenditure and they are likely to be drawn upon next year unless the Government gives further funding to schools. Trustees agreed the finances will be a subject for the scrutiny panel at the next meeting.

10. Policies

The below policies were shared with trustees prior to the meeting with details of the amends.

- Federation Communication Policy (each school previously had an individual policy, this is now combined into a Federation policy)
- Federation Dress Code Policy
- Federation Equality and Diversity – amend to section 4.1 regarding the governing body or trustees meeting with a designated member of staff
- Federation DBS Application and Handling
- Federation Staff Allegation
- Federation Recruitment Selection

The policies were ratified.

11. AOB

A letter from the ESFA was shared regarding the closure of the department and transferring to the Department for Education.

Date of Next Meeting

Trust meeting - Thursday 15 May 2025, 8.15am