



MINUTES OF THE FEDERATION TRUST MEETING

Thursday 5 February 2026, 8.15am
The Gallery

PRESENT

Andrew Cross, Andrew Holt (Chair), Guy Magrath, Alex Mould, Mark Tinkler (Vice Chair), Stuart Williams (Executive Principal).

IN ATTENDANCE

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. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Kelly Jackson, Clive Norgaard Morton, Rob Guthrie and Lindsey Madeley-Harland.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Andrew Holt declared an interest in agenda item 5.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the Trust meeting held on Thursday 11 December 2025 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

No matters arising from the previous minutes.

5. GOVERNANCE PROFESSIONAL

An email link has been distributed to trustees for completion of the financial and business interests' declaration. [Confidential minutes*](#)

Andrew Holt and Alex Mould have been reappointed by Members as Trustees for a further 4-year term.

It was unanimously agreed that Thomas Heath would join the Trust and Resources committee with effect from the next meeting.

6. PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Stuart Williams is currently meeting individually with Year 11 students to discuss their future plans following GCSEs. The College has a high attendance figure and the Department of Education have issued a survey asking how this, along with a successful transition programme is achieved.

The senior leadership team are currently reviewing the new Ofsted framework; there is a focus on the breadth of the wider provision and engagement of SEND and FSM students.

Recent staffing appointments include; Head of Art and Design (internal appointment) and a music teacher. Adverts will be placed for Assistant Team Leader of English, Lead for Academic Excellence (internal) and Assistant Team Leader of Art.

An external speaker had delivered assemblies on knife crime which had been impactful. This year there have been 3 permanent exclusions at the College.

7. HEAD OF HARINGTON SCHOOL UPDATE

The Christmas reunion and Christmas Concert were equally successful events. Taster sessions delivered in December and January have attracted over 100 students. To date, there have been over 300 applications for September 2026, with the majority of applications from students currently studying at Catmose College. Applications have also been received from students studying at Casterton, UCC, Kibworth Mead and Melton schools.

The Greenpower team are making good progress with a small team also competing in the world's fastest wheelbarrow.

The next step for an expansion of Harington School will be to submit a significant change bid to the Department of Education. This process involves consultation with the local authority, schools and stakeholders. Funding for the expansion will be a challenge, with a combination of support from the DfE, sponsorship, grants, and the local authority required. The plan for the expansion is not linked to the existing building, therefore site constraints exist. If capacity is not increased, local children may be turned away. Admissions may need to prioritise local students, possibly affecting academic outcomes. A discussion was held on balancing the following:

- Core purpose (serve local community)
- Maintaining outcomes & reputation
- Managing limited space and funding

8. HEAD OF CATMOSE PRIMARY UPDATE

There continues to be a wide range of extracurricular and performing arts opportunities for pupils and attendance is extremely strong at 97%. Catmose Primary is oversubscribed with a strong reputation in the community. The Key Stage 2 SATS were average, with a dip in punctuation and grammar, this will be a focus on the Transformation Plan. At the next meeting, the inspection dashboard will be presented to Trustees.

9. TRUST LEVEL SUMMARY

Catmose Primary

- Staffing a concern:
 - Deployment of experienced cover supervisors
 - Experienced Primary trained maths teacher deployed
 - Vice Principal Primary trained
- Boiler replacement issue ongoing

Harington

- Admissions and potential extension remain a major focus

Catmose College

- Growth phase complete - will be oversubscribed in 2026 - funding will follow.
- Building requiring maintenance (roof leaks, LED lighting, flooring).
- More investment needed as building ages.

Resources

- Teacher recruitment – curriculum costings, advertising and appointments
- Financial position strong overall; likely surplus.
- Must consider capital pressures and staffing costs.

10. TELEPHONE MAST

The next stage is to submit a proposal to the Department of Education. Trustees were fully informed of each stage and agreed to give delegated authority to the Executive Principal to proceed. A letter signed by the Chair of the Trust will also be submitted to the DfE. Trustees agreed that following negotiations, a better outcome had resulted for the Trust. (The mast will not use the College's electricity supply).

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

In line with the Academy Trust Handbook, the Trust will invite auditors to tender for the provision of the external audit services. The closing date will be 20 March 2026.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Trust meeting – Thursday 26 March 2026, 8.15am
- Grease the Musical – Wednesday 25 March – Saturday 28 March 2026