

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WHITCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY HELD
AT THE SCHOOL ON MONDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 2021**

PRESENT	Dr Paul Bulpin	Community Governor
	Denise Kelland	Community Governor
	David Roylance	Community Governor
	Joyce Slack	Foundation Governor
	Sian Hopkins	Foundation Governor
	Ian McIlquham	Foundation Governor
	Max Vine	Foundation Governor
	David Collins	Foundation Governor
	Maria Boffey	Foundation Governor
	Andrew Davies	LA Governor
	Mark Powell	Headteacher
	Nick John	Teacher Governor
	Richard Burge	Staff Governor
	Seren Mansfield	Associate Pupil (Head Girl)
	Tom Holmes	Associate Pupil (Head Boy)
	Scott Britt	Deputy Head (Observer)
	Wayne Lilly	Business Manager (Observer)
	Steve Williams	Estates (Observer)
	Gareth Coombs	Clerk to the Governors

1 APOLOGIES

Ceri Reed; Lisa Davies; Ashley Collins; Hayley Jeans; Noreen Linforth.

2 ELECTION OF CHAIR : 2021-2022

Joyce Slack had taken the decision not to stand for Chair this year. Sian Hopkins was the only nomination and was duly elected as Chair.

(Sian Hopkins in the Chair)

3 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR : 2021-2022

Joyce Slack was the only nomination and was duly elected as Vice Chair.

4 MINUTES

(i) **10th May 2021** - The minutes of the meeting held on 10th May 2021 were confirmed as a correct record.

(ii) **July 2021** – Subject to the following amendment the minutes of the meeting held via email in July 2021 were confirmed as a correct record:-
Delete: “Paul Bulpin Foundation Governor” under members present.
Insert: “Paul Bulpin Community Governor” under members present.

5 GOVERNING BODY MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the governing body was noted. The following appointments were also noted and confirmed:-

- Noreen Linforth had been elected as Teacher Governor. It was noted that Noreen was the only nomination.
- David Roylance was re-elected as a Community Governor with effect from 17th November 2021.
- David Collins was re-elected as Foundation Governor.
- Max Vine was re-elected as Foundation Governor.

6 HEADTEACHER UPDATES INCLUDING ACADEMIC OUTCOMES, STAFFING, ESTATES AND CURRICULUM MATTERS – Mark Powell

The Headteacher outlined the current situation regarding Covid 19 at the school and gave a report on the measures which the school was taking to satisfy all health and safety requirements provided by the Local Authority.

The Headteacher was sad to report that the former School Caretaker had passed away. He had been a longstanding member of staff and the Headteacher and governors thoughts were with his family.

The Headteacher gave a presentation which updated governors on academic matters and outcomes. The following areas were covered in the presentation:-

Current School Population (27/09/21)

A considerable number of students would be facing economic hardship.

Year 12 Student Numbers

A breakdown by subject was provided. It had been decided to subsidise subjects with low student numbers.

Year 10 Student Numbers

A breakdown by subject was provided.

Year 11-12 Retention Rates

This was slightly down on last year.

New Staff (Teaching)

The appointments of new staff were listed by the Headteacher and noted by governors.

New Staff (Support)

Appointments were listed and noted.

Staff Changes

These were noted.

Academic Outcomes KS4 and KS5 (Centre Determined Grades)

The Headteacher felt that it needed to be recognised that students had worked hard to achieve their determined grades. Exceptional student performances and achievements were noted in KS4, SRB and A levels. All had been achieved in very difficult circumstances.

KS4 : Notable performances (9+A*)

The Headteacher provided a list of the 9 students who had achieved this standard.

KS4 : Notable Performances (All A*)

The names of the 36 students who had achieved this standard was provided.

SRB Achievements

A list of students was provided.

A Level Notable Performances

A list of students was provided by the Headteacher. There was one student who had achieved 5A*; 12 with 3+A*; 14 with 2A*/1A; 12 with 1A*/3A and 12 with 1A*/2A.

AS Level (4A Grades)

33 students had achieved this standard.

KS4: Key Performance Indicators

The report covered a 4 year period from 2017 to 2021. It was noted that KPI's were higher in 2021 than in previous years.

eFSM (53 Mainstream Students, 14.1% Mainstream)

Performances were much lower for those students suffering economic deprivation. Additional support was provided by the school for those students.

Performance Comparisons: Boys and Girls

Girls continued to outperform boys in almost all indicators.

KS5: Headline Figures: 2015-2021

The results of A2 Level and AS Level indicators over the last 7 years were reported and noted.

Higher Education Destinations

There had been 176 applicants broken down as follows:-

Accepted at firm – 85%

Accepted by insurance – 9%

Accepted at other – 7%

Medicine/Dentistry – 9 out of 16 were successful

Oxbridge – 5 applied; 3 interviewed; 1 (Callum Smith) was successful.

Centre Determined Grades

These were listed and noted. The Headteacher explained the process which included the appeals process. 8 appeals were successful because the students didn't make the school aware that they had special circumstances that needed to be taken into account. Once the school was aware of these circumstances the grades of those students were amended. To summarise, there were 76 reviews at stage 1 with 8 upheld.

Estates Development

- The yard area behind the Maths Block was now complete.
- A new science block was being built on the Upper School astro turf pitch.
- A new outdoor area in Lower School SRB
- A new paved area in the Upper School quad.
- There was a significant increase in the number of external benches and tables.

COVID Updates

The positive cases since the return to school were:-

Students – 87

Staff – 8

Currently the situation was:-

Students – 45

Staff – 5

The positivity rate was:-

1.8% of student population

1.9% of staff.

The Chair, on behalf of the governing body, wished to record thanks to the Headteacher and staff for all their hard work and support for the school and students over the last 18 months as well as the amount of work done on Centre Determined Grades which was significant. It was noted that there had only been 8 appeals.

7 COVID RISK ASSESSMENT UPDATE

This had been circulated with the agenda. The Chair felt that the document was extremely thorough. It was agreed that the document should be put on the school website.

8 POLICIES

The following policies were adopted by the governing body:-

- Privacy Notice
- Charging and Remissions Policy
- Performance Management Policy

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (i) **Agenda Item: Code of Conduct for School Governing Bodies** – It was agreed that the circular sent out by the LA should be included as an agenda item for the next meeting for discussion.
- (ii) **Admissions Committee** – Joyce Slack would send out a date for the committee to meet.
- (iii) **Business Interests Forms** – These would be sent out by email by the Clerk for completion by all governors.
- (iv) **Joyce Slack** – The Chair, governors and Headteacher wished to record their thanks to Joyce for all the work and support she had provided over the years to the school in her role as Chair. Joyce was presented with wine and flowers.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 22nd November 2021 commencing at 6:00pm.

Meeting concluded.

SRHopkins

Chair of Governors
(22nd November 2021)