



BOLDER ACADEMY
FULL GOVERNING BODY MEETING MINUTES

Company Registered Number: 8932893

Chair: Victoria Eadie

Clerk: Rebecca Wilson (**RW**)

Date of meeting: 1st October 2024 at 8:00am

Venue: Remote meeting

Attendance:

Name	Governor	Other	Present / Apologies / Absent
Rajiv Chandra (RC)	Appointed by Trust		Present
Andy De Angelis (ADA)	Ex-officio	Headteacher	Present
Silvia Del Corso (SDC)	Parent Governor		Present
David Brockie (DB)	Co-opted Governor		Present
Victoria Eadie (VE)	Appointed by Trust	Also a Member	Present
Helen Holton (HH)	Co-opted Governor		Apologies
Andrew McCaffer (AM)	Appointed by Trust		Apologies
Wendy Smith (WS)	Appointed by Trust		Present
Carin Thakrar (CT)	Parent Governor		Present
Chris Booth (CB)		Assistant Head	Present
Greg George (GG)		Finance Director	Present

The meeting was declared quorate.

1. Exam results and analysis

CBO shared a summary document of GCSE results noting that Progress 8 has been calculated through 4Matrix. Results are positive, noting a Positive Progress 8 score. Attainment 8 was 49.18, with an average score of 4 across the top eight subjects. Progress 8 is in line with last year, noting that it is subject to change. The actual score compared to the target was also confirmed:

- English: + 0.3
- Maths: -0.1
- EBacc: +0.72
- Open element: +0.16 which is slightly below the school average

CBO further outlined results by groups, noting that girls outperformed boys by a grade on average. The Pupil Premium (PP) gap remains and higher prior attainment group have not performed so well against progress; it is the lower attainment students who have best supported the positive Progress 8 score. SEND progress is disappointing, noting the biggest impact against middle to higher attaining students. CBO also expanded on results by subject. Q: A Governor highlighted that French and DT appear to be subjects where students did not complete the course and asked if this masked results.

A: CBO acknowledged this points and ADA confirmed that movement had supported better results.

ADA explained that students had been removed from several subjects due to parental preference which the Board discussed in further detail, recognising that the intent is for students to complete a full two-year course.

Q: A Governor asked if predictions had been queried against results.

A: CBO confirmed that in general predictions were far too high. Mock exams are currently being reviewed, the intent being to use full papers. The process post mock exam will also be more rigorous, with greater feedback to departments regarding predictions.

DB highlighted that accuracy of predictions should be prized over the level of the mock results, recognising that this is a cultural point.

Q: A Governor queried the balance between English and maths.

A: CBO confirmed that 47 students had at least one English and maths at Grade 5, and a further 26 had grade 4 or above.

Q: A Governor asked for any insight regarding maths.

A: CBO highlighted that some areas of curriculum delivery needed to be improved. Content also needed to be finished by February half term to support subsequent revision. ADA queried if the balance was right between higher and foundation.

Q: A Governor queried when the final decision is made regarding maths tiering.

A: CBO confirmed that the very final decision is made after the mock exams in March.

Q: A Governor asked if students and parents were aware of this.

A: CBO confirmed that students are aware that there is flexibility and possible change. He also highlighted that the department needs to be confident and should embrace the foundation option.

CBO summarised the key priorities:

- Drama, music, PE, maths.
- Boys' data must improve.
- High prior attaining must improve.
- SENDK students' progress needs work.
- PP gap needs to be reduced.
- English and maths crossover is also an area of focus.

Referring to SENDK students, VE highlighted that there was value in analysing need, recognising that this can be linked to social group and possible PP needs. CBO explained that a significant number of pupils were close to boarder lines, noting that exam papers have been analysed with 100 requests for remark. Of these, 15 have come back positive.

Q: A Governor asked if there had been many changes against grades 3/4/5, noting that these tend to be double checked.

A: CBO confirmed two changes for English, one 3 to 4 and one 4 to 5.

SD highlighted that there was still volatility in the assessment system which CBO expanded on. A Governor asked that withdrawal rates be captured by subject for greater clarity.

Q: A Governor noted the focus on the Cricket Academy and queried the discrepancy with the PE GCSE results which were not good.

A: ADA acknowledged this point and explained that the structure of the PE department needed to be addressed, recognising a lack of experience in leadership.

Q: A Governor queried the movement year on year for maths.

A: CBO confirmed that maths results were similar to last year, and ADA also acknowledged the level of staff turbulence last year.

ADA further outlined the staffing focus within departments going forward.

CBO left the meeting

2. Election of Chair

RW confirmed that succession planning had been discussed previously. VE confirmed that she was happy to complete another year as Chair, supported by AM and DB. RW confirmed that VE was unanimously elected as Chair for a one year term.

3. Election of Vice Chair

AM was unanimously elected as Vice Chair for a one year term.

4. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted for AM and HH.

5. Declaration of interest

No one declared an interest that may conflict with the meeting agenda.

6. Minutes of previous meeting (25 Jun 24)

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting and will be signed by the Chair at a later date.

7. Matters arising/actions

The following points were highlighted:

- **Community lettings.** ADA confirmed that community lettings will be considered in more detail at the next FAR Committee meeting.

RW
(Agenda)

8. Governance structure

VE confirmed changes to the governance structure that had been circulated, which will be updated and added to the website:

RW

- Add SD to the FAR Committee.
- RW to ask HH if she would consider being the SEND lead governor.

RC confirmed that a Governor from Sky was still a consideration.

RW
RC/AM

9. Headteacher's update

ADA ran through a presentation to Governors and outlined his initial impressions. Ethos has been a key element regarding engagement with staff, and ADA outlined areas of focus going forward:

- Students: Address passive learning and uniform.
- Staff: Staff are tired and have little capacity, noting 26 new teachers.
- SLT: Teamwork, culture and structure are the main areas of focus.

ADA also felt that the school had outgrown some systems:

- Break and lunch are rushed.
- The behaviour and detention systems will be reviewed.
- The school will migrate to the cloud.
- It is important to ensure a consistent approach.

Think ahead, ADA highlighted that the curriculum required review, recognising the importance of meeting student needs. The Board discussed the curriculum offer and the balance of the school day in more detail. ADA also shared a possible pathways approach. DB queried the problem with the current approach and ADA highlighted a primary focus on EBacc subjects, with scope for intervention. ADA also highlighted the importance of filtering e.g. ensuring a maths ability before committing to computer science. VE raised concerns regarding the number of students who have dropped out of school and suggested that the curriculum does not support and engage these students. ADA explained that to achieve a new curriculum it is necessary to address the current school day, highlighting that a seven period day is a struggle. He suggested a change to a two-week timetable and explained that he favoured a five hour day. The Board discussed this suggestion in more detail and highlighted the value of engaging with the local community regarding the school start time. ADA explained that the change would be targeted for the summer term, or possibly September. Governors acknowledged the importance to staff of the early finish on Friday. Referring to Sixth Form, ADA confirmed that numbers were good with 82 students. He also highlighted that it has not been possible to offer product design or computer science at A Level.

Q: A Governor queried the number needed at Sixth Form.

A: GG confirmed that numbers were four over budget.

ADA shared the next steps regarding the Sixth Form. He also highlighted scope to review the SLT structure and outlined staff needs. Governors acknowledged the benefits of the Cricket Academy and recognised the need to have a unique selling point for the Sixth Form, also recognising the potential to engage with Sky.

10. Safeguarding

VE confirmed that a safeguarding report had been shared, and emphasised the importance of Governors completing safeguarding training at the earliest opportunity once the link is circulated. ADA highlighted that all staff have completed update as well as online training and will confirm what has been covered with this training.

ADA

11. Chair's Report

VE confirmed that she had nothing further to add of significance. DB acknowledged the points that have been covered and it was highlighted that Governors need ongoing feedback going forward.

12. Finance paperwork

RW confirmed that Governors have seen the finance paperwork up to August.

13. Policies

Governors ratified the following policies:

- CP and Safeguarding
- Attendance of students with additional health needs
- Attendance policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Exclusions and Suspensions Policy
- Protection of biometric data
- School uniform policy
- Privacy notices (7 in total), no change

The AI Policy will be reviewed in further detail, and RC will also share comments. It was also confirmed that the staff absence policy will go to the next FGB, and WS will share feedback regarding wording of the Attendance Policy.

RW
(Agenda)
WS

14. AOB

RW confirmed that Lloyd's privacy notice had been shared for information.

Next meeting date

- Tue 3 Dec 2024, remote meeting with AGM

Meeting ended at 10:00 am.

Signature:

Name of
Chair:

Date:
