

## Local Governing Body

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022**

### Minutes

**Present:**

Aisha Adesanya  
 Sugra Alibhai  
 Pemi Arowojolu  
 Sam Bailey  
 Funmi Esuola  
 Angela Hille  
 Jo Large  
 Marco Macchitella (Chair)  
 Meryem Rekber  
 Amir Sam  
 Aiyoun Seo

1.	Governance
2.	Minutes
3.	Matters Arising
4.	Principal's Report
5.	Outcomes & Destinations 2022
6.	Self-Assessment Report
7.	College Improvement Plan
8.	Student Experience - Wellbeing
9.	Risk Management Plan
10.	AOB

**In Attendance:**

Peter Green  
 Alex Christodolou  
 Lubna Hussain  
 Peter Thompson  
 Beth Yap

Minute	Decision /Action	D/A
1.3	To appoint Marco Macchitella and Angela Hille as Chair and Vice Chair of the Board, respectively, for the academic year.	D
3.3.7	Lubna Hussain to ensure that the work taking place in response to Everyone's Invited is uploaded to Governorhub.	A
3.7	Pemi Arowojolu to continue to work with the Careers Team and feed back to governors on how this work is progressing.	A
6.	To approve the Self-Assessment Report.	D

Governors welcomed Amir Sam and Alex Christodoulou to their first meeting.

**1. Governance**

**1.1 Apologies for Absence**

Louise Burke, Farina Begum and Rakeb Alemu were absent without apologies.

**1.2 Declaration of Interest**

Marco Macchitella and Angela Hille declared an interest in item 1.3

**1.3 Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair**

*Marco Macchitella and Angela Hille withdrew for this item.*

The Board agreed to appoint Marco Macchitella and Angela Hille as Chair and Vice Chair of the Board, respectively, for the academic year.

Decision.

#### 1.4 Membership

Governors welcomed Amir Sam who would be joining the Local Governing Board. It was also noted that Pamela Chowdhury and Lynn Blades had both resigned from the Board and governors thanked them for their contribution and wished them the best for the future.

#### 2. Minutes

The Governing Body approved the minutes of 6 June 2022 as a true and accurate record of the events that took place. It was agreed that these minutes should be uploaded to the College website in their entirety.

#### 3. Matters Arising

3.7 Lubna Hussain to ensure that the work taking place in response to Everyone's Invited is uploaded to Governorhub.

Action

5. Governors had been invited to attend the morning of the Staff Conference on 23rd June 2022.

7. Pemi Arowojolu to continue to work with the Careers Team and feed back to governors on how this work is progressing.

Action

#### 4. Principal's Report

Sugra Alibhai presented her report, taking this as read, and highlighting that the College has had a successful enrolment and admission period, with the recent open day receiving over 5,000 attendees.

After two years of disruption, the College held its first set of external exams last year and a couple of instances of malpractice have led to this being added to Woodhouse's risk register. Sugra reminded the Board that, given the size of the College, preparing students for exams is a huge operational challenge but assured governors that there are no concerns with Woodhouse as an exam centre.

The Board noted that the College now has over 1500 students and, **in response to a question from governors**, Sugra explained that these additional 20 students can be easily absorbed but there are no plans to increase beyond this number.

**Governors questioned** whether there were any concerns around attendance, which is currently at 96%. Sugra confirmed that, whilst this number is in line with last year's figure for this time of year, attendance is being reviewed as part of the College Improvement Plan.

**In response to a final question from governors**, Lubna Hussain explained that, with 222 safeguarding concerns already reported this year, the fallout from the pandemic continues to impact students. However, Lubna reminded the Board that it is positive that students feel comfortable in sharing their concerns

with the College.

## 5. Outcomes & Destinations

Alex Christodoulou presented the 2022 exam results, explaining that the College is delighted with these, given that they were higher than expected and above the 2019 figures. The College was particularly pleased with the high grades (83.5%), which was an increase from the TAGs and CAGs.

Alex explained that this increase is likely as a result of a number of factors such as the improvements in practice that have taken place since 2019, particularly in maths, which are now yielding results, and the fact that students understand that the pandemic has seriously disrupted their education and have worked hard as a result of this.

The Board then considered the grades by subject and was pleased to note that the College's overall ALPs score has increased from 5 to 3. Whilst there have been improvements in maths, there continue to be concerns around geography and computer science and weekly meetings are taking place with the Heads of Faculties.

**In response to a question from governors**, Sugra explained that the College was shocked at the drop in art grades, as this has traditionally been a high performing department, and has appealed these with the exam board.

**Governors questioned** whether the College needs to be cautious about future ALPs scores given the disruption over the past few years but was reminded that ALPs takes into account grade profiles nationally, meaning that all schools are facing the same challenge.

The Board then discussed the destination data, noting that 570 university places were accepted via UCAS, which included 4% Oxbridge, 61% Russell Group, and 60% high tariff universities.

It was noted that 108 students were placed in clearing following the results and most of these are planning to reapply in June 2023. The Leadership Team confirmed that it was not happy with the number of students that were unplaced and is taking steps to reduce this next year with more training for tutors who are supporting applications and more rigorous conversations with families whose choices are unrealistic. It was also noted that universities under offered places as a result of the bulge in the last two years due to the pandemic.

The Board discussed the key groups, noting that staff are reminded to ensure that they are aware of who the disadvantaged students are and prioritise them for career interviews and university visits.

**In response to a question from governors**, Sugra explained that around 10% of Woodhouse students arrive from private schools and this number has been stable for a number of years. However, this is being monitored to ensure that Woodhouse retains its rich social diversity.

## 6. Self-Assessment Report

The Board reviewed the Self-Assessment Report, noting that this is similar to that of previous years. Governors requested that the report refers to the latest judgments from Ofsted and the College not shy away from presenting itself in the best possible way.

The Board approved the Self-Assessment Report, noting that there are plans to reduce its length in future iterations.

## 7. College Improvement Plan

The Board considered the College Improvement Plan, noting that with the removal of objectives that are no longer relevant, such as the return to external exams and a potential Ofsted inspection, this is more concise than last year's plan.

Sugra explained that the Board will receive a formal update in the middle of the year but, so far, the College is on track to be in a good position and is making progress towards its 5-year targets.

**In response to a question from governors,** Sugra confirmed that the College Improvement Plan links into the Trust's over-arching strategy and Trustees are issued with a report outlining the progress made towards the 5-year objectives at its summer meeting.

It was noted that with Pamela Chowdhury stepping down, the College will need to replace its EDI Governor.

**Governors questioned** whether there were any areas of the plan that the Leadership Team were particularly concerned about. Sugra explained that the College is focused on staff development, particularly for support and operational members of staff. Parental engagement is also a focus, as a result of students moving from a school to a college

## 8. Wellbeing Review

Lubna Hussain presented the wellbeing paper and invited questions.

**In response to a question from governors,** Lubna explained that whilst students are now getting involved in sports, there is still further work to do to increase these numbers across the College but the sports team continues to conduct a large amount of outreach work. **In response to another question from governors,** Lubna confirmed that there are some activities for staff, such as the men's football team, but acknowledged that this could also be broadened once the student offer is complete.

Aiyong Seo then presented the student voice on wellbeing explaining that the new sports provision is a positive change with a fresh timetable for sport and competitive matches taking place.

**In response to another question from governors,** Lubna explained that the College is continuing its work on toxic masculinity and consent.

**Governors questioned** how additional work around wellbeing is funded and Lubna explained that the bursary fund is used to assist students in attending in overseas trips. However, Lubna explained that she is seeking out external donations for some of this work, such as hygiene poverty.

**In response to a final question from governors,** Lubna explained that the College is aware that this is a difficult time for many families financially, and the College is doing what it can to support these ones but can only respond if it is made aware of the situation. Therefore, the College is eager to create an open culture and safe space for students to speak up if they are struggling.

**9. Risk Register**

The Governing Body considered the risk register, noting the additional risk around exam malpractice.

**10. AOB**

The Board noted that this was the final meeting of Aiyounng Seo and thanked her for her service as Student Governor and wished her the best for the future.

Confidential minute.

The meeting concluded at 8:11pm