

# Beamont Collegiate Academy

## Local Governing Body with BFP focus

### Monday 16 September 2024 4.30-6.30pm at the Academy



## MINUTES – PART I

Present: E Blackburn, Z Conroy, M Eccleston, H Jones, L Perks, G Porter (Chairperson), D Coyne, G Harris (Principal), C Heesom (Clerk)

In attendance: S Mullen, VP

1.	<b>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS – CLERK</b>
2.	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – CLERK</b> Apologies for absence were received from; S Whatmore. Personal circumstances. Noted and approved.
3.	<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST – CLERK</b> There were no declarations of interest.
4.	<p><b>MEMBERSHIP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appointment of new Co-opted Governor: D Coyne. Noted and approved. 4 year Term of Office wef 16/09/24 to 15/09/28. <b>Action(s):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Clerk to update GIAS, governorhub and academy website.</b></li> <li>- <b>Clerk to source training for newly appointed governor via D Golden TCAT</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Appointment of Community Governor: S Whatmore. Noted and approved. 1 year Term of Office wef 16/09/24 to 15/09/25. <b>Action:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Clerk to update GIAS, governorhub and academy website.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Re-appointment of G Porter. Co-opted governor. 12 month term of office only wef 16/09/24 to 15/09/25. <b>Action:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Clerk to update GIAS, governorhub and academy website.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Election of Chairperson. Self-nomination received from S Whatmore. In the absence of SW, self-nomination was discussed and accepted. Decision to appoint was unanimously approved. 12 month term of office. <b>Action(s)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Clerk to advise SW of FGB decision.</b></li> <li>- <b>Clerk to update GIAS, governorhub and academy website.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Election of Vice Chairperson. Self-nomination received from L Perks. Self-nomination discussed and accepted. Decision to appoint was unanimously approved. 12 month term of office. <b>Action(s)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Clerk to update GIAS, governorhub and academy website.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
5.	<p><b>OVERVIEW OF 2024 RESULTS</b> (Including performance of key/vulnerable groups and BCA in Warrington Context). S Mullen provided governors with a verbal summary of her report. All remarks are reflected in the amended data report. The number of students who the data is accounted for is 170.</p> <p>The context to this cohort was similar to 2023 in terms of % of PP and SEND but with an increased EAL cohort. The ability range is very close to last year at high middle and low.</p>

As with previous years (particularly post pandemic), this year group were not without their challenges. Two years of disruption in years 7 and 8 meant their first full year at school was year 9. Consistent attendance had become an issue for 12% of the cohort before commencing year 11 and improving this became a whole school priority for 2023-2024 through utilising the GCSE Support Centre and having a Year 11 attendance escalation team to act swiftly on causes for concern.

Supporting students with both physical illness and emotional challenges was especially pertinent for this year group with some being home-schooled due to medical conditions and a great deal of emotional support was put into a significant cohort in school through counselling and access arrangements for exams. We also had 5 students educated at our off-site alternative provision and a further 7 were on reduced timetables accessing the GCSE Support Centre due to significantly prolonged absence in year 9 and 10.

Despite this, we have a solid set of results that give us a firm foundation to continue to build on as we head into 2024-2025.

SM summarised the Headline figures and outlined the constancy across most key benchmarks. BCA's A8 figure is broadly in line with 2023 and the academy is hoping that with some further positive remarks, we may see an increase to 46%. P8 is provisional but the academy is also expecting an uplift in this figure. There was a significant uplift in English once again at grade 7+ bringing it back in line with previous years and another year of consistency in Maths. What was challenging this year was the match up between English and Maths. There were 10 students who were not able to secure '4's' across both subjects and as a result, this has led to the dip in BASICS 4+ from 67% to 59%. Whilst the academy still has some remarks in, historically they rarely increase so returning to a high 60s match up in 2024-2025, will be a priority. A continued uplift in the number of students securing 2 sciences at grade 4+ was to be positively recognised. BCA's aim is to continue this trend by working towards 70% in 2025.

BCA's academic priority this year was to 'maintain and sustain' the performance in 2023 with some key areas to focus on for improvement. There has been a significant improvement in Geography attainment at grade 4+ with an improvement of 17% to 61% (2 potential remarks for grade 4 are pending which would take this to 68%). BCA's 3 x grade 7-9 has improved from 16% to 21% and there has been a 1% uplift in the number of students securing a grade 5 or better across all EBACC subjects at 20%.

Overall, English Language results in 2024 are broadly in line with 2023 except at the grade 7-9 where a 10% uplift has been seen. This area was a focus for the department and brings it back in line with previous years. English Literature did not manage to achieve their predicted (at grade 5 especially) and has taken a 10% dip on 2023. 7 students have missed the grade 7 by one mark (equating to 5% but unfortunately after a remark, these haven't gone up). Whilst some of this is clearly down to quite harsh marking (multiple scripts have been reviewed but grades unchanged due the mark being deemed 'reasonable' albeit harsh) there is also a pattern of underachievement (particularly on the poetry elements) where students were unable to show the same resilience and knowledge that is clear in Language. Significantly, a dip from students where attendance was under 90% is also a factor and is being addressed. Performance at grade 5+ will be a key priority focus for the department for 2025.

Maths results are very closely in line with 2023. Whilst the academy was expecting to break 70% at grade 4 this year, we have seen some students dip to a 3 (where erratic attendance over the 2 years has impacted on attainment). There is a steady improvement at grade 5 and 7 and we are hoping to see this make more ground in 2025.

In Sciences there continues to be steady improvement in the number of students securing 2 grade 4+, 5+ passes and grade 7+ in science. Under new leadership and a change in staffing, these results are particularly pleasing demonstrating the effectiveness of the curriculum design, teaching approaches and the intervention strategy employed.

MFL: The number of students who follow the Ebacc pathway has risen considerably over recent years, and this has seen entries in languages rise to 100 students – all of which followed French in 2024. The results are closely aligned with the final predictions made. Students at BCA do tend to perform at a higher level in Spanish than French. Significant work and practice has gone into ensuring students are fully prepared for their speaking tests over the past two years that has supported attainment. A priority for 2025 is ensuring more students secure the grade 4 and 5 to support the overall EBACC achievement.

Results in History continue to be some of the strongest in the school and the performance at grade 4+ is particularly impressive given the size of the cohort (109 students). Students thrive in this subject and are very well versed in the 'how to' nature of the exam papers. This has clearly paid off with a very strong 3-year picture on outcomes at the key benchmarks.

It was pleasing to see an improvement in all key benchmarks for Geography this year. As stated earlier, Geography has been a key priority subject for the school throughout 2024-2025 and we have utilised a Geography examiner (from outside the Trust) to quality assure the marking and curriculum for year 11 to ensure we made progress in this key subject. Whilst we haven't hit the target of 68%, the 17% improvement is a sign that we are now moving in the right direction and looking forward we are looking to maintain and build on the figures above in 2025

In 2023, our computer studies results took a dip due to a particularly challenging paper 2. As show, we have recovered well this year with a return to standards seen previous. Whilst this is only a small cohort (and known to be a very challenging GCSE) this course is open to students of all abilities we are very pleased to see the attainment at grade 5 and 7 especially.

As with previous years, the performance in art, HSC and the performing arts remains strong. What was particularly impressive was the 100% Merit pass rate in Drama and the distinction pass rate in ICT, Dance, PE and Engineering as these courses had changed format from recent series with the external exam taking place at the end of the course which led to more uncertainty around what grades the students would achieve. There was a solid improvement in RS and whilst we didn't quite hit the prediction for distinction grades in business studies, we are awaiting some remarks that are very close to the boundary.

#### **Disadvantaged cohort 2023-24**

BCA continue to track the progress and attainment of its key groups closely and are pleased to see how well boys and HPA have held up in comparison to 2023. Slightly disappointing is our disadvantaged (though we expect this to be a healthy figure in comparison to schools with similar disadvantaged cohort size). BCA's SEND cohort isn't comparable year on year and we had predicted that progress would be around -0.38 at our last data point. BCA will closely review both cohorts and consider how our PP budget is spent (especially through our tuition strategy) to ensure these students are prioritised where needed.

#### **Students educated at the alternative provision/GCSE Support Centre**

14 students were educated off site or were on a significantly reduced timetable in the GCSE Support Centre which equated to 8% of the cohort. Of the 14, 9 were boys, 6 were SEND and 10 disadvantaged. BCA's aim is to ensure all our learners leave school with grades that can take them to the next step and this year there were a number of real improvements in attainment. One student at the alternative provision secured 4 grade 4s and a level 2 pass and one girl accessing the GCSE support centre due to an ongoing physical health issue secured 1 grade 6, 1 level 2 merit, 2 grade 5s and a grade 4. This is testament to the team around these students which includes our external tutors, the attendance team and the pastoral team. More students than ever before have been able to secure grade 3 or higher passes across the core subjects and we hope to continue to build on this into 2025.

#### ***Governor challenge:***

*Once again governors thanked SM for a very informative report and congratulated the academy for producing another good set of results.*

	<p><i>LP – How has attendance impacted on this year results and what strategies are in place to improve year 11 attendance figure?</i></p> <p><i>SM – BCA has a strategic approach to attendance and includes an email escalation group which highlights any red flags so any attendance issues can be swiftly dealt and the necessary support is put in place for students. Lateness to class and sporadic attendance (88%-92%) have posed a challenge and measures were put in place to address both.</i></p> <p><i>GH – For the previous 2 years, BCA students have been involved in an exercise where they have been presented with their P8 scores with an explanation of what these scores mean. Data shows students with &lt;90% attendance leave BCA with a negative P8 score and do not achieve to their full potential.</i></p> <p><i>GP – What is the attendance figure for the current Year 11 students (Year 10 attendance figure)?</i></p> <p><i>GH – The attendance figure for this Year 11 cohort is stronger than the previous year. Only 2 students are currently accessing the KS4 Support Centre on a reduced timetable as opposed to 5 during the same period last year.</i></p> <p><i>ME – How is attendance addressed with Parents?</i></p> <p><i>SM – BCA hosts a Year 11 parent event during which the importance of good attendance and a clear revision guide is explained to parents.</i></p> <p><i>SM has also introduced the 'exceptional learner' initiative and early reengagement strategies which are offered to families and students to encourage and support some students back into school. Attendance is currently 1.5% above the national average.</i></p> <p><i>GP queried how BCAs HML attainment compares to the national average figure? SM said P8 data will be published mid October and it is looking likely that data will be similar to the previous year, with 2 measures moving to a positive figure.</i></p> <p><i>HJ – Are students able to opt for History and Geography and what to you attribute to Geography achieving a higher set of results this year?</i></p> <p><i>SM – Yes, students can opt to study both History and Geography. The department has been under increased scrutiny this year which included input from an external examiner. Underperformance on a specific paper last year contributed towards a lower than expected set of results.</i></p>
6.	<p><b>LINK GOVERNOR ROLES FOR 2024-25</b></p> <p>BCA will soon be moving into the inspection window and Mr Harris stressed the necessity for governors to be fully rehearsed in their roles and responsibilities and reemphasised the importance of governor training in this area moving forward. Mr Harris explained the rationale behind each Link Governor role/strands and revisited the meeting schedule including the link governor impact report cycle.</p> <p><b>Action: Clerk to email SLT leads with relevant governor email addresses.</b></p>
7.	<p><b>BCA GOVERNOR MEETINGS SCHEDULE 2024-25</b></p> <p>Amendment to date(s). For information purposes. Noted.</p>
8.	<p><b>A.o.B</b></p> <p><b>Pay Review Panel 2024</b></p> <p>The Principal proposed w/c 14/10 for the meeting to take place. Governors (LP/HJ) confirmed their availability. Clerk to confirm panel members, date, time, venue (eg TEAMS or BCA).</p>