Summary of discussions of the Local Academy Committee meeting held on Monday 21 September at 5:30pm at Retford Oaks Academy

Membership	Initials	Governor	Absence
Mr D Cartwright **Chair**	DC	Appointed	
Mrs P Bryn-Jones **Vice Chair**	PBJ	Appointed	
Mr A Silcock	AS	Appointed	A
Dr Ann Harris	AH	Elected Parent	
Mrs Sarah Miles	SM	Elected Parent	
Mrs J Wilson	JW	Appointed	
Miss S Babu	SB	Appointed	

In Attendance	Initials	Position	Absence
Mr L Dickinson	LD	Principal	A
Mr G Olley	GO	Vice Principal	
Mrs R Chambers	RC	Governance Professional	
Mrs A Johnson	AJ	*Observing pending appointment*	
Quorum required	3	**Governor's present**	6

Outstanding Actions Log

C	= Complete	**CF**	= Carried forward	**I**	= Incomplete (carried forward more than once)	

Agenda item	Meeting Ref	Action Required	Responsible Person	Timeline	Update	Status
AC/48/2526	2526 - 5	SEND link governor report to be submitted to the LAC for the next meeting	DC / PBJ	06/07/2026	To note both reports have been shared with the committee.	C
AC/57/2526	2526 - 6	RC to share the new link visit report template	RC	09/07/2026	To note this was shared with the committee	C
AC/57/2526	2526 - 6	Governors to complete the annual code of conduct and declaration of interest	All govs	22/07/2026	To note all governors have completed this	C

Bold blue text = academy committee governor check and challenge
Bold green text = academy committee governor decision-making / approval
Q = Question from Governors
A = Answer from senior leaders

Agenda item	Key points / Summary	Action Required	Responsible Person	Timeline
AC/01/2627	**Welcome and apologies for absence** - LD sent apologies in advance due to medical reasons - GO and AJ was welcomed to the meeting - The Diverse Academies 5-year strategy was shared with the committee. ***Q: Does this reflect what is communicated through the academy?*** A: It is being seen through the academy, and the community too. Working with colleagues across the Trust both in the same role and in other secondaries is beneficial as there is always someone else who has done it or has other suggestions on ways to do outcomes and therefore not only helps the role but also helps the academy outcomes be better so it does resonate.			
AC/02/2627	**Declarations of Interest** There were no changes to declarations of interest made at the start of the year and no declarations in relation to the agenda.			
AC/03/2627	**Governance Report** - All governors were thanked for completing the Declaration of Interest and Code of Conduct for the 26-27 academic year. - Governors were reminded of the statutory training modules that are now due for completion. - Governors voted unanimously for AJ to join the committee for a 4-year term of office from 21.09.26. - Governors were made aware that LCW resigned from the academy in the summer and therefore, the Governance Professional is currently out for a new staff governor. - The next governor walk around has been booked for the 6th of October at 9.30am. All governors welcomed to attend. - The training programme for link governors was shared with governors in advance of the meeting. Link governors to put dates in their diary and feed back to the committee afterwards. - Governors were advised of the new leadership structure at Diverse Academies Trust. - All governors were asked to schedule their link visits in for the autumn term. RC to share the link governor spreadsheet with academy contacts on. - Feedback from the Trustee visit in July was shared with governors in advance of the meeting.	Governors to complete statutory training. Governors to schedule link visits. RC to share link governor spreadsheet	**All Govs** **All Govs** **RC**	15.10.26 15.10.26 25.09.26

AC/04/2627	**Approve actions log dated 6th July 2026** The Actions log from 6th July was reviewed **and approved**.			
AC/05/2627	**Training – KCSIE safeguarding webinar and local response** - Governors watched the KCSIE safeguarding webinar in the meeting. - Governors discussed the lack of AI policy for the academy and the Trust. The committee agreed for this to be fed back to the Trustees considering it being heavily noted within the KCSIE changes. The need for control measures when using AI is important for both staff and students. ***Q: How does the academy police presentations and essays?*** A: Presentations and essays are checked for use of AI as there is software that can be used. - It was noted how some AI platforms including Chat GPT retain information and this raises GDPR concerns. It was confirmed that the recommended platform from the Trust is CoPilot which does not retain information. ***Q: Is AI included as part of the curriculum?*** A: It is included within the Computing curriculum as well as being covered through the PD (personal development) days. ***Q: Following the Cass Review, how are students being supported and has it been triggering?*** A – The academy cover diversity in the PD days and it is woven throughout the curriculum which starts touching the surface in Y7 and then gets deeper as the students' progress through the academy. It is a balance of protecting everyone. ***Q: Do the academy have any problems with the gender-neutral toilets that are available?*** A: There have been no problems with these facilities. ***Q: Is there a gender-neutral toilet for staff?*** A: Yes, there is.			

	- It was noted that the increase of mental health and self-harm is a national picture as well as a local one. ***Q: It was mentioned that misogyny is a problem nationally, is it a problem at a local level?*** A: It is not as big of a problem as it is nationally, but it is continually discussed with the students, and the cases of misogyny have been a very small number. ***Q: Is this a particular cohort?*** A: It is seen more in the older boys but the female staff within the academy are active at reporting it so all cases are being dealt with. Misogyny is covered within the PD curriculum too. ***Q: Do you obtain feedback from the girls, away from the boys?*** A – It was agreed for LD to advise on this after the meeting. ***Q: Within the training video it noted how female empowerment is a future focus – how will the academy be promoting this and how will this be filtered down to the students?*** A – It was agreed for LD to advise on this after the meeting. - It was noted about the duty of care to the students especially on social media platforms such as Snapchat and WhatsApp. It was confirmed that it is interwoven throughout the academy as where students are educated from the offset then it helps to reduce issues. - Governors discussed what happens within the community when students are walking home and noted that students need to know they are representing the academy whilst they are in the ROA uniform and how bullying is not tolerated. It was noted how there are often 2 members of staff at the tunnel which is outside of the academy jurisdiction however they will always support where possible including liaising with the police. Unfortunately, the academy does not have a closed catchment and therefore students travel in many different directions home, so this is not always easy.	To advise on if this feedback is being obtained To advise on how the academy will be promoting female empowerment.	**LD** **LD**	15.10.26 15.10.26
AC/06/2627	**Training - In-depth review of summer series exam results** - From an A-Level and GCSE perspective the results have been really positive.			

	A-Level - The value added is -0.22 with 0 being national. - The average point score dropped from 26.96 in summer 2025 to 24.39 this year. This is due to a much weaker cohort, and the average GCSE grade was 4.5 so therefore they entered the provision from a lower starting point. ***Q: How many students were there in the provision?*** A – 24 ***Q: Are there minimum entry requirements to join?*** A – There are, but they are not always met. Doncaster New College do take most of the ROA students. - The results from the vocational subjects is fantastic. - The academy is making more vocational subjects available to students at both GCSE and A-Level as this is proving to be better for the ROA community. ***Q: Will the academy stop offering A-Levels and direct the students solely to vocational subjects?*** A – The academy has had some strong results in A-Level courses including Physics, so it is believed to be best to continue to offer both. Science is an area for development for the academy. ***Q: How many out of the 24 students opted for Psychology?*** A – There was between 8 and 10, and this was the best scoring subject. ***Q: Is Childcare a level 2 or level 3 qualification?*** A – All the courses are level 3. - It was acknowledged that the viability of the Post 16 provision remains on the academy's risk register. The committee discussed the reasons behind students wanting to go to other provisions including change of scenery, to avoid certain staff, the lack of specialist facilities and the desire to feel grown up. It was agreed that it is a mix of staff, facilities and subjects on offer that encourage students to stay. ***Q: How many students are accessing the provision this year?***			

	A – There has been circa 35 join Y12 meaning there are 60 students in Y12 and Y13. ***Q: Do you guarantee that students get the same teachers for their time in the Post 16 provision?*** A – Whilst it is not something that can be guaranteed, the academy does strive to give the students the same teachers in Y10 and Y11 and then the same in Y12 and Y13 to help with the continuity. There are always compromises including new staff and how this fits into the timetable, but where it is possible then it is actioned. ***Q: Looking at the Biology and English results, what are the academy doing to improve this?*** A – Across both the Science and English departments there has been instability of staff including long term sick, as well as the death of a teacher which affected the key year groups. Both departments now have more stability in terms of who is in front of the students. The impact seen is contributed to staffing problems 2 years ago and therefore students do not have the foundational knowledge to aid their current learning. Teachers are working hard to not only teach the current content but also teach students the foundational knowledge to support this. ***Q: Do cover teachers cover the curriculum to where the students are at?*** A – Yes, they are given the lessons based on the current curriculum content. ***Q: How did the PP students do?*** A – To ensure the information is accurate, GO agreed to feed this back after the meeting. ***Q: If PP students go to other provisions, do they get financial support with transport?*** A – This would be down to each individual setting and how they allocate the PP funding. Jane West supports all students with their next steps including advising on any bursaries that students could be eligible for. ***Q: How many students have gone to university?*** A - All the students that applied to university, got the university place they wanted or obtained an uplift from a foundation course. ***Q: Is there a trend in the results based on gender balance?*** A – This has not been analysed yet but will be fed back to governors when it has.	Confirm results of PP students. To confirm if there are any gender trends.	**GO** **GO**	15.10.26 15.10.26

	GCSE - Attainment8 has increased from 4.01 to 4.13 but still remains below national. It was a cohort that were below national on entry, so this was expected. - 53% of students achieved a 4+ in English and Maths which was the same as last year. - 36% of students achieved a 5+ in English and Maths which was an increase from 29% to 36%. - 65 students achieved grades 8 and 9, the target for this was 26. ***Q: Why is the target for students achieving 8's and 9's less than what was achieved last year?*** A – This is down to the academy's knowledge of the cohort. ***Q: How many students were in the cohort?*** A - It was a year group of 188 students. This is the last group of students who had the CAT tests in Y7 when joining the academy due to SATS being replaced in Covid. ***Q: Do you have any comparison for the results against similar schools?*** A – This has not yet been produced. ***Q: Why does ROA offer triple science, yet other local schools offer double science?*** A – The decision was made after the academy was seeing better grades from students studying triple science. The government are now wanting more students doing the triple offer, so the academy is ahead with this. By also offering triple science it helps with the options process and allows for more time to these subjects. It was the right decision for the academy based on the results. - Both R.E. and History have shown improvements and following the curriculum change in IT, the results show that this was the right decision for the ROA student community. - The focus this year is English Literature and the Sciences. The students know that they do not need to pass Science and they do not need to do English Literature to get into college so therefore they seem to concentrate on the subjects they do need. It was further added that they students do need to sit the exams, but they do not need to pass.			

	- The Maths results are the strongest results within Diverse Academies Trust which evidences the work that the department have been doing following a period of instability a few years ago. - The governors acknowledged and praised the improvements. ***Q: What is the plan for the gaps and the areas of weakness?*** A – The academy has implemented changes to the English Language / English Literature split so that the students are more aware of the difference between the two. The curriculum is now further embedded, and the stability is there within the teaching team. - The Y11 cohort have their own programme within tutor time which is bespoke to the year group with sessions supporting students with revision including how to do it and when to do. Homework for Y11 is guided and rewarded. - Catchup sessions after school were discussed including the commitment from staff in offering these sessions. It was noted that some students do struggle to attend due to transport services home. ***Q: How are these sessions communicated to parents?*** A – The timetable for the sessions is available on Weduc for parents to access. - The results for disadvantaged students have improved. ROA is now above national average for both the SEN and PP cohort both in terms of outcomes as well as the number of students on role. - Mock exams are scheduled for November and further updated targets can be given when the data has been analysed. - This year will be the first year that the Progress 8 score returns. - The Attainment 8 target has been set for 4.39 which is a big jump from 4.13 this year.			
AC/07/2627	**Anything the LAC wish to share with the Trustees** - To request an update on if there is an AI policy that will be being implemented in the 26-27 academic year.			

	- To highlight the committees concerns around the viability of the Post 16 provision.			
AC/08/2627	**Determine Confidentiality** Governors considered whether anything discussed during the meeting should be deemed as confidential. It was resolved: - There were no confidential discussions.			
AC/09/2627	**Equalities Act Consideration** Governors considered equality across the academy community, and it was agreed that it had been discussed / considered in agenda items; - AC/05/2627 - AC/06/2627			
AC/10/2627	**Next meeting** Monday 16th November 2026 at 5:30pm at Retford Oaks Academy **Meeting closed at 7.24pm**			

Signed by Chair: D.Cartwright	**Date: 16.11.2026**