

Minutes – BMA Academy Council Meeting

Meeting Date: 24 March 2026
Location: In-Person/On-Site
Time: 17.00

Present: Laura Walder (Chair)
 Joanne Duffy (Sponsored Councillor)
 Liam Suter (Sponsored Councillor)
 Chloe Aldam (Parent Councillor)
 Aysha Muzaffer (Staff Support Councillor)

In attendance: Kris Bridgeman (Principal)
 Jacqueline Friday (Interim Clerk)

Apologies: David Vince (Staff Teaching Councillor)
 Trish Tendai Njerekai (Sponsored Councillor)

Minutes taken by Jackie Friday

		Action
1	Introduction, Administration and Apologies	
1.1	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2	Declarations of Interest	
2.1	There were no further declarations of interest.	
3	Academy Council Membership	
3.1	The meeting noted there are two applications for sponsored councillors currently in progress. ACTION – Clerk to arrange for a progress update on the outstanding academy councillor applications to be provided to the Chair after the meeting.	Clerk
4	Minutes of Previous Meeting	
4.1	The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.	
5	Chair's Update	
5.1	ACTION – Academy councillors to share Link Visit notes with the Chair after the meeting.	ALL
6	Academy Council Report	
6.1	A copy of the Academy Council Report was circulated to all attendees prior to the meeting.	
	<i>Black Box Data</i>	
6.2	A cohort profile was circulated prior to the meeting. The Chair thanked the principal for providing this document for context.	

6.3	The meeting discussed the recent black box data and requested additional data around certain groups of disadvantaged of pupils. ACTION – Principal to provide information around the demographic of pupils undertaking extra-curricular activities (e.g. the history trip to London and DofE), having particular regard to data on PP pupils and pupils from ethnic minority backgrounds.	Principal
6.4	The meeting noted that the Y11 data comparables were not like for like; black box data compares Y11 year to date data with y11 outcomes from last year. ACTION – Y11 data to be compared with like for like data in all academy reports moving forwards.	Principal
6.5	How is attainment looking for PP and SEND E pupils following the Year 11 mocks? ACTION – Data around PP and SEND E pupils to be presented to the next academy council meeting.	Principal
6.6	The meeting discussed ongoing concerns around MFL and what can be done to improve outcomes. Discussions were held around the fact that MFL will not be compulsory from September 2026 and the challenges when recruiting MFL staff.	
	<i>Attendance</i>	
6.7	A copy of the attendance improvement plan and an updated R&R Attendance document was circulated prior to the meeting. Attendance has generally approved. The meeting considered how the R&R document is working with safeguarding/attendance and discussed what is being done to improve all areas of attendance, in particular pupils on long-term absence and children missing in education.	
	<i>Budget</i>	
6.8	How is the budget from September going to impact staffing and what is being done to manage this? The financial climate is challenging and there may be some difficult challenges to be faced ahead.	
	<i>Safeguarding Audit</i>	
6.9	How prepared was the academy for the safeguarding audit given the disappointing results in the past? The academy was as well prepared as it could be. There has been a significant amount of work and progress undertaken around the safeguarding of pupils when they are off site at alternative provisions. ACTION – Full update on the outcomes of the safeguarding audit to be provided to the next academy council meeting	Principal
	<i>Student Safety</i>	
6.10	Following on from the recent survey, what progress has been made with understanding student feelings around safety? The focus of the survey was on girls' safety outside the school environment. Areas of discussion included masculine toxicity, the 'Manosphere' and recent programmes about this topic, the role of social media in perpetrating these ideas. The meeting also discussed how parents/carers and staff are informed and manage conversations and/or situation around this issue.	
6.11	ACTION – Copy of Jo Fisher's report to be submitted in advance of the next academy council meeting	Principal
	<i>Careers</i>	
6.12	Can you confirm that the academy is now compliant with statutory regulations around this area?	

	From September 2025 the DfE expects schools to use updated Gatsby Benchmarks and provide 6 encounters with a provider of technical education or apprenticeships for pupils between years 8 and 13 (2 in year 9 and 2 in year 11, which are mandatory for pupils to attend, and 2 in year 13 which are optional for pupils to attend).	
7	Policies	
7.1	A copy of the CLF Complaints Policy was circulated prior to the meeting. The meeting noted this is a CLF Template policy which is approved at Board level.	
7.2	ACTION – Clerk to forward comments around the Complaints Policy to the Deputy Head of Governance for consideration when the next policy is next reviewed.	Clerk
8	Matters For The Attention Of The Board	
8.1	There were no matters raised for the attention of the Board.	
9	Any Other Business	
9.1	There was no other business.	
10	Close of Meeting	
10.1	The meeting closed at 18.49	

ACTIONS

3.1	ACTION – Clerk to ask for a progress update on the outstanding academy councillor applications to be provided to the Chair after the meeting. COMPLETE	Clerk
5.1	ACTION – Academy councillors to share Link Visit notes with the Chair after the meeting.	ALL
6.3	ACTION – Principal to provide information around the demographic of pupils undertaking extra-curricular activities, having particular regard to data on PP pupils and pupils from ethnic minority backgrounds.	Principal
6.4	ACTION – Y11 data to be compared with like for like data in the academy report to enable direct comparisons to be made moving forwards.	Principal
6.5	ACTION – Data around PP and SEND E pupils to be presented to the next academy council meeting.	Principal
6.9	ACTION – Full update on the outcomes of the Safeguarding Audit to be presented to the next academy council meeting.	Principal
6.11	ACTION – Copy of Jo Fisher’s report to be submitted in advance of the next academy council meeting	Principal
7.2	ACTION – Clerk to forward comments around the Complaints Policy to the Deputy Head of Governance for consideration when the next policy is next reviewed. COMPLETE	Clerk