



MINUTES OF RICHARD HUISH TRUST

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 20 March 2025 at 5:00pm

In the Rowan House Meeting Room and via MS Teams, Richard Huish College

Members:

Ed Gregory (representing the Bath and Wells DBE) – via Teams
Jonathan Langdon
Steve Harrison

Chair of Board of Directors:

Jade Renville (Chair)

In attendance:

John Abbott (RHT Chief Executive Officer)
Paul Lonsdale (RHT Chief Finance Officer)
Catherine Christie (Vice Chair of the Board of Directors) – via Teams

Clerk:

Helen Wells (Governance Specialist)

MINUTES

AGM 24/01 1. Welcome and apologies for absence **Action**
The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was confirmed that due notice of the meeting had been given and that a quorum was present.

Apologies for absence were received from Mary Tighe (Member) and Steve Chattell (Chief People Officer).

AGM 24/02 2. Declarations of interest
There were no declarations of interest for the meeting or in relation to the published information.

AGM 24/03 3. Minutes of the previous meeting
Members received the minutes of the last meeting, which was a General Meeting on 13th November 2024, noting that the previous AGM minutes had been signed off at that meeting. **RESOLVED:** The minutes of the General Meeting, dated 13th November 2024, were agreed as a true and accurate record and the Chair consented to her electronic signature being used to formally sign them off.

AGM 24/04 4. Report with Annual Accounts and summary update
The chair highlighted that there are a range of performance metrics within the report including many positives that should be acknowledged, particularly the exceptional performance of the college, and consistently strong overall performance of the primary schools.

AGM 24/05 Academies performed financially as anticipated with a few anomalies noted. Cashflow and the working capital position are both performing well, and the cumulative reserves are on track to reach the ESFA’s specified 5% threshold by the end of the next financial year.

AGM 24/06 What is the situation with boarding facility?
Recruitment processes have been improved which in turn should improve occupancy and

therefore its financial performance. It was acknowledged that there is an opportunity to promote the performance of the college in relation to recruitment to the boarding facility.

AGM 24/07 Directors assured members that the finances of the boarding facility have been scrutinised extensively by the Finance & General Purposes (F&GP) committee during the year.

AGM 24/08 **Writing performance at the primary schools appeared to be below the national average?**
The CEO concurred that it is below the national average for boys. He observed that it is a particularly difficult metric for primary schools to improve on and is a top priority to address for three of the primaries. Members discussed the profile of the data in relation to local and national challenges.

Members received the RHT Directors' Report and Annual Accounts to 31 August 2024.

AGM 24/09 **5. Appointment of Auditors**
The CFO noted that a tender was undertaken last year where Bishop Fleming were successful. There has been a change in the senior lead working with Huish. He noted that the audit proceeded very smoothly and recommended that the auditors be retained. The chair noted that the Audit & Risk (A&R) Committee engaged independently with them during the appointment process.

RESOLVED: Bishop Fleming were re-appointed as auditors to hold office until the conclusion of the next annual general meeting at which accounts were laid before Members. The Trust Board of Directors was authorised to fix the auditors' remuneration.

AGM 24/10 **6. Academy Update**
The chair and CEO provided a strategic update in relation to the academies. Members discussed potential strategic risks to Huish and opportunities for the future.

AGM 24/11-16 **Confidential Minute**
A confidential minute was agreed.

AGM 24/17 The CEO highlighted that the college's Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) data was exceptional last year, with the DfE performance data placing the college in the top 7% nationally for value added. It was noted that nationally and locally produced performance data does not include data from the college. It demonstrates a lack of parity as schools with sixth form have their data included. Strong performance data also held across the primary provision and an improvement in standards could be seen in some areas.

AGM 24/18 The CEO described how changes made to the meeting structure for the headteachers forum now places a greater emphasis on engagement with local primary schools, addressing a need in the local area for this as there is no other local forum primaries. The focus is on engaging the schools in development and positivity. The Huish Conference was also noted as coming up soon and will include an exciting keynote speaker.

AGM 24/19 **7. Any other business**
Members noted receipt of the latest Dear Accounting Officer letter issued 19th March 2025.

AGM 24/20 The Chair thanked Members for attending and the team at the Huish for their work. Members asked for thanks to be passed to the directors and the central team for the work that has gone on in supporting the academies.

AGM 24/21 **8. Date of Next Meeting**
The Clerk confirmed that the next AGM would be held in March 2026 with the exact date to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 6.05 pm