WQE & Regent College Group

Corporation Meeting
19th November 2025
17:00 -19:00
Room G01, G Building, University Road Campus

Members of the Corporation in attendance
Sarah Thomson (Chair), Phill Ashton, Joyce Black, Bernadette Green, Onkar Korotana, Iain McKenzie, Adeola Obadan, Alison Stone, Paul Wilson, & Jimmy Zachariah

Others in attendance:
Dan Ismail, Andrew Jackson, Rachel Middleton, Sarah Oldfield, Tim Rogers, Donna Trusler, Mariam Delair (new Student Governor), Theo Hillier-Drewett (new Student Governor)

Apologies:
Andrew Jackson, Hasan Peerbhai

MINUTES

1. **Welcome and apologies for absence**
Sarah Thomson
The Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting. Apologies were received from Hasan Peerbhai and Andrew Jackson. Prospective External Governor, Gayatri Patel was not able to attend the meeting and will join the December Corporation meeting.
Sarah welcomed and introduced the proposed new Student Governors in attendance, Theo Hillier-Drewett and Mariam Delair.
All attendees introduced themselves and learned about Mariam and Theo's own programmes of study at the College and their aspirations for their Student Governor role.

1.1 Appointment of Governors

The Corporation accepted the nomination of Jimmy Zachariah to serve as Link Safeguarding Governor until 2026. The Chair thanked Jimmy for his commitment.

The Chair invited Donna Trusler to update the Corporation on the new mechanism within an enhanced Student Executive for selecting and recommending Student Governors to the Corporation.

Governors learned about how Theo and Mariam had been required to submit a pledge to their peers serving on the Student Executive. Mariam and Theo reported that they aspired to make students' voices heard at Corporation level and to help enhance the student experience.

Additionally, Donna reported on the proactivity of the new Student Executive who convened the day prior to the Corporation meeting to discuss and review the Student Charter.

Governors noted the process undertaken and ratified the appointment of Theo and Mariam accordingly.

2. **Declarations of Interest**
Sarah Thomson
There were no declarations of interest in agenda items.

3. **Corporation Minutes and matters arising** – Paper 001
Sarah Thomson
The minutes of the Extraordinary Corporation meeting held on 17th September 2025 were approved as a correct record of proceedings.
The sole action from the action list *'Seek external assurance of the College's Health & Safety Policy'* is being actioned and any update will be considered through the external assurance process via the Audit & Risk Committee. The action was subsequently removed from the action list.

OVERSIGHT OF STRATEGIC DIRECTION

4. **Principal's Update including Strategic Development Plan 2023-26 context**
– Presentation (Paper uploaded to GovernorHub)
Paul Wilson
The Principal confirmed that a number of documents had been circulated to Governors ahead of the meeting, providing a useful reminder of the College's strategic context, with key updates highlighted and that these are housed on GovernorHub.

The Principal's Update covered the following highlights:

- Curriculum and Funding Review (covering the Curriculum and Assessment Review, published on 05/11/25, the Post-16 Education and Skills White Paper, published on 20/10/25, the Government's response published on 05/11/25 and the Post-16 Level 3 and below Pathways Consultation, published in 20/10/25.
- Timelines for transitioning
- Implications for the College 2026/27 and 2027/28
- The new Ofsted Framework – areas in scope for scrutiny for the College and Ofsted judgements
- An explanation of grades outlined within the Ofsted Toolkit
- The DfE Intervention Model – 'College Oversight', released on 10/11/25
- National SFCA pay updates
- Student enrolment figures above target

The Principal confirmed that the new Ofsted Framework was now live and that therefore the College was within the scope of Ofsted inspection under this framework now.

Governors queried the readiness of awarding bodies to meet demand from the sector in light of curriculum refocusing – likely that AAQs were already in place in many areas and in others were at an advanced stage of development and it was likely that much of that work within awarding bodies was still relevant and transferable.

A new Governor queried what a V Level was in practical terms – a single A Level sized vocational qualification.

Governors queried whether there were space pressures due to overrecruiting students against target – There had been careful planning to timetable efficiently and some classes are large yet manageable, including in year 2 this year.

Governors requested a training session on the Ofsted Framework, noting in particular one of the strands 'Leadership and Governance'.
The Principal confirmed that provision for this had been embedded into plans already and that TR would be communicating more on this later.
Action TR

STUDENT EXPERIENCE, CURRICULUM & OUTCOMES

5. **Minutes, executive actions and recommendations from the Student Experience, Curriculum & Outcomes Committee 08.10.25**

Bernie Green (SECO Chair)
Bernie provided a verbal update on the substantive matters discussed at the meeting which focused principally on student outcomes and policies referenced within the agenda that were being recommended. Bernie
reported on the positive high student completion rate for the Cross-College Questionnaire and how adding the option to select 'neutral' responses, originally suggested by the student population, had been welcomed by students and had resulted in more balanced responses.
Bernie highlighted that 96.3% of students responding had indicated they would recommend the College to friends and family.
Bernie reported on the positive impact on achievement rates where an Improvement Panel model had been implemented and also in areas targeted for more rapid improvement by the College, such as in STEM and vocational areas in which results were much more positive in 2025.
She reported on the request made by the Committee to look at the exam performance of students who had been predicted U grades earlier in the year to see the impact of interventions and support– 76% of these
students subsequently achieved a pass which the Committee felt was a very positive impact of the actions taken to support these students.

Bernie reported on the College's focus on 'value-added' moving forward, using ALPs scores as the measure. ALPs scores are below the College's aspirations currently and have been identified as a key area for improvement and will be referenced within the QIP, which Governors will view at the December Corporation meeting.

The Principal reported that lower than expected ALPs scores were being reported by fellow Principals across the Sixth Form sector especially in more inclusive sixth form colleges and as such were prioritised for improvement elsewhere too. The College had engaged with other CENBASE peers to share and explore common themes impacting progress. Developing student oracy and further improving both attendance and teaching for students with a range of needs were shared as key areas likely to impact positively on future value added.

5.1 Draft SECO Committee minutes – Paper 002 – these were noted by the Corporation
5.2 Curriculum Policy - Paper 003 – *this was approved by the Corporation*
5.3 Permanent Exclusions Policy – Paper 004 – *this was approved by the Corporation*
5.4 Achievement and Progress Targets – Paper 005 – these were approved by the Corporation

One of the matters raised during the SECO meeting around the reporting of achievement of grade 4 at GCSE was discussed further at the Corporation meeting. The Corporation and ELT agreed to make some syntax and descriptive changes to the way that achievement at grade 4 was being reported, to be clearer on how this aligns with broader understanding within the secondary education sector. **Action TR**

6. Complaints Procedure – Paper 006 – *this was approved by the Corporation*
Tim Rogers

7. Annual Safeguarding Report - Paper 007a
Donna Trusler
Donna reported that positive steps were being taken to support students with mental health needs.
Donna reported that the safeguarding and welfare team had noticed the increase over time of in-depth long-term safeguarding concerns which were taking longer to resolve.

7.1 PREVENT Risk Register and Action Plan – Paper 007b
Donna affirmed that this is a statutory requirement. She affirmed that the LE1 postcode (Leicester city) is within the top 10% level of risk nationally.

7.2 Prevention of Sexual Abuse Action Plan – Paper 007c
Donna Trusler
Governors noted the level of activity being undertaken in this area.

Governors asked Donna about the impact of AI on student safety and welfare. Donna confirmed that staff had received recent training on AI and that they needed to keep pace with AI developments ongoing to enable the College to support students effectively.

The Principal stated that Donna and the College had received a commendation from the PREVENT regional lead on the work being undertaken proactively within the College in this area as well as the engagement and impact beyond as Donna was playing a lead role locally and regionally in developments and sharing best practice.

OVERSIGHT OF FINANCE, RESOURCES & ASSETS

8. Minutes, executive actions and recommendations from the Finance & Resources Committee 15.10. 25

Onkar Korotana (F&R Committee Chair)

Onkar provided a verbal update on the substantive matters discussed at the meeting.

Onkar reported that the Committee had reviewed the management accounts.

The Committee discussed an update on the Estates Masterplan and an update on the significant works completed over the summer – C Building, boiler and window replacement at Regent Road Campus.

8.1 Draft F&R Committee minutes – Paper 008 – *the Corporation noted these*
8.2 Admissions Policy – Paper 009 – *the Corporation approved this*
8.3 Recruitment & Selection Policy & Procedure – Paper 010 – *the Corporation approved this*
8.4 Capability Policy & Procedure – Paper 011 – *the Corporation approved this*
8.5 Performance Review & Development Policy – Paper 012 – *the Corporation approved this.*

Governors queried whether a reduction in agency costs was equated to greater to stability within the College's own workforce. This was confirmed.

9. Budget & Estates Update – Paper 013 - *For discussion & approval*

Dan Ismail

Dan reported that the Finance & Resources Committee had received an update on the College's Estates Masterplan in October. The 2020 masterplan developed with Bond Bryan identified 8 key works packages and three have been delivered, Dan confirmed that £3.7m had now been spent on capital estates projects last year, in line with plans. Bond Bryan had been commissioned to collate a report on options for the College to consider at the mid-point of the masterplan and had drawn up a list of priority projects for consideration. These mainly relate to condition issues across the College estate including the J building, refurbishing toilets at RR Campus, reconfiguring the north wing of the RR campus creating flexibility for up to three classroom spaces. The recommendations also related to seeking consent for continued use of temporary accommodation at the RR campus, as well as refurbishment of social spaces. A planning submission to extend for a further five-year time period has been submitted to the Council in relation to the continuation of use of temporary accommodation.

As an extension to the discussion at the Finance & Resources Committee, the Corporation was asked to approve a capital spend of approx. £1.4m in 2025-26 and a £1m spend in 2026-27, though the Committee was asked to agree this as a two year commitment to enable some flexibility across the two years in terms of prioritisation and delivery needs.

Dan reported that the current cash balance at the end of 2026 was projected at £4.5m and this would include an assumed capital spend of £300k this financial year.
Based on projections the College would be above the financial thresholds limit set out in the Reserves Policy for the identified priority projects over the next two years. A Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) bid would be submitted for the Regent Road Flat Roof Refurbishment, however if this proves unsuccessful then there may need to be use of the projected underspend retained as contingency or from adjusting other projects.

The proposal for the Corporation to consider was to use a.£2.4m capital spending envelope over two years, noting that if a CIF bid is unsuccessful then some of the College reserves may need to be drawn upon, which would be communicated at a later point if necessary but within the £2.4m capital envelope. Dan confirmed that a CIF bid was being prepared by a trusted consultant and was being proposed on a no win, no fee basis. The outcome of the CIF bid submission will be known by May 2026.
A tendering process will commence in December 2025 for priority projects proposed and quotes will be gathered.

It was confirmed that the plan to secure up to three new classroom spaces at RR campus would align with the masterplan and curriculum priorities of the College and that these still aligned with the outcomes from the Curriculum & Assessment Review which gave more certainty.
Dan suggested that the representative from Bond Bryan be invited to a future Corporation meeting to present to Governors on the estate and future options for development.

The Corporation approved the capital budget and forecast for 2025-26 and 2026-27.

10. Recommendations from the Vaughan Committee 19.11.25
Nominated member of Committee
Iain McKenzie provided an update for the Corporation.
Iain reported on the different funds including Thornton, Vaughan and the more recent Alan Brown Fund, as well as a new bequest from Valerie Mackness.
The Committee considered the financial performance of the fund over the last year and considered the growth of the fund over a number of years. In light of this, and a commitment to assuring the future growth and lifespan of the investment for the benefit of future cohorts of student applicants, it was agreed that the Committee will commit to spending 4% of the growth on awards each year.
With an increased number of applications being submitted, it was agreed that the

criteria for awards be considered further for the future, to enable the fairest distribution of funds and that the Principal and Sarah Thomson would consider this and present options to the Committee to consider further.
Iain confirmed that awards from the Vaughan and Thornton Fund (the latter of which will now have been exhausted) had been agreed upon and that confirmations relating to the Alan Brown and Valerie Mackness Funds will shortly follow.

AUDIT, RISK AND EXTERNAL ASSURANCE

10. Minutes, executive actions and recommendations from the Audit & Risk Committee 15.10. 25
Joyce Black (A&R Committee Chair)
Joyce provided a verbal update on the substantive matters discussed at the meeting.
Joyce confirmed that the Committee mainly comprised new Committee members and that there had been a discussion about what the remit and expectations of the Committee were, and the role it plays in providing assurance to the Corporation.
The Committee scrutinised external assurance mechanisms as well as internal quality assurance mechanisms.
The Committee considered its training needs and considered a basket of training options deliverable through the ETF, SFCA and AoC.
Joyce confirmed she had attended an AoC briefing and that the DfE had presented at this and the learning had been useful. She recommended that Governors pursued the training on offer.
Joyce confirmed that the Committee had viewed a number of external assurance reports and that the Bursary Audit Report had been discussed and the Committee had affirmed its support for the College in ensuring that all students at the College had equitable access to services and support.

Joyce confirmed that the second meeting of the autumn term for the Audit & Risk Committee would be taking place on 26th November, at which the external auditors would be presenting their audit findings. The Risk Register and Significant Risks Action Plan will also be considered at the November meeting.

10.1 Draft A&R Committee minutes - Paper 014 – *the Corporation noted these*
10.2 Subcontracting & Supply Chain Policy - Paper 015 – *the Corporation approved this*
10.3 Privacy Policy for Governors – Paper 016 – *the Corporation noted this*

EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

11. Minutes, executive actions and recommendations from the Governance & Search Committee
Iain McKenzie (G&S Committee Chair)

Iain provided a verbal update on the substantive matters discussed at the meeting. Iain stated that the Committee had considered its remit and that

members should question established practice or query matters raised as part of their Governor remit.
Iain confirmed that Jimmy's role as Link Safeguarding Governor had been noted in the meeting.
Iain reported on the recent interview outcome for a prospective External candidate and that her appointment would be considered at the December Corporation meeting. The Committee discussed Governor recruitment and agreed that at least one more External Governor be recruited this academic year. Iain asked all Governors to make a concerted effort to promote the vacancies.
Iain stated that a structured programme of Student Governor support had been discussed at the Committee meeting and a budget for the Changemaker programme had been committed.
Iain highlighted the learning from the Director of Governance's report around the pinch points in the autumn term around workload and rapid succession of governance meetings and that this would be looked at for future years.
Iain referenced the self-review of governance arrangements and the skills audit, both of which were papers in the meeting pack for Governors' reference.
The Director of Governance will look at the outcomes of the skills audit again to identify skills gaps where there is little expertise, reporting this back to the Committee.
The Committee endorsed training baskets for each Committee to undertake across an academic year.
The revised Instrument & Articles will be tabled at the December Corporation meeting.

11.1 Draft G&S Committee minutes – Paper 017 – *the Corporation noted these*

11.2 Governor Skills Audit – Paper 018 - *the Corporation noted this*

11.3 Self-Review of Governance Arrangements 2024-25 – Paper 019
(Overall judgement for discussion & approval)
The Corporation approved the overall judgement of 'Good' and noted reference to this would appear in the statement of corporate governance within the Annual Report.

12. Update on Student Governor role and support
Alison Stone updated the Corporation on the Unloc and Changemaker programmes as well as a plan to undertake some internal induction work with the Director of Governance and her mentoring role ongoing.

13. Update on Governor recruitment
This item had already been discussed.

ROUND-UP

14. AoB
The Director of Governance asked Governors for their urgent responses to the College's eligibility to serve questionnaire which forms part of the ongoing safeguarding requirements. A link to the questionnaire would be issued to

Governors on Friday 21st November. **Action RM and all External and Parent Governors.**

Governors were asked to note two very positive aspects of College life:
- the range of student societies and clubs on offer
- the shop on-site aimed at bursary students covering a range of needs

15. Confidentiality

The Corporation considered matters which would remain confidential:

- Safeguarding Report
- PREVENT risk register and action plan
- Budget and estates papers

16. Next meeting date

Wednesday 17th December 2025, 17:00 -19:00
The Chair asked Governors to note that there would be a celebration of Bernie Green's long service and commitment as an External Governor at this meeting, which will be Bernie's last meeting as a Governor as her tenure expires at the end of December 2025.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS *(For approval)*

17. Disciplinary Policy & procedure update – Paper 020
Sarah Oldfield
The Corporation approved the policy and procedure.

FOR GOVERNOR REFERENCE AND LEARNING
(not intended for discussion)

18. External Assurance reports – Paper 021

19 Strategy overviews – Paper 022

20. Reports – Paper 023

The meeting closed at 18:40.

Action List

Actions from the meeting on 19th November 2025	Who is responsible?	Date for completion
Make provision for Governor training on the new Ofsted Framework	TR	
Make some syntax and descriptive changes to the way that achievement at grade 4 was being reported, to be clearer on how this aligns with broader understanding within the secondary education sector	TR	

Issue (RM) and expedite completion of eligibility to serve questionnaire as part of safeguarding protocols	RM, all Governors	ASAP
Standing item	**Who is responsible?**	**Date for completion**
To refer any matter which could be externally assured to the Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee	All Governors	

Signature: **……………………………………..**

Chair of the Corporation

Date: ………………………………………………