

## Local Governing Board

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023

### Minutes

**Present:** George Constantinides  
Del Cooke (Chair)  
David Lee  
Phil Ramsden  
Wasim Rehman

**In Attendance:** Sugra Alibhai  
Beth Holmes  
Peter Green  
Tim Grundy

1.	Governance
2.	Previous Minutes
3.	Matters Arising
4.	Head's Report
5.	School Improvement Plan
6.	Admissions
7.	Widening Participation
8.	Curriculum
9.	Building Update
10.	U-Maths Network
11.	ICLMS Risk Register
12.	AOB

Minute	Decision /Action	D/A
1.4	It was agreed that the Chair of Trustees and Clerk would discuss the Terms of Reference regarding the role of governors in the recruitment of senior staff, along with the closing of identified gaps in relation to subjects and key groups.	A
1.4	Clerk to create a central folder on Governorhub containing key documents such as Keeping Children safe in Education and the Scheme of Delegation.	A
1.4	To approve the Terms of Reference, subject to the requested changes.	D
1.5	Clerk to discuss next steps with the Chair and Headteacher regarding the election of a Staff and Parent Governor.	A
10.	Peter Green to discuss U-Maths funding distribution with Maggie Dallman, along with governance and whether maths schools can receive donations directly.	A

#### 1. Governance

##### 1.1 Apologies for Absence

Emma McCoy

##### 1.2 Declaration of Interest

Del Cooke and George Constantinides declared an interest in item 1.3 and did not participate.

##### 1.3 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

It was agreed to appoint Del Cooke and George Constantinides as Chair and Vice Chair of the Local Governing Board respectively for the academic year.

##### 1.4 Terms of Reference

Governors reviewed the Terms of Reference of the ICLMS Local Governing Board, making a number of cosmetic changes. It was agreed

that further clarity was needed on the involvement of governors in the recruitment of senior staff, along with further clarification around the closing of identified gaps in performance in relation to subjects and key groups. It was agreed that the Chair of Trustees and Clerk would discuss this.

Action

**In response to a question from governors**, the Clerk confirmed that the Terms of Reference form part of the Scheme of Delegation which outlines the responsibilities of each level of governance within the Trust. It was confirmed that the Scheme of Delegation is shared with all governors after being approved by the Board of Trustees.

**It was requested** that the Clerk create a central folder on Governorhub containing key documents such as Keeping Children safe in Education and the Scheme of Delegation.

Action

**In response to a question from governors**, the Clerk confirmed that the Trust has requested that an External Review of Governance takes place in the spring term and that ensuring clear definitions of safeguarding responsibilities between governors and trustees is a key priority. The Chair confirmed that the Local Governing Board should be asking questions on the safeguarding data within the Headteacher's Report.

The Terms of Reference were agreed, subject to the requested changes.

Decision

### **1.5 Membership**

The Clerk informed the Governing Board that elections for the Staff and Parent Governors have recently taken place. However, no applications have yet been received. It was agreed that the Clerk would discuss next steps with the Chair and Headteacher.

Action

## **2. Previous Minutes**

The previous minutes of the meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023 were reviewed and approved as an accurate record of the events that took place. It was confirmed that the minutes of the ICLMS Local Governing Board meetings are not published during the pre-opening stage.

## **3. Matters Arising**

3.3 David Lee confirmed that ongoing work is taking place around assessment metrics, and these will be benchmarked against A level and AS level grade boundaries.

9. The Local Governing Board congratulated the school on a positive pre-opening meeting with Ofsted.

10. Peter Green to discuss U-Maths funding distribution with Maggie Dallman, along with governance and whether maths schools can receive donations directly.

Action

10. Del Cooke responded to Janice Kay regarding the U Maths Memorandum of Understanding.

#### 4. **Headteacher's Report**

The Local Governing Board received the Headteacher's Report and was invited to ask questions.

**In response to a question**, Sugra Alibhai explained that, whilst the Board of Trustees is responsible for the Trust's 5-year plan, the annual School Improvement Plan is the responsibility of the Local Governing Body.

The Governing Board noted the four-year priorities for the school:

##### Students

- Achieving a diverse, high-achieving student body that is representative of the demographics of London in terms of ethnicity, gender, and in which students from socio-economic disadvantaged backgrounds are disproportionately represented.
- Developing a curriculum that fosters enthusiasm for the subjects mathematical sciences; and collaboration; and prepares students for future study, including a super-curricular offer than extends beyond the A level curriculum.
- Achieving excellent outcomes at A level (as many as possible achieve A or A\*).
- Producing students who are ready to be healthy, successful adults.

##### Staff

- Developing a shared vision for teaching and learning at ICLMS in line with the values and ethos of the school, and that contributes to a culture of collaboration, support, improvement and innovation.
- Ensuring that all subjects are valued by the ICLMS leadership and accounted for in decision making.

##### Operational

- Achieving an over-subscribed, financially sustainable school.
- Successfully transitioning to the new building and maximising the use of space and the opportunities provided by a new building and its site.
- Establishing sustainable systems and work practices that adapt to the needs of the growing school.
- Managing roles and responsibilities in response to the increase in staff as the school grows.

##### Wider Impact

- Developing a sustainable, impactful Outreach programme that contributes positively to local provision and is aligned with the Outreach aims of Imperial College London.
- Establishing a functioning strategy for working with alumni to contribute to the activities of the school.
- Maintaining mutually strong working relationships with Woodhouse College, Imperial College London, and the University Maths School Network.
- Establishing partners to provide additional fundraising to support the school.

**In response to a question from governors**, David Lee acknowledged that success measures are not quantitative for some of the priorities, such as developing a curriculum that fosters enthusiasm for the subjects and explained that student voice has already begun to take place. It was agreed that students could be invited to meetings of the Governing Board to share their experience of the school so far. The Governing Board agreed that, whilst some targets weren't quantifiable, the school should continue to focus on these areas, given the importance of the super curriculum.

Governors congratulated staff on getting the school set up and the fantastic work that is already taking place. It was noted that a number of governors had already visited the school and commented on the positive atmosphere and the enthusiasm with which students are participating in lessons.

## 5. **School Improvement Plan**

The Governing Body received the 2023-24 School Improvement Plan.

Noting the target that *no student should have less than 90% attendance*, the Governing Board discussed this in detail and agreed that the school may need to show some flexibility in this area. **In response to a question from governors**, Tim Grundy explained that the school had adopted Woodhouse's Fitness to Study Policy, which is primarily applied to students with medical needs, and sets alternative targets in terms of attendance and deadlines.

**In response to a question from governors**, Sugra Alibhai explained that, if a student has poor attendance, this will allow the school to start a conversation with the family about what additional support may be required. The Governing Board was informed that both the Fitness to Study Policy and Academic and Attendance Stages are in place to support students and it is important that these are not seen as punitive by families.

The Governing Body particularly noted the objective around ensuring a fair and efficient admissions and enrolment process that results in a 2024 cohort that is representative of local demographics, with a particular focus on increasing the number of girls.

## 6. **Admissions**

David Lee provided an update on 2024 admissions, explaining that 150 applications had already been submitted and it is hoped that 300-400 are received in total. It was noted that exams will take place on 17 December, with interviews in February 2024. **In response to a follow-up question**, Tim confirmed that so far 38% of applications received have been from females.

**In response to a question from governors**, David confirmed that the school is looking to conduct around 150 interviews and make 100 to 120 offers for 60 places. It was noted that this is an increase from last year and the school is considering how best to manage this process in terms of resource.

## 7. **Widening Participation**

David reminded the Governing Board of the school's targets around widening participation, particularly in relation to girls, black students and pupil premium and free school meals students. It was noted that the current cohort includes five girls and the long-term goal is to increase this to at least 40%.

The Governing Board was informed that the school has met with its lawyers to discuss how it can encourage applications in these areas, without being inappropriately discriminatory. It was noted that, as the school is now open and has reliable data, a case can be made to take action to improve the enrolment of students in key groups.

**Governors questioned** whether, after the conversation with the lawyers, the school aims to weight applications from particular groups in the future. David confirmed that this is something that is being considered but explained the school must ensure that it allows for equal opportunities.

David detailed the actions that are taking place to encourage female applications, such as ensuring strong female representation on open evenings and taster days, as well as an early bird workshop to prepare for the entry test. It was noted that training will be given around interviews to ensure that these are consistent and female interviewers will be used as much as possible.

The Governing Body discussed whether the requirement to study chemistry and science could be a factor, given that there is also a need to increase female participation in the hard sciences, and it was noted that all the current female students take physics, with two also taking chemistry.

**Governors questioned** what the school is doing to ensure that female students are supported in a male-heavy environment, and it was noted that all female students are in the same tutor group and have a female tutor who has ongoing conversations with these students to ensure that they are supported.

## 8. Curriculum

David Lee presented an update on the curriculum, reminding governors that this has been discussed in theory by the Local Governing Board during the pre-opening stage and went on to explain how this is now working in practice.

Governors noted a typical timetable of an ICLMS student taking four subjects, which also includes super-curriculum (rebranded as Developing Mathematicians Programme) and weekly problem-solving and 'skills for mathematicians' sessions, as well as research projects and guest lectures. It was noted that the schools aim is to cover all of the maths A level and all pure further maths AS level content by the end of year 12.

David also drew attention to the pastoral curriculum, which includes personal development, regular tutor check-ins, 1:1s and lunchtime clubs and societies.

## 9. MATHS Network

It was noted that the number of maths schools in the country continues to grow, with Leeds and Cambridge recently opening. The Governing Body was reminded

that Maggie Dallman sits on the U Maths Steering Group and this is currently recruiting Trustees.

It was noted that the U-Maths Governor Network Day will take place on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May in Aston, with the option to stay overnight and attend a dinner on the Thursday night, to which all Governors and Trustees were invited.

**10. Building Update**

The Governing Board noted that the plans are underway for phase 2 of the temporary accommodation for the next academic year. Regarding the permanent building, the school is required to attend a final planning meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> November and should receive a final decision. If approved, the permanent building is expected to be completed by September 2025.

**11. ICLMS Risk Register**

The Governing Board considered the ICLMS risk register and was reminded that this is owned by the Audit & Compliance Committee.

**12. Any Other Business**

None.

The meeting concluded at 7:58pm.