

KING'S OAK ACADEMY
Academy Council Meeting
Wednesday 18 June 2025– 4.15pm

AC Members	Role	Attended/Apologies
Diane Owen (DOn)	Sponsor 1 (Chair)	Y
Gary Pine (GPe)	Sponsor 2	Y
Sonia Tibbatts (STs)	Sponsor 3	Y
Liz Gregory (LGy)	Sponsor 4	Y
Deda Odutola (DOa)	Parent Councillor	Y
Sabrina Marie-Anais (SMa)	Staff Councillor	Y
Anthony Wilkinson (AWn)	Teacher Councillor	Apologies
Tamasyn Russell (TRu)	Parent Councillor	Y
Additional attendees		
Katherine Ogden (KOn)	Principal	Y
Tony Searle (TSe)	Executive Principal	Apologies
Sonny Richards (SRs)	LA Representative	Apologies
Michael Diggie (MDe)	Student Advocate	Y
Susie Weaver (SWr)	Education Director	Y
Ellen Montgomery (EMy)	Head of Lower School	Y part
Chris Nathan (CNn)	Head of Middle School	Y part
Phil Spring (PSg)	Assistant Associate Principal	Y part
Wendy Hellin (WHn)	Clerk	Y

ACTIONS BROUGHT FORWARD

Date and No	Relates to item	Action	Owner
03.07.24 04	7.1.15	Meeting need is a recurrent thread in the AIP, ARV etc and will be a focus for discussion at future AC meetings. Ongoing	KOn DOn
06.11.24 02	6.17.2	Year 10 cohort will be discussed again by the Academy Council after the January data drop, at the March sub-committee meeting. On agenda. Closed	EDe KOn
23.04.25 01	5.1.8	KOn to consider collecting pupil voice around why boys are outperforming girls in some subject areas. Ongoing	KOn
23.04.25 02	7.3	Participation rates to be reported to the AC on at least one occasion in the next academic year (2025/26). Ongoing	KOn DOn

1	Introduction, Administration & Apologies	Action
1.1	DOn welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies are recorded above.	
2	Declarations of Interest	
2.1	No new declarations were made.	
3	Minutes of Previous Meeting	
3.1	The minutes from the previous meeting (23.04.25) were confirmed as a true record.	
4	Matters Arising	
4.1	The actions table (above) has been updated.	
5	Ofsted	
5.1	Ofsted has taken place. KOn provided a confidential update on the inspection including the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was a graded inspection process with four inspectors present; • The draft report will be received within 20 days of the inspection; • A checking exercise then takes place; • Once the factual accuracy check is complete the final report will be published. The Ofsted parent view survey results are linked on the agenda.	

5.2	DOn thanked KOn and the whole staff team, on behalf of the Academy Council for the huge amount of hard work undertaken over the last few years. The final report will be shared with Academy Councillors once published.	
6	Raising Attainment Update	
6.1	Lower School - including case studies to evidence impact	
6.1.1	EYFS EMy shared some detail around each of the assessment points. For EYFS there are prime areas of learning. Boys are doing well in maths and in literacy. There are 34 children in Reception with the majority being girls. Overall, the girls are outperforming boys. In terms of areas for development, there are 4 PP children in Reception, and half are yet to be on track, particularly for the physical development strands. A high number of children in Reception are being noted as having SEND or behavioural needs. It will be a complex and impactful cohort. EMy shared a case study with Academy Councils for a child in Reception.	
6.1.2	Phonics Year 1 Details of the termly phonic screening assessments were shared. Children complete a past paper each term. The children have done well in term 6. EMy shared a case study for a student in Year 1.	
6.1.3	Year 4 – MTC checks EMy shared a tracker that shows the average of the children’s scores throughout the year for the MTC check. MTC is out of 25 marks, there is no nationally set pass mark, however, the trust sets this as 23. The majority of children are averaging full marks of 25/25. EMy shared a case study for a Year 4 pupil. Councillors noted the usefulness of these case-studies as they allow more detailed scrutiny.	
6.1.4	ACTION: Next year the AC will identify the type of child to receive a case study for. Academy Councillors will consider who that may be once the summer outcomes are known.	ALL
6.2	Middle School	
6.2.1	CNa provided an update on middle school. The SATs process is complete and there are some celebration events planned, including a party on the field and a prom in the canteen. Work continues to support the transition for Year 6 students into Year 7, as well as Year 4 into Year 5. There was a successful open evening this week, which was well received by families.	
6.2.2	There are currently 41 students in Year 6 that are moving up to Year 7. This is out of 51 students in the cohort; just over 80%. The hope is that year on year this increases to the ideal figure of 100%. Where students are not staying at KOA, they have generally moved for practical reasons, such as a house move or issues getting siblings to school. In addition to those 41 students moving up to Year 7, there will be children joining from across the 12 other local primary schools and some from home education. There are a range of meetings planned between colleagues and those primary schools to build relationships and to gather information about the pastoral and academic profile of children joining KOA. There are 8 EHCPs in the current Year 7 with a further 2 in progress and there is likely to be a high level of SEND coming into Year 7 in September. The transition process will be key and there are some formal and informal transition events planned over the next few weeks.	
6.2.3	Questions from Academy Councillors	
6.2.4	At a previous meeting you mentioned that some Year 6 pupils struggled with their mental health during the mocks, particularly in terms of their resilience. Was this also the case for the actual SATs? It varied. For the most part, students managed and were able to go through the SATs process. A couple of students struggled but we were able to provide some support. We are now using Kooth and have accessed some exam resources focused on KS2. We are already embedding these approaches with Year 5 and Year 6 students. There are also some resources for Year 10.	
6.2.5	Is there a trend within SEND that you are seeing? It is mostly students with EHCP or SEMH needs. Increasingly, we are also seeing students returning to school after periods of home schooling. This is something seen in schools such as DSSB where students are homeschooled for period of KS3 but return to school to study GCSEs, however, we are now seeing this with students joining Year 7 as well.	

6.2.6	<p>Have the current Year 6 cohort had opportunities to mix with Year 7 ahead of their transition into the upper school, so that the current Year 7 can model leadership and pride in the school etc?</p> <p>We do not stream in the academy; we mix the students. However, you can normally tell those that have grown with us, right through the all-through academy and that understand the culture and expectations. Those students help us set the culture and tone of the year group. We are advantaged here in that our KS2 pupils have already spent time in the wider academy through opportunities such as specialist PE lessons and the use of the art and science laboratories that some non-KOA students might not have had access to.</p>	
6.2.7	ACTION: AMA will add details of upcoming performances to Governor Hub so that Academy Councillors can attend if they are available.	AMA
6.3	Upper school	
6.3.1	PSg advised that Year 10 mocks are just starting. There are 41 disadvantaged students (PP) which represents about 33% of the cohort. From the March mock data, key trends were identified for the cohort as well as at an individual student level. There is a focus from the Heads of the three core departments on these key groups and individuals. There is one class in particular that has been highlighted as requiring support; students in this class had the lowest academic starting points and will this year be judged only on their attainment, not progress. The focus is on ensuring they make progress to get a minimum of grade 4 outcomes across all subjects.	
6.3.2	In addition, there is a focus in science on the higher attaining students for triple science. The foundation tier is a smaller cohort, and the higher tier students are not quite where they need to be. They are all being taught by experienced SLT colleagues.	
6.3.3	There is a big push on the use of knowledge organisers and revision guides and a focus on using the Question Level Analysis (QLA) document to identify key areas for groups around the general trends coming through. In English, there is a big push on the use of visualisers. There has previously been a heavy reliance on pre-made resources and there is a switch to showing strategies in Walking Talking Mocks and through the use of visualisers. Overall, the key theme is about knowing pupils well, knowing which interventions to use and when and how to track the data.	
6.3.4	ACTION: Data on destinations will be reviewed by the Academy Council in the autumn term.	KOn DOn
7	Review of AIP	
7.1	Questions from the Academy Council	
7.2	<p>Have you considered the key themes for the AIP for next year? Will any of this year's themes remain on the AIP?</p> <p>This year we wanted to embed the work on attendance and literacy. For next year, we will keep attendance, and the literacy element will remain a focus but not necessarily on the AIP. The literacy work links closely to securing outcomes over time. We might have a focus around meeting need; we are still considering the final priorities. Partnerships is an interesting area. We are yet to decide if this will be a priority on the AIP; some threads will remain although some of the language may change.</p>	
8	AC Report	
8.1	The AC report has been shared in advance. No further questions were asked.	
9	Safeguarding	
9.1	KOn highlighted that the academy is alert to the news coverage in the press around serious youth violence and the risks young people are exposed to. Some of the most serious cases happen around this time of year and in particular during the summer break. Work has happened to support students across the year on this subject. Planning is taking place so that next year there is an additional focus on serious youth crime during terms 3 and 4 ahead of the summer period.	
9.2	LGy advised that the South Gloucestershire safeguarding audit has now been completed by SHy. The completed audit was checked by LGy ahead of it being returned and LGy confirmed she was happy with the detail included on it.	

9.3	LGy noted that it was school safety week towards the end of the academic year. LGy will meet with SHy following that week and also attend the SSG. LGy advised that SHy needs to do a monitoring and filtering audit, as part of the KCSIE requirements and has planned that in.	
9.4	LGy left the meeting.	
10	Finance, Health and Safety, Estates	
10.1	KOn provided an update on the budget for next year, which has proved to be one of the most challenging to set due to reduced funding and rising costs. KOA is a challenging site in terms of the maintenance costs of the estate. Pupil numbers also impact the funding received and this is compounded by a falling birth rate nationally and lower pupil numbers in the secondary phase due to some pupils leaving at the start of year 10 to attend local studio schools. In addition, the nature of being an all-through academy means a reduction in the lump sum funding that would normally be given to both the primary and secondary school.	
10.2	KOn advised that what this means is that the academy needs to operate differently in order to make sufficient savings whilst avoiding managing change processes. The KS1 classes are being restructured so that the four Year 1 and Year 2 classes will be organised into three mixed year classes and a 2-year revolving curriculum will be introduced. This is not unusual in primary schools and there are advantages to the pupils in being in mixed classes. KOn explained the staffing that would support the revised structure to illustrate how savings would be made.	
10.3	In addition, there is an intention to reduce the PAN for Reception to a one form entry (30 pupils) from 2027. A communications plan for these changes is currently being carefully considered. There will also be some purposeful promotion of the school to ensure as many pupils as possible are recruited into Year 7.	
10.4	KOn reported that the Head of Upper School is leaving at the end of the academic year. There are four AAPs, and the intention will be to have two leading the middle school and two leading the upper school going forwards. The depth of experience and resource in the SLT and wider leadership team has meant that these roles can be filled flexibly without the need for national recruitment.	
10.5	KOn advised that as part of the partnership working with Reach, the academy has been successful in securing funding of £100k per year for a three-year period to further develop community work. It is intended to use some of that money to connect further with local primary schools and the wider community to focus on the recruitment and retention of pupils.	
11	Governance	
11.1	DOn noted that DOa's term of office comes to an end at the end of August. It is proposed DOa transfers into a sponsor councillor role. Additionally, SMA's term of office expires in September and a staff election process will need to be run at that time. ACTION: WH to start the process to move DOa to a sponsor role. ACTION: WH to initiate a staff election process in September.	WH WH
11.2	As part of the planning for next year's AC meetings, DOn asked Academy Councillors for feedback on this year's meeting structure in terms of timing, committees and content. Academy Councillors provided the following feedback: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is good to have the flexibility to be able to join online or in person • This year the quality of reporting has improved again, and the AC are able to ask better questions and provide appropriate challenge • Governor Hub is very helpful; it could be used even more in terms of messaging etc. • The Link Councillor roles in place feel like the right ones and should continue. • The sub-committees are working well; the number of senior leaders attending full AC meetings has reduced as those leaders now have a larger role in presenting at the sub-committee meetings. • Tuesday is a preferred day for meetings, if possible. 	
12	Items for Board / COAC	
12.1	No items for the board or COAC were raised.	
13	AOB	
13.1	No further business was reported. The meeting closed at 6.15pm.	
13.2	Dates for next year:	

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