

**Summary of discussions of the Local Academy Committee meeting
held on Monday 29th September at 5:15pm at East Leake Academy**

Membership	Initial	Category	Absence
Ms J England	JE	Staff Governor	
Mr K Leckie	KL	Appointed Governor	
Miss K O'Hagan	KOH	Appointed Governor	
Mrs S Rhodes	SR	Parent Governor	
Mr G Roberts	GR	Appointed Governor	
Mr A Ward	AW	Parent Governor	
Ms S Wilson	SW (Chair)	Appointed Governor	
Quorum required: 4 Governors present: 7			

In Attendance	Initial	Position	Absence
Mrs A Elway	AKE	Head of Governance	
Mrs A Hewitt	AH	Governance Professional	
Mr T Jackson	TIJ	Vice Principal	
Mr M Martin	MM	Observer (new governor)	
Mr T Reid	TER	Principal	
Mr P Renshaw	PR	Observer (new governor)	
Mr D Vernon	DV	Executive Principal	

Outstanding Actions Log

C = Complete	CF = Carried Forward	I – Incomplete (CF more than once)
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Item	Meeting Ref	Action Req	Responsibility	Timeline	Update	C/CF
AC/72/2425	SUM 2	SEND Link Governor, to catch up on SEND briefing and report back.	SR	29.09.25	Progressive model for SEND teaching, importance of communication with parents/carers.	C
AC/72/2425	SUM 2	Governors to complete Code of Conduct and Declaration of Interest for 2025/26.	All Govs	25.07.25		C

AC/73/2425		Professional development and impact planning for 2025/26 information to be shared at the September or November meeting in the Autumn term	TER	29/09/25 or 17/11/25	Detail will be ready for November LAC2	CF

Headline Exam Results Presentation by Mr Jackson, 5.15pm – 5.45pm

Q = Question from governors

A = Answer from senior leadership

A-level

- Results show an improving picture to pre-Covid standards
- 27/28% A/A*
- Just under 34% APS (C+)

Q) Aim is average grade B, what are the strategies to achieve this?

A) Long term plan is to nail GCSE's and there are predominantly conversations around Y11. However, in two more years the GCSE process should be sorted and the conversations and meetings will focus on A-level. Results have seen students all achieve their first choice Universities but we need to be tighter – tracking of results came in lower than expected last year.

GCSE

- Proud of results, best in ELA history
- No Progress 8 measure this year
- Average grade is above a grade 5 – historically a grade 4
- FFT higher than national average
- SEND consistently closing the progress gap
- ELA performed well in the Diverse Academies Trust
- 146 re-marks submitted with 134 returned to date. 27% of these have increased in grade.
- Faculties are carrying out analysis

Q) Is there any feedback from students on the pre-exam warm up sessions?

A) Yes, very positive. This was a strong initiative and students enjoyed it, especially having their class teacher at the sessions.

Q) Were the pre-exam warm up sessions compulsory to attend?

A) We advised students to attend and the sessions started at 8.30am (however, students could arrive earlier). No content was discussed at these sessions but advice given on remembering exam points and techniques for the specific subject.

Q) For subject areas where we previously targeted improvements (MFL, geography, history) has this been successful?

A) MFL have made massive improvements in the classroom and also cultural improvements with trips, European week of languages and work within faculties to understand and deliver the curriculum. The quality of work in lessons is next level. We visited another school for best practise and now we are matching them. Geography has made improvements in the right direction and are earlier in their journey than MFL. Work still needs to be done in history. Faculties are concentrating 'feeding forward' now and interventions are already taking place for the current Y11. What is achievable for this year group is lower than the previous cohort.

Q) Have any other subject areas/faculties been flagged?

A) MFL must be maintained. Biology has been on the radar since 2024 but did come out on top with results, despite underperformance. We need to get the best from the NEA's (Non-Examined Assessments) before examinations but there is a tight calendar to allow for this (BTEC Sport, Music, Food, DT, Engineering).

Q) Has there been any impact of the Y9 option change?

A) This will be the results in 2 years' time.

Q = Question from governors

A = Answer from senior leadership

Item	Key Points/Summary	Action Req	Responsibility	Timeline
AC/01/2526	Apologies for absence and welcome to observers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apologies received and accepted from KOH (illness) MM and PR introduced as potential new governors, observing the meeting MM met with Chair and Principal and has had a tour of ELA 			
AC/02/2526	Declaration of interest and any changes to declarations made <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KL to update for 2024/25 	Re-send DoI link	AH	03.10.25
AC/03/2526	Minutes of the previous Academy Committee meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes of meeting dated 29th June 2025 were received and agreed. 			
AC/04/2526	Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outstanding Actions Log discussed and updated. 			

AC/05/2526	Governance Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MM and PR here as observers, looking to onboard at LAC2. This takes LAC membership to nine. • Link Governors confirmed to cover statutory roles: SR (SEND), SW (Careers), KOH (H&S), GR (Safeguarding). One visit annually, two if possible – late Autumn term plus Spring/Summer • SEND link report received. No questions. • Outstanding governor training to be completed. • Trust training plan circulated. <p>JE left 18.07</p>	<p>Link gobs to plan in Autumn meetings.</p> <p>Gobs to complete any outstanding training on National College.</p>	<p>Link Gobs</p> <p>Gobs</p>	<p>19.12.25</p> <p>30.09.25</p>
AC/06/2526	ERM, Autumn 2025 Q) We are improving but still below the national average. Do we have any benchmark information from other schools' initiatives which may help? A) The academy has made improvements and is in a stronger position than this time last year. Responses to attendance are improved, as is the tracking. Those that missed 2 days during the start of term 2024 went on to get worse but the academy is tracking those early non-attenders this year. The Trust has invested in this and now we have the data to act upon. There are always those that struggle but this is more than just the letters – streaks, tutor time, building a strong culture and impact on results. Y7 into Y8 is a normal drop off but today Y8's attendance is the best. Y11 has improved but is not as strong as last year when in Y10. There are some SEND students with EHCP's who are waiting for a place at a special school so therefore aren't attending ELA. Q) Report refers to 50 letters and supportive phone calls. Is this sustainable for our staff to do? Also do we have any indications of whether this strategy is working? Do you receive a response from the letters? A) We expect this to reduce and are isolating those that are potentially persistent non-attenders. We follow a supportive process involving the Attendance Officer, Family Support Liaison Officer and Pastoral			

	<p>assistants. Home visits are also carried out. Reception receive a lot of call in response to the letters. Once conversations have taken place with the relevant staff and the parent/carer, this is then more supportive. SEND students are encouraged to return to lesson rather than immediately be sent home. There will be rewards trips for each year group.</p> <p>Q) Link between attendance and attainment is clear in the data. For target areas (e.g. FSM students) is there anything more we can do to ensure this message is reaching the right people? Community Connect evenings are not the target audience.</p> <p>A) Over the summer, attendance data was scrutinized and for those students coming into Y7, conversations took place with parents/carers of those children with attendance issues highlighted.</p> <p>Q) We are not clear about the comment "significant reduction in FTS days since the previous academic year". Looking at the numbers the FTS days have gone up, and also repeat FTS days have gone up. Can you clarify this please?</p> <p>A) The data excluded leavers (those permanently excluded or placed at another school) but now this data is back in. Fixed Term Suspension (FTS) days equal 253. More short term FTS than long. The academy are reviewing how Brook House is used. It can already be seen that some students in Y7 aren't suited here; there are 3 in Brook House now but they won't likely integrate back into mainstream school and need 1:1 support. FTS are likely to go up, before they come down.</p> <p>Safeguarding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All information shared. There were no questions. <p>Stakeholder Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y6 Open Evening, 25.09.25: SR attended • Sixth Form Open Evening, 16.10.25: SW and KL to attend • Y9 Pathways Evening, 13.11.25: SR to attend, TBC SW, KL. 	Review updates on this data.	SLT	Spring term meetings
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governors will be notified of date in July 2026 for Y6 parents welcome evening 			
AC/07/2526	Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governors received the admission appendix for 2027/28 and noted there were no proposed changes. Governors determined the admission arrangements for 2027/28. No queries were raised regarding the Trust Policies listed on the agenda. 			
AC/08/2526	How has the Academy Committee held the Senior Leaders to account <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Exam results ➤ Attendance ➤ Behaviour 			
AC/09/2526	How have the vision, mission and values of the Trust been upheld? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student successes are not just about the grades. Students achieving their potential through difficult circumstances are worth celebrating. 			
AC/10/2526	Complete the report to Trustees and receive comments from Trustees from last report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trustee comments were circulated. ELA LAC report to be completed following the meeting. 	Complete report to Trustees	SW/AH	13.10.25
AC/11/2526	Determination of confidentiality of business and Equality Act consideration. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were no confidential items to note. Equality Act considered throughout the meeting. 			
AC/12/2526	Date and time of next Academy Committee meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday 17th November 2025 at 5.15pm in the library. <p>Close: 18.39</p>			

Signed: *Sharon Wilson* (approved by Chair for circulation)
Date: 06.11.25

Signed: *Tom Reid* (approved by Principal for circulation)
Date: 14.10.25

Approved by LAC: 17.11.25