

	21	Confirm the threshold for each academic year of decisions more than 5% of the budget (when budget is approved)	GR	Item 12	ALL
	21	Add reminder to the annual planner for GR to confirm threshold	SM	Complete	
	24	Understand feedback regarding the Focus Governor report and make changes as necessary	SM	Feedback requested from governors – governors to send these information/ observations	
4.	Chair's Report to Corporation - the report was noted.				
5.	Focus Governance Artemis: The report was noted. <i>Questions from governors:</i> <i>Is there a risk that the energy currently devoted to responding to Ofsted will not carry on through into normal business?</i> GW has no concerns on this as the passion to build a better college is evident, irrespective of Ofsted, and momentum has been embedded. LN added that staff are positive about the intent of the changes. Finance: The report was noted. <i>Questions from governors:</i> <i>What is discussed in your regular meetings with GR?</i> BB confirmed that he meets with GR most months, and they are frequently in contact between meetings. The meetings discuss in depth the assumptions made around income and expenditure, and any changes.				
6.	Principal's Report MR gave a verbal update: - Following the recent death of a student, support has been offered to staff and immediate friends and classmates. MR has been in contact with the family. - The annual review meeting with the DfE took place and a complimentary letter was received (included in papers). They were happy with the direction taken. - A peer quality review has taken place with Wessex Colleges. This is another external viewpoint, confirming the benefit of our approach. - Following Strategy Day, MR is working on the next draft of the strategy document. - MR is meeting with Gloucestershire College in two weeks' time to discuss the Defence Colleges bid further. - No safeguarding concerns to report. <i>Questions from governors:</i> <i>What is the DfE's approach at the annual review meeting? Is it similar in focus to Ofsted?</i> MR noted that it is broadly the same, focusing on financial health and student achievement. It is carried out by the regional team and reviews information at a higher level than Ofsted. <i>What does your report mean by T Level assessment being "burdensome".</i> The administrative burden is high as there is little standardisation across the different exam				

	boards in terms of language used, nomenclature of files, or how to submit assessment information to the exam boards. In addition, staff mark the work and submit the results, rather than the exam board doing the marking. As a significant amount of the course is assessment-based, this adds to workload and can also make timetabling difficult. - <i>Is this likely to be the same for V Levels?</i> Possibly, although this is a well-known issue with T Levels. - <i>Does this mean staff do not wish to be involved in T Levels?</i> It is certainly a big undertaking, and some colleges have curtailed plans to develop T Levels. - <i>What is the impact on college if our mix of qualification means that T Levels (~25%) administratively takes up more time than A Levels (~75%), especially if then similarly extrapolated to V Levels?</i> MR noted that these qualifications are resource-heavy and the exams team has already been expanded.	
7.	Follow-up from Strategy Day A discussion was held regarding general reflections from the Strategy Day, with governors recognising the benefits of spending time together, being able to discuss with external stakeholders, and meeting off-site. It was a particularly helpful day for new governors. The following annual routine for discussing and agreeing strategy was approved by Corporation: 1) <i>Spring</i>: Strategy Day to discuss strategy in depth and allow time for follow-up through the rest of the academic year. 2) <i>September</i>: Opportunity to review and agree the outputs of the Strategy Day and agree the strategy at the start of the academic year. <i>Questions from governors:</i> - <i>Does the session in September include a review of the exam results?</i> Exam results were reported as a podcast last year with opportunity to discuss or ask questions at the September meeting. - <i>What actions will come out of the Strategy Day this year?</i> MR is currently working on a draft for the updated strategy following Strategy Day. This will be shared before the summer holidays for review. This can then be discussed in September. ACTION: MR to share updated strategy document ahead of summer holidays A discussion followed about the manuscript strategy document and the corporate goals poster: - It was agreed that both documents serve different purposes, and both are required. - The poster is good for displaying around college and on the website. - A link between the two documents is required. - Having something visual and concise to refer to is better for staff engagement and clarity.	MR
8.	Review Key Performance Indicator tracker against Strategic Priorities 2025-2030 MR reminded governors that the KPIs are reset over the summer and some will no longer be relevant. Good progress has been made this year. The KPI to have fallen in priority – reflecting its more discretionary nature – has been the development of international relationships.	
9.	Building bid update GR reported that the outcome of the bid would be known in July. Work progresses with construction drawings and investigating temporary accommodation for classes next year.	

10.	Restructure update **KF left at 18:13** MR confirmed that interviews have taken place for the Vice-Principal roles.	
11.	Receive update against actions in Accountability Statement 2025-2026 MR reminded governors that this is annual statement to review progress against the goals and confirmed a positive response to all agreed objectives. He added that this report is also shared as part of the DfE annual conversation. Current performance indicates 55% achievement in relation to workplace engagement, although performance is strong overall. Benchmark 6 (Experiences of Workplaces) remains the most challenging, as it relates to securing sufficient work experience placements across a large, geographically dispersed catchment area. This benchmark is particularly difficult to achieve across the sector. However, work experience placements will increase, with anticipated improvement in this measure by the end of the academic year. <i>Questions from governors:</i> - <i>Is it an issue that we have not met Benchmark 6?</i> This is not a major concern, as the challenge in meeting Benchmark 6 is widely recognised externally and few providers achieve it fully. While the College continues to aim towards this benchmark, it is unlikely to be fully met with current resource constraints. - <i>What is the impact on Ofsted and the learner if this benchmark is not met?</i> From an Ofsted perspective, the College's profile will remain broadly in line with comparable institutions. Evidence of employer engagement and participation in careers conventions provides assurance of strong practice, although not yet a 'gold standard' level. - <i>Can a student's part-time paid employment count toward formal work experience for Gatsby?</i> This does not count, however tools such as Unifrog have previously been used to capture and reflect the transferable skills developed through such employment.	
12.	Financial Report and Accounts, including 2026-2027 budget approval • Receive and approve latest financial statement and college finance commentary GR referenced his written report, noting a £1.4M surplus for this year which will lead to a financial health rating of 'outstanding' for 2025-2026. Reasons for this have been previously reported to Corporation and are included in GR's written report. GR noted that a discussion will take place with the auditors regarding a portion of the building costs (£200k). GR's preference would be to expense this amount in the current year rather than capitalise it, as would typically be the case. This treatment may be revised if the auditors do not agree; however, any change will not affect the financial health metrics. <i>Questions from governors:</i> - <i>Is this cost referenced in the bid?</i> This expenditure is not specifically referenced but it is necessary to progress the project. The discussion is focused on the appropriate accounting treatment should the building work not proceed. • Approve 2026-2027 budget GR explained the figures in the report, noting that the waterfall chart starts at £1.4M and builds in the variances. The overall budgeted performance for the year reflects a reduced surplus of £600k, driven by flat – or potentially declining – income alongside rising cost pressures.	

GR noted the key influences and assumptions in his budget planning:

	Assumption	Comments
Banding of students	600 T Level students	Same as this year
Removal of T Level 'boost'		10% received last year; 5% this year; 0% on some courses next year
DfE funding per head	Up by 0.5%	Outweighed by reduction in T Level 'boost' and reduced disadvantaged funding
Staff costs	£700k per year	For spinal point progression (£400k per year) and April pay rise (£300K per year)
Loyalty bonus at Christmas		Not yet included
Other operating costs		To include inflation = bus costs (7% increase), all other costs (3% increase)

GR confirmed that this budget will still allow us to deliver outstanding or good financial health against the benchmarks.

Regarding cash reserves, GR noted that these would stand at £7.1M if the build does not proceed. He added that the build is not currently included in the budget, as it is not expected to impact the P&L account in the next financial year. GR further explained that when Corporation approved the matched funding, a condition was set that the adjusted current ratio must not fall below 1.6. On this basis, the proposed build would result in an asset ratio of 2.4, confirming that there is sufficient headroom to proceed with the expenditure without creating any cashflow or financial pressures.

The forecast for 2028 drops to £300k surplus. This is based on the following assumptions, while recognising the inherent uncertainty in projecting figures over such a timeframe:

- Minimal growth and limited per-head funding built into figures to err on the side of caution.
- Two percent increase on income.
- Three percent increase on costs.

BB added that the assumptions have been fully discussed with him as Focus Governor and noted the difficulty in predicting out to 2030 as DfE funding rates are not yet known.

Questions from governors:

- *How have you arrived at the future student numbers?*

This is linked to the growth in local demographics until 2032 and a recognition that mixed programmes of T and V Levels are likely to be attractive to students. In addition, if the building bid were to be successful, this would provide us with an extra 200 spaces. GR added that he has been conservative in predictions for the purposes of the budget.

- *Employee costs represent a significant proportion of the budget. Are the projections in place future years robust?*

There are several variable factors which make this difficult to forecast with precision, such as staff turnover and the proportion of employees at the top of their scales. In addition, as recruitment increasingly draws from a range of sectors, and with the introduction of PRP, appointments are often made at higher points on the scale. While this supports recruitment of higher-quality teachers, it also contributes to increased staffing costs.

DECISION: Corporation unanimously agreed the proposed budget

	• Confirm 2026-2027 thresholds for reporting to/ approval from Corporation GR explained that the Financial Regulations state that any development at a cost of more than 5% of the current year's budget must come to Corporation for approval. He confirmed that, for clarity, this figure for 2026-27 stands at £1.129M. • For info: Financial Statements Review letter FG thanked GR, BB and the team for their hard work, which is reflected in the review letter.	
13.	Update from Student Council No student governors in attendance. MR noted that disabled access to the site had been raised at student council so during the Easter holidays, he circulated college in a wheelchair to appreciate the challenges faced. Overall, the site is accessible but there are some areas with raised lips which make access more difficult. Based on the student recommendations, these have now all been rectified.	
14.	Receive termly Attendance and Retention report MCou noted the best-ever retention figures at this point in the year with retention just below the sixth-form colleges average. Achievement is currently at 93% and above sector average. Attendance is more stable and moving in the right direction. MCou also noted that as these metrics improve, each percentage point becomes more difficult to achieve so these are hard-fought successes. RS added that at a recent Ofsted meeting it was noted that a 2% improvement is unusual and so this kind of change is exceptional. Governors recognised the improvement and noted that it reflects the amount of effort across the whole college. <i>Questions from governors:</i> - <i>At the last meeting, T Level attendance was raised by the Student Governor, and this is one of the lower attendance figures. Does this suggest a similar issue?</i> It is recognised that attendance is often mid-80% for T Level students and as the same procedures are in place, it is linked to the different profile of student. - <i>Is the authorised absence rate used?</i> The in-class figure is used to give a true figure.	
15.	Receive report on outcomes of mock exams (including feedback to students and courses of concern) It was agreed that this was a helpful report, both for governors and for senior leaders, and will be repeated next year. From the analysis, grades this year are expected to be similar to last year, but with fewer fails and higher grades. Courses for concern seem to be improving. MCou has also reviewed the larger courses which will have an impact on overall achievement rates, and the results were encouraging here as well.	
16.	Receive College Performance report Not received – to be carried forward. ACTION: SM to add to future agenda	SM
17.	Receive Pastoral Support report FG requested that governors' thanks be formally conveyed to the team.	
18.	Receive outcome of Academic Student survey - the report was noted.	

19.	Receive outcome of Parent survey MCou confirmed that the poor response rate would be considered ahead of next year’s survey. <i>Questions from governors:</i> - <i>Do parents see feedback loops being effectively closed?</i> There is currently no formal response, but a “you said, we did” approach could be considered to increase parental engagement with the survey process. ACTION: MCou to report back to Corporation on development of feedback response to parents	MCou				
20.	Receive annual Statutory Duties report (Safeguarding, Prevent, EDI, GDPR, FOI) - the report was noted.					
21.	Approve policies - there were no policies for review at this meeting.					
22.	Update on Corporation membership Corporation noted the Board’s current composition and Focus Governor appointees. However, as highlighted by FG, recent resignations will require a review of committee membership. ACTION: Search and Governance committee to consider actions required (SM to add to agenda)	SM				
23.	Review meeting effectiveness What impact has Corporation had on strategy development in this meeting? - Useful discussion on redrafting the strategy document - Financial strategy What impact has Corporation had on student experience in this meeting? - Accessibility Did Corporation have the right level of information required to be effective? - Reports are very helpful and detailed - Reports were digestible this month with thanks to report writers					
27.	Upcoming dates <table><tr><td>29th June</td><td>Corporation</td></tr><tr><td>6th July</td><td>Corporation end of year event</td></tr></table>	29 th June	Corporation	6 th July	Corporation end of year event	
29 th June	Corporation					
6 th July	Corporation end of year event					

Actions from the meeting on 11th May 2026:

ITEM	ACTION	LEAD
3	Review college performance report template as part of review of Corporation reporting - in discussion with ERG reviewers	S&G
3	AI discussion to be tabled for Strategy Away Day - follow-up with SS required	SS/ FG
3	Send feedback on Focus Governor report to SM	ALL
7	Share the updated strategy document ahead of summer break	MR
16	Consider when College Performance Report will be submitted to governors	SM
19	Report back to Corporation on development of feedback response to parents following survey	MCou
22	S&G committee to consider actions required following recent resignations (to be discussed at next meeting)	SM

Signed as an accurate record of the meeting:

Date: