

The Canterbury Academy Trust

Minutes of the AGM meeting held on Tuesday 31st March 2026 at 6.30pm in room 501

Present:

Chair: Richard Field

Members: Andrew Doyle, Judy Keay and Mark Johnstone

Chief Executive Officer: Jon Watson

Clerk: Debbie Scott

1. Welcome and opening remarks, confirm Chair and quorate

Welcome to The Canterbury Academy Trust Annual General meeting.

The Trust attracts more students each year with one of the largest sixth forms in Kent. Each year more students and their families choose The Canterbury Academy Trust as their first choice.

In January 2026, The Canterbury Academy was inspected by Ofsted using their new framework. This was a positive experience with the report stating we are strong standard for Inclusion, personal development and well-being and Post 16; we are expected standard for achievement, attendance and behaviour, curriculum and teaching, and safeguarding standards were met. The Canterbury Primary School and both the nurseries (City View and Wincheap) were last inspected in 2022, so an inspection is due during the early part of the next academic year.

You can see from the end of year accounts that financially we continue to be for a second year under the reserve's threshold, mostly due to strategic decisions agreed by board to invest across the Trust. There is a robust plan in place to ensure the levels are restored to between £500K & £750K.

2. Apologies

Auditors: Allan Hickie and Luke Grubb

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 20th March 2025

Agreed as a true record

4. Matters arising from 20th March 2025 meeting

At the last meeting it was reported that NGA strongly advise that any member who is also a trustee should not be elected as Chair of the AGM, given that the role of members is to scrutinise the trust's governance. An action was for the clerk to see what other larger multi academy trusts do.

- Clerk has liaised with Kate Greig, Coastal Academy Trust and received the following advice:

You can get the chair of the board to chair the AGM if he/she is a member, but it is not considered good practice. The members are supposed to be checking the trustees are doing their job, so it is like marking your own homework. We did have our chair as a member, but

we moved him away from that a couple of years ago and it has been much easier to manage as all roles are much clearer now.

Mike Walters, KCSP has advised that their Chair of members does not sit on the MAT board as well.

5. Presentation and adoption of the audited accounts/annual report for year ending 31st August 2025 recommended by the Audit & risk committee and approved by the Board in December 2025.

Allan Hickie from UHY presented the annual accounts for year ending 31st August 2025 to the Audit & Risk committee at their meeting on 9th December 2025, before being recommended for formal approval at the Board of Directors meeting on 16th December 2025. The accounts have been uploaded to the DfE, Companies House and the academy website. The Audit went very well with very little to report.

Just under the low end of the reserves range, cashflow is being monitored carefully, and reserves plan in place to bring back in line with policy.

Agreed.

6. Major plans/outlook for the year ahead including plans for growth

Simon Langton Grammar School for boys will consult again with their parental body in September 2026 in relation to joining the Canterbury Academy Trust and rebranding as The Canterbury Trust. The Canterbury Academy Trust has been restructured to allow more schools to join in the future.

7. Appointment of Auditor for academic year 2025/26

For academic year 2025/26 the Trust has gone out to tender for external appointment, as it has been 5 years since we last followed this process.

Proposal document uploaded to SharePoint in advance of the meeting. UHY understand our Trust, are aware of our future plans and can also act as a consultant in relation to MAT growth.

Juniper Education Services Ltd were appointed as internal auditors for 2025 – 26 on a two-year contract. They will complete one financial visit per annum. Cyber security will also be outsourced; we are still reviewing our options and are working with the IT Manager to implement this.

Agreed to appoint UHY as external auditors for year ending 31 st August 2026.
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8. Changes to governance structures

Likely to move to members; Trust board; Standards Board (LGBs will feed into this board) and Audit Board (Finances, estates, personnel will feed into this board); Local Governing bodies (Canterbury Primary, Canterbury Academy Secondary Phase, Canterbury Academy Sixth Form, Youth, Community and Extended Services, and then set up for Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys to join and any other school that may then join after that.

Committees will be Finance and Estates, Personnel.

9. A.O.B

None

Date of next meeting is TBC (Dependent on members availability, may wait until new members are appointed to finalise)

Documents distributed in advance of the meeting:

Accounts for year ending 31st August 2025

Proposal for reappointment of external auditors