



**OLCHFA SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY**  
Minutes of the Full Governing Body Meeting  
held in the Library at 5.15 pm on Wednesday 17 September 2025

Present	Ms Rosina Colasanto Mrs Jennifer Howells Mrs Beverley Jones Mr Gareth Jones Cllr Jeff Jones Cllr Mary Jones Mr Matthew Jones	Mr Julian Kennedy Mrs Hannah Lake Mrs Kathryn Novis Mrs Aderinola Omole Mr Damian Rees Mrs Suzi Smith Mr Ian Stewart
Apologies	Dr Mahaboob Basha Cllr Mike Day Mr James Ellis	Mrs Hannah Vincent Ms Lynda Westhead
In attendance	Mrs Jen Thompson, Acting Deputy Headteacher Mrs Jan Platt, Clerk	

		ACTION
	The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting	
<b>FGB25.22</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	
1	Apologies were received and accepted from those named above.	
<b>FGB25.23</b>	<b>Minutes of the FGB AGM held on Wednesday 2 July 2025</b>	
2	The minutes were agreed to be a true record.	
<b>FGB25.24</b>	<b>Initial analysis of 2025 external examinations/ Headteacher's Report</b>	
3	Mr Kennedy said that the examination information was included in his report, but he would return to this. He explained that Matt Salmon was uploading documentation in advance of the upcoming inspection so was not attending but Acting Deputy Headteacher, Jen Thompson, was present.	
4	There had been a really positive start to the year with a lovely vibe in the school. Olchfa was full and the Sixth Form was very large. He paid tribute to staff who were managing large teaching groups with all that that entailed.	
5	As Governors were aware, there had been a change in STF provision across Swansea. Due to a decline in demand, the school no longer needed its Hearing Impaired Unit (HIU). As part of the wider reorganisation, Olchfa now had an STF for pupils with severe learning difficulties. There were three pupils this year, and another three would follow in each of the next two years so Key Stage 3 would be covered. The three pupils were an absolute joy. David James, the lead	

	teacher, had some great ideas and he would present to senior leaders in due course and then to the Governing Body. The new STF meant the school had the potential to be profoundly different going forward in terms of differentiation etc. The current three pupils were going to assemblies, working in the STF and attendance in mainstream classes would be increased in due course.	ACTION
6	In terms of the exam results included in his report, Mr Kennedy sounded a note of caution saying that they were unverified at this stage. There were still appeals being considered and the data would not be verified by the Welsh Government until November. He ran through the information in his report. In answer to a question from Mr Rees, Mr Kennedy said that in terms of target grades he believed that the school would be in a good position but value added was more difficult to predict.	
7	In answer to a question from Mrs Lake regarding large numbers in the Sixth Form and consequently larger class sizes, Mr Kennedy said that the last two years there had seen very high levels of applications but there was no way of knowing whether this was a trend or a blip. The Leadership Team were keeping this under review and, if necessary, would regulate numbers going forward (eg via entry requirements). There was also uncertainty around future course funding by MEDR, although nothing was changing for the next few years.	
8	Mr G Jones asked about the difference between targets and value added. Mr Kennedy said that targets were based on prior performance. If pupils achieved their targets, the value added was low. If pupils went above their targets, that added value.	
9	Mr Kennedy said that there was inevitably a gap between FSM and non-FSM pupils. This was mirrored in every school in the country. The gaps at Olchfa were within acceptable tolerances and the school did well against other institutions in its family. There was no complacency, however, and the school was working hard to improve, for example, literacy scores.	
10	As Governors could see, girls were outperforming boys, and this was something all schools in Wales were dealing with. When you looked at boys' target grades, however, they could still be performing at the correct level. The school would be working with boys to ensure that they were properly considering their choices and around improving their motivation and aspiration etc. Mr Rees observed that the gap was getting bigger and this seemed to be a national trend. Mr	

		ACTION
	Kennedy said that this was an area the school would be working on to improve.	
11	Turning to new staff, Mr Kennedy observed that they had all settled in well. There were difficulties in recruiting Maths, English and Welsh teachers as people were looking for more flexibility than a school could offer.	
12	Olchfa's 'cynffin'. Mr Kennedy said that the school had worked with the Governing Body, staff and pupils on the vision for the school. The ten English and Welsh words which summed it up were now included on illustrated posters in every room and the vision was now deeply embedded. The new mural by the renowned local artist and former pupil, Hasan Kamil, had now been completed and was his representation of 'cynffin' based on pupils' words and art workshops. Mr Kennedy was hoping to get Hasan in for a formal opening to which Governors would be invited.	
13	Mr Kennedy said that, due to the impending inspection, he had not asked Learning Managers to contribute to his report as they had enough on their plate.	
14	Mr Kennedy drew Governors' attention to photographs of the refurbished Sixth Form Block which had been undertaken over the summer. It was now a much better space for the students and also had an expanded kitchen area.	
15	Mr Kennedy informed Governors that Maisie Davies, a former pupil had represented Wales in the World Cup and had played extremely well.	
16	Mr Kennedy paid tribute to the staff who had put on the Great Experiences programme at the end of term, especially Mrs Thompson, who had pulled it all together. These were joyful experiences for the students and the staff who provided them were to be commended.	
17	Mrs Novis said that the mural was wonderful and asked how much it had cost. Mr Kennedy said it was within tolerances he was comfortable with.	
<b>FGB25.25</b>	<b>Next meeting of the Full Governing Body (19/11/2025)</b>	
18	Governors noted the date for the next meeting.	
19	There being no further business, the Chair wished everyone luck for the inspection. Mr Kennedy said that the response from staff had been great and he was grateful to Mr Rees and Mrs Smith for agreeing to attend the meeting with the inspection team on Monday. He also encouraged Parent Governors to attend the meeting. Inspectors were holding with parents. The meeting concluded at 6.10 pm.	