



HARTPURY

MINUTES

**Meeting Hartpury College Board of Governors
2pm Tuesday 5th May 2026
Gordon Canning & Teams Hartpury House**

Present:		
	Edward Keene (Chair)	University and College Board
	Andy Collop (Professor)	Vice-Chancellor & Principal
	Barbara Buck	College Board (Vice Chair)
	Mary Heslop	College Board
	Bill Meredith	College Board
	Patrick Brooke	College Board
	Sue Blake	College Board
	Helen Wilkinson	College Board
	Alastair Grizzell	College Board
In Attendance:		
	Mick Axtell	Chief Operating Officer
	Claire Whitworth	College Principal
	Gillian Steels	Clerk to the Governors
	Lesley Worsfold	Chief People Officer
Apologies		
	Raphaella Knight	Deputy Student Governor
	Melissa Orritt	College Board – Staff Governor
	Chris Moody	University and College Board
	Ben Thomas	Student Governor

		Action & Action Date
FE01/05/26	Welcome The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting.	
FE02/05/26	Apologies – as detailed above.	
FE03/05/26	Quoracy It was confirmed the meeting was quorate.	
FE04/05/26	Declarations of Interest It was noted that the Chair, Vice Chancellor & Principal were also Members of the University Board.	
FE05/05/26	Minutes February 2026 (already approved by Board but included for reference)	
	The Minutes from the February FE Board were NOTED.	

		Action & Action Date
FE06/05/26	FE Provider Financial Dashboard - introduction	
	It was noted that DfE had recently introduced a financial dashboard available to governors. It was noted this contained the information already seen and approved by governors within the usual meeting processes and therefore should be familiar. The dashboard allows colleges to compare their financial performance and forecasts across a number of years. It summarises data we have submitted to DfE: • Finance Records (financial statements) • College Financial Forecasting Return (forecast submitted in July) • It was highlighted that Governors have been invited to attend DfE training next week. The format was demonstrated and key data highlighted. The FE Provider Financial Dashboard Update was NOTED.	
FE07/05/26	Qualification Reform and thoughts on qualification changes for us that we will need to submit to QuEST for sign off prior to submitting to DfE for their July deadline	
	3 key changes announced to the 16-19 qualification system 1. V Levels New flagship vocational qualification that will sit alongside A Levels (academic) and T Levels (technical). Same size as an A Level, can be taken alongside A Levels, or other V Levels, to create a broad study programme appropriate for progression to HE without specialising in a particular subject. <i>Applied teaching, learning and assessment designed to develop real world skills. They will be linked to occupational standards, strengthening employer confidence in vocational qualifications and helping to meet the country's long-term skills needs.</i> Only one V Level in a subject. Depending on the occupational route, there could be more than one V Level subject in a route. In a very limited number of exceptional cases, a V Level may be partnered with one other V Level from the same route. - Challenges of this highlighted. 2. T Levels Further improvements to the T Level. The T Level will be the only large study programme in the reformed landscape. DfE will make changes to support the accessibility and scalability of T Levels. New T Levels in new subject areas that are designed with the understanding of sector needs	

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	Placements in sport a challenge. 3. Further or occupational study Introduction of 2 new pathways for young people who need to continue learning at a level equivalent to GCSE (level 2) at age 16. A. Further Study, which will help them to progress into a study programme of V Levels and/or A Levels, or a T Level Or B. Occupational, which is a 2-year programme that supports progression to a good skilled job, including an apprenticeship Risks to opportunities for young people, challenges of choosing from these options at 16 highlighted. Risks to funding noted.	
	Qualification Reform Transition Timetable set out: 2027-2028, phased transition From 2027-2028, funding removed from legacy vocation / technical qualifications where there is a T-Level in existence (small number of exceptions) Defunding of further 1080 qualifications will happen as new T-Levels are introduced to replace them All providers need to have a clear, credible strategy provider plan in place, signed by Accounting Officer – it was agreed this would be taken through the June Quest Committee given timing challenges – including that DfE Implementation Plan would not be issued til June and V'level guidance was also to be issued. It was confirmed it would be a high-level document. DfE establishing a sector-led groups of 'Qualification Pioneers' to supporting navigating this transition. October 2026 – providers to confirm whether they are on track to deliver their strategic changes. July, annually, thereafter from 2027, Annual Transition Plans to be submitted. DfE will then introduce accountability expectations ensuring: <i>robust provider transition plan, signed by an institution's accounting officer clear timeline for implementation</i> <i>strategy for supporting staff, students and employers through the change</i> The changes from a Hartpury perspective were outlined (table within slides) and information on 16-19 funding allocation up to current year provided.	
	Maths and English Reforms – potential alternative qualification	
	The College Board NOTED the Curriculum Update.	
FE08/05/26	Ofsted Update	
	Ofsted Dashboard, which now accessible to colleges demonstrated – points where Hartpury was working to understand the data and any mitigations planned were outlined. The increased emphasis on data in inspection was stressed. It was noted 70 inspections had now taken place using the new framework,	

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	including Capel Manor, the first landbased provider. The College Principal stressed that the two frameworks were not comparable, with the focus on secure fit. Hartpury had put in place staff training. It was agreed there would be further training for governors. A deep dive had taken place for staff, and it was agreed this was a topic which could be raised in link visits.	College Principal Autumn 26
	Areas of Concern were highlighted: Data developing to inform & support Ofsted Requirements – aim in place Sept 26. Road map on interrogating data going forward in development. Gap analysis ongoing. SAR Grading T'level teething issues 'systems integration' It was confirmed that all this work would be used to improve teaching and learning. An inclusivity post was being introduced. Renewed SAR and QIP format, also with workload in mind. Proposed grades reflected on. Confirmed the process included student voice.	
	The College Board NOTED the Ofsted Update.	
FE09/05/26	Draft 2026-2027 Accountability Statement – our commitment	
	Noted that work on this was continuing to progress. Key Points: The removal of the annual accountability statement from the accountability agreement. More flexibility around the deadline for submission with a revised deadline for submission of 31 July 2026. A stronger emphasis on aligning provision with Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs). Clarity around the engagement with ERBs and MSAs should be at the outset of the planning process and where applicable any links to local growth plans included. Clarity that providers may draw directly from their existing strategic documents when drafting their accountability statement. DfE also intends to require further details re spend of the new SEND Support Fund although at the time of writing, this has not been confirmed by the DfE. If this becomes an updated requirement for 2026-2027, we will add in for June QuEST Our Commitment Action Plan commitments (noting LSIP Phase 2 not yet out): Fully embed and consolidate Land-based T-levels. Continue to embed LSIP employer findings within our Hartpury Certificate to develop students (i.e. core digital skills). Continue to upskill adults (agri-tech and agri-digital). Further increase Agriculture apprenticeship starts. Plan for a successful transition to the newly reformed qualifications, with a specific focus on Sport, Uniformed	

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	Protective and A Level provision, in accordance with de-funding time scales. Further develop approved Land-based Academy proposal to grow and diversify the curriculum (within the core sectors that we serve), to ensure 'shovel ready' and seek suitable external capital funds to enable full implementation. The Board noted the timing challenges given the LSIP had not yet been issued. It was confirmed the Commitment aligned to Hartpury's strategy. The strengths demonstrated were recognised.	
	The Accountability Statement Update was NOTED and the COMMITMENT APPROVED in principle NOTING an update would come to the FE Quest Committee in June for sign off.	
	Confidential Item	
FE11/05/26	DfE visit	
	Visit Steve Wan DfE – Deputy Director V'levels and Cross Cutting Engagement Division – to gain greater understanding Hartpury.	
FE11/05/26	Any Other Business None	

Dates of Future Meetings - all scheduled to commence at 11.30am except where noted.