

Minutes of IET Full Board - Meeting 5 (EGM) - 2025-2026
 Thursday, 23 April 2026 at 4 pm
 IET board room, Exeter Road, Teignmouth, Devon and via Teams

Present (remotely via Teams)
Paul Austin (PA) – Trustee/Vice Chair/FAR Committee/GDPR Link/Link for Newton Abbot College
Niki Glew (NG) – Trustee/FAR Committee/Link for Health & Safety/Link for Kenn CofE Primary
Lorraine Heath (LH) - Trustee
Stephen Lee (SL) - Chair of Trust Board
Simon Shadbolt (SS) – Trustee/P&V Committee/Safeguarding and SEND Link (Attending remotely via Teams)
Ed Walker (EW) – Trustee/P&V Committee/Link for Kenton Primary and Teignmouth Primary
In Attendance (in person)
Paul Cornish (PC) - Executive Director of Education (via Teams)
Katy Quinn (KQ) - CEO
Jon Newman (JN) – Director of Finance
Gaby Willis (GW) - Trust Governance Officer/Company Secretary
Apologies
Paul Lilley (PL) - Trustee/Chair of FAR Committee/Link for Starcross Primary
Richard Given (RG) – Trustee/QofE Committee/Attendance Link/Link for Dawlish College
Gareth Regan (GR) – Trustee/Chair of P&V Committee/Ethos Group (Kenn)/Careers Link
Lee Sargeant (LS) – Trustee/Chair of QofE Committee/Link for Teignmouth Community School
Chris Taylor (CT) – Trustee/QofE Committee/Link for Cockwood Primary

25/5/1.1	Apologies
SL opened the meeting, welcoming attendees, and acknowledged that apologies had been received from RG, PL, GR, LS and CT. It was confirmed that the meeting was quorate for decisions under Article 117.	

25/5/1.2	Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest.	

25/5/2.1	Consultation on the phased closure of Teignmouth Community School Sixth Form
DISCUSSION	
KQ confirmed that the public consultation period which ran from 9 am on Monday 23 March 2026 to 9 am on Wednesday 22 April 2026 had now closed, and the consultation document with feedback had been circulated to trustees yesterday in preparation for today’s meeting.	
Trustees noted that the business case was circulated by the CEO ahead of the consultation period.	

KQ advised that most of the feeling around the community is sadness, which is shared by the Trust, but numbers are not financially viable nor is the sixth form giving a good experience for those young people. Considering the evidence in favour of the business case to move to phased closure and no real compelling arguments from the consultation, approval was sought from the Board to move to proceed with phased closure from September 2027. Year 12 will see out their time and there will be no intake for September 2026.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

<p>It was noted that few comments were made on social media, and a question was asked as to why it was thought no one had engaged in the process, given that one of the emails to the headteacher stated that parents were unhappy.</p>	<p>The consultation gave a number of different avenues for parents, carers and stakeholders to engage. These included a simple online form, a direct “consultation@” email address and an in-person session on Monday 30 March which no one attended. The steady decline in numbers at the Sixth Form has been seen against a rise in popularity of other local FE colleges. Perception would be that the community feeling is reluctant acceptance and the engagement which has been seen is saying how sad this is, not to object or offer alternatives that would have made the sixth form viable. The headteacher responded to the parents who reached out to her directly and nothing further was heard.</p>
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<p>A query was raised as to whether there are any indications of students who might want to stay local and attend, for example Newton Abbot College’s Sixth Form, and whether the students already in the sixth form are going to stay for the final year?</p>	<p>This forms an integral part of the pastoral care and guidance picked up by the school with those who had indicated they might stay local and have the Sixth Form as their current first preference. As part of measures to mitigate damage done to these young people and their plans, the Trust has committed to supporting financially with transport (bus pass or train pass) if those students want to attend a sixth form instead of a FE college attend Newton Abbot College Sixth Form.</p> <p>KQ confirmed option choices of young people who had expressed interest in attending sixth form at TCS can be met at Newton Abbot College so there is an option for them to remain in a school sixth form.</p> <p>For students currently within the TCS Sixth Form, the same proportion will stay or leave as normal depending on whether they are on 1- or 2-year courses and whether they have completed these. Year 12 students going into Year 13 would potentially have to start Year 12 again if they left. Currently there is no indication of 12s into 13s leaving because of this.</p>
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SUPPORT

NG stated the closure is deeply regrettable but not a reflection of the dedication or quality of staff or students. NG expressed the importance of ensuring the long-term sustainability of the TCS education provision and that given the demographic funding restraints it is not seen to be in the interests of current or future learners to keep the TCS Sixth Form open. Focus can be shifted to support the students still using the Sixth form and signposting those who would like a sixth form experience to Newton Abbot College.

PA commented that this is an economic reality which has been discussed at the FAR Committee for a while and we

are not alone in these difficult decisions, so this is no reflection on the staff.	
LS and CT sent emails to the TGO giving their apologies for the meeting and confirming their support of the proposal.	
DECISIONS	
Trustees unanimously resolved to submit the proposal for the phased closure of Teignmouth Community School Sixth Form (post-16) to the DfE Regions Group, with closure effective from 31 August 2027. Proposed by SL. Seconded by EW. No abstentions.	
ACTIONS	
Submit proposal for phased closure of Teignmouth Community School Sixth Form to the DfE Regions Group.	KQ
Write to the headteacher on behalf of the trustees to highlight the support of trustees for headteacher and staff that the shifts that are happening are beyond the control of them.	SL

There being no other business, the Chair closed the meeting at 4.15 pm.