Board of Management

Date of Meeting	**23 September 2026**
Paper No.	**BoM1-D**
Agenda Item	**2.4**
Subject of Paper	**Appointment of College Chancellor**
FOISA Status	**Disclosable**
Primary Contact	**Chris Deery** **Chair of the Board of Management**
Date of production	**07 September 2026**
Action	**For Approval**

1. Recommendations

1.1. The Board is asked to:

- Note the decision of 14 February 2018 approving the creation of the position of College Chancellor.
- Note the discussion of the role by the Convenors' Committee on 26 January 2026, including its reaffirmation of the Board's original decision and recognition of the need for urgency and confidentiality.
- Approve the appointment of HRH The Princess Royal as Chancellor of the College for an initial term of three years, noting that appointments to the office of Chancellor are made on an ad hoc basis and are subject to Board approval.
- Note the public announcement of the appointment following acceptance of the role by HRH The Princess Royal.

2. Purpose

2.1. The purpose of this report is to seek Board approval of the appointment of HRH The Princess Royal as Chancellor of the College.

3. Consultation

3.1. The Convenors' Committee considered the matter on 26 January 2026 and reaffirmed the Board's original decision to establish the role of Chancellor, recognising the requirement to progress discussions with a prospective candidate under conditions of confidentiality.

4. Key Insights

4.1. On 14 February 2018, the Board approved the creation of the position of College Chancellor to enhance the College's corporate, civic and tertiary profile through the appointment of a distinguished public figure to act as an ambassador for the institution.

4.2. The Board-approved role envisaged a ceremonial and honorary appointment with no governance, executive management, fiduciary or decision-making responsibilities. The Chancellor would support the promotion of the College's reputation and profile nationally and internationally.

4.3. Subsequently, discussions progressed with HRH The Princess Royal. Given the constitutional position of the proposed appointee, the appointment process was subject to strict confidentiality requirements and agreed communications arrangements.

4.4. On 31 August 2026, the Principal provided a confidential update to the Convenors' Committee regarding progress with the proposed appointment, including the associated protocol, communications, and confidentiality considerations. Members noted the sensitivities surrounding the appointment process and supported the approach being taken.

4.5. Following acceptance of the invitation, a public announcement confirming the appointment of HRH The Princess Royal as Chancellor of the College was made on 10 September 2026.

4.6. The appointment of a Chancellor is not intended to be a standing or continuously occupied position within the College's governance or management structure. Appointments will be made on an ad hoc basis where the Board considers that a proposed individual would make a significant contribution to the reputation, profile and strategic ambitions of the College.

4.7. It is proposed that the appointment of HRH The Princess Royal as Chancellor of the College shall be for an initial term of three years commencing from the date of appointment. Any extension, reappointment or future appointment of a Chancellor would be subject to separate consideration and approval by the Board.

4.8. The Chancellor will serve as an honorary ambassador for the College, supporting the promotion of its values, achievements, and strategic ambitions.

4.9. It is anticipated that the Chancellor may participate in selected College engagements and events, up to two occasions per year, subject to diary commitments and mutual agreement.

4.10. The appointment represents a significant opportunity to further enhance the College's profile, strengthen stakeholder engagement and celebrate student, staff and institutional achievement.

5. Impact and Implications

5.1. The appointment is honorary and unpaid in nature and does not form part of the governance structure of the College. Any costs associated with the role will be limited to reasonable expenses and protocol, hospitality, or event-related costs arising from official College engagements.

5.2. The appointment is expected to deliver positive reputational benefits for the College through enhanced visibility and ambassadorial support. There is no material governance, financial, or operational implications associated with the proposal.