



**MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING
Wednesday, 7 December 2016 at 6.40
Venue: Plume College Library**



- Chairman:** Mr C Purdy
- Trustees Present:** Mrs J Binder
Mr J Everard
Mrs J McKinnell
Mrs R Shrouder
Mr P Nagle
Mrs D Thomas
Mr A Stead
Mr C Wakefield (Principal)
- In attendance:** James Williams (Head Boy) [items 1 & 2]
Yasmine Rassasse (Head Girl) [items 1 & 2]
- Clerk** Mrs Tina Weavers

This group was quorate for the purpose of resolutions

1. Welcome & apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from, and consented for, Mr Howell and Mr Pond. The Chair apologised for the delay in starting the meeting but he had been delayed with the Principal in another meeting.

2. Presentation: Executive Senior Student Team

The Chairman welcomed this year's Head Boy, James Williams, and Head Girl, Jasmine Rassasse, to the meeting. They were both given an opportunity to give a brief presentation on their school experience to date and they talked about the pressures of balancing examinations and being such a huge part of the Senior Student Team.

In recounting some of the highlights already this year, the Taxi Day was mentioned as well as fundraising for the David Randall Foundation during Rag Week; nearly £500 had already been raised. A quiz was also being organised to raise further funds as well as the Yr13 Prom.

Both students emphasised how important it was for them to support the younger year groups on both campuses; they particularly mentioned bridging the gap between the Lower and Upper Schools. As part of the Senior Student Team, they both went at least once a week to the Mill Road campus to listen to the 'student voice'. A particular concern often mentioned was the litter on the site and the younger students had been very proactive in addressing this including creating a slogan about dropping rubbish. Trustees congratulated the team on addressing the issue of a split site as they appreciated how daunting it must be for many pupils to confront joining a secondary school let alone having to do it twice. The Principal acknowledged that it could be perceived as a difficulty but, in his opinion, it was a strength of the academy. Pupils gained confidence in the Lower School in a smaller environment before stepping up to the Upper School.

Finally, the Head Boy and Girl spoke about their own growth in confidence especially in public speaking and how their approach to working in a team had developed; they praised the support given to them by their Deputies.

The Trustees thanked them both for taking the time to come and speak to them and congratulated them on what they had already achieved. They offered their support

wherever it could be most usefully used and mentioned that they would appreciate any opportunities as judges if they were required.

The Head Boy and Head Girl left the meeting at

3i. Declaration of Interests

There were no new declarations of business interests and no Trustee recorded any conflict of interest with the items on the agenda or the receipt or giving of any gifts or hospitality since the last meeting.

3ii. Review and approval of Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 July 2016 were **approved** and signed as a true record.

4. Matters Arising

The following matters from the minutes of the previous meeting, and not covered elsewhere on the agenda, were highlighted:-

Item 4: Trustees asked about the progress of the Policy Review Schedule and asked if could be presented to them as soon as possible so that it could be approved. Mrs McKinnell asked that the policies relating to pay and HR could be emailed to her. It was suggested that some of the policies online were still out of date but the Principal assured the Trustees that the website was regularly checked for both Ofsted and DfE compliance; a policy which needed urgent attention was Behaviour of Learning which was currently being addressed.

Action: Pay & HR policies to Mrs McKinnell

5. Board of Trustees

It was acknowledged that there remained a Staff Trustee vacancy but it was **agreed** that until an HR Director was appointed along with a permanent Clerk, the election process would have to wait until the beginning of the following term.

Items 6 – 9 inclusive were deemed CONFIDENTIAL and have thus been recorded separately

10. Any other business

- Mrs Binder then gave a brief overview of the charity Freedom and Autonomy Schools – National Association (FASNA) of which she is Vice Chair and then went on to give an update on the changes to the education landscape including academisation and funding. She then reported that the PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) rankings had been announced that day. The UK continued to languish in the middle of the table of 72 countries.
 - In Maths, it ranked 27th which was down a place from three years ago
 - In Reading, it ranked 22nd which was up a place but it was in the top 20 in 2006
 - In Science it was up from 21st to 15th – the highest place since 2006
 - Singapore was at the top followed by Japan, Estonia, Turkey and FinlandThere then followed a brief discussion about the differences in how children were educated as borne out by the results above. Trustees thanked Mrs Binder for her very interesting presentation.

- Mr Everard reported that he had attended a Parent Voice Group meeting in September 2016; he was pleased to report that there was a steady increase in the number of parents attending and he encouraged Trustees to attend.

11. Date of next meeting

At the following meeting of the Academy Trust, the following had been noted:

Mr Purdy announced that he was not able to commit to the date of the next meeting and it was, therefore, **changed to Tuesday, 28 March 2017 with the Board of Trustees meeting first at 6pm followed by the Academy Trust meeting at 7pm.** At this revised meeting the reappointments of Mr Purdy and Mrs McKinnell would be considered as well as further thought on the plan to attract more Trustees.

Meeting closed at 8.17

Agenda circulated to Board of Trustees, advisers and observers