



## CHANTRY ACADEMY

Minutes of the Chantry Academy meeting of the Local Governing Body held at the academy at 5.00pm on Thursday, 30 January 2020

Present: Lucy Bayliss (LB)  
 Miles Cole (MC) Chair of Governors  
 Gareth Connor (GC)  
 Craig D’Cunha (CD) (Executive Headteacher)  
 Iain Dunnett (ID)  
 Rev’d Rob Hinsley (RHI)  
 Kevin Williams (KW)

In attendance: Andy Baker (AB) - Staff Representative  
 Stephen Chamberlain (SC) - Chief Executive Officer of ALT  
 Rob Croxson (RC) - Staff Representative  
 Sophie Hendin (SH) - Head of Art (part)  
 Rick Hanson (RH) - Head of School  
 Steph Lincoln (SL) Head of Dance/Drama (part)  
 Kate Thomas (KT) – Clerk to the Governors

|     |   | <b>ACTION</b> |
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| 1   | <b><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u></b>   |               |
| 1.1 | MC welcomed Steph Lincoln, Sophie Hendin, Lucy Bayliss, Gareth Connor and Stephen Chamberlain to the meeting.<br><br>Apologies for absence were received from Aileen Davison.<br><br>Governors consented to this absence. |               |
| 2.  | <b><u>STAFF PRESENTATIONS</u></b>   |               |
| 2.1 | Steph Lincoln (Head of Dance/Drama) and Sophie Hendin (Head of Art) gave the following presentations:<br><br><u>Art</u>   |               |

SH gave a presentation on Art. SH highlighted key aspects of the Art Curriculum, in particular the key skills Students required in order to be able to undertake GCSEs. SH explained that students were also encouraged to understand the importance of Artist research, rather than the history of the artist.

SH informed that Art workshops were attended every 2 years. SH advised that students were encouraged to draw objects/items, etc that they were interested in rather than told what to draw.

SH was pleased to report that there were some exceptionally gifted young people studying Art who were gaining grade 9s at GCSE.

**A governor questioned how many students took Art GCSE last year?**

SH replied that it was over 30 and this was a trend at the Academy, as Art was a popular subject.

**A governor queried whether there were many connections with local museums or exhibitions for students to attend?**

SH confirmed that there were and a number of students had attended the recent Ed Sheeran exhibition.

CD reminded that some of the challenges for the Art department was the change at GCSE to Fine Art themes.

SC advised that a Gary Peile Art Collection was being considered to be launched during the year, and this would exhibit some key pieces of Art from each Academy, with funding for the loan of the artwork to the Trust for the student to be included. SC added that further details regarding this announcement would be made shortly.

MC thanked SH for her presentation.

SH left the meeting at 5.15pm.

#### Dance/Drama

SL gave a presentation on Dance and Drama subjects.

SL highlighted the following strengths of the departments:

- Staff have specialities, singer, musical theatre, dance and drama
- 1 staff member who was a Newly Qualified Teacher passed with an Outstanding judgement
- There were a number of events and performances taking place, from a whole School Musical, Lower School Drama Production, Dance Show, Talent Showcase, etc
- Performances take place outside Chantry Academy (CA) including a recent performance at Ipswich High School
- The departments work with other departments

- There were a number of extra-curricular clubs every day, at lunchtimes and after school.
- Students have 3 options to take, BTEC Performing Arts, GCSE Drama and AQA Dance
- In the first year of taking Drama GCSE, 82% of students achieved Grade 4-9
- A number of workshops were held at CA, with professional dancers and organisations involved
- Students elsewhere have requested work experience within the Department at CA
- Established system of Arts Ambassadors
- Collaboration with other schools, i.e. Northgate and Copleston

SL highlighted some next steps to be completed:

- Arts Award to be gained by Year 7 at Bronze level, Year 8 Silver, and Years 9-11 Gold
- Year 9 and 10 dance leadership qualifications
- Aim to collaborate further with more departments within CA
- Creation of a Performing Arts uniform
- Creation of a Boys Dance Group
- Establishment of a Wall of Fame for current students to aspire to
- A trip to Disneyland and New York with the ultimate aim of a performance at Disneyland

CD explained that much of the work for the departments were aligned to the benefits of the Oracy strategy across CA.

SC commented that there was an excellent range of activities and opportunities within the departments and highlighted the importance of Arts Ambassadors. SC added that ultimately the Trust wanted to establish a Student Arts Council which could include Arts Ambassadors.

CD reminded that SL was a Specialist Leader in Education (SLE) for Dance and Drama.

CD advised that both subject areas had hardworking and enthusiastic staff which aligned to the new staff member supporting Music could be very positive for CA and students in future.

MC thanked both staff on behalf of the Local Governing Body.

SL left the meeting at 5.30pm.

**MC asked which departments would be presenting at the next meeting?** CD confirmed that it would be colleagues from PE and Design Technology.



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| 5.  | <b><u>ACADEMY IMPROVEMENT</u></b>   |  |
| 5.1 | <p><u>Executive Headteacher's Report</u><br/> CD presented his Executive Headteacher's report and highlighted the following key themes:</p> <p><u>Pupil Roll</u><br/> CD explained that pupil numbers had increased year on year over the last few years, and this year, there would likely be a waiting list of 70 students in the Autumn Term.</p> <p><u>Admissions</u><br/> CD advised that admissions for students joining CA in year was particularly challenging currently, due to not receiving sufficient information to support students with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP).</p> <p><u>Absence</u><br/> CD was pleased to report a significant reduction in staffing absence in the current school year compared to the previous year.</p> <p><b>A governor queried what the absence was compared to?</b> CD explained that it was in line with staff absence nationally, but slightly less than in the commercial sector.</p> <p>CD highlighted that staff wellbeing activities were offered to staff, but a significant impact on staff wellbeing had been the change to the marking system and the introduction of the Oracy programme. CD added that the reduction in revision sessions for Year 11s as a result of timetable changes had also helped improve staff well being.</p> <p>CD informed that further information on exit interviews would be provided at the next meeting, and had been delayed due to HR support given to Hillside as well as CA.</p> <p><u>Quality of Teaching</u><br/> RH advised that the report included the number of observations undertaken for every teaching staff member, and the level of frequency was based on support required.</p> <p>RH highlighted the number of actions to be completed by January 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review impact of "marking in the moment" in student books/progress</li> <li>• Identify explicitly teaching of tier 2 vocabulary</li> <li>• Review impact of the new approach to assessment comparing December to April assessment points</li> </ul> |  |

- Monitor attendance and progress in Music weekly – leading up to new staff member joining CA

CD highlighted the high levels of support amongst colleagues with staff and feedback had shown how positively staff appreciated the “team” approach at CA.

**SC questioned whether there was a set format with the Teaching and Learning Walks to identify consistency?** CD responded that depending on the focus, often shorter “fly bys” were undertaken in the classroom rather than long lesson observations, and assessment in the moment” resulted in further reviews of student books, data, student views, etc. CD explained that when interviewing students their feedback had proved very helpful, as they were able to identify and understand why some students received more “teacher time” than others.

RH advised that the system capturing information on the quality of teaching held lots of comments, feedback for staff and gave staff a greater understanding of what was happening by subject and year group. RH added that the system showed patterns occurring which could help focus further support.

CD presented Snapshot Reports on key areas of focus, by specific groups, i.e boys, Pupil Premium and SEND.

**A governor queried whether CA was performing above or below national for pupil premium?** CD responded that it was difficult to answer until next year.

CD advised that Pupil Premium in year progress was the same but there would be a gap for attainment. CD added that Pupil Premium students started at a lower level of prior attainment than non Pupil Premium students.

CD informed that currently the gap between non Pupil Premium and Pupil Premium students was forecast to be narrower i.e. -0.1 compared to last year at -0.6.

CD explained that the current SEND cohort was complex and diverse, but that those students with physical disabilities had settled in particularly well at CA.

#### Behaviour

CD highlighted that the new “Escort” system had had a significant impact on the number of students receiving fixed term exclusions compared to previous years. CD advised that there were also students with a high level of need with no alternative provision available, and CA was therefore retaining those students on roll. CD added that the rise of mental health issues experienced by students had reached high levels, and there was a greater need to build resilience amongst the

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|     | <p>year groups. CD explained that it was necessary to stagger the exams for students over Year 10 and 11 in order to reduce the levels of school revision and pressure at Year 11.</p> <p><b>A governor asked whether the levels of Fixed Term exclusions were in line with National?</b> CD confirmed that the levels were in line with National. CD advised that the levels of permanent exclusions had also decreased compared to previous years.</p> <p>SC informed that ALT were going to offer academies opportunities to visit Outstanding schools in the coming months, and then asked to provide action plans on what next steps would be required to reach Outstanding. SC added that National Leaders in Education (NLEs) would also be used to support ALT.</p>   |  |
| 5.2 | <p><u>School/Self Evaluation Form (SEF)</u><br/>CD explained that the SEF was currently a “work in progress” as it reflected the current Ofsted framework, but also needed to align with the School Improvement Plan, which was structured within the previous Ofsted framework.</p> <p>CD confirmed the following highlights from the Improvement Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of “I am and I can” sessions, as 45 minute extended tutor time – with the school day being restructured accordingly</li> <li>• Working with Eastern Region Careers Hub achieving 100% Gatsby Benchmarks and positive accolades regarding Careers provision at CA</li> <li>• Revised Pastoral system with new Teaching and Learning Responsibilities given to Assistant Heads of Year – in order to secure positive succession planning.</li> </ul> |  |
| 5.3 | <p><u>Artsmark Statement of Impact</u><br/>CD presented the Artsmark Statement of Impact. CD explained that currently he was pushing to receive a Platinum Award but a 2 year journey was required and therefore, he would prepare an update in a few months’ time.</p> <p><b>A governor asked whether the Award would open up other opportunities for CA to access?</b> CD agreed explaining that there would likely be more effective collaboration with other schools.</p>   |  |
| 6.  | <p><b><u>GOVERNANCE MATTERS</u></b></p>   |  |
| 6.1 | <p><u>Governors’ Link Meetings</u><br/>CD highlighted East of England &amp; NE London Governance Conference. Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2020, 9.30am to 4.00pm. Radisson Blu Hotel, Stansted, Essex, CM24 1PP.</p> <p>CD confirmed the following forthcoming Governors’ Link Meetings</p>   |  |

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|     | <p>31.1.20 – HR &amp; Communications<br/> 31.1.20 – Safeguarding<br/> 10.2.20 – Attendance &amp; Behaviour<br/> 24.2.20 – Teaching &amp; Learning/Oracy<br/> 6.3.20 – Health &amp; Safety</p> <p><b>Include An additional meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March??</b></p> <p>SC informed that Governor Improvement was a key priority as highlighted by Ofsted for ALT previously. SC advised that as a result blended learning would be offered across the academies, which would include online sessions, and would be rolled out over the next term or so. SC explained that the training would also highlight gaps in skills and knowledge which would be addressed with further training opportunities.</p> <p>SC informed that Chairs would also have opportunities to meet with other Chairs as a cluster/group. SC added that there was an open invitation for Chairs to attend a Board meeting (possibly in part) over the next few months.</p> |  |
| 6.2 | <p><u>Governor Vacancies</u><br/> Governors noted there were no vacancies currently to discuss.</p>  |  |
| 7.  | <p><b><u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></b></p>  |  |
| 7.1 | <p><u>Additional Ipswich Opportunity Funding</u><br/> RC highlighted a further opportunity to gain funding from the Ipswich Opportunities Fund to support a project within the community.</p>  |  |
| 8.  | <p><b><u>BUDGET UPDATE</u></b></p>   |  |
| 8.1 | <p><u>Budget Update for 2019/20</u><br/> CD reminded that the monthly budget update reports were circulated already.</p> <p>CD explained that there was a high carryforward forecast for the year, and this would support the change in student numbers and lagged funding issue. CD advised that the carryforward would also help to create additional staffing capacity at CA in order to strengthen Maths, English and build capacity in Modern Foreign Languages (MFL).</p>  |  |
| 9.  | <p><b><u>SAFEGUARDING AND HEALTH &amp; SAFETY</u></b></p>  |  |
| 9.1 | <p><u>Safeguarding Update</u><br/> This updated was given within the Executive Headteacher’s report.</p>   |  |
| 9.2 | <p><u>Health &amp; Safety Update</u></p>   |  |



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|      | <p>CD highlighted the update from Anne Weatherby on Health &amp; Safety.</p> <p>RC reported that the recent fire risk assessment had been very positive. CD confirmed that the Health &amp; Safety report was also a positive read.</p>  |            |
| 10.  | <b><u>ALT</u></b>  |            |
| 10.1 | SC invited governors to contact him directly should they wish to meet with him as CEO of ALT. <b>Governors to Action</b>   | <b>ALL</b> |
| 11.  | <b><u>POLICIES: REVIEW PLAN FOR 2019/20</u></b>  |            |
| 11.1 | <p>CD presented the 2 policies, explaining that the Anti Bullying Policy revision included the change in date from the latest Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) guidance and both policies included a change in reference to Executive Headteacher rather than Principal with a date change as appropriate.</p> <p><u>Anti Bullying Policy</u><br/><i>Governors approved and adopted the Anti Bullying policy.</i></p> <p><u>Behaviour Policy</u><br/><i>Governors approved and adopted the Behaviour Policy</i></p> <p>MC requested that in future all policies to be adopted should include either track changes or a summary of changes at the front of the policy.<br/><b>CD to action.</b></p> | <b>CD</b>  |
| 13.  | <b><u>DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS</u></b>   |            |
| 13.1 | <p>Please note all LGB meetings start at 5pm</p> <p>Thursday, 12 March 2020</p> <p>Tuesday, 19 May 2020</p> <p>Monday, 6 July 2020</p>   |            |

The meeting closed at 6.51pm.

Signed .....

Date .....