

**COMMITTEE OF ALDERMANIC ALMONERS, COMMON COUNCIL GOVERNORS
AND DONATION GOVERNORS OF CHRIST'S HOSPITAL**

FRIDAY, 16 APRIL 2021

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

By virtue of paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

10. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2020 be approved as an accurate record.

MATTERS ARISING

Correction to date (item 13) –

The Chairman identified that the minutes recorded at the last meeting stated that the Annual Luncheon would take place in August 2022. This was inaccurate and the Luncheon had in fact been agreed for 2021.

MOTION: - The minutes be corrected to reflect the 2021 date.

11. UPDATE ON PRESENTEES

The Christ's Hospital Partnership Manager opened the item by explaining that this had been an unusual year as all the Presentees had been working from home for two terms. The students were said to have adapted incredibly well and were all looking forward to returning to school as normal.

The admissions process had been affected. The initial and residential assessments were cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions and therefore, the first round was decided by scrutiny of each application and supporting information. In place of residential assessment, the selected 200 pupils for year seven entry were interviewed by senior members of staff and final decisions were made by the usual panel, including the Head Teacher, to ensure there was a wide-ranging intake of children in need.

The Committee provided the following updates on their Presentees:

Maxwell

A member commented that they had very limited contact with Maxwell this year but was incredibly pleased that he had turned a corner compared to last year where he failed to attend the annual lunch. The current report was said to be very encouraging and there are plans to re-establish contact after lockdown.

Calvin

A member commented that the regular termly meetings with Calvin and his family had been postponed due to the lockdown. The member hoped he would work hard and crack on over coming year.

Christine

The Chairman commented that Christine had really started to flourish in the last year and overall, she was doing very well.

Josiah

A member commented that they had not met recently but Josiah was doing well. The member also felt that Josiah's acceptance into Christ's Hospital meant he was faring far better than he would if he had gone elsewhere.

Marcus

A member commented that they had seen Marcus recently as he lives close-by. Marcus was very keen to get back to school on Monday and it was felt that he was coming out of his shell and enjoying life both academically and when playing sport.

Abigail

A member commented that they had maintained communication online with Abigail. There had been some challenges due to home environment and bad online connectivity. Abigail converses frequently in Mandarin and is very good at coding but she needs some more consistency.

Naran

A member commented that they had met Naran and their family in Battersea Park before term started which was COVID safe. They had also communicated with Naran's house parents throughout the year. Naran seemed to be settling in well despite on/off nature of school but there were difficulties with home schooling. Naran's older sister acts as a line of communication and had mentioned Naran cannot wait to return to 'normal' school.

12. **APPLICATIONS FOR PRESENTATIONS IN 2021**

The Committee received and discussed the applications of the potential Corporation Presentees for 2021.

The Partnership Manager of Christ's Hospital explained that all three candidates had been interviewed and assessed through reports; it was also noted that they had all been offered places to Christ's Hospital and the decision for presentee would not affect their placement.

Overview of each candidate:

- Candidate A – This candidate is interested in sport and drama. Their mother is battling with depression and their elder brother is involved in gang activity and was stabbed. The family has financial struggles and live in Islington. The candidate has good school reports and interviewed very well.
- Candidate B – This candidate is also interested in sports and drama. They live in council housing in Camden. This candidate interviewed the most naturally and had very strong answers for the questions which felt natural and uncoached.
- Candidate C - This candidate lives in Islington and had a good school report. They suffer with sickle cell anaemia which hasn't affected attendance too much. They had the weakest interview but are only ten

years old and there were concerns regarding their ability to settle into a boarding environment.

It was also mentioned that the Lord Mayor Presentee position would be offered to Marcus' sister, Monica. She originally applied in year seven but could not be offered a place at the time and will be joining Christ's hospital in year nine. A member offered to look after both Marcus and Monica given their proximity.

RESOLVED: - Members discussed their preferences for the Corporation Presentee position, and it was felt that Candidate A would benefit the most from the opportunity. Subject to his willingness to serve, John Chapman CC be appointed as the Donation Governor and would liaise with the Partnership Manager concerning their new position.

The Annual Lunch was discussed, and it was agreed the Partnership Manager would suggest a potential date. It was also advised that representatives from the supporting charities should also be invited.

13. ANNUAL SAFEGUARDING REPORT 2021

The Committee noted the Annual Safeguarding Report for 2021.

The Partnership Manager explained that it had been a difficult year for the team to support the pupils as they had been working from home. Christ's Hospital has enhanced their therapist support and increased training for all staff. Mental Health continues to be a large area of focus and there has been a noticeable increase in ticks and cases of tourettes amongst students. The whole team has continued to work closely with students by running both virtual and face to face sessions.

14. QUESTIONS ON NON-PUBLIC MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

Three questions were raised from Members of the Committee.

Q1 – The Deputy Chairman asked if Speech Day would still be going ahead:

The Partnership Manager responded that the event would be going ahead with a small number of attendees visiting the school, made up of the Lord Mayor and a handful of pupils. The event will not be livestreamed due to GDPR, but a highlight reel will be made and sent to the Committee following the event.

Q2 – A member asked if the sexual harassment claims circulating in the press had any effect on Christ's Hospital:

The Partnership Manager replied that they had not had any students involved in the 'Everyone's Invited' campaign but the school had asked pupils to reach out if they needed to flag any issues. A small number of students had raised issues surrounding Christ's Hospital on Instagram, none were sexual harassment allegations, and the Headteacher had addressed them. The pupils had also been incredibly active with the BLM movement and the school had set

up an Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity committee looking at how pupils, governors and alumni's' views are represented and reflected.

Q3 – A member asked for an update regarding diversity in the senior leadership team:

The Partnership Manager answered this question after the meeting concluded with the following response.

'The school aspires to have a staff profile that reflects that of our pupils and further work is underway to address the challenges in encouraging more applications from diverse candidates. This work includes advertising in new recruitment publications/platforms, working with organisations/networks and reviewing the language etc of the recruitment literature. Central to all this is gaining further understanding of the reasons for diverse candidates not applying – a challenge for all boarding schools and those in rural areas especially – and identifying both good practice and novel approaches to engage candidates. Early options identified include teacher training programmes for university students, encouraging prospective teachers to build their careers in the boarding sector.

We hope that over time, as our staff profile changes, that the makeup of our SLT will also change to reflect that of the student body. Should any vacancies arise at SLT level, the work undertaken to promote our recruitment to the widest possible audience will of course be used for these roles.'

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED

There was no other business.

The meeting ended at 12:06pm

Chairman

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