

**COMMITTEE OF ALDERMANIC ALMONERS, COMMON COUNCIL GOVERNORS
AND DONATION GOVERNORS OF CHRIST'S HOSPITAL
Friday, 21 February 2025**

**Minutes of the meeting of the Committee of Aldermanic Almoners, Common
Council Governors and Donation Governors of Christ's Hospital held at
Guildhall, EC2 on Friday, 21 February 2025 at 11.00 am**

Present

Members:

Jamel Banda (Chair)
Nicholas Bensted-Smith (Deputy Chair)
Deputy Randall Anderson
James St John Davis
John Foley
Deputy Marianne Fredericks
Jaspreet Hodgson
Deputy Shravan Joshi MBE

Officers:

Sam Bushell	- Partnerships Manager, CH
Rhys Campbell	- Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies have been received from Alderman Parmley, Deputy Giles Shilson Deput and Ian Seaton in advance of this meeting. Apologies were also received from Nick Bensted-Smith, Deputy Marianne Fredericks and James St John Davis however they attended this meeting virtually.

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES

There were no comments.

4. IMPACT REPORT

The Committee received a report of the Christ's Hospital relating to the Impact Report.

The Partnerships Manager informed the Committee that Christ's Hospital had been awarded Independent School of the Year for 2024 and the school were

finalists in the School College of the Year UK Social Mobility Awards 2024. £7.4 Million was raised for the school in the past year despite the difficulties experienced whilst fundraising, however the school had developed new fundraising methods such as “Giving Day” and contacting new donors. A new partnership had been established with Morris Upton Foundation which would be supporting a new full bursary for the London Mayor Royal Mathematical School (RMS) Scholarships and this had been done in conjunction with the Lord Mayor, Michael Mainelli with the intent to raise money strictly for the school’s raw mathematical school scholarships which were in perpetuity. As a result of this work, six new Livery Companies had been involved with school raising approximately £800,000. Christ’s Hospital also won School of the Year in Performing Arts for the year 2024.

Regarding personal transformation, a survey issued to pupil’s when they leave the school, 96% of pupil’s stated that Christ’s Hospital had a positive impact on their lives.

A-Level results were down compared to the previous year, however with the new Christ’s Hospital Headmaster expected to take post imminently further work on the academic achievements of the pupils were expected to take place. The Deputy Chairman mentioned that it was worth noting that these results included a cohort of students who were studying during the early part of the Covid-19 pandemic which may have impacted their performance. The Partnerships Manager advised the Committee that because of Central Government’s intention to raise VAT on Independent School fees, this would most likely result in schools reducing their bursary funding which consequently would prove beneficial for Christ’s Hospital in the fact that the academic quality of the candidates applying for the school shall rise.

In respect of the Expedition Education Programme, this programme offered pupil’s a chance to get involved in outward bound activities such as Mountain Biking, Canoeing and other outdoor activities to teach resilience and aimed at those who had never experienced outdoor activities prior to arriving at the school. £2.2 Million had been raised for this with a vast majority of these funds received from one donor, an “Old Blue”, who felt very passionate about the programme. The Committee had been advised that a partnership with a London school to take part in the programme.

In terms of outreach to London Primary School’s, the Partnerships Manager highlighted the Christ’s Hospital Math’s Challenge which had taken place in the Great Hall on 10 February 2025 where 236 Year Five students from 57 primary schools attended. This event was well attended with the Deputy Chairman mentioning that it was a great occasion, and it would continue. The event also helped to promote Christ’s Hospital school as well as encouraging parents to feel comfortable with the thought of their children receiving a boarding education.

The Chair congratulated Christ’s Hospital for winning both Independent School of the Year and School of the Year in Performing Arts. A Member agreed and suggested that the Impact Report be shared with all Members of the Court of

Common Council to ensure that the full membership would understand the City Corporation's relationship with the Christ's Hospital. The Chairman agreed and tasked the Town Clerk to circulate the report to all Members, along with a cover letter detailing the City's history with the School, prior to the first Court of Common Council meeting of the civic year. It was also mentioned if Christ's Hospital could be mentioned in the Members orientation following the Common Councillor elections in March 2025.

The Deputy Chair asked if feedback received from previous Impact Reports had led to subsequent changes to the current Impact Report and the Partnerships Manager agreed to investigate further and update Members outside of the meeting.

The Chairman acknowledged the recent trip to visit Christ's Hospital which had taken place in Autumn 2024 and informed the Committee of his intention to make this trip an annual event.

RESOLVED, that - the report and its contents be noted.

5. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no questions.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

The Chair asked how best the Committee could leverage on some of the City Corporation's social events to assist Christ's Hospital's fantastic fundraising efforts. Networking to potential donors and providing students with opportunities for work experience were mentioned. A Member was in full support of this and mentioned that coordination between the Livery Companies and the working City were really important. He mentioned that the Director of Development, Christ's Hospital was aware of specific work experience programmes taking place at the Member's firm and the Lloyd's Market, and that given the amount of underspend in Corporate Social responsibility budgets and the 'hunger' of companies looking for community-driven projects this could create work experience opportunities for young people. It could also create a space for both financial and wider support for Christ's Hospital students. The Chair thanked the Member and was delighted to engage with his firm further and, if possible, use it as a test case to gain support from other Members and their places of work. A Member mentioned attending Livery events where Gresham's were in attendance also and mentioned that their presence had been a really good advert for the school. He suggested that Livery Committee Briefings be used as a tool to promote Christ's Hospital School and, if possible, that either the Partnerships Manager or Director of Development could attend briefings to provide further information of the school.

7. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED – That, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they relate to functions of the Court of Common Council which are not subject to the provisions of Part VA and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

8. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

RESOLVED, that - The non-public minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 2024 be approved as a correct record.

9. CHRIST'S HOSPITAL UPDATE

The Committee received a report of Christ's Hospital and Members were provided with an update regarding the school.

The Partnerships Manager advised the Committee that 94% of pupils at the school were "Full Boarders" and 47% of these pupils were from London. 77% of pupils who attended Christ's Hospital received bursaries which at the time of this meeting was the largest number of bursaries allocated to pupils within a school in the country. She noted that the suspected implementation of Central Government's policies involving Independent Schools, VAT on Independent School fees being mentioned, would impact Christ's Hospital negatively since the school was not in a position to draw more from endowments and would seek to raise further funds via fundraising to cover costs lost, and costs may also be incurred onto parents whose children receive bursaries and this could prove difficult given their situation.

The Partnerships Manager cited the reports request for the grant provided by the City Corporation to be increased by 43%. A Member noted that the decision to approve such a request would be complex as it would be taken in context with other educational matters and noted that there were other schools seeking further funding from City's Estate and ultimately it would be Members' decision to decide if the school shall receive further funding. The Deputy Chair suggested that Christ's Hospital include index linking into their application for further funding, if possible, to ensure that increased funding was secured on a multi-year basis.

The Partnerships Manager provided an update on the City of London Corporation's presentees at the school and Members were delighted to hear of their presentee's progress. In response to a question raised by a Member, the Partnerships Manager confirmed that it was appropriate for Donation Governors to contact House Parents if they felt any concern for their presentee.

RESOLVED, that – the report and its contents be noted.

10. SELECTING A PRESENTEE FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

Members discussed the applications for the Corporation's 2025 Presentation to Christ's Hospital.

The Chair reminded the Committee that all three candidates were all guaranteed a place at Christ's Hospital but only one would be endorsed by the City of London Corporation.

The Partnerships Manager advised the Committee that Candidate 1 was a "bright" pupil and had a brother attending university and another in attendance at a separate boarding school. She was confident that this candidate would do well at Christ's Hospital despite having a difficult upbringing due to factors such as domestic abuse and instability.

Regarding candidate 2, unfortunately this candidate also experienced domestic abuse and instability, however academically they were doing very well. This candidate was identified as being popular and "bubbly". Although their boarding session noticed that they were quite withdrawn, however the Registrar's agreed that the candidate would do well at Christ's Hospital.

Candidate 3 was involved in a Children in Need plan and their school report detailed that they were doing well academically and had taken part in various school activities. This candidate did well during their boarding session.

Members discussed the candidates broadly and whilst two Members identified candidate 3 as their first choice, the remaining Members whilst noting that it was a difficult decision to make were in favour of candidate 2 since the school's relationship with the Royal Mathematical School.

RESOLVED, that - Candidate 2 be selected as the City of London presentee for the year 2025.

11. DONATION GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS

Since there had been no new appointments to the Committee Members agreed to delegate authority to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair, to approve the next Donation Governor for the ensuing year.

Members discussed the £150 per pupil per annum allocated to a City of London Presentee for extra-curricular activities and wondered if this amount could be increased since this amount was agreed in October 2008, and the Chair was of the view that this would need to be reviewed and revised. Whilst Members agreed with this, they were in stronger agreement to prioritise the increase of the CoL grant.

All Members recognised that an issue with accessing the £150 allocated to presentees was that those involved were unaware of the method to unlock the fund and some were unaware that this fund was available. The Chair tasked the Town Clerk with providing further information on how to access funds in the next Christ's Hospital agenda.

RESOLVED, that – Members agreed to delegate authority to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair, to approve the next Donation Governor for the ensuing year.

12. PROGRESS ON CHILDREN PRESENTED IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS

Donation Governors were heard.

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

There were no questions.

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

The Chair acknowledged that the decision to move the second meeting of the Committee to 27 October 2025 did not give the 2025 Gresham an opportunity to speak to presentees at the City Corporation hosted luncheon. The Partnerships Manager suggested that the Gresham could be invited to attend this year's luncheon, permitting that this did not conflict with their studies.

The meeting ended at 12.17 pm

Chairman

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