



**MINUTES OF THE HARINGTON SCHOOL
LGB MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 21 JANUARY 2021 FROM 8AM VIA
MICROSOFT TEAMS**

Present: Rob Guthrie (Chair), John Harrison (Head of School), Peter Moody, Tessa Leuchars, Andrew Wright, Dyl Powell, Matthew Holt, Andreas Menzies, Margaret Miles, Henry Price, Ben Solly, Stuart Williams, Briega Slattery, Liz Birchall, Jay Banerjee

In attendance: Sara Kane (Clerk)
Natalie Ray (Chief Finance Officer, RDSF)

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies for absence	Action
<p>Rob Guthrie welcomed governors to the Microsoft Teams LGB meeting.</p> <p>Apologies were received and accepted from Geoff Thompson.</p> <p>Rob Guthrie informed governors that he was in regular contact with John Harrison during the pandemic. Governors are keen to support the school during this time.</p> <p>Matthew Holt and Andreas Menzies were welcomed formally as governors appointed by the Trust on 10 December 2020.</p>	
<p>2. Declarations of interest None.</p>	
<p>3. Minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2020 (VLE) The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.</p>	
<p>4. Matters arising from previous minutes There were no matters arising that would not be covered later in the meeting.</p>	
<p>5. Clerk's business</p> <p>Role of a Governor Governors attention was drawn to the information shared on the VLE. This was approved by the Trust on 10 December 2020.</p> <p>Code of Conduct Governors attention was drawn to the information shared on the VLE. This was approved by the Trust on 10 December 2020.</p>	Governors Governors
<p>6. Admissions Update John Harrison summarised the previously shared document.</p> <p>The official deadline for applications for 2021 entry is 14 February 2021.</p> <p>The raw number of applications is very strong and higher than historical patterns. A conversion ratio based on analysis of last years admissions is applied to the data. This predicts 144 but we are confident it should be more than this. John Harrison reminded</p>	



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governors that it is usual for students to apply to more than one provider.

Taster sessions for Year 11 students from Uppingham Community College and Catmose College took place in term 2. The session planned for Casterton College has had to be postponed due to the recent restrictions. John Harrison explained that he feels that the taster sessions have helped put Harington in a strong position as students have been able to visit the site, albeit after school due to Covid restrictions. In future years taster sessions will also be held early as they appear to be invaluable. 122 students have applied from CC and 90 from UCC (+15 on last year's figure). Feedback from the interviews held by the Principal at Catmose suggested that many students have identified the school as their first choice.

The majority of Catmose applicants were interviewed face-to-face pre-Christmas. The face-to-face interviews scheduled to take place at UCC have been postponed until Term 4. If the restrictions are still in place then the interviews will be held virtually.

Students from John Ferneley and Casterton along with other schools are now being interviewed virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Question: Are students applying on mass to a range of providers because of the situation?

Stuart Williams explained that when he has held Year 11 interviews at Catmose, students gave a firm view on where they wish to attend post-16 provision. To Harington's benefit the taster sessions seem to have confirmed students' decisions to join the school.

John Harrison explained that course viability will be discussed after the application deadline on 14 February 2021. Each subject will be looked at closely and the context considered. For example, the German conversion is likely to be strong as no other local providers are offering the subject choice. Modern Foreign languages also tends to attract more able students and therefore they are more likely to achieve the academic requirements.

Stuart Williams explained that to break-even financially 19 students need to be in every class group. This is a concern financially and the Trust would need to be involved in the decision to run resources with regards to the financial viability.

7. Centre Assessed Grades

John Harrison provided a summary following his previously circulated report. He explained that there is naturally a great deal of worry due to the government's decision to cancel examinations. John Harrison has written to parents and students following the announcement. Staff are trying to reassure students. A copy of the letter is to be circulated to governors.

Clerk

Chair:

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Date:

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The government have asked Ofqual to undertake a consultation, The documentation provides a reasonable overview of the direction of travel. The school has completed the feedback.

John Harrison will update governors once the process has been established. The aim of the school will be to be as transparent as possible. Governors may need to be involved in any appeals process.

Question: From the circulated UCAS statistics guidance does the school think that there is a lower number of unconditional offers due to the current situation?

John Harrison reported that 80% of all our students have received 3 offers and 50% had received 4/5 offers. Statistically the amount of students receiving unconditional offers at the school are high. Students are encouraged to submit applications in a timely manner. One student has applied to Oxford and has been offered a place. 9 are waiting to hear from Cambridge. The medical offers have not yet been received but this is normal practice.

Question: How are students made aware of the deadlines?

The applications to Oxbridge universities and medical course are encouraged early and are completed by October half term, whereas applications to other universities are required by Christmas. Rob Gumber quality assures the applications before they are submitted.

The official UCAS deadline is late January, however the school have always submitted applications early. Approximately 135 students have applied to higher education and 15 that haven't applied. 7/8 students are typically exploring the apprenticeship route supported by Helen Jackson. Apprenticeships do not tend to have definitive deadlines. Providers offer opportunities when appropriate for their organisation. provider offer apprenticeships when they like.

Question: Does any university element part of an apprenticeships go through the UCAS process?

Apprenticeships are separate from the UCAS application process, however the school offers support for applications.

8. Covid Update

A summary of the main points in the previously shared report was given.

Approximately nine key worker/ vulnerable students are attending on-site as they are having difficulties studying at home. John Harrison explained that students can attend on-site if it supports them and their families. The rest of the school population are participating in remote learning which at Harington is predominately live lessons.

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John Harrison explained that he is in the process of finalising a survey to be circulated to students to obtain their views on the remote learning. Teachers have reported positive engagement.

It was reported that staff have been offered testing once a week, however following yesterday's guidance from the government staff will now be offered tests twice a week and students once. The 7 days consecutive testing has been currently withdrawn following government advice.

Teaching staff are onsite across the federation typically two days a week. SLT and members of support staff are involved in the covid testing, along with two ex- Harington students. A small number of staff and students across the Federation have tested positive.

Natalie Ray explained that the Federation has received a grant to set up the testing centre.

9. Policy Review

The below policies were ratified by the governing body.

- Provider Access Policy
- Designated Teacher Policy (for looked after children and previously looked after children)
- Equality Information and Objectives

10. Any Other Business

It was agreed that the safeguarding scrutiny panel would be postponed until Thursday 6 May, due to the current restrictions. It was agreed that Briega Slattery, Margaret Miles, Dyl Powell and Liz Birchall would form the scrutiny panel.

Within her role as safeguarding governor Liz Birchall agreed to complete a statutory safeguarding report and present to the governing body at the next meeting.

11. Meeting dates

Thursday 11 March 2021 - LGB
Thursday 6 May 2021 -LGB and scrutiny
Thursday 1 July- LGB

DSL to
liaise with
Liz Birchall
to
complete
remotely.