



**MINUTES OF THE HARINGTON SCHOOL  
LGB MEETING HELD ON  
THURSDAY 7 OCTOBER 2021 8.15AM**

**Present:** Rob Guthrie (Chair), John Harrison (Head of School), Stuart Williams, Tessa Leuchars, Briege Slattery, Andreas Menzies, Matthew Holt, Liz Birchall, Jay Banerjee

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

**Absent:** Margaret Miles, Andy Wright

1. **Apologies for Absence**  
Apologies were received and accepted from Henry Price, Ben Solly, Dyl Powell and Philip Dalby.
  
2. **Election of Chair and Vice Chair**  
Following an email sent to governors in which expressions of interest were invited for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair, Rob Guthrie was nominated as Chair and Liz Birchall was nominated as Vice Chair. These appointments were unanimously approved by those present.  
  
Rob Guthrie brought governors attention to the recent resignation of Peter Moody. Peter has been instrumental in the success of Harington and has offered invaluable support to the school and the governing body.
  
3. **Declarations of interest**  
None.
  
4. **Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 1 July 2021**  
The minutes of the meeting were agreed to be a true and accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the chair.
  
5. **Matters arising from previous minutes**
  - Rob Guthrie informed governors that he had written a letter of appreciation to staff.
  - John Harrison reported that a modest amount of appeals had been received, it is felt that the rigorous approach to Centre Assessed Grades and consistent communication had kept appeals to a minimum.
  
6. **Clerk's update**  
Safeguarding Training  
Governors were reminded to complete the statutory safeguarding training which had been circulated via email. Stuart Williams reiterated the importance of completion.

**ACTION**

Governors

7. **Head of School Report**

John Harrison circulated his report ahead of the meeting. He outlined the key points.

**Return to school**

The return to school had been positive. Cases of Covid were high at the beginning of term this has now decreased significantly with only three positive cases currently in School. The School was following the Federation procedures around escalation and de-escalation of measures dependent on case numbers. At the beginning of term, for example students and staff were asked to wear face coverings in communal areas, which then escalated to all areas. Currently students and staff are not being asked to wear face coverings due to the low amount of cases. It was also reported that a high percentage of students have received vaccinations.

**Academic Enrichment Year 12**

John Harrison provided an overview of the programme. This year the programme had started very well with students signing up to their pathways and volunteering at enrolment. The year group will swap to either career pathways or volunteering next term. Guest speakers including ex-students are visiting the school to provide information to students on their chosen pathways. Volunteering is predominately taking place at the College or Primary, positive feedback has been received.

**Activities**

The activities sessions take place on a Friday afternoon, and has been an important part of the recovery plan with both year groups being allowed to mix again this term. Students are undertaking activities such as Young Enterprise, football and music club, these are proving great extra curricular activities.

Further information will be presented to at the next scrutiny panel.

**Safeguarding**

John Harrison reported that there were no safeguarding concerns to report.

Chris Raine will shortly write to parents providing information on signposting and mental health. A representative from Kooth (an organisation providing emotional and mental support for young people) had delivered assemblies to both year groups this week.

Natalie Henry – Oliver



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8 **Recovery Plan Overview**

John Harrison referred to the previously circulated document. The following questions were asked during the summary provided by John Harrison.

**Question:** What is the rationale behind the decision to entitle the documents the Recovery Plan, when it has been previously referred to as the transformation plan?

John Harrison explained that the decision had been made across the Federation to explicitly call the document a Recovery Plan as it is a plan of recover post Covid and an opportunity to reset and enhance provision.

**Question:** How does the School promote the importance of work experience?

It was explained that work experience is discussed with students at both assemblies and during tutorial. Due to the pandemic a high number of companies had offered virtual work experience. The school need to be creative in offering work experience opportunities for students is no not felt that holding a work experience week would be beneficial due to the amount of student involved and the specialist areas that students would like to obtain experience in. It was reported that this is the case across the country.

**Question:** What is Unifrog?

Unifrog is a post-sixth form web-based programme that allows students to explore the different university courses and apprenticeships they may be interested in. Unifrog is a commercial, more comprehensive version of UCAS. The funding of Unifrog has been kindly donated by Leicester University and covers British and American universities.

Tessa Leuchars left the meeting.

**Question:** When did the referenced student survey take place?

All students participated in the survey during the last term of the academic year.

The school's tutorial programme was discussed. John Harrison will provide a further overview of the tutorial programme at a future meeting.

John Harrison

**Question:** Does the school offer financial guidance for students, financial management and budgeting can be a concern at university?

Natalie Ray explained that she plans to deliver an assembly to students on finance and provide a Q & A session.

Natalie Ray

**Question:** Are students offered support in cooking whilst at university of a budget?

John Harrison reported that offering some cooking advice sessions are being looked into.

**Question:** Are students involved in the recruitment of Head Students?

Typically, students complete an application form, have an interview with the previous years head students and participate in a hustling session with the rest of the year group.

### Recruitment

John Harrison explained that the number of students joining the school in Year 12 was high at 180. The marketing, assemblies and taster sessions run last year will be duplicated again this year. The school was able to cope with higher than usual numbers this year due to a relatively small cohort in Year 13, however due to capacity, financial and staffing constraints the school will not be able to admit as higher number next year.

Governors are pleased with number on roll in Year 12 this year, as it has put the school in a strong position, however the governors understand the challenges the school faces in terms of admissions numbers.

The governing body approved the Recovery Plan for the 2021-22 academic year.

## 9. Policies

Governors attention was drawn to the policy overview document which detailed any amendments. The below policies were ratified by the governing body

- Child Protection
- First Aid

The rationale document outlining the amendments to the Admissions Policy 2022 was discussed. The Admissions Policy was ratified by the governing body.

The rationale for the need for a Bursary Policy was highlighted. The Bursary Policy was ratified by the governing body.



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**10. Any Other Business**

Parent governor vacancy

There is a parent governor vacancy. John Harrison agreed to contact parents to ask for expressions of interest.

**Expansion of Catmose College**

Stuart Williams reported that the consultation will close shortly. The vast majority of nearly 400 responses received are positive. The expansion plans have occurred to do a request by the ESFA to increase the PAN (number on roll) by 30 each year beginning in September. This will lead to an increase in every year group by 30 over a number of years, leading to a total increase of 150 pupils. The college has been working with an architect on plans for an extension.

The increase on PAN is likely to have a positive impact on the numbers of students applying to join Harington in a few years. The growing reputation along with the demographic change may put pressure on Harington in the future. It is hopeful that further funding to accommodate the predicted increase in numbers wishing to attend will come in time.

**Open Evening and Presentation Evening**

Governors were encouraged to attend Open Evening on Tuesday 9 November and Presentation Evening on Tuesday 14 December.

**Scrutiny Panel – Activities**

It was agreed that Briega Slattery, Rob Guthrie and Matthew Holt would form the scrutiny panel on Thursday 2 December.

**11. Dates for Diaries:**

- LGB- Thursday 2 December 2021 @8.15am
- Scrutiny Panel- Activities Programme -Thursday 2 December 2021 @10.00am
- LGB-Thursday 10 February 2022 @8.15am
- LGB- Thursday 31 March 2022 @8.15am
- Scrutiny Panel- Safeguarding -31 March 2022 at 10.00am
- LGB- Thursday 26 May 2022 @8.15am
- Scrutiny Panel- Curriculum- 26 May 2022 at 10.00am
- LGB- Thursday 7 July 2022 @5.pm
- Open Evening – Tuesday 9 November 2021
- Presentation Evening - Tuesday 14 December 2021
- Christmas Concert – Wednesday 15 December 2021

John Harrison

Governors

Briega Slattery,  
Rob Guthrie  
and Matthew Holt