

HADRIAN LEARNING TRUST

Minutes for Meeting of Board of Trustees

6pm, Wednesday 10 June 2020

Via Zoom

In attendance: Simon Kitchman (SKi), Graeme Atkins (GA), Veryan Johnston (VJ), Barbara Hignett (BH), Kate Chaplin (KC), David Hartland (DH), Tony Brown (TB), Sarah Kemp (SKe)

Also attending: Charlotte Gaines (CG, Clerk to Trust Board)

Part 1 Classified Non-Confidential

1) Apologies

Apologies for late arrival were received from BH.

2) Declaration of pecuniary, business or personal interests

No declarations of pecuniary, business or personal interest were made in addition to those already recorded in the Register of Interests.

3) Minutes of meetings - approval and matters arising

Trustees agreed that the Minutes of the following meetings, be held over until the next face to face meeting:

- Hadrian Learning Trust Board – 13 May 2020 – Part 1

4) Executive Headteachers verbal report

Trustees discussed the previously circulated report about work being undertaken at both schools during the closure period.

HMS

a) Provision for key worker and vulnerable children

DH asked whether laptops had been provided to year 10 DP students. GA advised that although the application had been submitted and 10 laptops have been allocated, they have not been received. He noted that very few schools have received them. In the interim period, hard copy resources are being provided. SKe questioned whether it was possible to allocate school laptops in the interim. GA advised that these are being well used for the provision within school.

b) Provision for year 6 pupils

GA noted that an inordinate amount of work had been carried out to ensure that year 6 students could return to school safely. Year 6 students returned in small groups last week and all of those that are returning are in together this week. There will be around 60 in next week.

GA advised that there are some anxieties amongst staff and some parents have been reluctant to send their children into school. The government intends all primary school children to return to school for the last 4 weeks of term.

There are some students who are not engaging, however this is being addressed. SKi

questioned whether students should be encouraged to be in school if they were eligible. GA advised that it is necessary to build confidence. SKe noted some parental concern regarding e Year 6 going back in this area rather than Year 8. GA noted that parental letters made it clear that year 6 is the government priority as an end to KS2.

Work is ongoing to ensure celebration of the end of phases including a Year 13 video, Year 8 hoodies and remote photo.

DH asked whether there were any suspected cases of Covid-19 amongst the key worker, vulnerable or year 6 students. GA advised that although one parent and one member of staff had been tested both were negative and that currently there are no cases.

c) Ongoing remote learning

GA praised the work carried out by staff to provide online learning. Parents are appreciative and there have been lots of positive comments. The resources and content have been very good. There has been little demand for live teaching. BH noted that in school at QEHS the process seems to be running well.

d) Addressing poor engagement at home

GA noted that there is national concern over engagement and advised that there is an intention to bring small groups of students into school to address this. BT, intervention lead at HMS, is looking at logistics across the year groups. SKi questioned whether this is in line with government guidance. GA noted discretion is available to schools. KC and Ski questioned the numbers of students attending and the capacity of HMS. GA advised that numbers are relatively low, with groups of around 10, the majority of whom are engaging well. There is currently capacity for one more Year 6 group before the plan would need to be reconfigured.

e) Year 4 to 5 transition

Staff have created a transition video. CG will send the link to Trustees. Children will have an opportunity to write to school about their hopes and fears. SKe questioned how staff could support the transfer if Year 4 are not in school. GA advised that engagement is taking place through staff. Trustees discussed how students would find out about their teacher and suggested a photo would be useful. CG agreed to share this suggestion with LW.

CG

CG

f) Staffing

GA advised that he is pleased with the outcome of the Assistant Headteacher interviews, with the appointment on an interim basis of HC. GA thanked VK and TB for their help with the process. Appointment of a pastoral leader to replace FC is underway.

DH questioned whether the number of resignations received this term is typical. GA advised that there are usually around 3 or 4 each year. He advised that it is likely that NQTs will be appointed given the time of year.

QEHS

g) Provision for key worker and vulnerable children

Numbers of key worker and vulnerable children in school have increased from around 12 to around 34. They are taught in 4 groups and this is working well..

h) Ongoing remote learning

JM, KI, RP and DT have been tasked with addressing those not attending. Live teaching has

not yet taken place on Moodle. OW will be holding a live lesson to see if this should be taken forward in the next phase

Ski noted that the number of vulnerable and key worker children is increasing and questioned the proportion of remote students not engaging. GA advised that Year 9 has the highest numbers engaging with fewer in Year 10. More girls are engaging than boys. Up to half of students are not doing everything. SKe highlighted a Dutch model which includes face to face lessons for 1/3 of the class with another 1/3 attending the lesson online. GA to feedback.

GA

Ski questioned the use of external resources such as Oak National Academy and the extent to which provision of equipment is a barrier to learning. GA advised that staff are aware of resources. Voice over explanations are being used and the numbers of QEHS teachers doing them will increase.

i) Provision for year 10 and 12 students

Year 10 and 12 students will be in school from Monday . GA advised that the numbers of students wanting to access face to face support are now 230 in year 10 and 126 year 12. The operation plan will be sent to staff via union reps. Trustees will be sent a copy.

GA

j) Year 8 to 9 transition

SKe asked if there was a sense that students coming from out of catchment would change their preference, due to transport concerns. GA advised this is not the case at present.

k) Decant

Some staff are being gathered together on Friday. Phase 1, rubbish removal, has taken place. Phase 2, populating the village, is now underway with reality checking of what can be reused. Work on transforming the 6th Form kitchen for office use will pick up soon. The project is progressing well.

TB asked whether there is an opportunity to add to the footprint as a result of the virus. GA advised that although there are limitations to the onsite provision access to additional funding would be unlikely. SKi noted that moving to two storey temporary accommodation would have disadvantages in terms of sound transfer.

DH questioned whether the Hydro is in use now that only a minority of students are in school. GA advised that students can be accommodated in the Lower School now that Year 11 and 13 have finished and others are not back full-time. This will probably enable early handover of the Hydro to the contractors.

l) Staffing

GA advised that there are high hopes for the appointment of a replacement Head of Maths at QEHS. BH commented that this is necessary given the turnover of maths leads.

Ski asked whether, although the Trust Board usually only write to SLT members leading, the Board should write to MH given his role and contribution to school. GA noted that MH had concerns around safety coming to work with Covid-19. Trustees agreed to hold the letter until these had been addressed. Ski asked whether a process to replace MH was underway. GA suggested that the biggest concern was the loss of extracurricular activity but noted increased use of peripatetic teachers to provide opportunities.

5) Urgent business with agreement of the Chair

None.

Close and confirm date of next meeting

Part 1 of the meeting was concluded.

The next Part 1 meeting will take place on Wednesday 8 July 2020.

Trustees moved onto Part 2 of the agenda.