



# Debenham High School

A Church of England High Performing Specialist Academy



## Annual General Meeting of the Academy

Minutes of the meeting held at the school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at 4.30 p.m.

Present:

Mr R Barker		Mr C Grover
Mr D Carruthers	Chairman	Mrs S Janson
Mrs M Carter		Mr D McMillan
Mr P Debenham		Dr W Thomas
Mrs C Driver		Mr M Touman
Mrs S Edmond		Miss J Upton

In attendance:

Mr R Boulter	Trustee
Mr R Grimsey	Trustee
Mr S Martin	Deputy Headteacher
Mrs T Willmott	School Business Manager
Mr S Wright	Clerk to the Governors

In the absence of Bishop Martin it was agreed that Mr Carruthers (Chair of Governors) should chair the meeting.

### 1. Absence

- 1.1 Apologies for absence had been received from Bishop Martin, Rev Bates, Dr D Egan, Ms Goodrich, Mrs Newman, Miss McBurney and Mrs Ramsay.
- 1.2 Trustees consented to their absence.

### 2. Pecuniary and Other Interests

- 2.1 There were no declarations of pecuniary or other interests.

### 3. Chairman of Governors' Report

Mr Carruthers made his report by reference to a power point presentation.

### Membership

Mr Carruthers ran through the membership of Governors and Members. He noted that there was a vacancy amongst the Trustees following the retirement of Mrs Brown but said that Bishop Martin was aware of this. The Governing Body would be completely full with the imminent appointment of a Support Staff Governor.

### School Organisation

This had not changed significantly since the last Trust AGM.

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Headteacher: Miss J Upton BSc

Senior Leadership Team: Mr S Martin, Miss S McBurney, Mrs L Ramsay, Mrs T Willmott

Chairman of the Academy Trust: Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Chairman of Governors: Mr David Carruthers

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## Community partners

Mr Carruthers highlighted a number of these:

- A successful third year for Teaching School Alliance (TSA)
- Pre-16 vocational links.
- Dioceses of Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds.
- St Mary's Church – Mr Carruthers commended the contribution of Reverend Bates to life at DHS.

## Numbers

In October 2019 these stood at 678 and remain buoyant.

Strong application numbers for September 2018 – there would be an intake of 140 (5 higher than normal). This had been approved by Governors.

## Academic Performance

Mr Carruthers noted the strong academic performance particularly in Progress 8 (0.73 – DfE well above average). This placed DHS first in Suffolk and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Eastern Region. Attainment 8 outcomes had been excellent too, placing the school first in Suffolk. DHS had been placed 9<sup>th</sup> nationally by the Sunday Times Good School Guide for those schools without a Sixth Form.

For disadvantage students DHS had also performed exceptionally well

Progress 8 - 0.71 (very close to that for all students)  
Attainment 8 – 49.9 good when compared to other LA schools.

## Attendance and behaviour

There had been a slight slip in levels of attendance though this still remains at a high level.

Mr Touman asked about the higher number of exclusion days for boys. Miss Upton said that this mainly related to one incident involving eight students.

## School Improvement and Development Plan

- Teaching and Learning – focus remains on assessment, resilience and curriculum development.
- Infrastructure – drama extension completion imminent, food hub and fencing in progress.
- Partnership – TSA. There are questions over future funding with respect to continued support for the programme from the DfE.
- Exploration of the possibility of creating a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). This remains a possibility though is not high on DHS priorities

## Finance

Mr Carruthers provided a summary of the current financial situation and noted the surplus of £611,138. Cash carried forward stands at £751,987 – surplus plus unspent capital funding). He noted that 78% of revenue costs related to staffing and pointed out that expenditure on educational supplies includes in-out expenditure on school visits.

In comparison with last year the financial situation is similar though there is an increase of 2.4% in support staff costs. Other spending percentages have also increased though it should be noted that this is out of a reduced total amount.

Mrs Carter asked if those staff who undertake training are required to remain at DHS for a period of time after the training has taken place. Miss Upton said that this was not the case.

Mr Carruthers listed DHS' KPIs and noted that the DfE uses them as a measure of a school's efficiency.

On the balance sheet the impact of the pension fund liability was noted.

#### Risks

- Reduced TSA funding.
- Student numbers (changed demography, travel costs, loss of reputation).
- Increases in National Insurance, Pension costs and salaries.
- Implementation of the NFF does not cover increased costs.

#### **4. Minutes**

##### 4.1 AGM Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018

3 (Results) Progress 8 measure was finalised at 0.51 rather than 0.52

5.2 Clarification was given regarding the previously stated frustration with Larking Gowen as accountants.

##### Trust Meeting – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018

These were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

4.2 There were no matters arising.

#### **5. Audited Accounts**

5.1 These had been reviewed by the Full Governor Meeting and were approved.

5.2 Larking Gowen were appointed as external auditors for the next financial year.

#### **6. Any Other Business**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.03 p.m.

Signed ..... Chairman 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019