

# Annual General Meeting Minutes

**Schools:** Chorlton High School and Newall Green High School

**Quorum:** 1 member from each membership group (met at this meeting)

**Clerk:** Ruth Pearce

**Date of meeting:** Tuesday 22 March 2016

**Venue:** Chorlton High School

## Attendance - Members

Name	Membership Group
Aneez Esmail	Parent
Andy Park	Staff
Zoe Morris	Staff
Alison Wright	Staff
Jenny Andrews	Co-opted
Amanda Edwards	Parent
Fiona Christie	Parent
Judith Berry	Parent
Saika Ahmed	Parent
Isobel Freeman	Community
Alf Parrington	Community
Debbie Ralls	Community
Atlanta Sawdon	Student
Matthew Mantel	Student
Darren Casey	Staff
Kevin Buchanan	Staff
Ruth Drury	Staff
Laura Silcock	Staff
Laura Golding	Parent
Claire Hinsley Mo	Parent
Saleem Ahmed	Parent
Jenny Hopwood	Staff
Kate Donovan	Staff
Kyra Jones	Staff
Catherine Roberts	Staff
Bysshe Sawdon Harkavy	Community
Katy Harkavy	Parent
Claire Redrobe	Parent
Christine Taggart	Staff
Ruth Pearce	Clerk (One Education)

## Agenda Items

<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome from Aneez Esmail (Chair of Governors)</b>
Following a singing performance from students of Chorlton High School, Andy Park welcomed the members to the first Annual General Meeting of the new CHS Learning Trust.	
Aneez Esmail then thanked everyone for attending and for supporting the AGM he also thanked	

the students for their performance. Aneez Esmail stressed the importance of the AGM as a valuable process to report on the attainments and events of the past year.

A second performance was given by Chorlton High School students, who sang with guitar accompaniment.

## **2 Overview of the Financial Accounts**

Andy Park, the Executive Headteacher (EHT), provided an overview of the Financial Accounts for the period September 2014 to August 2015.

Figures were presented in pie chart format. These represented a full operational year for Chorlton High School and the period from April to August for Newall Green High School, comprising 5/12 of their budget.

Income:

Total income for the period was £12,500,000. This consisted of General Annual Grant (GAG) income of £10,000,000 and Pupil Premium Grant income of £1,200,000. In addition, £200,000 was received for the start-up conversion of Newall Green High School to an academy and £50,000 was capital. All other funding was small amounts for a variety of reasons including, for example, trips, visits, music services and staff absence insurance. The capital asset included the valuation of Newall Green High School's land and buildings.

Expenditure:

Of the total expenditure for the period, the majority was spent on salaries for teachers and support staff, roughly the same percentage as the last two years. Spending on educational supplies included IT equipment as well as consumables. Depreciation of buildings and assets is considered expenditure, however this is not an actual cost to the Trust. Other much smaller sums were spent in areas such as additional support and catering. The legal costs include general operating costs and the costs incurred as Newall Green High School became an academy.

Expenditure was higher than income due to the figures for depreciation.

The key financial priorities for the year include the following:

The Trust aims to obtain efficiencies through MAT procurement exercises and seeks opportunities to share resources between the schools.

The Trust plans to increase student numbers at Newall Green High School.

The Trust aims to respond quickly and effectively to the forthcoming funding challenges.

## **3 Achievements of the last year- Chorlton High School**

Zoe Morris, Headteacher (HT), presented an overview of the key achievements and developments of the school over the last year. This has been split into four areas, as used by Ofsted in their inspections.

### Achievement & Standards 2014-15

The focus has been on students obtaining the best results possible, meeting the different needs of students.

One measure of outcomes is GCSE results. 31 students obtained 8 A\*-A GCSEs and 52% of the students achieved 5 A\*-C GCSEs including English and Maths. The school hopes to secure further students achieving this significant measure.

A further measure is the Ebacc, which includes Maths, English Language and Literature, two Science subjects, a Modern Foreign Language and a Humanities subject. There is a good trajectory of students taking the Ebacc subjects and a strong possibility that they will obtain a grade C or above in the exams. Chorlton High School has achieved above the National Average (NA).

All students must move on from the school into education, employment or training. 289 students moved into further full time education, largely at Loreto, Xaverian and Manchester Colleges. One student followed an apprenticeship and two secured full time employment.

The school was delighted to have obtained the Information and Advice Gold award for ensuring students receive good advice regarding careers and future educational possibilities.

### Teaching & Learning

Every aspect of the school is treated as a learning opportunity. 50% of teaching is outstanding and steps are taken to ensure all teaching is at least Good. Opportunities for Continuing Professional Development are of a consistently high quality and teachers are encouraged to pursue professional learning opportunities such as Action Research teams.

### Climate for Learning

The school has improved attendance and punctuality. The school is pleased to report that attendance figures are above the National Average and Persistent Absence figures are below the National Average.

A new Code of Conduct has been introduced to encourage outstanding behaviour and effective student rewards are in place. The expectation is that in the school and wider community the students will be Ready, Respectful and Safe. The rewards system uses Vivo points which the students earn, collect and spend.

City Year is a voluntary action group encouraging young people to offer active service within schools. Since September there have been 11 peer coaches working with year 7 and 8 students.

### Leadership & Management

In addition to the vibrant curriculum, the school offers a strong enrichment curriculum. A recent example of this is STEMFest, a fortnight during which science, engineering, technology and maths-based careers were presented to students by representatives from industry and the university.

The school has secured more community partnerships, including students supporting the use of IT in a local care home.

The school is considering its 2020 vision, and planning what the school should look like in the future, taking control rather than simply responding to government changes.

This presentation was followed by a drama performance from Year 11 GCSE Chorlton High School students. The piece formed part of the GCSE assessment.

## **4 | Chorlton High School Student Council**

Atlanta Harkavy (Chair) and Matthew Mantel (Vice Chair) presented the update from the School Council.

The focus for the School Council has been on co-operative values. The School Council have been working on a number of initiatives.

The uniform has been re-designed to drive up expectations and consistency. Students wear it with pride and solidarity in representing the school. The Council was involved in the tendering process and quality assuring the products.

Caring for others has been developed in several ways. The school has supported Southway Housing residents in learning digital skills, hosted a Christmas party for care home residents, taken part in a toilet twinning programme and helped with gardening at Arden Court retirement home.

The area of social responsibility has been addressed by the introduction of recycling bins and by taking part in the Make your Mark campaign. This involved a ballot and debate as part of the Manchester Youth Council which took place in the Houses of Parliament.

The area of democracy was focused on the Discovering Democracy Award. This was awarded following a number of activities. One of these was an election day campaign which mirrored the General Election. Students were issued with polling cards ballot papers and the opportunity to vote. 647 students took part.

The school also carried out Have your Say days to put forward issues of concern. The election of the School Council involved over 200 students standing for election as Form and Year reps as well as the council Chair and Vice Chair. Only 45 schools in the country have received this award.

The Council was involved in the selection of the Vivo rewards system.

## **5 Update from staff governors**

Darren Casey presented the update from staff governors as a member of the Chorlton High School Governing Body and the Trust Board. He represents both schools on the Trust Board and aims to feedback from staff at both schools to the Board and Local Governing Bodies. Chorlton High School provides hubs where staff members can share views and offer suggestions.

There are working parties for the schools to work collaboratively.

Staff at both schools appreciated the opportunity to join the Bupa Health Care Plan provided by the Trust Board.

## **6 Achievements of the last year- Newall Green High School**

Alison Wright, Headteacher (HT), presented an overview of the key achievements and developments of the school over the last year. This has been split into four areas, as used by Ofsted in their inspections.

### Leadership & Management

The school officially became an academy and joined the CHS Trust on 1 April 2015. The school was a sponsored academy and was given no choice in this, however, the Senior Leadership Team wanted to seize the opportunity to launch a new vision for the school, with new values and a re-brand. The staff had a residential weekend in preparation for the launch and chose the STRIVE branding to link to the work ethic of the school. The displays were stripped and the school re-branded with a new logo and colours and the launch was celebrated. It coincided with the newly opened Metro link, so the school council used the metro to meet the

Chorlton High School Student Council and bring them to the school to visit each other's sites. New exercise books were introduced to share good practice and it was a very positive start.

#### Achievement & Standards 2014-15

Newall Green High School was the most improved school in Manchester for GCSE results in 2015. The headline figure improved by 17% with up to 48% of students achieving 5 A\*-C GCSEs including English and Maths. The school's own data suggests that 52% will achieve the new Basics measure this year in English and Maths which is very pleasing.

#### Teaching & Learning

The focus has been on the quality of teaching. Continuing Professional Development has been carried out with Andy Park, Zoe Morris and other members of Chorlton High School staff and, in addition to the joint training, there has been joint verification of standards. The February rotation of lesson observations judged 88% of lessons to be at least Good with 24% being Outstanding. These figures are supported by data and the student voice.

The priority is to raise the number of Outstanding lessons this year.

#### Climate for Learning

The school offers a post 16 Professions Pathway. Although some students attend local colleges, Newall Green High School has a number of vulnerable students. The pathway has 65 students and the school intends to grow this number. Good relationships have been built with local and national employers and 28 of these are involved in the provision. Employer engagement is key in building resilience and employment skills and all students have at least one day per week on placement, including National Health Service providers and Quarry Bank Mill.

15 students from Chorlton High School visited for a 6<sup>th</sup> form taster.

This presentation was followed by a dance performance by students from Newall Green High School.

### **7 Multi Academy Trust developments**

Andy Park provided an update on future developments of the Multi Academy Trust (MAT).

2015-16 saw the formal sponsorship of Newall Green High School, a review of the staffing structure and continued shared support. A Trust IT manager was appointed to oversee the infrastructure and new Financial Management systems have been introduced.

Key issues for consideration for the future are many.

There are new accountability measures and schools must report the percentages of students achieving the following.

- Basics refers to how many students achieved A\*-C in English and Maths.
- The percentage entering for the Ebacc must be reported, along with the percentage achieving it.
- There are also an Attainment 8 and Progress 8 indicators which show how far a student has travelled and how far this is in comparison to their starting point.
- GCSE grades will disappear in 2017 for English and Maths with other subjects following.
- Grade 5 will be the new Gold standard, expected to be pitched at the current B/C grade boundary.
- The new curriculum and exam syllabi focus on knowledge and academic rigour rather than practical achievements.

The Education and Adoption Bill 2016 has granted new powers to the DfE to intervene. A school not making as much progress as the government would like will be deemed “Coasting”, however there is no final definition available so far. The DfE has appointed 8 new Regional Commissioners who will oversee education in the place of Local Authorities and all schools will become academies by the end of 2020.

Multi Academy Trusts (MATs) are being categorised into four groups. Starter trusts will have up to 5 schools. Established trusts will have 5-15 schools in a single region. National trusts will have 15-30 schools across regions and System Leader trusts will have more than 30 schools across the country. These larger Trusts will be directly accountable to the National Schools Commissioner. This represents a massive shift in the organisation of education.

The National Funding Formula will address historic unfairness in funding. The role of the Local Authority will be removed in funding. All pupils will receive the same basic grant and additional funding will be based on need such as deprivation and low prior attainment. It is likely that schools in Manchester will see a reduction in funding due to the historic levels of funding the city has received.

The Education Excellence Everywhere White Paper shows clearly the direction of travel for education. It states that education for every child should be fair, stretching and ambitious. Accountability must be high. It is suggested that operational efficiencies are achieved by MATs which have more than 5,000 students and 500 staff members.

The Trust must ensure it is well positioned to protect itself and the best interests of the students, to preserve what we believe in and expand by including schools with similar principles. The Trust Board is committed to delivering comprehensive education for the students in our communities.

The government agenda is moving quickly and the Trust will strive to keep in time with the changes.

This presentation was followed by a further dance performance by students from Newall Green High School.

The EHT praised all the performers, noting the legacy of the previous Arts college status of both schools and the power of arts education to enhance the student’s lives.

<b>8</b>	<b>Questions from the members</b>
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Andy Park asked for any questions from the members.

*Q. Who are the members of the Board?*

The Chairs of the Local Governing Bodies represent the LGBs, the staff governor member represents the staff and two additional members represent the parents and community, in line with DfE requirements. The EHT is a director and not a member.

*Q. Both schools have had an excellent first year in the MAT. What have the high and low lights been, the best parts and the obstacles?*

Lots of the highlights have been presented and celebrated in this meeting. The worst parts include the Chorlton exam results and the staffing restructure at Newall Green along with the relentless pressures of change on the staff and the concerns around funding. The students in both schools are phenomenal and our work together has been rewarding.

Andy Park thanked the members for their attendance and involvement in the evening. The excellent student performers were also thanked and all guests and participants were invited to

enjoy refreshments.