



**Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Monday 7th March 2015 – 6.30pm**

PRESENT

NAME	POSITION	PRESENT	APOLOGIES	ABSENT
Mrs A Martin (AMA)	Executive Headteacher	✓		
Mr S Garrity (SGA)	Head of Academy	✓		
Mr M Jeffery (MJE)	Chair of Governors	✓		
Mr M Atkins (MAK)	Staff Governor	✓		
Mrs H Baker (HBA)	Vice Chair	✓		
Mr S Bembridge (SBE)	Staff Governor	✓		
Mr R Tuck (RTU)	Staff Governor	✓		
Mr M Atkins (MAT)	Staff Governor	✓		
Mr R Watson (RWN)	Parent Governor	✓		
Mr R Palmer-Clarke (RPA)	Parent Governor	✓		
Mr I Phillips (IPH)	Parent Governor	✓		
Mrs C Ward (CWD)	Parent Governor	✓		
Mr P Oakes (POA)	Old Trust Governor	✓		
Mr K Wesley (KWE)	Old Trust Governor	✓		
Mr M Betteridge (MBE)	Old Trust Governor	✓		
Mr M Caton	Old Trust Governor	✓		
Revd. G Pond (GPO)	Church Appt Governor	✓		
Mrs L Key (LKE)	Business Leader	✓		
Miss S Bhogal (SBH)	Clerk	✓		

The Chair welcomed everyone to the AGM and explained that SGA would talk about the key points from the Annual Review and SIP, LKE would go through the Finances and AMA would finish by explaining where we are in the development of the MAT.

Agenda Item:	1. Annual Review 2013-2014 – Presented by the Head of Academy
Minute Number:	AGM1.16

Key points

- The academy's Leadership and Management is 'Outstanding' (Nov 2014 Ofsted), and has a strong and effective Leadership Team which is well supported by the Governing body.
- Improvements in teaching have been rapid, teachers are closely held accountable for students' progress.
- Whole-academy data systems have been improved to ensure that the tracking of students is now even more accurate and rigorous.
- The pastoral team provides outstanding support for students, working relentlessly to ensure their safety and wellbeing.
- New assessment methods are clear and effective, QEGS points are awarded for students according to their rates of progress; flight paths are well established in KS3.

Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Ashbourne Academy
Minutes of AGM Meeting dated Monday 7th March 2016

- The curriculum is appropriately broad and balanced, it reflects national changes to examinations and assessment.
- The extra-curricular provision is a strength of the academy; ensuring students have access to a wide variety of extra-curricular activities including academic pursuits, cultural experiences, sports and the arts.
- The leadership of the sixth form and the post-16 educational outcomes are outstanding.
- QEGS is a strategic partner in two Teaching School Alliances and through systems leadership, the academy has established partnerships and links to secondary schools requiring support. QEGS also leads provision of support for a Maths hub.
- The academy constantly seeks to engage parents in their child's education through a combination of strategies.
- Governors have a clear vision for the academy and are fully involved in the life of the academy. They also ensure that they access training and are constantly seeking to improve their practice.

No questions were asked at this point.

For further details, please refer to the sheet entitled "Annual Review 2014-15", our Ofsted report, as well as recent newsletters online.

Agenda Item:	2. Finance Report – For the year ending 31st August 2015. – Presented by the Business Leader.
Minute Number:	AGM2.16

The Business Leader presented the Academy's accounts for the year ending 31st August 2015.

She explained that the accounts, which had been prepared in accordance with company and charity law, had again been audited by Smith Cooper Limited, and that they had been signed off without qualification.

It was noted that Smith Cooper Limited had been re-engaged as the Academy's auditors for the 2015/16 financial year due to the high quality of their service.

Net value of assets

The Business Leader reported this to be £16.2m, made up largely of buildings and cash. Cash balances had fallen by £253k and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) deficit had grown by £143k. The Business Leader explained the growth in deficit was due to assumptions made by the actuary when valuing the scheme, not genuine pension expenses. She went on to say that QEGS is not unique in having a growing LGPS deficit, and that the Department of Education guarantees the pension liabilities.

Income

The Business Leader stated the income for the period was approximately £7.4m, the majority of which had been allocated by the Education Funding Agency based on the number of students on roll. She explained that levels of government grant income had fallen due to the Academy having fewer students on roll. Other sources of income included SEN funding from Derbyshire Local Authority, the Pupil Premium, Government Capital Grants and donations from the Woodroffe Benton Foundation, the Old Trust and the FPTA. The Business Leader explained that levels of SEN funding fell by a

massive £222k last year due to SEN reform at national level, changes in SEN funding methodologies and a falling SEN roll at QEGS. The Pupil Premium had been used to fund intervention programmes designed to ensure targeted students made good progress in all curriculum areas, particularly English and Maths, and the very kind donations had been spent on a bus shelter, outdoor benches and improved private study facilities.

Expenditure

The Business Leader explained that spending had been in line with the budget plan approved by the Governing Body, which had been driven by the Academy's School Improvement Plan and key educational priorities. Last year, the Academy's expenditure totalled approximately £8.2m, around 75% of which had been spent on staffing. It was noted that premises related spending had totalled around £487k, and that £139k had been spent on student examination entries.

The Business Leader acknowledged that spending had exceeded income but drew the audience's attention to the following non-cash expenses:

High levels of buildings depreciation (£400k); and a movement of £163k on the LGPS deficit.

Assurance was given that cash balances are monitored closely, and that the academy remains in a strong financial position.

For further details, please refer to the sheet entitled "Finance Report", our Ofsted report, as well as recent newsletters online.

Agenda Item:	3. School Improvement Plan – Presented by the Headteacher.
Minute Number:	AGM3

The main priorities for school improvement are highlighted on the sheet and include:

- Improving engagement and communication with all stakeholders. For example, we have acted on feedback from parents and have improved our reporting systems. Over 700 parents access our homework systems online and parental attendance at parents' evenings and events is well above the national average.
- Working closely with the LA, DDDC, DCC and developers to plan for an increase in numbers in the future at QEGS. We will ensure that all who live in our catchment area can attend their school.
- Recruiting and retaining the very best teachers and staff is a priority. A priority is to attract the highest quality staff by working in partnership with universities, the National College, and the Department for Education, and to ensure that our staff receive top quality training and can progress their careers. Getting this right will continue to improve what goes on in the classroom on a daily basis.

To read more detail about our school improvement agenda for this year, please refer to the handout provided titled "School Improvement Plan", as well as looking at our website.

Q&A

If staffing levels have remained the same, how has the additional spend been derived?

The Curriculum and students come first, decisions have been made regarding supply staff. In Science KS3 we opted to increase class sized and teach using QEGS staff as opposed to using supply. Staffing costs are rising as staff move up the scales. Student roll needs to increase.

The Executive Headteacher explained that the School Improvement Plan knits together with the Annual review, we still see engagement with our stakeholders as a top priority, and we have put in measures to improve and are developing these.

The Leadership and Management team are working in partnership with a number of Primary schools and schools with Peak 11 and the Painsley and Ashbourne Dove Valley Teaching School Alliances. We have training and advice available for all staff. We have had 19 admissions in year since September 2015.

We have recently become a National Support School (NSS) which means we share good practice more formally. We have worked with the Department of Education and are now a sponsor academy and a multi-academy trust; we are currently looking at partner schools to work more formally with.

The Chair invited questions.

Do you know which schools you are likely to partner with?

We have to work with schools in challenging circumstances, initially the Government are looking at secondary schools that are in need of support and are working with the Diocese to support primary schools as they are the experts in that areas. We will be adding capacity to our current structure so as not to compromise the QEGS structure, this is high on our agenda at Governor meetings.

Would Spanish be offered as a Language next year?

In Year 7 Spanish will be the common language, students wishing to study two languages will be able to opt a second language from either French or German.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and drew the AGM to a close.

The AGM meeting closed at 7.13pm