

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT THE OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL ON 24 FEBRUARY 2025

Present:

Mrs Sue Berridge, Trustee
Mr Geoff Buxton, Chair
Mrs Rohini Corfield, Trustee
Mrs Dawn Dyke, Assistant Charity Secretary
Mrs Sarah Hill, Trustee
Mr Bill Jones, Vice Chair
Mrs Linda Kvatch, Trustee

1. Apologies for absence

No apologies had been received and all Trustees were present.

ACTION

2. Election of Chair & Vice Chair

The Trustees were grateful to Geoff and Bill who agreed to stand as Chair and Vice Chair for a further year.

3. Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest registered by the Trustees.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting & Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 14 October 2024 were approved and there were no matters arising.

Dawn confirmed that the application changes agreed at the last meeting had been implemented.

5. Secretary's Report & Budget update

The updates in the reports were noted.

DD

The Trustees were disappointed that there was no acknowledgement from Wyggeston & Queen Elizabeth College and Kibworth High School regarding the education grant information that had been sent to them. Dawn agreed to phone them.

Addendum: Dawn spoke to staff at both educational establishments who recalled receiving the email; they confirmed that they would remind the staff concerned to advertise the education grant available to students who lived in the Charity's area of benefit.

6. School Visits by the Chair

Geoff reported that he had visited both high schools in Market Harborough to reiterate the criteria for the education grant and to ask the schools to encourage students most in

need to apply. It was noted that both schools had approximately 127 students on free school meals.

Geoff explained that Welland Park Academy had highlighted a problem whereby some students had difficulty accessing the internet. Dawn explained that she had recently spoken to the Learning Support Manager at Welland Park who confirmed that the school was happy to help students complete an online application, with any financial information not available being passed to the Charity direct by their parent/guardian. The Charity's online application had also been updated and was more user friendly when using a mobile phone. In exceptional circumstances a paper copy of the form could be provided.

Welland Park had also asked about the possibility of receiving a grant for Money Sense and Work Experience workshops for Year 11 students. This had been discussed at the Charity's recent Strategy Day and would be considered in more detail at this Thursday's Board meeting.

The Trustees had looked at the online application form on the Charity's website and Dawn agreed to improve the visual appearance so it was easier for students to find the application.

DD

7. Any Other Business

The proposed student interview dates were noted and Trustees informed Dawn of their availability. Dawn agreed to put together a timetable and send this out to Trustees.

DD

The student application data would be sent to Trustees following the 18 April closing date.

8. Matters for the Board

Geoff had visited the 2 local High Schools to inform them about the education grant available to students in the area of benefit.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 13 May at 4.00 pm in the Old Grammar School to discuss the student interview selection.

Dawn Dyke
Assistant Charity Secretary