

The Canterbury Academy Trust

Minutes of the AGM meeting held on Wednesday 24th March 2021 at 6.00pm via teams.

Present:

Chair: Mark Johnstone

Members: Georgina Baker, Andrew Doyle and Richard Field

Directors: Jon Watson and Andy Milton

Clerk: Debbie Scott

1. Opening remarks

Welcome to The Canterbury Academy Trust Annual General meeting. Last year due to Covid we were not able to hold the AGM and this year we have taken the decision to hold it virtually. I am very pleased and proud to be elected Chair of the Trust taking over from Richard Field who stepped down from the role in November 2020, but remained as a member. Richard is a very hard act to follow but has left the Academy in a strong position with an increasing roll and financially sound. We can't of course forget to mention Covid. Education has been the focus of national policy in getting our students back safely on site for face to face learning. The Trust never really closed, being open to all essential workers' and vulnerable children all through the lockdowns and I would like to thank all students, staff and parents in working together to ensure a recent safe return to fulltime face to face education. The Academy has also supported families with food vouchers, and laptops and pastoral care to ensure all students have an equal opportunity to access education in these unprecedented times.

The Academy attracts more students each year with one of the largest sixth forms in Kent and the soon to be opened Cullum centre for secondary ASD provision. Each year more students and their families choose The Canterbury Academy Trust as their first choice. This reflects confidence in the Trust by our community, peers and supporters. As we move out of lockdown and Covid restrictions relax, the future looks bright. Covid has brought out the best in us all, we have lived our ethos and values playing our part in the community, ensuring we remain a Trust for all the Talents.

2. Apologies

Auditors: Allan Hickie and Luke Grubb

Members: Judy Keay (medical appointment)

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 26th March 2019

Agreed as a true record

4. Matters arising

UHY were informed of their appointment for year ending 31st August 2019

5. Presentation and adoption of the audited accounts/annual report recommended by the Audit & risk committee and approved by the Board in December 2020

Allan Hickie from UHY presented the annual accounts for 2019/20 to the Audit & Risk committee at their meeting on 24th November 2020, before being recommended for formal approval at the Board of Directors meeting on 15th December 2020. The accounts have

been uploaded to the ESFA, Companies House and the academy website.

In summary:

- Close to budget in relation to income and expenditure
- Audit findings for the Academy three years ago raised about 15 issues, this year there are no issues, which is a huge achievement. UHY have said we are one of only a few Trusts in this position.
- There is a small surplus moving forward.
- A balanced budget moving forward.
- Buckle Under had no audit findings.
- City View only had low level findings, they are making progression and would have been completed if not for Covid.

Agreed.

6. Appointment of Auditor or independent examiner for academic year 2020/21

UHY Hacker Young have been our auditors for the past eight years and have provided a vast amount of support over the changing and challenging years. It has helped the Trust grow and diversify. The Finance Director went out to tender and obtained quotes from three companies. Although overall UHY had some price increases and higher costs for the subsidiary accounts, it still provided lower costs overall. Based on this the Trust staff recommended the reappointment of UHY.

The Audit and Risk committee agreed at their meeting on 24th November 2020 following a proposal from the Finance Director to recommend the appointment of UHY to the member group for appointment in March 2021 for academic year 2020/21

McIntyre Hudson were appointed by the Audit & Risk committee in November 2020 as independent internal auditors. They prepared well for the tender process and had researched the Trust and ways they could support us, they seemed more professional than Crowe, who the Board felt did not cover to the level of depth required.

Agreed to appoint UHY as external auditors for year ending 31st August 2021

7. A.O.B

None

Date of next meeting is TBC

Documents distributed in advance of the meeting:

Annual accounts year ending 31st August 2020

Documents distributed at the meeting:

None