

The Mount School - Clerk of committee's report 2020

I am delighted to be bringing you this report on the work of the school's governing body - my first such report on Zoom.

I'd like to start by reminding Friends of recent changes in the committee membership:

At the end of 2019, Linda Clark (co-optee), Greg Willmott (parent governor) and Quakers Mary Young and Mike Porter (both of York Area Meeting) stepped down from the committee. In 2020 we welcomed Quaker John Sweetman (YAQM) and parent governor Steph Hogg.

In early March, immediately before the lockdown, we had just become an All Steinway school and were looking forward to the benefits that status would bring to all our present and future musicians. We were also on the brink of a partnership with a girls' netball organisation and hoping to share our sports facilities with them. This would have had an enormous and positive impact on Mount girls and the wider sporting community, but, as I am sure you can guess, events have intervened.

You don't need me to tell you that 2020 has been a most challenging year for the whole school community. When we were obliged to close the school to all but the children of key workers we knew that our pupils – right from the earliest age groups - were already benefitting from our investment in technology, for example, the educational use of ipads. I am delighted to say that the rolling out of a full programme of online learning went pretty smoothly, and on behalf of the committee I wish to pay a heartfelt tribute to the enthusiasm, skills and adaptability of everyone involved in making this such a success.

Senior staff have worked tirelessly to keep pace with developments in regulation, some of it contradictory and - more often than not - announced at very short notice. The school re-opened to junior age groups in June and some senior girls were able to reconnect in an appropriately socially distanced way either for lessons in June or their results days in August.

The school committee has been active in its support, arranging to meet monthly, rather than termly, since March to keep abreast of the changing landscape. Moving to virtual meetings has proved to be a boon.

The Mount has started this new school year in hope, but in the knowledge that there is still a lot of uncertainty about the future. Some of our plans may have to change, or we may make new ones. Whatever we do we will, as our charitable objects say, 'advance the education of children and [] carry on and conduct a school known as **The Mount School York** in accordance with the principles of [] Quakers'