

The Mount School - Clerk of committee's report 2023

Good afternoon Friends. It is my pleasure to be at Quakers in Yorkshire again to tell you something about the work of the school committee over the past year.

As you are very well aware, Quakers in Yorkshire appoints the members of both School Committees, and there have been some changes since last year. Those of you who are regulars at QiY will have heard these reported during 2022-23; just to re-cap:

- At the October meeting last year you appointed Holly Gardiner, an old scholar now working as a lawyer in London. She reduced the average age of governors by some margin and we are very pleased to have her expertise on our board.
- John Sweetman stepped down in March 2023 after two terms of service
- Joan Concannon, a parent-nominated governor, has moved to being co-opted, as her daughter has now left the school. We are actively recruiting for a new parent governor.

I am very lucky to be able to work with such a committed board of governor colleagues. I feel we are working well together to support the School in meeting the competitive and financial challenges that all schools face. You have already heard about the nature of these from Bootham this morning.

On a regulatory note I am delighted to be able to report that we passed an ISI (Independent Schools' Inspectorate) Regulatory and Compliance Inspection in June, and I would like to publicly thank everyone who contributed to this successful outcome.

The School year since our last report has been exciting. One of the pleasures of being a local governor is that of being able to drop into school during the term, and those of you who know me will not be surprised when I tell you that music has been one of the highlights for me this year.

Our newly appointed head of music Andrew Passmore has brought fresh enthusiasm to the role, and the number of girls taking instrumental and vocal lessons is up by 125%. The girls have many individual performance opportunities, and groups have played both in and out of school throughout the year. Only yesterday they were performing at the Children's Ward of York

Hospital. This term began with a very successful Come-and-Sing Vivaldi Gloria involving parents, staff and girls.

David Griffiths continues to keep governors on their toes with a constant stream of new ideas for our scrutiny and evaluation, and was very active in recruitment last year. Our pupil numbers are growing steadily and the boarding house is full, thanks to his efforts and those of the marketing team.

As governors we are always mindful of our role to uphold the objects of the school as a charity – *“to advance the education of children and to carry on and conduct a school known as The Mount School York in accordance with the principles of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)”* - in whichever ways are appropriate in the world of the 21st century. It is clear that the Quaker ethos of the Mount and the education that we offer are key factors for parents when choosing a place for their girl or girls.

For the third consecutive year I’m going to conclude with a version of something I have said in my reports before. This is my 7th report to you as clerk, and my term of service ends in December 2024. The School’s nominations sub-committee, as well as old scholars, the parents association and the nominations committee of Quakers in Yorkshire all have a role to play in finding the right people to join the committee. We are always actively looking for new members with appropriate skills, and identifying a new clerk is becoming increasingly more important. If any of you think you, or someone you know, might have something to offer The Mount, I would be very glad to hear from you.

Margaret Bryan
14 October 2023