

KINGSBRIDGE LEARNING TRUST
Minutes of meeting held on 16th December 2008
MA6, Kingsbridge Community College

Present:	Paul Cox	National Marine Aquarium	(Chairman)
	Nigel Shillabeer	AstraZeneca	
	Robin Tatam	RSA	
	Lindsay Hall	RioCIC	
	Chris Harris	University of Plymouth	
	Jeremy Fothergill	Governor, KCC	
	Roger Pope	Principal, KCC	
	Lis Collard	Company Secretary	

In attendance: David Arnold Chairman, Governing Body

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Lesley James, RSA

ACTION

2. **Minutes of the last Meeting and Matters Arising**

Foyer Display: Roger reminded the Partners that he had asked for logo information for a display promoting the Trust Partners in the College reception. The size of the display area is 500mm deep by a maximum of 1000mm long.

ALL

Chris Harris confirmed that the University is currently investigating all its partnerships. Paul Cox is due to meet with Michael Totterdell, Dean of Faculty of Education, and will raise the Trust Partnership with him, including the possibility of links with Primary Schools. Roger will then follow up with a letter/invitation to meet if paperwork is still not forthcoming.

Paul
Roger

Roger confirmed he had held a very successful initial meeting with Professor Livingstone at Falmouth and a return visit is planned for January. He has also met with Sara Reid, the new Director of the School of Art at Dartington, now part of Falmouth University.

The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed.

3. **To consider developments in Primary Schools relating to Trust and Federation**

The Principal advised the Board that at a meeting attended by some 60 governors in September and representing all but one of the ten feeder Primary Schools in Kingsbridge, he had outlined the Trust arrangements and the way in which the Trust had been formed to allow "eligible schools" to join. All Primaries are now recognising that there is an acute need to address issues such as falling rolls, declining budgets and school viability in order to survive and this project has forced them to look at how to restructure. The need to monitor this appointment has proved a catalyst for exploration of other options including Trust and Federation.

The Principal had asked Primaries to let him know by December if any were expressing an interest to join our Trust, the results of which are that 5/6 Primaries are actively exploring this with their Governing Bodies, 2 others are looking at Federating, another to form their own Trust, and the remaining ones not committing to anything at this stage.

Trust Board members welcomed the active involvement of Primaries and the clear benefits that they could see in them joining the Trust as a whole group. Benefits which could be highlighted include strengthening the attractiveness of the local Primary Schools to those moving into the area; improvements in teaching and learning as greater breadth of expertise available; collaboration on premises and administration issues and

a mechanism for further integration with local businesses. There is also no reason why Primaries could not actively seek additional partners to join the Trust if they so wished.

There was agreement that Trustees did not want to close the door to those wishing to join even if this was on an individual or small group basis, although they did recognise that this may cause administrative problems in running a parallel Trust and Local Learning Community and could be seen as potentially divisive.

After discussion it was agreed that it would be better to give the Primaries the time and space to sort out structural issues such as Federation first and then to look at the implications of the schools joining our Trust once these had been resolved. This will also give the Trust the opportunity to find its feet and be in a better position to make decisions as to its future structure and membership. As Primaries will have to go out to consultation in order to join our Trust, this will not in any case be a quick process and there will be plenty of time to look at the implications for our Trust Board and governor representation before this is formalised.

The Principal confirmed that external agencies are assisting the Primary Schools with their discussions and that a meeting is planned for 14th January at which representatives will talk about the options available and give appropriate guidance and help to them. Jeremy Fothergill and Roger will be attending this meeting and Jeremy will be presenting information about the Kingsbridge Learning Trust on behalf of the Trust/College. Partners are happy for individual Primary Schools/Governors to contact them directly about their relationship with the College and the benefits of the Trust and Roger will provide contact details to the meeting. Roger will report back to Trustees following this meeting and once a clearer picture has emerged.

Jeremy
Roger

4. **To feedback on engagements that have been initiated between Partners and the College and future plans**

Paul Cox advised that he had attended at meeting of the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust, an organisation tasked by the Government to support Trust Schools and Specialist Schools. He had presented the benefits of our Trust to the meeting but was conscious of the fact that very few of the energy and ideas that had been discussed when KCC staff had visited partner organisations had not yet translated into firm actions.

Robin Tatam suggested a 'Fellows' Event' is held at the College to engage local Fellows and publicise the Trust to a wider audience. He will look into this.

Robin

Lindsay Hall explained the work being done with Rio and KCC. Two projects have begun: one where the College has been invited to be a Change School as part of Rio's Creative Partnerships programme on entrepreneurial/leadership skills and the other where Rio has been commissioned by NESTA to look at innovative Work-Related Learning in conjunction with KCC and two other schools in the South West. Both opportunities have come about as a direct result of the Trust Partnership.

It was agreed that there was a need both to push and pull from both Partners and the College in order to build momentum to the partnership. After discussion it was agreed to hold a half-day workshop in February for all Partners/interested staff and students in order to brainstorm ideas and prioritise concrete actions. One suggested theme which could incorporate all the interests of the partner organisations in 2009 is the bicentenary of **Darwin's** birth.

Lis

Paul also suggested that the Partners should take the opportunity to visit each other's organisations and Lis will circulate contact lists with the minutes of this meeting.

Lis

5. **To discuss support for the Capital Bid to the SSAT**

Roger explained that as part of the Specialist Schools redesignation process, he was planning to put in a bid for £25,000 capital grant to the DCSF which can be used to enhance specialist facilities. The condition for drawing down funds is that it is matched either through donations from charitable trusts or donations in kind from organisations with whom the school is in partnership. £15,000 in cash has been pledged by the College's PTFA and he asked Partners to support the remaining £10,000 by pledging Headteacher mentoring time and training. This was agreed by those present. Lis will circulate a proforma letter and details of the bid to Partners and signed letters should be returned to the College on appropriate letterhead as soon as possible.

Lis