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CEO: J. Callow
Chair of Trust Board: J. Sharpe

04/03/2026

Minutes
An Daras Multi-Academy Trust Members
General Meeting

Wednesday 4th March 2026 at 12 noon at [ADMAT Central Office/Hybrid]

1. **Welcome and Apologies** (Chair)
   Present: Jon Sharp (Chair), Chris Marshall, Richard Watson, Clare Kendle (online for Askel Veur) and Christina Mabin (online for EDEN).
   In attendance: Jo Callow (CEO) and Gemma Peacock (Governance Officer).

2. **Declarations of Interest/Pecuniary Interests Relevant to this Agenda** (GP)

   None declared relevant to this agenda.

3. **Approve Previous Minutes from Annual General Meeting (15th October 2025)** (GP)

   There were no actions from the previous minutes. The Members agreed the minutes, and these were signed by the Chair.

4. **Confidential Agenda Items** (Chair)

   No confidential items were raised for this meeting.

5. **Presentation of Accounts** (JC)

   The Members were presented the year end audited accounts as of 31st Aug 2025.

   Has anything been done to appoint another Foundation Director? It was acknowledged that the Board would benefit from a few more Directors. A current Director will shortly be stepping down due to work commitments; however, he has expressed an interest in becoming a Member. Paul Stock (EDEN) leads on a 'Be a Governor' campaign and CM will e-mail him after the meeting to make him aware so that suitable candidates can be put in contact with the Trust.

   What percentage is being aimed for in terms of reserves? The Trust are aiming for 2%. It is planned that the reserves will be increased this academic year and the Trust are currently on target. What is the forecast for pupil numbers next academic year and what will be the decrease in income? Based on pupil numbers from the last two census, the Trust is anticipating a loss of £300k next academic year. This equates to approximately 75 less pupils across the Trust. GAG statements are starting to arrive for next academic year. Do you see the finance and drop in pupil numbers as your biggest

risks? Both are listed on the risk register and the Trust are doing as much as possible to mitigate. Next year two schools will be dropping a class each. The Trust are hoping to run the SCITT programme, there are currently 4 candidates and 5 are needed to run the programme. Are there any different ways that the Trust are looking at longer term sustainability? The Trust is aware that the decrease in pupil numbers will continue and savings will continue to be made wherever possible. Schools have been very successful in seeking grants from elsewhere and two schools submitted a joint bid and have been awarded £18k each which will be ringfenced for school visits. The grants have enabled some of the general budget to be allocated elsewhere.

Can you explain about different ways that the Trust is looking to collaborate? The Trust is in contact with the local authorities and prior to the release of the White Paper had been discussing the feasibility of creating a SEN base. Discussions are currently taking place with another Trust about the option for them to rent some of the ADMAT Central Office space. Contact has also been made with another Primary School based Trust to look at ideas for collaboration. A new CFO has recently been appointed for the Trust. CM noted that EDEN are happy to provide any support with collaboration.

A significant increase in Senior Management year on year was highlighted. The number of staff within the Trust have increased due to the three Duchy Schools joining the Trust. This issue was not highlighted by the external auditors however, it is something that the Trust will be vigilant of. The number of SMT haven't increased however, the number of SENDCOs have with some headteachers taking on the role to help with savings.

Cashflow fluctuates throughout the academic year and is often higher at the beginning of the academic year as all schools are buying equipment whereas in May/ June less money is being spent. Directors scrutinise cashflow reports at the Committee meetings.

6. **Brief An Daras MAT Strategic Update** (JC)

A lot of partnership working is being undertaken with JC attending various meetings and events. The Trust has representatives on the CAPH boards and as much networking is being undertaken as possible to promote An Daras. The Small Schools Strategy has been published on the Trust website.

Launceston pre-school has closed and children and staff have moved into Windmill Hill Academy. The school age range has also changed to 2-11. Following the move, more children have joined the pre-school. The Trust are in the process of looking to sell the old pre-school building.

The class structures and staffing are all being reviewed. Staffing is being considered in-line with people's contracts, and the Trust are looking to make reductions through natural wastage rather than through redundancies.

The Trust are looking to raise people's awareness of An Daras and the good work that is being done. JC and JS met the local MP, Ben Maguire at Lewannick. Ben is planning to also visit Werrington and Windmill Hill Academy.

What is the long-term viability of Princetown? Is there a worry? This is the one school within the Trust which has an increasing number of pupils. Why is that? Princetown has a huge catchment area. The Trust are hoping to open a pre-school at Princetown and are look at funding to support this.

7. **Any other Business** (All)

   No items were notified.

8. **Date of Next Meeting** (GP)

   Annual General Meeting planned as usual for October/ November – date will be confirmed by email once the Trust annual meeting cycle is put together in the summer term.

GL Peacock
ADMAT Governance Officer

Distribution List:
Chris Marshall – Member
Richard Watson – Member
Eden – Member
Askel Veur – Member
Jon Sharpe – Chair Board of Directors & Member
Jo Callow – CEO & Director (in attendance)