

1. The Group was welcomed to this meeting of the APPG for Performing Arts Education and Training by Simon Baynes MP (Chair). Attendees were as follows: Lord Aberdare, Simon Baynes MP, Sion Davies (Office of Simon Baynes MP), Ryan Pratt (Office of Lord Taylor of Warwick), Baroness Wilcox of Newport and Jodie Underhill (ISM). Apologies were received from Lord Vaizey of Didcot and Lord Clement-Jones.
 2. The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed to be an accurate record of the discussions that took place.
 3. Update on the APPG's launch.
 - 3.1 Glyndwr Jones (CDMT Director) highlighted the press release that was made public shortly after the inaugural meeting of the APPG in January, noting that it had led to a number of positive articles in the industry press including *The Stage*. As secretariat, CDMT will continue to make public the Group's work.
 4. Graded examinations: Covid-19 and practical lessons in dance, drama, music and musical theatre.
 - 4.1 The APPG discussed at length the contents of the paper **Restarting the Sector 2021** which focuses on the current challenges facing awarding organisations offering graded examinations in the performing arts. The topic of conversation centred on the importance of such provision for young people and their development in educational and personal terms. It was felt that Government should improve links between the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and the Department for Education (DfE) to encourage greater synergy in policy formulation, and better integration of arts provision between schools and the graded examinations sector.
 5. Covid-19 and professional schools offering vocational training in dance, drama and musical theatre.
 - 5.1 Simon Baynes MP welcomed Jonathan Singleton, Executive Director of the English National Ballet School, to the meeting. Mr. Singleton shared some background to the paper **A Time of Challenge 2021** which discusses the areas CDMT Accredited schools have the most concerns at present. Inevitably, securing the existing 'pipeline' of talented performing artists for the future is a focus for both training providers and industry alike. The UK's departure from the EU is also negatively impacting many schools' ability to sponsor students from Europe, an issue on which CDMT is in dialogue with the Home Office, Office for Students, Ofsted and DfE.
- Action point: CDMT to draft parliamentary questions addressing the issues covered in agenda items 4 and 5 above so that APPG members can make representations to relevant Ministers and Departments.**
6. Along with pursuing parliamentary questions and letters, next steps include a possible joint paper with Conservatoires UK (CUK) to provide a wider picture of the performing arts training landscape in the UK. Mr. Jones is liaising with the Chair of CUK on this initiative.
 7. Simon Baynes MP thanked all attendees, highlighting that the next meeting of the APPG is scheduled for late-June, for which a date will be circulated soon.