

VIRTUAL MINI-PUPILLAGE PROGRAMME

PROSPECTUS

INTRODUCTION

1. Thank you for your interest in a Mini-Pupillage at KCH Garden Square.
2. Typically, we offer 3 day ‘face to face’ Mini Pupillages throughout the year to prospective pupils who complete our Mini-Pupillage Application Form, found on the Pupillage pages of our website.
3. Applications are typically assessed once per quarter by members of the Pupillage Committee and are assessed using the same criteria as for Pupillage applications. That process is also detailed further on our website.
4. Regrettably, like many other chambers, solicitors firms and other employers, we had to take the difficult decision to suspend our Mini-Pupillage programme as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency, to help safeguard our staff, members, clients, court staff, families and mini-pupils.
5. We are delighted, therefore, to announce that we have developed a ‘Virtual Mini-Pupillage’ (“VMP”) to replace our usual Mini-Pupillage programme, until such time as we can safely accommodate mini-pupils back in chambers.
6. We anticipate that once our regular Mini-Pupillage programme is running again, we will offer VMPs alongside that usual programme.

WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE?

7. Our VMP will see a number of prospective pupils join chambers remotely using the Zoom Video Communication platform. There are several sessions during the course of the day where you will have the opportunity to interact with, and get guidance from, practising barristers at KCH Garden Square.

8. The provisional timetable for the VMP day is this:
 - **10:00 – 10:15:** Introduction.
 - **10:15 – 10:45:** Talk on Pupillage & Applications.
 - **10:45 – 11:15:** Life at the Criminal Bar Talk and Q&A with speakers.
 - **11:15 – 11:30:** Break.
 - **11:30 – 12:00:** Life at the Family Bar Talk and Q&A with speakers.
 - **12:00 – 12:30:** Life at the Civil Bar and Q&A with speakers.
 - **12:30 – 13:15:** CV Clinic.
 - **13:15 – 14:15:** Lunch.
 - **14:15 – 15:15:** Advocacy Exercise.
 - **15:15 – 15:30:** Break.
 - **15:30 – 16:00:** Academic Lecture.
 - **16:00 – Close:** Open Q&A.
9. The morning schedule of talks will involve discussion of applying for pupillage generally and to KCH Garden Square, followed by a focus on how we train our pupils in chambers, using our Training Programme drafted by Higher Education professionals, taking a flexible and pedagogical approach.
10. Barristers from across practice areas and levels of seniority will then discuss their routes into the profession and what life is like practising in their different fields.
11. Just before lunch, we will hold a CV Clinic where students are paired and then put into a 'breakout room' with a member of chambers. Mini-pupils will share their CV or application forms using the 'share screen' function, so that they can receive feedback on the presentation and content of their CV, together with suggestions of what else could be done to boost their CV and prospects of successfully applying for pupillage.
12. After lunch, mini-pupils will again be placed in pairs in breakout rooms, where they will conduct a short advocacy exercise. Those exercises will be judged by a member of chambers who will then give individual feedback to their mini-pupil advocates.
13. The exercise will be distributed in advance of the VMP and mini-pupils will, so far as possible, be paired with a mini-pupil who is at a similar stage to them in their academic/professional career.
14. Following a short break, mini-pupils will attend a short academic lecture on a topical legal issue. The day will then come to a close with an open Q&A session where mini-pupils will be able to put questions to a large panel of barristers from across seniority levels and practice areas in chambers.

WHEN IS IT?

15. Subject to demand and availability of our volunteer members, we hope to run a VMP at least once per quarter from 2021. The first VMP will be on Saturday 16 January 2021.

HOW DO I APPLY & HOW MANY PLACES ARE THERE?

16. We can accommodate a total of 26 mini-pupils on our VMP on 16 January 2021.
17. Mini-pupils who had their mini-pupillage with us postponed due to COVID-19 have been offered first refusal on places. A few other places have been reserved for the winners of competitions which chambers has sponsored during the last academic year, who have not yet completed their mini-pupillage 'prize' with us.
18. We anticipate that this will mean we can take applications to fill circa 20 places on the VMP.
19. Applications are by way of the Application Form found on the 'Pupillage' pages of our website: . Completed applications should be returned to our Practice Manager, Mrs Scothern at hscothern@kchgardensquare.co.uk.
20. Applications are assessed by members of the Pupillage Committee using the same scoring criteria as for Pupillage Applications. Details of that criteria are found on the same pages of the website.
21. The deadline for applications is 12 noon on Friday 11 December 2020. Applications received after this time will not be considered.

CONCLUSION

22. We are excited to launch our new Virtual Mini-Pupillage programme and hope that you will consider applying to join the day. It is expected that competition for places on the VMP will be fierce.
23. We hope that the mixture of talks, lectures, advocacy exercises and practical guidance on CVs will prove helpful and interesting to you, on your journey to securing pupillage in the future. As a chambers, we were keen to offer more than just a short talk in an evening, as we already provide plenty of talks and employability events in collaboration with Universities and Law Schools across the Midland Circuit.

24. The intended outcomes from the VMP are:

- a. For mini-pupils to develop their understanding and confidence in relation to the pupillage application process at KCH Garden Square and more widely.
- b. To give mini-pupils practical, actionable advice on how to improve their CV with a view to securing pupillage in the future.
- c. To improve mini-pupils' understanding, and give real life insight of what life is like as a practitioner in KCH Garden Square's respective practice areas on the Midland Circuit.
- d. To improve mini-pupils' advocacy skills in the context of a civil litigation hearing, commensurate with their academic and professional experience, by identifying at least one actionable area, with a definitive step which can be taken to achieve that improvement.
- e. From the academic lecture, for mini-pupils to have learnt, or consolidated their learning, in relation to the subject matter of that lecture and how it is relevant to current legal and/or constitutional affairs.
- f. For mini-pupils to have had an opportunity to pose and receive answers to questions they have of specific members of chambers, in the context of pursuing pupillage and practising at KCH Garden Square.

25. I look forward to reviewing your applications and seeing you at our Virtual Mini-Pupillage on 16 January 2021.

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25 November 2020

OLIVER J.D. NUNN

Pupillage Committee