

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S COLLEGE

VALUE FOR MONEY STATEMENT

ACADEMY TRUST COMPANY NUMBER: - 08137421

YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2014

I accept that as Accounting Officer of St Francis Xavier's College I am responsible and accountable for ensuring that the Academy Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. I am aware of the guide to academy value for money statements published by the Education Funding Agency and understand that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayers resources received.

I set out below how I have ensured that the academy trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year.

The Academy Trust is committed to:-

Improving educational results

The Academy is a caring, successful and improving school which currently has as its mission statement "Life in all its fullness". The Academy serves students with high quality learning to give the best possible life chances. We aim to get the best for, and from, each student. We aim to enable each student to realise his or her full academic, creative and physical potential, and to develop positive social and moral values. Our Academy is a community in which students, staff and parents should be part of this happy and caring environment.

GCSE performance this year was in-line with that of the national picture for boys. The Academy caters for boys aged 11-16. In 2014 51.2% of pupils obtained 5 A* - C grades including English and Maths and 62.0% gained 5 A*-C grades overall (national boys figure 63.2%). In terms of English and Maths, 62.0% of pupils obtained a grade C or above in English (national boys figure 53.0%) and 62.0% gained a grade C or above in Maths (national boys figure 62.0%).

Students obtained very good 'A' level results with 95% of students progressing into higher education. The average points score per entry was 218.0 which continued an upward trend over the last 3 years.

NEET (not in employment, education or training) figures are outstanding. They stand at 0.5% for the Y11, 1.0% for the Y12 and 0.0% for the Y13 group of 2013-14.

The governors confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in determining the activities undertaken by the Charitable Company.

Targeted Improvement

The success of the Academy is reliant on the quality of its staff and so the Governors monitor and review policies and procedures to ensure continued development and training of staff as well as ensuring there is clear succession planning.

The staffing structure of the college is monitored and reviewed regularly by the Senior Leadership Team and the Governing Body to ensure staff are deployed efficiently and effectively thus ensuring

the curriculum needs of pupils are met, as a result of this the college has recently taken on an additional Mathematics teacher to increase the provision of Mathematics at KS4.

Focus on Individual Pupils

Pupil premium funds are utilised to narrow the educational attainment gap along with other key interventions across Years 7-11 which are funded to raise achievement. Pupil premium achievement outcomes are managed by the Director of Development and are reported to Full Governors annually. The college has introduced additional teaching support such as the RAP Group (Raising Attainment and Progress) to help raise attainment of pupils who are struggling to achieve their full potential as well regular nightowl sessions for all curriculum subjects.

Collaboration

In 2013/2014 the Academy maintained its relationships with the Local Authority and on a number of occasions worked with the School Improvement Partner to review Teaching and Learning to enable additional strategies to be used. This has enabled the Academy to share best practice and enabled standards to be driven effectively and at a low cost.

The Academy is part of a Sixth Form Collaborative with three other schools which provides opportunities for sharing delivery and good practice of Level 3 Courses. This enables our 16-19 cohort to have a broader and more diverse curriculum.

New Initiatives

The Academy is now in the process of starting a new build in conjunction with Liverpool City Council following approval of a planning application on 18th November 2014. The new build will be to erect a 3 storey science block, a new sports hall and a full refurbishment of the old science block to provide new music suites and new admin offices. The school will have a new entrance off Woolton Hill Road with separate pedestrian and vehicle entrances, thus providing better safeguarding for pupils and secure surroundings. The work began on November 24th 2014 and will take approximately 14 months to complete.

This year the Academy has also received two Capital Maintenance bids from the EFA. The bids were to install a new heating system in the Main Building, and rebuild a collapsed wall along the side of the school. The rebuild of the wall was completed in June and the heating work will be completed by the end of February.

Quantifying improvements

Detailed analysis will be available concerning our 2014 results and also the lessons that can be learned from them when our Raise online report is published later in the first term of the Academic Year. This analysis includes the progress that our students have made compared to their starting points.

Financial governance and oversight

The Academy benefits from the provision of a suitably qualified Finance Committee which reviews key financial policies, systems and procedures, including the use of tenders. Auditors present reports on compliance to the Finance and Audit Committee.

The Finance Committee receive termly budget monitoring reports. As accounting officer I receive statements with full explanations of budget variances. I have day to day access to all staff involved in purchasing and budget monitoring. The Finance Committee have the knowledge to challenge how effective financial management controls are by deploying a firm of Chartered Accountants to report on how the Academy's financial procedures have been implemented. An Internal Auditor has been appointed to assure the Governing Body that the systems in place are managed effectively.

The Full Governing Body approves the budget each year and is mindful of the need to balance expenditure against income to ensure a secure financial foundation for the Academy Trust. The Governing Body also receives and approves the Annual Accounts and the External Auditors Management Report.

The Academy benchmarks financial performance against other academy trusts to demonstrate that the Trust provides good value for money.

Tender exercises are undertaken to ensure that high value contracts are assessed against the marketplace on a regular basis to ensure that long term contracts remain competitive.

Better purchasing

I can be assured that all services and contracts are consistently appraised and negotiated to maintain value for money and quality of delivery. The Academy will continue to compare its costs against other similar Academies. The Academies Financial Handbook along with the Governors Financial Procedures Manual gives clear guidance of how the purchasing and tendering processes are to be carried out. There is evidence kept of this procedure for Audit purposes.

Economies of Scale

The Academy has made a decision to buy back services from the Local Authority at a cost which is lower than going to an external provider in purchasing each individual aspect of the requirements. For example; Subject specific collaborative forums, which provide up to date Ofsted guidance, training and support for subject leaders. If external provision was made this would have put additional pressure on resources.

Better Income generation

The Academy generates income through various grants available. Some of these grants from the EFA and others sourced from other locations such as the Football Foundation.

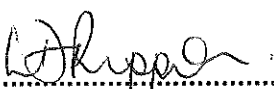
Reviewing controls and managing risks.

The budget is monitored on a monthly basis and discussions take place between the Business Manager and myself, any significant variances would be discussed at length and the appropriate action taken to address these, so reducing any risk on the budget out turn.

The Academy Trust ensures whenever possible that all surplus cash balances are invested in interest bearing accounts to maximise interest earning potential with recorded Governor Approval of the transaction.

Lessons learned

We have now reached the end of our second year as an Academy and the accounts have been approved by the Full Governing body. The Auditors reported to the Governing Body that the budget and the accounts have been well managed and a clean set of accounts have been submitted, there are only a two low risk recommendations for improvement and these have now been addressed.

Signed: 

Name: LD RIPPON

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 1/12/2014