

Value for Money Statement

Academy trust name: Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

Academy trust company number: 07831507

Year ended 31 August 2013

I accept that as accounting officer of **Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School** 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 taxpayer 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.

Improving educational results

At KS4, results are improving year on year with 75% of pupils obtaining 5 A*C including English and maths in 2013 compared with 67% the previous year. Furthermore, 60% of pupils achieved the EBACC performance measure compared with 32% the previous year. This shows remarkable progress made by this group of girls as it exceeds what was predicted for our pupils based on their previous attainment. We are particularly proud of the fact that over 37% of all GCSE grades were A* or A, which demonstrates that despite not selecting our pupils on academic ability, we are still able to create the kind of learning experience that is allowing them to access the top grade. For 2013, the school's capped average point score (best 8) was 374.2 and enabled us to be ranked in the 17% percentile of schools nationally by the Department for Education (RAISEonline November 2013), an improvement on 23% the previous year.

At KS5, results also continue to improve. The overall pass rate in Year 13 at GCE A Level was 99% with 29.7% of all grades being A* or A and over 57% were A*- B. This was our best set of results in ten years. Collaboration across the Welwyn Hatfield Consortium allows pupils to access a wide variety of courses to suit all abilities and career options. All students deciding on a place in Higher Education were successful, many securing their first choice of university, including top ranking Russell Group universities.

To enable continuous improvement, the school has put in place a rigorous process of tracking student progress and achievement so that any underachievement can be identified early and the appropriate interventions put in place. The Senior Leadership Team operates an extensive programme of lesson observations including two school

Team operates an extensive programme of lesson observations including two school reviews each year and a variety of "learning walks" with a focus on key areas such as vulnerable pupils and literacy. The School Improvement Plan has set out very clear targets for student achievement with a focus on working towards achieving outstanding outcomes.

During the academic year 2012/13 Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School received Pupil Premium funds of £51,458 which were spent on teaching and educational support for students in vulnerable groups, as well as programmes relating to behaviour, pastoral support, additional classes to improve student progress, revision programmes, activities and the use of external professionals to support individuals and small groups.

The impact of these activities is demonstrated by the progress made by this group of pupils. In the Department for Education's (RAISEonline 2013) summary of examination achievement showed that progress in the key subjects of English and Maths for Pupil Premium students was above national averages – in English 76% made expected progress and in Maths 82% made expected progress. The "value-added" figure the government calculates puts our Pupil Premium students at 1017.6 compared with a national average of 983.2.

Financial Governance and Oversight

The Governing Body approves the annual budget forecast each July and the financial statements and Auditor's management report each December. The Finance Committee meets termly to scrutinise budget monitoring reports and the cash position to ensure rigorous management of the academy's finances. Large items of expenditure are agreed by the Committee.

The school has an appointed Responsible Officer who provides a termly internal audit of processes and policies, reporting on these to the Governing Body. This includes ensuring that the school's Schedule of Financial Delegation is appropriate and adhered to.

The school annual Financial Management and Governance Evaluation was undertaken by the Accounting Officer and the Responsible Officer and all areas were found to be satisfactory. The school has a Risk Register which identifies potential risks and actions required to minimise these.

Ensuring efficient and effective use of resources

The school ensures a continual focus on best value for money and understands how our assets can be used effectively to maximise all of our pupils' progress.

The Business Manager takes care to ensure all purchases and contracts deliver value for money, using tendering to obtain at least three quotes and challenging any item which does not deliver a clear benefit. Large items of expenditure are agreed by the Finance

Committee as set out in the Schedule of Financial Delegation. Internally, the school seeks process efficiencies to reduce cost. During this financial year, pupil printer credit limits have been introduced to reduce unnecessary printing and therefore expenditure on paper and toner cartridges.

The school works with other local schools to undertake cost comparisons, particularly of contracted services, which ensures value for money.

Maximising income generation


The school continually strives to increase income from our assets: our facilities are let to local community clubs and associations on a regular basis, the Headteacher provides expert input to Herts County Council and the school undertakes a range of fundraising activities.

Surplus monies are invested in interest bearing accounts which are actively managed.

Reviewing controls and managing risk

The school has put in place a Risk Register which outlines all potential risks in the following categories: governance, operational, financial and external/environmental. The potential likelihood and impact of each risk is reassessed annually and the Governing Body reviews the steps that the school has put in place to mitigate the risks.

The Academy's Business Manager reviews budgets on a monthly basis. Any significant variances and, in particular, changes to staffing costs are highlighted and addressed. All changes to staff contracts are carefully planned by the Senior Leadership Team and any agreed increments endorsed by the Governing Body.

Signed: 

Name: *Theodora Nickson*

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: *13.12.13*