

Value for Money Statement

Chipping Norton School Academy Trust

Academy Trust No: 7929429

Year Ended 31 August 2014



I accept that as Accounting Officer of Chipping Norton School Academy Trust 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 have 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.

Raising Student Achievement

- The Trust has worked hard to secure high quality teaching and learning. The school is fully staffed and all classes are taught by teachers with specific subject expertise. Activities outlined in the School Development Plan (SDP 2014/15) are aimed at raising achievement for all students. Examination results have been good, especially at A level and where they are less good targeted intervention has occurred.
- The PPG has enabled specific focuses on individual students to ensure they make the progress expected of them. This funding has been expediently used to deploy staff in supporting and intervention roles. We have employed a Literacy Coordinator, pastoral assistants and classroom support staff to provide intervention as required.
- The school has provided Summer School for students who are joining us from low prior attainment. This has been evaluated and the students attending have made strong progress as a result of the Summer School opportunity.
- Catch up funding has enabled targeted literacy and numeracy intervention for those students attaining lower than level 4 on entry to the school. These students have benefitted from intervention provided by key staff in school.
- At GCSE level average points per student are higher than national in both Maths and English. Students at level 5 and the top of level 4 make better than expected progress in English and Mathematics. The gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged students has closed in Maths.
- At A level 58% of students achieved A*, A and B grades, an increase of 2.4% over the previous year. The ALPs score for A level performance (a measure of value being added) is very positive at 3.44.
- We closely track the attendance and behaviour of our students. In 2013/14 our overall attendance rate was 94.7. This was below the normal average and something we are looking to improve. Attendance for the vast majority of students has been very good.

Financial Governance and Oversight

- The Strategy and Resources Governors' Committee comprises of the chairs of all of the other Governor committees and has the principal financial oversight. The minutes of these meetings indicate the quality of this oversight in relation to strategic, prudent expenditure.
- The Strategy and Resources Committee reviews expenditure decisions based on a cost benefit analysis model. This year toilets were refurbished, a printer contract reviewed, new data software purchased and joined the PIXL organisation following discussions.
- Opportunities to generate income through lettings are taken whenever possible. The facilities are frequently let to outside groups for classes and other events. Support from local businesses has been sought and this is being actively pursued.
- Regular budget reports are provided to ensure that Governors are aware of the financial situation and to monitor planned expenditure. The school has maintained a healthy balance and has an agreed Reserves Policy.

Areas for Development

- The School Development Plan is annually reviewed to identify areas where we can improve. This year the focus has been on developing the quality of marking and feedback and developing student resilience as independent learners. These have featured in our planning and training and we hope will make a difference to learning outcomes.

As the Accounting Officer I attend with the Business Manager the Finance and Resources meetings and work with the committee to ensure we have an updated and very thorough risk register. A key part of my work is to ensure that we secure value for money. The Trustees, Governors, Business Manager and I insist on robust options appraisals. We are well networked with other Academy Trusts and use our networks to benchmark to identify areas for making savings. This has led to the Trust being stable financially and providing a high quality education with the capacity to further improve.

As the Accounting Officer for Chipping Norton School Academy Trust I am aware that I have personal responsibility to Parliament for regularity (spending money for the purposes intended by Parliament), propriety (handing money honestly and avoiding conflicts of interest) and value for money.

Signed:.....

Name: S N Duffy
Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 23 December 2014