

Value for Money Statement

Academy trust name: Colyton Grammar School Academy Trust

Academy trust company number: 7445493

Year ended 31 August 2013

I accept that as accounting officer of Colyton Grammar 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 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

The principal aim of the Academy Trust remains the provision of high quality learning that enables all students to fulfil their intellectual potential and become mature and emotionally well-balanced young people. To this end, the main focus of the School Development Plan for 2012/13 was on teaching and learning, striving to maintain high standards, reduce in-school variation and to build a strong community of educational good practice across the school. Examples of successful programmes over the year included:

- Detailed monitoring, review and implementation of improvements to reduce in-school variation and sustain high achievement levels
- A strong and detailed focus on increasing the proportion of outstanding lessons, through a variety of staff training events and follow-up work
- A curriculum review leading to changes in the time allocated to English, Maths and Science at GCSE, and changes to the Key Stage 4 options programme.
- Further work to develop thinking skills in Key Stages 3 and 4
- A continuing focus on developing effective middle leadership, including a major structural re-organisation of teaching staff into Teaching and Learning Teams
- Delivery of the second cohort of the Middle Leadership Development Programme and plans for a revised future programme
- The continuing programme of biennial supported departmental self review, and whole school reviews
- Detailed work on the implications of the new Teachers' Standards and Performance Development
- A review of Support Staff structures
- A continuing focus on staff development and succession planning
- A variety of support service developments
- Initial work on exploring and evaluating innovative use of new technology to support learning
- A strategic funding review, the implications of which are ongoing

- Preparation and submission of bids under the Academies Capital Maintenance Fund, covering the Cottrill Hall and the Staff House (staff accommodation and proposed lecture theatre). Neither of these bids were successful but the school has taken action to improve the quality of these projects for re-submission in 2013/14.
- Further implementation of the outcomes of the 2011/12 Acoustic and Lighting Review
- Continuing work on the Five Year Capital Plan
- Development of additional minor capital programmes to improve Take Five (the school restaurant), Site Staff accommodation and improvements to the West Playground
- Implementation of the major changes resulting from the revised arrangements for admissions for the 2013 and 2014 rounds, and review of the first year of operation of the new arrangements
- A focus on the effective engagement of boys
- A review of safeguarding procedures

Student Outcomes

As a co-educational selective school, students represent the top 20-25% of the ability range and go on to achieve outstanding academic results. Results in public examinations in the summer 2013 were maintained at a very high level with the school recording 49.9% of all grades at GCSE being the top A*. In preparation for university and employment, students study a broad curriculum with opportunities for extension work, while continuing to achieve results which place the school at the top end of national performance tables.

DfE National Performance Tables published in January 2013, rate the school very highly.

- 2012 Key Stage 4 tables ranked the school top in the table of all state and independent secondary schools.
- 2012 Key Stage 5 tables ranked the school as 12th in the table of state schools and colleges

National Performance Table data for 2013 is not currently available, but at both A Level and GCSE The Times ranked the school as 2nd state mixed school. The GCSE results were the best since the Academy's conversion.

Of 114 Year 13 leavers, 94 gained places on university courses, including 13 to Oxbridge and 64 to the Russell Group. A further 18 will be applying for university entrance in 2014.

A large number of students have participated in a very wide range of activities beyond the classroom. Key achievements include the following:

- Participation in a number of major national competitions including the English Speaking Union Public Speaking Competition, a Political Studies Association competition, the BBC Off By Heart Shakespeare competition, the Faraday Challenge, the Young Geographer of the Year Award, the British U16 Tennis Tour, Luke Coleridge Memorial Prize, Biology Olympiad, Maths Challenge, RSC School Analyst Competition, Magistrates Mock Trial Competition, Young Enterprise Best Business Award and Best Presentation Award, National Surfing Team, National Biology Challenge, Christopher Tower Poetry Competition, National Short Story Week Competition

- Fundraising activities for charities including the Poppy Collection, Children in Need, Sport Relief, Exeter Food Bank, Readathon, British Red Cross East Africa Food Crisis Appeal, Force Cancer Charity and Chernobyl Children's Lifeline
- A student production of 'Oh What a Lovely War!'
- Sporting achievements including champions and/or runners up for East Devon and Devon Girls' Netball, Devon Girls' Hockey, Devon U13 Rugby, East Devon Badminton and East Devon Hockey, East Devon Rounders, East Devon Tennis; and participation in the SW Regional Athletics Championships and Aegon Tennis National Schools Final
- Individual sporting achievements include selection for the National School Tennis Competition, the Devon Youth Cricket Team,
- Three teams in the Ten Tors Competition
- 'Life in the Vines' - Royal Society grant supported continuing work with the University of Exeter' Biosciences department on a biodiversity project
- The Choir sang in Bristol, Gloucester and Exeter Cathedrals and completed a successful tour in Lisbon.
- Student support of a family Science Day at the Norman Lockyer Observatory, The Sidmouth Festival of Science and an Institute of Physics stand at the Devon County Show

Data on attendance and behaviour continues to demonstrate the highly effective management of the school, with well below average proportions of unauthorised absence and low levels of poor behaviour.

South West Academic Trust

The Academy Trust remains committed to a formal partnership to support and develop the selective schools in the South West peninsula. The formation of a new Company to continue the work has been completed and five more selective schools have joined the partnership.

A number of staff development and student activities have been undertaken successfully during the period under review, including a student Challenge Day and a Student Voice Conference. Most subject areas now hold regular meetings, setting their own agendas and sharing good practice. The Trust partnerships provide cost-effective staff development, targeted at the needs of selective schools, enabling staff to be outward facing while reflecting critically on Colyton's own practice.

Other Partnerships

In addition to being licenced to deliver the Middle Leadership Development Programme by the National College for School Leadership until September 2013 when it launched a 'Building Leadership Capital' Programme on behalf of the South West Academic Trust, the school is also a National Professional Qualification for Headteachers Development School and is recognised by the Prince's Trust Teaching Initiative for Excellence in Mathematics. The school also holds the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award, the International School Award and is a partner school of the University of Exeter for the delivery of initial teacher training. In July 2013, the school was selected to be the fourth UK partner school of the prestigious Goethe Institut by the German Embassy.

The school works actively in the local Learning Community and with other Devon schools.

Financial Governance and Oversight

The school has in place robust and well-proven financial systems. As for previous years, the audit report for the year ending 31 August 2013 raised no issues of concern. Relevant policies and procedures are reviewed on at least an annual basis, and the Board is supported in its oversight by a Responsible Officer who makes a termly report.

The Board has in place a Best Value Policy which includes an annual Best Value Review focusing on at least one major area of school activity. In the period 2012/13, the Board received Best Value Reviews on printing and photocopying, and on security arrangements. The area identified for investigation during the year was the Support Staff structure.

Each year, the Governors' Training Evening held in January is given over to considering long budget plans, including a strong focus on benchmarking with similar schools. The Business Managers' Group in the South West Academic Trust have considered collaborative purchasing arrangements, and the school has collaborated with other schools in Devon on the purchase of Work Experience support.

Major service contracts reviewed during the year include security arrangements. The provision of insurance services was tendered using the CPC framework. Levels of cover were reviewed and new arrangements put in place from 1 April 2013.

The Finance and Resources Committee and the Senior Leadership Team receive monthly financial management reports which analyse performance to date against budget. The Finance and Resources Committee review these reports at each meeting and take any appropriate action required where there are significant budget variations. A major review of cash management was undertaken during the year. A number of new arrangements were put in place as a result, with the outcome being an increase of £15,934 in investment income from short term deposits and other investments.

The Academy Trust have identified that the most serious threat to the school over the next few years is the impact of various changes in funding for both 11-16 and 16-19 education, which are likely to lead to very significant reductions in the revenue budget. Governors are working actively, both to prepare strategically for these challenges and to lobby nationally and locally for a long term solution. Financial planning is focused on maintaining the breadth and quality of future teaching and learning in the context of diminishing budgets.



Signed:

Name: Paul William Evans

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 12 December 2013