

Value for Money Statement

Organisation name: Shaftesbury Academy Trust

Company number: 9040388

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of Shaftesbury 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.

Since becoming an Academy on the 1st June 2014 the Trust has sought to reduce costs and achieve better value for money in order to ensure that more of the resource for the Trust is spent on matters that directly impact teaching and learning and achievement in the classroom.

In order to achieve higher outcomes for young people we have increased the number of teachers in English and Mathematics as well as provide for a greater focus on literacy across the curriculum. This addresses needs of students identified prior to our academy conversion and will build on the already strong curricular changes in place to ensure students across the ability spectrum achieve above their national expectation.

Following an identification of a need to improve GCSE outcomes a new support structure was put in place for Key Stage 4, with a new assistant Headteacher and pastoral support worker. In addition, specific responsibilities for targeted groups were made available to enthusiastic staff. The development of support in classrooms continues with more opportunities for Teaching Assistant style support in classrooms. To address previously identified areas in our recent good Ofsted report we have put in place an attendance officer to maximise the impact we have on improving student attendance.

Within the Trust, with a view to future expansion, we work closely with local primary schools to provide IT support services and greater economies through the provision of site services and contracts. Teacher training opportunities are pooled and close liaison between subject specialists in the secondary phase and class teachers in the primary phase is promoted. This will promote higher outcomes for students in the Trust.

Our recent examination results show performance in line with national expectations for our students in 2014 and projections for future performance show a clear trajectory for greater levels in future years, with the gap between all students and the disadvantaged narrowing rapidly.

Extensive work on more effective purchasing and driving contracts has enabled a review of catering contracts, laundry services and a sixth form build project, where we achieved a project at a significant cost below the normally expected levels. All contract processes are geared towards achieving a best value level.

The Trust benchmarks against other local schools, in this year we have looked at postal services, refuse services and alternative learning. Support staff structures are reviewed each time a member of staff moves on in order to ensure that the structure achieves the best in terms of quality of service to maximise outcomes.

A new financial handbook has been put in place to identify our own internal best use of resource and effective financial and asset management. Governors committees are in place to manage the finances and risks to the Trust. We look to maximise income generation and rigorously chase fees due to the academy through boarding fees and other sources of income. Bank accounts are managed with clear oversight from multiple members of staff and a clear delegation of expenditure limits is in place.

Oversight of all financial and business functions is done by a suitably qualified team, under the overall control of the Accounting Officer, and with a clear focus on achieving the best outcomes for students in the Trust.

Name: Mr Mark Blackman
Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 15 Dec 2014