

# **Value for Money Statement**

## **Trinity High School & Sixth Form Centre**

**Company Number 7704968**

**Year ended 31 August 2014**

I accept that as Accounting Officer of Trinity High School & Sixth Form Centre 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 Educational Funding Agency and understand that value for money refers to the 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.

### **Educational Results**

GCSE results 2013-14 continued to be outstanding - 68% A\*-C including English and Maths, 16% above our Fischer Family Trust D target. The school was one of six shortlisted by the TES for Secondary School of the Year, for the second year running. Pupil Premium students achieved 53% A\*-C including English and Maths – well above the national average for all students. The gap between Pupil Premium students and all students was narrowed but there continues to be a difference which the school is addressing.

Post 16 results also improved on the previous year; the per entry figure for the Average Point Score (APS) per entry was up by 12 points and the APS per student was up by 130 points. The school roll is rising despite a falling student population across the town; the number of Year 12 students in September 2014 increased by 30. Trinity has been reported as 12<sup>th</sup> best Sixth Form in the whole of the West Midlands for student progress in the Birmingham Mail.

The school staffing structure was reviewed during 2013-14, including the Senior Leadership Team following the promotion of the Deputy Headteacher to Headteacher. TLRs were reviewed to reflect the curriculum structure and allowances were used to address School Development Plan priorities.

The school has extensive one to one provision which was accessed by over 200 students throughout 2013-14. The intervention in Maths and English was targeted to ensure A\*-C grades and in other subjects, such as Languages and Science, A\*-B.

During 2012-14 the school supported 65 other schools across the country in raising achievement at KS4, from areas including Worcestershire, Birmingham, Manchester, Shropshire and West Sussex. In addition we have supported a school in Worcester city in improving teaching and learning.

The school has been involved in a collaboration across Redditch and Bromsgrove and has become part of EduTrust, looking at sharing the delivery of alternative curriculum provision.

The school provides an Education Welfare Officer service to pyramid schools at a lower cost than that provided by the Local Authority in the past. This has helped to drive up attendance across the pyramid.

Raise Online data demonstrates outstanding educational achievement at KS4, improved results at Post 16 and exclusion and attendance rates improving over time, all whilst maintaining a sound budget in the face of falling income due to funding formula changes.

### **Financial Governance and Oversight**

We would judge the Trust's financial governance to be outstanding. The Chair of the Finance Committee is a chartered accountant and other governors also have strong financial backgrounds in both the public and private sectors. They are able to advise and challenge the Headteacher and Business Manager.

The Governors have put in place appropriate policies and procedures which are regularly reviewed. They receive a detailed report on the current financial year and a five year strategic financial plan at committee meetings which is then reported to the full board. An external Responsible Officer has been retained whose report is received each term. The FMGE assessment, completed soon after conversion to academy status, considered the school financial planning to be outstanding.

The Finance Committee also regularly reviews the Risk Register, with one governor with a professional background in this area taking the lead.

The incumbent Headteacher for the reporting period, Marian Barton, chaired the Worcestershire Schools' Forum for a number of years and advised other Headteachers of both academies and LA Maintained schools on financial management and planning.

### **Purchasing**

Worcestershire has long been one of the most poorly funded authorities in the country so the school is well used to managing on limited funds.

For the year commencing 1 September 2013 the school reviewed its insurance provision and used the Crescent Purchasing Consortium to tender and Risk2Value to benchmark the tenders.

The school actively tries to reduce energy costs and consumption by, for example, replacing obsolete electrical fittings with energy efficient ones and purchasing IT equipment with automatic shut-down software. Following a major capital project funded by the ACMF, two of our buildings now have new roofs and windows which

has resulted in a reduction in energy costs of approximately £6,000 . We are continuing to replace windows as part of any planned refurbishment work and hope to see a continued reduction in energy costs as a result.

The school has a designated member of staff to manage lettings and ensure that the school facilities are used regularly and extensively outside school hours by local community groups, thus serving the community and generating income for the school. Maximum use of our town centre location is made by offering car parking facilities to people who work locally. Income from this external use of our facilities has increased by £13,000 from the previous year.

As staffing is the school's most expensive resource, the curriculum plan and curriculum offer are carefully monitored, reviewed and fed into the School Development Plan which drives the budget planning process.

Bank and cash balances are reviewed regularly and a number of long term deposits have been made which give us access to the best interest rates available whilst ensuring that the funds are available when needed. Prudent management of funds has allowed us to make significant capital improvements to the school, including the conversion of the old Sixth Form Common Room into three fully equipped Science Laboratories and the refurbishment of both student and staff toilets.

### **Areas for Development**

We will continue to review the curriculum offer to ensure it meets the needs of the young people in Redditch and gives them the best opportunities for academic success. This will mean continued review of the staffing structure, both teaching and support staff.

We will also continue to seek opportunities for collaboration with and support of other schools, particularly with regard to purchasing and delivery of CPD and other services.

There is scope to develop the cycle of financial planning and review, at both a whole school (Governor) level and faculty/department level.

My appointment to the post of Headteacher, with effect from September 2014, in December 2013 allowed me to work closely with my predecessor to ensure a smooth transition and continuing success.

Signed:



Name: Adrian Ward  
Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 3/12/2014