

Value for Money Statement

Organisation name: Holyport College

Company number: 7930340

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of Holyport College 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.

Value for Money statement

Holyport College

FY13-14

Accounting Officer

The Head Master is the College's Accounting Officer and is personally responsible and publicly accountable for achieving the best possible value for money in the College. He works closely with the College Bursar, who acts as the Chief Financial Officer, as well as the wider Senior Leadership Team and Governors to ensure value for money.

Achieving Value for Money

The College opened immediately after the Financial Year ending 31st August 2014 and had limited revenue expenditure during the financial year. The trust has achieved value for money in the following areas:

- Conducting a full OJEU tender for long-term cleaning and catering services. This contract has provided excellent value and there is clear evidence that the food is well received by pupils and others and that pupils are benefitting from nutritional meals;
- Continually reviewing its planned staffing structure, both for its first year of operation as each key position was filled, and beyond. The staffing structure and associated budget has been through several iterations under the review of management and recommended to the Governing Body;
- Identifying pupils with particular needs whether through statements, free school meals indicators, English as a second language or other professional observations of pupils' needs. The College has recruited and assigned specific staff to support these pupils, as well as purchasing targeted software and specialist bought-in services;
- Collaborating with the Local Authority to provide specific services to the College where these were seen to be best value, including human resources and payroll, admissions, and waste disposal;
- The College has attracted various external parties to benefit the pupils and learning and teaching, such as a speaker from Oxford University, a renowned Professor specialising in Education to make regular visits and reports;
- The college has analysed the skills and experience of its governing body and specifically focussed on bringing on board governors with commercial and financial experience, including through co-option, to enhance its oversight and support for effective financial planning;
- The college has collaborated with other schools, including its educational sponsor Eton College, as well as other parties in order to gain access to facilities from which the pupils are benefitting and which widen the curricular and co-curricular offer, including a rowing lake, sports fields, real tennis courts and nature reserves;
- The college has supported the founding of a Friends group. The Head Master and Bursar sit on the committee ex-officio and provide input and guidance on fundraising targets. The Friends are currently in the process of providing the College with lockers, which will increase privacy, security and the pupils' wellbeing through having large secure lockers for all the academic, sports and other equipment required for the College's extended school day;
- The college uses electronic methods as its default means of communication, has monitoring systems in place for all printing and copying, and uses minimal postage.

Areas for improvement and plans for the current financial year

Since limited resources are provided to Free Schools in the period prior to opening through a £300,000 Project Development Grant, focus was placed on the completion and handover of the construction project, statutory requirements and the larger financial items, such as staff costs, cleaning and catering.

Since opening the College has undertaken an evaluation of its options for utilities and secured new competitive rates for gas and electricity supplies, making projected savings in excess of £10,000.

During its first year of operation, the College is exploring avenues for achieving greater value for money in small and medium cost centres.

Specific examples include:

- developing a recruitment and selection strategy to maximise the College's ability to efficiently recruit and retain high calibre staff over the next three years as the College reaches capacity;
- investigating procurement options for consumables such as stationery and paper;
- developing community supplier relationships for estates, grounds and mechanical and electrical inspections and maintenance;
- Collaborating with other academies in the county on best practice, policy and supplier referrals through the Berkshire School Business Managers' network;
- Investigating benchmarking models, through the State Boarding Schools Association and the Kreston Group. The College also welcomes the imminent introduction of academies benchmarking from the EFA.

Name: Mr Walter Boyle

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 02 Dec 2014