

# Value for Money Statement

**Academy trust name: Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School**

**Academy trust company number: 07831507**

## Year ended 31 August 2017

I accept that as accounting officer of **Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School** 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

At KS4, we are maintaining our good results with 72.22% of pupils obtaining a standard pass (A\*-C/7-9) in 5 subjects including English and Maths in 2017, an improvement on the previous year and well above the national average. Furthermore, 54.63% of pupils achieved the EBACC performance measure which is again significantly above the national average. Our Progress 8 score was 0.28 which is classified as above average in the DfE's Performance Tables. We are particularly proud of the fact that 24.38% of entries achieved the top grades of 7/8/9 in the new Maths, English Language and English Literature exams. This demonstrates that despite not selecting our pupils on academic ability, we are still able to create the kind of learning experience that is allowing them to access the top grades.

At KS5, results remain strong. The overall pass rate in Year 13 at GCE A Level was 100% with 54.29% of all grades at A\* - B and 22.14% at A\* - A. The L3VA is 0.15 which is above average. The BTEC level 3 results were impressive with 63% of entries being awarded a distinction. Collaboration across the Welwyn Hatfield Consortium allows pupils to access a wide variety of courses to suit all abilities and career options. All students deciding on a place in Higher Education were successful, many securing their first choice of university, including top ranking Russell Group universities.

To enable continuous improvement, the school has put in place a rigorous process of tracking student progress and achievement so that any underachievement can be identified early and the appropriate interventions put in place. The Senior Leadership Team operates an extensive programme of lesson observations including two school reviews each year and a variety of "learning walks" with a focus on key areas such as

vulnerable pupils and literacy. The School Improvement Plan has set out very clear targets for student achievement with a focus on working towards achieving outstanding outcomes.

During the academic year 2016/17 Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School received Pupil Premium funds of £123,715 which were spent on teaching and educational support for students in vulnerable groups, as well as programmes relating to behaviour, pastoral support, additional classes to improve student progress, revision programmes, activities and the use of external professionals to support individuals and small groups.

The impact of these activities is demonstrated by the fact that all PP leavers last year were able to secure a college place to pursue their chosen course of study and those staying on were able to start Level 3 courses. Where PP pupils did not make expected academic progress, this was due to complex issues including mental health but nonetheless, they were still supported onto their next level of study.

In February 2016 Ofsted rated the school "Outstanding" in every category, confirming the excellent teaching provided and strong progress made.

### **Financial Governance and Oversight**

The Governing Body approves the annual budget forecast each July and the financial statements and Auditor's management report each December. The Finance and Resources Committee meets termly to scrutinise budget monitoring reports and the cash position to ensure rigorous management of the academy's finances. Large items of expenditure are agreed by the Committee.

The school has an appointed Internal Auditor who provides a termly internal audit of processes and policies, reporting on these to the Governing Body. This includes ensuring that the school's Schedule of Financial Delegation is appropriate and adhered to.

### **Ensuring efficient and effective use of resources**

The school ensures a continual focus on best value for money and understands how our assets can be used effectively to maximise all of our pupils' progress.

The Business Manager takes care to ensure all purchases and contracts deliver value for money, using tendering to obtain at least three quotes and challenging any item which does not deliver a clear benefit. Large items of expenditure are agreed by the Finance Committee as set out in the Schedule of Financial Delegation. Internally, the school seeks process efficiencies to reduce cost. Examples of these include a system of pupil printer credit limits to reduce unnecessary printing and therefore expenditure on paper and toner cartridges and the introduction of Wisepay for trip and dinner payments to reduce cash handling costs.

The school works with other local schools to undertake cost comparisons, particularly of contracted services, which ensures value for money.

### **Maximising income generation**

The school continually strives to increase income from our assets: our facilities are let to local community clubs and associations on a regular basis, the Headteacher provides expert input to Herts County Council and the school undertakes a range of fundraising activities.

Surplus monies are invested in interest bearing accounts which are actively managed.

### **Reviewing controls and managing risk**

The school has put in place a Risk Register which outlines all potential risks in the following categories: governance, operational, financial and external/environmental. The potential likelihood and impact of each risk is reassessed annually and the Governing Body reviews the steps that the school has put in place to mitigate the risks.

The Academy's Business Manager reviews the academy's financial position on a monthly basis. Any significant variances and, in particular, changes to staffing costs are highlighted and addressed. All changes to staff contracts are carefully planned by the Senior Leadership Team and any agreed increments endorsed by the Governing Body.

**Signed:** 

**Name:** Theodora Nickson  
**Academy Trust Accounting Officer**

**Date:** 2/11/2017