

# Value for Money Statement

**Academy Trust name: Watford Grammar School for Boys**

**Academy Trust company number: 07348288**

**Year ended 31 August 2013**

I accept that as Accounting Officer of Watford Grammar School for Boys 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.

---

The Academy Trust strives to achieve the best possible educational and wider social outcomes through the economic, efficient and effective use of all the resources in its charge. This can be evidenced by:

#### *Focus on individual pupils*

All students make progress towards their targets and achieve success in all they undertake. Every student enjoys the same high quality education in terms of resourcing, tuition and care and the Academy Trust continues to raise the standards of educational achievement of all pupils. The Trust has an extensive and developed Learning Support department supporting over 260 students on the SEN Register. The majority of SEN students achieved or exceeded their targets at KS3 in 2012-13.

#### *Targeted Improvement*

The Academy Trust continues to improve the effectiveness of the Academy by keeping the curriculum and organisational structure under continual review. Teaching and Learning is also reviewed through CPD programmes and the School has invested in SISRA and Iris to improve this further. Lesson observations are firmly embedded as part of the culture of self-improvement, and the Senior Leadership Group operate termly inspections of departments through its INSTED process.

#### *Community Cohesion*

The Academy Trust is committed to working towards a society in which there is a common vision and sense of belonging by all communities: a society where the diversity of people's backgrounds and circumstances is appreciated and valued; a society where similar life chances are available to all; and a society in which strong and positive relationships exist and continue to be developed in the workplace, in schools and in the wider community. This was achieved in 2012-13 by:

- a) Continuing to engage students through the School Council and to respond appropriately to student requests. Senior prefects and the Head Prefect team continue to provide outstanding leadership. The prefects nominated Mencap and New Hope Trust as focus for the charity fundraising throughout the year.

- b) Engaging all parents in effective dialogue about their son's progress. Kirkland Rowell parental survey, completed in December 2012. Results showed overwhelmingly positive views of their son's school experiences.
- c) Building on existing links with the local community. Long term partnerships have been established with Mencap and the SHINE Trust and the Peter Harrison Foundation. The 'Climbing Higher' Saturday School is very popular and has a cohort of forty students drawn from Rickmansworth, St Clement Danes, St Joan of Arc, Bushey Meads, Francis Combe Academy, Bushey Academy and Parmiters.
- d) Hiring out the School's premises to commercial and community groups. The School strives to obtain maximum income from its assets whilst supporting the community cohesion aims of the Academy Trust. The Aviv Dance Studios continues to operate six days a week and supplementary schools (The Al Amana School, Watford Gujarati School and the Watford Chinese School) continue to thrive.
- e) Assisting other schools and academies through its links with the LEA and its NSS status. In 2012-2013 the Academy Trust has worked with Verulam, Westfield, Rickmansworth, Hemel Hempstead and Southend schools.

*Financial Governance*

The Academy Trust continues to provide value for money for the funds expended, ensuring all resources are spent wisely for the benefit of our students. The Academy Trust operates a system of Internal Controls that is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. The system of internal controls is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Academy Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

The Academy Trust keeps proper accounting records during the year that will disclose, with reasonable accuracy and at any time, the financial position of the School. They have been drawn up in accordance with the Companies House and Charity Commission Financial Reporting guidelines, and will enable it to prepare an annual income and expenditure statement that complies with EFA guidelines.

*Procurement*

The Academy Trust strives to achieve best value and to deliver services to clear standards, covering both cost and quality, the most effective, economic and efficient means available. It has recently instructed the Expense Reduction Analysts to carry out a forensic investigation of its spending on stationary and supplies, with the view to going out to tender early in the new academic year. The Academy Trust continues to explore grant funding for its capital programmes.

*Income Generation*

The Academy Trust has developed links with a number of community groups and organisations in an attempt to maximise the lettings potential of its premises.

**Signed:** .....

**Name:** Mr M. R. Post

**Academy Trust Accounting Officer**

**Date:** .....