

Value for Money Statement

Academy Trust name: Watford Grammar School for Boys

Academy Trust company number: 07348288

Year ended 31 August 2014

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 overriding aim of Watford Grammar School for Boys is to:

“Provide an education of the highest quality which meets both individually and collectively the needs and aspirations of students”

The governors and leadership group have identified a set of core values that underpins this mission statement:

- Aspire to be the best in all that we do.
- Develop a sense of personal worth for all students.
- Ensure that every student thinks, learns, is caring and has the opportunity to progress.
- Develop the strengths and skills needed to meet the challenges of life after school.
- Provide and maintain an environment where staff can develop their skills and career paths and work to the best of their abilities.

Watford Grammar School for Boys 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 the following:

1. Focus on individual pupils

All students make good 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 school continues to raise the standards of educational achievement of all pupils. A number of whole school characteristics and strategies are maintained and have been developed which research suggests particularly benefit Pupil Premium students. These include:

- High expectations as to progress, attendance and behaviour
- Use of data at school, key stage, year group, subject levels to track progress of students
- Provision of wide, academic curriculum, extra-curricular activities and trips

- Development of students' independence and metacognition skills
- Provision of highest quality Learning Support

Targeted Improvement

Watford Grammar School for Boys continues to improve the effectiveness of the academy by keeping the curriculum and organisational structure under continual review. Teaching and Learning is 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.

The school reduced the amount of contact teaching time for Heads of Year by 2 periods (70 minutes) per week substantially in recognition of the additional time to be spent on assessment, monitoring provision and interventions for Pupil Premium students and others who were failing to meet their target grades. Specific interventions included:

- Engagement of parents of Pupil Premium students
- 'Mind Skills' programme to develop study skills in Year 11.
- Private Easter Revision courses for Year 11
- One-to-one online tuition in English
- Funding of school trips

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 2013-14 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) Building on existing links with the local community. Long term partnerships have been established with Mencap and the SHINE Trust. 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.
- c) 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.
- d) The School continues to fund free ICT lessons for the local community via the U3A program.
- e) Developing the long-term partnership that the academy has with West Herts Hockey Club, whose men's team were promoted to the National League for the first time in their history. This partnership, together with other sports partners such as Watford FC (men and ladies) helped the academy secure a grant for £500,000 towards rebuilding the school's sports pavilion. This building will be completed in November 2014 and will help to further develop the schools links with the local sporting community.
- f) Assisting other schools and academies through its links with the LEA and its NSS status. In 2013-2014 the Academy Trust has worked with Ashlyns, Westfield, Rickmansworth, Hemel Hempstead and Southend schools.

Financial Governance

Watford Grammar School for Boys continues to provide value for money for the funds expended, ensuring all resources are spent wisely for the benefit of our students. The school 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 school 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

Watford Grammar School for Boys 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 continues to work with the Expense Reduction Analysts to carry out a forensic investigation of its spending on stationary and supplies. The school has an impressive track record in delivering capital projects on time and within budget.

Income Generation

The Watford Grammar School for Boys has developed links with a number of community groups and organisations in an attempt to maximise the lettings potential of its premises. The school continues to explore grant funding for its capital programmes, and was successful in securing two large grants for its New Field pavilion project in 2014.

Signed:

Name: Mr M. Allchorn

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: