
CHAUNCY SCHOOL
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

CHAUNCY SCHOOL
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	Robert Watson (resigned 28 September 2022) Elizabeth Wilkinson Miles Ambler Amanda King Adele Batsford (resigned 28 September 2022)
Governors	Robert Watson, Chair (resigned 28 September 2022) ² Miles Ambler, Chair (appointed 28 September 2022) ¹ Clare Barter (resigned 28 September 2022) ² Adele Batsford (resigned 28 September 2022) ² Martin Butcher ² Libby Byne-Grey (appointed 18 November 2021) ² Hannah Courtney ³ John Farrell ² Owen Hawkrigge ³ Amanda King ² Tosin Lawani ² Simon Clark (appointed 4 October 2022) ² Dennis O'Sullivan, Head Teacher ² Guadalupe Gibbs (appointed 4 October 2022, resigned 29 March 2023) ² Elizabeth Wilkinson ¹ Birgitt Wilmanns-Parker ² Oliver Rawlings (appointed 28 November 2022) ² Richard Elkes (appointed 27 September 2023) ² ¹ Member Governor ² Trustee ³ Staff Governor
Company registered number	07694228
Company name	Chauncy School
Principal and registered office	Park Road Ware Hertfordshire SG12 0DP
Company secretary	Susan Browning
Senior leadership team	Dennis O'Sullivan, Head Teacher Diane Carey, Deputy Head Teacher (Curriculum) Stephen Walton, Deputy Head Teacher (Pastoral) Craig Burnett, Assistant Head Teacher Pablo Ardiles, Assistant Head Teacher (from 1 September 2023) Sonali Lariko, Acting Assistant Head Teacher (from 1 September 2023) Ian Rooke, Acting Assistant Head Teacher (from 1 September 2023) Jackie Grosch, Finance Manager

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Independent auditors Hillier Hopkins LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor
Radius House
51 Clarendon Road
Watford
Herts
WD17 1HP

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GOVERNORS' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Governors present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Governors' report and a directors' report under company law.

The Trustees operate a secondary school academy for pupils aged 11 to 18 serving a catchment area in Ware and the surrounding villages. It has a pupil capacity of 210 in year 7 and had on roll 1,372 in the school census of October 2022.

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

The academy trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity.

The charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association is the primary governing document of the academy trust.

The Governors of Chauncy School are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law.

The charitable company is known as Chauncy School.

Details of the Governors who served during the year, and to the date these accounts are approved are included in the Reference and administrative details on page 1.

b. Members' liability

Each member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the charitable company in the event of it being wound up while they are a member, or within one year after they cease to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10, for the debts and liabilities contracted before they ceased to be a member.

c. Governors' indemnities

In accordance with the normal commercial practice the academy has purchased insurance to protect the trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions whilst on academy business.

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GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Structure, governance and management (continued)

d. Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Governors

The Governors are identified and chosen by the Board and are proposed to the full Board meeting. Candidates are selected based on eligibility, personal competence and professional skills, which can benefit the School, as well as local availability. The Board comprises Parent Governors, The Headteacher, Staff Governors and Member Governors.

The current composition of Members includes:

Mr Robert Watson (Chair-resigned 28th September 2022)
Miles Ambler (appointed 24th March 2021. Appointed Chair September 2022)
Adele Batsford (appointed 18th September 2019. Resigned 5th November 2022)
Amanda King (appointed 18th September 2019)
Elizabeth Wilkinson (appointed 24th March 2021)

e. Policies adopted for the induction and training of Governors

Governors are appointed based on the skills that they will bring to the governing body or based on a proposal to the governing body by representative groups. On appointment, Governors receive information relating to the Academy and attend a briefing session and receive an induction pack on the role and responsibilities of Governors. These sessions cover educational and business matters and include a familiarization tour of the School's facilities. Governors are issued with extensive background material together with the statutory guidelines for Governors. Governors are encouraged to attend training sessions organized for the education Sector.

During the period, Governors were offered all necessary training.

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GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Structure, governance and management (continued)

f. Organisational structure

The governance of the Academy is defined in the Memorandum and Articles of Association together with the funding agreement with the Department of Education.

The Governing Body has established a number of sub committees to review policies and performance of the school in all areas. Reports from each of the sub committees are received and discussed at every meeting of the full governing body.

All Governors are members of the full governing body. In addition Governors are members of committees who report to the full governing body.

Resources Committee

Mr Simon Clark
Mr John Farrell
Mrs Amanda King
Mrs Birgitt Wilmanns-Parker (Appointed Chair September 2022)
Mr Dennis O'Sullivan (Headteacher)

Review & Development Committee

Mr Miles Ambler
Mr Martin Butcher
Mrs Libby Byne Grey
Mrs Tosin Lawani
Mr Oliver Rawlings
Miss Elizabeth Wilkinson (R&D Chair)

g. Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Board of Governors gives due consideration to national guidance for the setting of staff salaries and benchmarks staff costs using the Department for Education benchmarking tools.

The Board of Governors will ensure that every member of staff including the Headteacher has a salary review as part of the annual performance management process. On completion of this process, any pay awards, if due, will be made in accordance with the school pay policy.

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GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Structure, governance and management (continued)

h. Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the year	1
Full-time equivalent employee number	1

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	-
1%-50%	1
51%-99%	-
100%	-

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time **£**

Total cost of facility time	-
Total pay bill	6,458,096
Percentage of total pay bill spent on facility time	- %

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	- %
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i. Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

The Headteacher is a member of a number of professional organisations, which enable him to keep abreast of current educational matters and network with other schools to share expertise, knowledge and experience.

Formerly known as the Hertford and Ware consortium, the Federation consists of five local schools; Chauncy, Presdales, Richard Hale, Sele and Simon Balle. Its purpose is to widen the choice of courses open to 16 to 19 students who are in full time attendance at any of the member institutions. Students remain on roll in their home institutions, but are expected to conform to the expectations of the host institutions in dress, conduct and study habits. A Federation-wide assessment takes place at the end of the first half term and both then and subsequently, parents will receive reports in the style of the host institution.

The school is part of the School Direct Teacher Training scheme, which is funded by the National College for Teaching and Leadership.

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GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Objectives and activities

a. Objects and aims

The School's objective is to advance for the public benefit education for children aged 11 to 18 in the UK. In particular by establishing, maintaining, managing and developing the Academy, to offer a broad and ambitious curriculum.

The Governors vision is committed to promoting student achievement. Our aims are to provide inspirational teaching and learning:

- To welcome students of all abilities, enabling each one to enjoy learning and achieve their very best.
- To be a learning centre within our community.
- To enable young people to become confident individuals who live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives.
- To develop our young people as responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society.

b. Public benefit

The Governors confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on Public Benefit when reviewing the charity's aim and objectives and in planning future activities. In particular the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

The Academy Governors have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

c. Objectives, strategies and activities

The School's objectives for the period ending 31 August 2023 are summarised in the following.

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GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Objectives and activities (continued)

d. Activities for achieving objectives

Target Outcomes for Pupils

- Progress 8 score of 0.25+
- 68% 9 – 4 in English and Maths, meeting FFT20 +2% estimate.
- 43% 9 – 5 in English and Maths, meeting FFT20 +2% estimate.
- 45% A* to B at A Level.
- Positive headline value added measures for both Academic and Applied General qualifications.
- Maintain the average A Level Academic grade of C+.
- Improve retention rate.
- No underperforming groups.
- Continue to improve achievement for pupil premium students to bring in line with non-pupil premium students.

Quality of Education

- All lessons at least meet 'good' criteria with increasing percentage of outstanding lessons.
- Lessons to provide regular opportunities for students to develop their skills in written communication.
- Teaching employs strategies to improve the engagement and progress of boys.
- Teaching meets all students' individual needs, including the most able.
- Marking and assessment ensure that students know where they are and what they need to do to get better.
- Use of online homework and live marking to minimise teacher workload.
- Teaching should develop students' employability skills, such as taking risks and learning from mistakes, working with others and working independently.
- The curriculum meets the needs of all students and contributes to outstanding outcomes.

Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare

- Develop further opportunities for students and parents to learn how to keep themselves safe. This will include how to stay healthy and about emotional and mental health, safe and positive relationships and how to prevent misuse of technology.
- Students are confident and self-assured. They take pride in their work, their school and their appearance.
- Students' attitudes to all aspects of their learning are consistently positive. These positive attitudes have a good impact on the progress they make.
- Students at Chauncy value their education. Few are absent or persistently absent. No groups of pupils are disadvantaged by low attendance. The attendance of pupils who have previously had exceptionally high rates of absence is showing marked and sustained improvement.
- Students, staff and governors are aware of the risks of extremism and radicalisation.

Effectiveness of Leadership and Management

- Governors are effective in challenging and supporting senior leaders and staff to secure whole school improvement.
- Senior leaders raise standards across the school.
- Students are well prepared for the challenging qualifications at KS4 and KS5, with strong foundations being established at KS3.
- The curriculum responds to student need and government priorities, offering breadth, balance and the potential to inspire.
- Student safety, behaviour and welfare remain strengths of the school, promoting an environment where students learn and thrive.
- Staff morale remains high.

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GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Objectives and activities (continued)

e. Strategic report

Achievements and performance

Summary of Achievement 2023

Key Stage 4

	<u>*2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Progress 8	0.54	0.39	0.61	0.35	0.31
Attainment 8	51.6	49.9	50.9	50.39	48
% English & Maths 4+	78%	75%	75%	76%	65%
% English & Maths 5+	55%	53%	46%	51%	41%
% EBacc 4+	29%	24%	26%	38%	31%
% EBacc 5+	20%	17%	16%	29%	20%
% A*/A, 7 - 9	26%	23%	22%	23%	21%
% English Best 4+	83%	82%	87%	85%	81%
% English Best 5+	69%	67%	60%	60%	55%
% English Lang 4+	75%	80%	77%	78%	63%
% English Lang 5+	60%	60%	52%	58%	47%
% English Lit 4+	81%	82%	80%	81%	79%
% English Lit 5+	61%	55%	55%	55%	51%

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GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Objectives and activities (continued)

% Maths 4+	82%	78%	79%	77%	72%
% Maths 5+	64%	59%	59%	56%	49%
% 2 Science (of entries) 4+	75%	69%	75%	70%	65%
English Progress (Best)	0.40	0.12	0.32	0.22	0.29
Maths Progress	0.54	0.58	0.43	0.31	0.26
EBacc Progress	0.58	0.26	0.79*	0.5	0.36
Other Progress	0.59	0.59	0.84*	0.32	0.26

Progress 8 Score for Student Groups

All	0.42	0.40	0.61	0.35	0.31
Boys	0.21	0.02	0.24	0.23	-0.16
Girls	0.68	0.75	0.88	0.56	0.80
PP	0.15	-0.18	0.06	0.04	-0.02
SEN	0.18**	-0.06	-0.12	0.33	0.40
High	0.51	0.20	0.92	0.37	0.38
Middle	0.62	0.56	0.53	0.42	0.12
Low	0.40	0.23	0.52	0.27	0.68

*Calculated using 4Matrix

**Estimated using over 500 schools sharing this year's data with 4Matrix

Outcomes for 2020 and 2021 were derived from CAGs and Tags respectively.

Comments

- Students completing KS4 in 2023 joined the school with an average KS2 points score of 104 (national average 105) and an average CAT score of 103.3 (national average 100)
- This cohort experienced two years of disruption during Years 8 & 9, and rose to the challenge of their GCSEs resulting in a very pleasing set of results.
- Our progress score of 0.42 represents around 800 extra grades than similar ability students will have

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GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Objectives and activities (continued)

- achieved nationally.
- Our A8 of 51.6 represents the highest GCSE average that we've ever had under the 9-1 grading system (since 2017), and it was achieved when results have fallen nationally for the second consecutive year.
 - 78% of students achieved the passport grade of 4+ in both English and Maths, the passport grades required to continue to the next stage of education. This is another record for the school.
 - 8 students achieved Maths but not English and 12 students achieved English but not Maths. This disparity has narrowed on last year. Given the importance of achieving both core subjects, we continually monitor and match attainment in English and Maths intervene accordingly
 - Disadvantaged students made positive progress (0.23), testament to the work we do with our PP students.
 - Progress for SEN students was 0.18, demonstrating the invaluable contribution made by our SEN department.
 - The gap between the performance of boys and girls remains an issue for the school, but is less stark this year. Girls over-achieved by half a grade more than the boys on average this year, whereas last year it was 3/4 of a grade. We must continue our work to close this gap from the start of the year 7.
 - 26% of our grades are considered "top grades", 7-9. Again, a new record for the school. Progress scores were strong across all three ability categories, with the strongest progress achieved by our middle ability students.
 - 28% of students achieved the EBacc at a standard pass. Falling numbers of students electing to take MFL have been affecting this score in recent years. As part of our future planning our new GCSE cohort will be following pathways designed to dramatically increase this score.
 - The vast majority of subjects and individual teachers in those subjects achieved positive progress scores, with exceptional performances from some subjects and, indeed, from some teachers.
 - Achievement in Textiles was poor. This was run as a twilight course with 6 students entered. It is not running in yr11 but is running in yr10. Coursework issues to be addressed with the department by SLT.

Key Stage 5 2023

GCSE Baseline	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Overall	5.8	5.8	5.4	5.35	5.2

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GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Objectives and activities (continued)

Key Stage 5 2023

GCSE Baseline	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
<u>Overall</u>	5.8	5.8	5.4	5.35	5.2

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Baseline GCSE	5.8	5.8	5.4	5.35	5.2
Cohort	75	113	98	98	109
All Qualifications					
% A* - E	99.1%	99.9%	100%	99.7%	99%
% A* - C or D/D*	80%	82%	79%	67%	70%
A Level					
% A* - E	99.0%	100%	100%	100%	98.9%
A/A*	28.8%	33.3%	39%	22.1%	15.7%
% A* - B	61.9%	65%	66%	44.7%	34.9%
% A* - C	81.1%	89.4%	90%	76.6%	72.5%
Points per Entry	37.45 (B-)	40 (B)	40.47 (B)	34.94 (C+)	32.07 (C+)
Value Added*	-0.05	+0.15	+0.42	+0.09	-0.04
Academic					
% A* - E	98.7%	100%	100%	99.5%	98.9%
A/A*	28.3%	34.6%	39%	22.7%	16.9%
% A* - B	61.6%	65.6%	66%	45.3%	35.9%
% A* - C	81.0%	90.3%	90%	76.3%	73%
Points per Entry	37.63 (B-)	39.9 (B)	40.48 (B)	34.94 (C+)	32.39 (C+)
Value Added*	-0.03	+0.2	0.46	+0.11	-0.02

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GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Objectives and activities (continued)

Applied General (Standardised results)					
% Pass	100%	99.3%	100%	100%	100%
% D/D*	79.0%	69%	47%	51%	54%
Points per Entry	36.74 (D+)	33.7 (D)	30.27 (D-)	30 (D-)	30.6 (D-)
Value Added*	+0.39	+0.29	0.44	+0.17	+0.07

*Value Added 2022 & 2023 is measured against national outcomes for 2019

*2020 and 2021 grades were awarded as CAGs or TAGs

Comments

- Students completing KS5 in 2023 had an average GCSE APS of 5.8, representing our inclusive approach to the 6th Form at Chauncy. This baseline was slightly higher than usual due to the nature of CAGs at GCSE where the volatility of sitting external exams was removed. This created higher than natural targets for some students.
- These students had considerable disruption to their GCSE studies as a result of the pandemic, and in spite of this, embraced the opportunity to succeed in external exams for the first time. There will be no official national value added figures this year, but our students achieved in-line with exception of their TAG-generated targets (see below).
- The average grade of B- for attainment for the A Level and Academic elements is above our pre-pandemic average of C+. The percentages of students achieving the highest grades have fallen on last year, following the pattern seen nationally, but still significantly above 2019 measures.
- The average grade for the Applied General qualifications has risen (again) to a strong Distinction, with an exceptional 79% of grades being awarded at Distinction or Distinction*.
- Achievement by middle ability students at KS4 means that many of them subsequently aspire to further study in the 6th form. We face a great challenge in enabling these students to succeed at KS5, particularly in the more traditional academic A Level subjects. On the other hand, our success at KS4 with white, working-class boys and the development of Level 3 vocational learning routes has resulted in the recruitment, retention and achievement of this particularly susceptible cohort at post 16. This is especially relevant given the selective practices of neighbouring schools.
- Students in 40% of subjects over-achieved by more than half an A Level grade, with exceptional performances in the social sciences, PE, and all Btecs.
- 6 out of the top 10 performing courses in the Sixth Form were Applied (Btec) courses.
- Achievement in several creative A levels bar Media (Music, Art, & Photography) and the STEM subjects was lower than expected. Caution must be taken with these VA figures due to the data to generate them. We will be working with these areas where there is clear underachievement to improve outcomes in 2024.

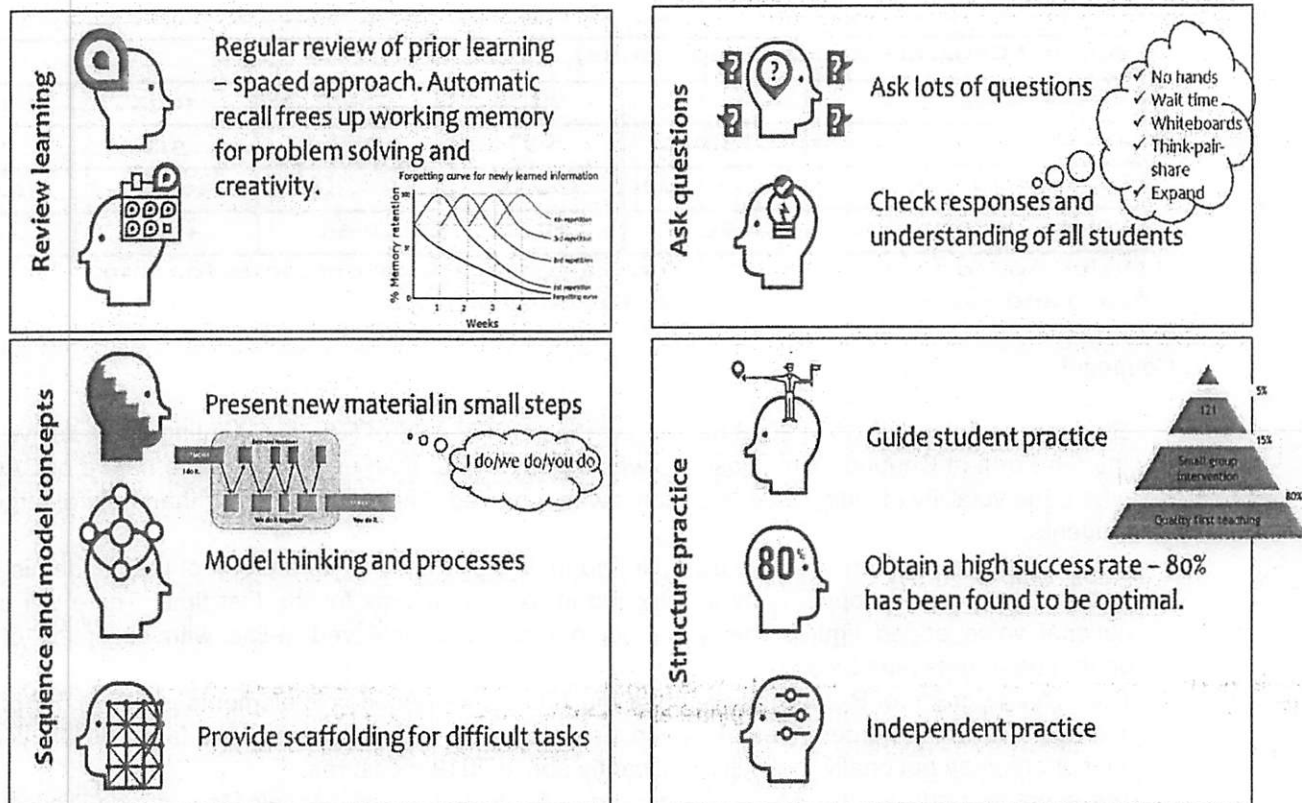
Key Actions

Adapt teaching to meet the demands of our new intake, where:

- Average KS2 point scores are lower than national in all areas
- % meeting expected standard in RWM is significantly below national
- Much narrower gender gap due to girl's underperformance rather than boys catching up
- Continue our normal business of providing high quality teaching, using the following principles:

GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Objectives and activities (continued)



- Differentiate by teaching to the top and supporting the students to get there - adaptive teaching.
- There is less scope for intervention and small group tutoring due to tight staffing in core subjects but we will continue to target our key marginal students for whatever interventions we can offer.
- Use of quadrant analysis, English and Maths matching, and the identification of key marginal students in all subjects, leading to sharply targeted intervention and support.
- A pragmatic approach may still be needed, given the volatile circumstances and potential issues with attendance.

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GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

(continued)

a. Key performance indicators

The school was inspected by Ofsted in June 2023.
This inspection was rated as Outstanding in all areas of the inspection.

Effectiveness of leadership and management	Outstanding
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment	Outstanding
Personal development, behaviour and welfare	Outstanding
Outcomes for pupils	Outstanding
16 to 19 Study programmes	Outstanding

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection in October 2017	Outstanding
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b. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the board of trustees has a reasonable expectation that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.

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GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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(continued)

c. Financial review

Most of the Academy's income is obtained from the ESFA in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the ESFA during the period ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities. Please note that the period shown is for 12 months.

The school continued to participate in the Herts County Free School Meal voucher scheme, ensuring all the vulnerable families were able to access their voucher entitlement from the provider, Edenred.

The school ran a successful Summer School for the new Year 7 pupils, giving them the best possible start to their time at the school.

The Academy also receives grants for capital expenditure from the ESFA. In accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' SORP, such grants are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned.

During the period ended 31 August 2023, total expenditure of £8,414,013 (2022: £7,610,100) was covered by recurrent grant funding from the ESFA together with other incoming resources. The excess of income over expenditure for the period (before transfers and excluding restricted fixed asset funds and pension reserve) was £1,306,468 (2022: £746,336)

At 31 August 2023 the net book value of fixed assets was £14,949,510 (2022: £14,698,186) and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 14 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the students of the Academy.

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GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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(continued)

Financial review

a. Reserves policy

The level of reserves held at 31 August 2023 total £18,513,527 (2022: £17,450,998). The reserves will be allocated and spent as part of the School Development Plan, to update, improve and maintain its facilities and resources. A capital spending plan has been completed detailing the short, medium and long term needs and plans of the School for which the reserves will be allocated and determined in order of priority to meet the needs of the School. The Governors review the reserve levels of the Academy annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves.

b. Material investments policy

The school invests surplus funds in a high interest account. The school will also consider in the future placing money on a fixed term basis to earn a high rate of return to the interest paid on the deposit account. The decision to invest will have due regard to the liquidity requirements of the academy and will be agreed by the head and resources Committee and will only be placed with our current bank provider.

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GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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c. Principal risks and uncertainties

The Academy has developed risk management procedures. The Governors have assessed the major risks to which the Academy is exposed and a formal review of the Academy's risk management process is undertaken on an annual basis.

The Governors have assessed the major risks to which the School is exposed, in particular those relating to teaching, the provision of facilities and other operational areas of the School and its finances. The Governors have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the School faces, especially in the operational areas. Examples included are in relation to teaching, health and safety, bullying, school trips and visits and in relation to the control of finance.

The main risks and impacts have been assessed as:

Principal risks include changes to the funding formula paid to the academy by the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) or as part of a national funding formula change could have adverse financial implications for the school which would need to be addressed.

If the number of pupils decreased this would have a direct effect on funding. If the ESFA funding is not communicated in a timely fashion and/or is significantly lower than planned for then this could have adverse financial implications for the School which would need to be addressed.

The school is currently unable to establish how the implementation of a national funding formula, whenever that may be, will impact the schools funding and if it will be significantly different to the current local authority methodology for Hertfordshire Academies.

Significant changes in pupil numbers including sixth form may have an adverse impact on the funding for the school.

The School has introduced systems including operational procedures (e.g. vetting of new staff and visitors, and supervision of School grounds (including the installation of new fencing and security gates and a new visitor signing in system in 2022/23)) and internal financial controls in order to minimise risk.

It is recognised that the age of the school means there could be risk relating to the condition of the school. The school has been inspected and declared free of RAAC during 2022/23. Regular monitoring should identify any potential risk factors to the school.

The Governors have assessed the major risks to which the Academy is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Trust, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate any exposure to major risks.

A formal review of the Academy's risk management process is undertaken on an annual basis and key controls in place include:

- Formal agenda for all committee activity
- Terms of reference for all governing body and delegated committees under the direction of the governing body
- Pecuniary interests of governors reviewed at each meeting
- Comprehensive budgeting and management reporting
- Strategic financial planning & planned maintenance and capital reviews
- Established organisational structure and clear lines of reporting
- Formal written policies
- Clear authorisation and approval levels
- Vetting procedures as required by law for the protection of the vulnerable

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GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

It is recognised that systems can only provide reasonable but not absolute assurance that major risks have been adequately managed.

Fundraising

The School participates in annual fundraising activities where any income is re-invested in the school resources. Events include the school production; Chauncy Rocks, a large community music concert, and other music and drama events.

The School also supports national external registered charities such as Children In Need, Macmillan and Herts Air Ambulance. All funds are collected by the school and paid direct to the registered charity.

Plans for future periods

The school is continuing with its Capital Plan to improve and upgrade facilities at the school for students and staff.

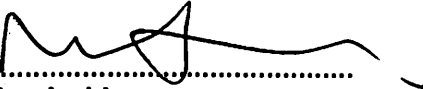
We will continue to develop the curriculum in response to student needs and the numerous government initiatives.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Insofar as the Governors are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware, and
- that Governors have taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as Governors in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditor is aware of that information.

The Governors' Report was approved by order of the Board of Governors, as the company directors, on and signed on its behalf by:


.....
Miles Ambler
Chair of Governors

CHAUNCY SCHOOL
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Scope of responsibility

As Governors, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Chauncy School has an effective and appropriate system of control, financial and otherwise. However, such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives, and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

As Governors, we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in DfE's Governance Handbook and competency framework for governance.

The board of Governors has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Head Teacher, as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Chauncy School and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of Governors any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

CHAUNCY SCHOOL
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Governors' Report and in the Statement of Governors' Responsibilities. The board of Governors has formally met 4 times during the year, as agreed and minuted during the Governor Meeting held on 19 May 2019. Information at these meetings is comprehensive and presented thoroughly so the board of Governors were satisfied they maintained effective oversight with fewer than 6 meetings. If any situations arise between meetings, extraordinary meetings are scheduled. Meetings of the sub-committees resumed in 2021-22.

Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of Governors was as follows:

Governor	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Robert Watson, Chair	1	1
Miles Ambler, Chair	4	4
Clare Barter	0	1
Adele Batsford	0	1
Martin Butcher	3	4
Libby Byne-Grey	2	4
Hannah Courtney	2	4
John Farrell	2	4
Owen Hawkrigde	4	4
Simon Clark	3	3
Amanda King	3	4
Tosin Lawani	3	4
Dennis O'Sullivan, Head Teacher	4	4
Guadalupe Gibbs	1	1
Elizabeth Wilkinson	4	4
Birgitt Wilmanns-Parker	4	4
Oliver Rawlings	3	3

Full Governors meeting is led by the chair. An agenda is sent round and also downloaded to the Governor hub. Minutes are taken and reviewed at each meeting. The agenda is varied and all areas of the school are reviewed with reports from the chair, head and committee heads. The composition of the governing body together with vacancies are discussed along with relevant training.

The Resources Committee is a sub-committee of the main board of Governors. Its purpose is to review the financial situation and factor in the site and premises requirements in the year including health and safety.

The Resources Committee focuses on the financial stability of the School and has oversight of the Schools finances to ensure the school manages its financial responsibility and that spending is being properly monitored and controlled during the year.

Oversight is the questioning and reviewing of the budgets and accounts. In line with school policies, where appropriate, agreeing to spending on resources to ensure value of money is achieved whilst delivering a high standard of education for the young people at the school. Oversight is achieved by members of the Resources team challenging and auditing areas of the schools budgets and asking for reasonable changes to be made where applicable.

The Review and Development Committee is also a sub committee of the main board of trustees. Its purpose is to review the school development plan and school policies.

The Review and Development Committee focuses on ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school by:

CHAUNCY SCHOOL
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance (continued)

- Ensuring that the school's policies are up to date and aligned with statutory requirements by reviewing throughout the year
- Interrogated and challenged through questioning the school performance data to see what, if anything, the school can do better for our students and how it is aligning to emerging strategic themes
- Arrange visits to the school to review and support the work of the staff in practice

Review of value for money

As Accounting Officer, the Head Teacher has responsibility for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes, as well as estates safety and management, achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received. The Accounting Officer understands that this includes value for money in ensuring the School's safety management.

The Accounting Officer considers how the academy's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the board of Governors where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate.

Value for Money is part of the everyday procurement processes from the purchase of paper and books to large capital projects. Purchases over £10,000 require three quotations from suppliers to ensure value for money. The finance department regularly researches prices for all departments on a variety of educational items before ordering.

The Accounting Officer for the academy has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- continuing to research competitive prices from suppliers for educational materials.
- obtaining a minimum of 3 quotes for the installation of new fencing and automated gates to secure the site.
- continuing to monitor wastage in Reprographics.
- ensuring competitive quotes for repair works have been obtained during the year.

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control 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 system of internal control has been in place in Chauncy School for the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to handle risk

The board of Governors has reviewed the key risks to which the academy trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of Governors is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year 1 September 2022 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of Governors.

The risk and control framework

CHAUNCY SCHOOL
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

The risk and control framework (continued)

The academy's system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular, it includes:

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of Governors;
- regular reviews by the Resources Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks.

The Board of Governors has decided not to appoint an internal auditor. However, the Governors have appointed Ms S Hebditch, a Business Manager of Fremantle College, to carry out a programme of internal checks.

The reviewer's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial systems. The checks carried out relating to the current period included the testing of the payroll and the purchase order systems.

On a termly basis, the reviewer reports to the board of Governors through the finance and general purposes committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Governors' financial responsibilities.

Review of effectiveness

As accounting officer, the Head Teacher has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

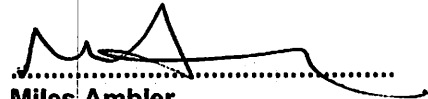
- the work of the reviewer;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process;
- on discharge of the Board of Governors financial decisions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- the work of the external auditors;

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Resources Committee and Development Committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

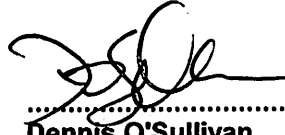
CHAUNCY SCHOOL
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Governors and signed on their behalf by:



Miles Ambler
Chair of Governors
Date:



Dennis O'Sullivan
Accounting Officer

CHAUNCY SCHOOL
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As accounting officer of Chauncy School I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust board of Governors and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management, received by the academy trust, under the funding agreement in place between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

I confirm that I and the academy trust board of Governors are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the academy trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the academy trust's funding agreement and the Academies Trust Handbook 2022.

I confirm that no instances of material irregularity, impropriety or funding non-compliance have been discovered to date. If any instances are identified after the date of this statement, these will be notified to the board of Governors and ESFA.



Dennis O'Sullivan
Accounting Officer
Date:

CHAUNCY SCHOOL
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF GOVERNORS' RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

The Governors (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Governors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Governors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the Governors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Governors are required to:


- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Governors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Governors are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the charitable company applies financial and other controls, which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring grants received from ESFA/DfE have been applied for the purposes intended.

The Governors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Governors and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Miles Ambler
Chair of Governors
Date:

CHAUNCY SCHOOL
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
CHAUNCY SCHOOL**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Chauncy School (the 'academy trust') for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the academy trust's affairs as at 31 August 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the academy trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Governors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Governors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

CHAUNCY SCHOOL
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
CHAUNCY SCHOOL (CONTINUED)**

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon. The Governors are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Governors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Governors' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the academy trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Governors' Report including the Strategic report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Governors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

CHAUNCY SCHOOL
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
CHAUNCY SCHOOL (CONTINUED)**

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Governors' Responsibilities, the Governors (who are also the directors of the academy trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Governors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Governors are responsible for assessing the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Governors either intend to liquidate the academy trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

CHAUNCY SCHOOL
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
CHAUNCY SCHOOL (CONTINUED)**

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditors' Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- the control environment and performance of the academy, including the remuneration incentives and pressures of key management;
- the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both those charged with governance of the entity and management. We consider the results of our enquiries of management and internal audit about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the academy's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
 - o identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - o detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
 - o the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team, regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override, including testing journals and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the directors that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the academy operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. We focused on laws and regulations that could give rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements, including, but not limited to, the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019, the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 and relevant tax legislation.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

CHAUNCY SCHOOL
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
CHAUNCY SCHOOL (CONTINUED)**

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the academy trust's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the academy trust's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the academy trust and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Sam Hodson (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of
Hillier Hopkins LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor
Radius House
51 Clarendon Road
Watford
Herts
WD17 1HP

Date:

CHAUNCY SCHOOL
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO CHAUNCY SCHOOL AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 1 May 2019 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Chauncy School during the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to Chauncy School and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Chauncy School and ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Chauncy School and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Chauncy School's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Chauncy School's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 1 August 2011 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2022, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountant of Academy Trusts issued by ESFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

The objective of a limited assurance engagement is to perform such procedures as to obtain information and explanations in order to provide us with sufficient appropriate evidence to express a negative conclusion on regularity.

A limited assurance engagement is more limited in scope than a reasonable assurance engagement and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in a reasonable assurance engagement. Accordingly, we do not express a positive opinion.

Our engagement includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the regularity and propriety of the academy trust's income and expenditure.

The work undertaken to draw our conclusion includes:

- An assessment of the risk of material misstatement and irregularity across the Academy Trust's activities.
- Testing and review of areas identified through risk assessment including enquiry, observation, inspection and review of supporting evidence.
- Review of system controls, policies and procedures in place to ensure compliance with the regularity regime.
- Consideration of evidence obtained through the work performed as part of our financial statements audit in order to support the regularity conclusion.

CHAUNCY SCHOOL
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO CHAUNCY
SCHOOL AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)**

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggest in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 has not beer applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Hillier Hopkins LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Radius House
51 Clarendon Road
Watford
Herts
WD17 1HP

Date:

CHAUNCY SCHOOL
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	1,923	-	73,865	75,788	33,471
Other trading activities		51,558	-	-	51,558	36,211
Investments	6	19,742	-	-	19,742	1,059
Charitable activities		590,743	8,622,711	-	9,213,454	7,943,892
Total income		663,966	8,622,711	73,865	9,360,542	8,014,633
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	8	674,499	7,305,710	433,804	8,414,013	7,610,100
Total expenditure		674,499	7,305,710	433,804	8,414,013	7,610,100
Net (expenditure)/income		(10,533)	1,317,001	(359,939)	946,529	404,533
Transfers between funds	18	-	(611,263)	611,263	-	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains		(10,533)	705,738	251,324	946,529	404,533
Other recognised gains:						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	26	116,000	-	-	116,000	2,705,000
Net movement in funds		105,467	705,738	251,324	1,062,529	3,109,533
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		42,993	2,709,819	14,698,186	17,450,998	14,341,465
Net movement in funds		105,467	705,738	251,324	1,062,529	3,109,533
Total funds carried forward		148,460	3,415,557	14,949,510	18,513,527	17,450,998

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

CHAUNCY SCHOOL
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 07694228

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	14,949,510	14,698,186
Current assets			
Debtors	15	190,658	177,091
Cash at bank and in hand		4,267,587	3,456,699
		<u>4,458,245</u>	<u>3,633,790</u>
Creditors: due within one year	16	(882,335)	(803,732)
Net current assets		<u>3,575,910</u>	<u>2,830,058</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>18,525,420</u>	<u>17,528,244</u>
Creditors: due after more than one year	17	(11,893)	(22,246)
Net assets excluding pension asset / liability		<u>18,513,527</u>	<u>17,505,998</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme asset / liability	26	-	(55,000)
Total net assets		<u><u>18,513,527</u></u>	<u><u>17,450,998</u></u>
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	18	14,949,510	14,698,186
Restricted income funds	18	3,531,557	2,764,819
Pension reserve	18	-	(55,000)
Total restricted funds	18	<u>18,481,067</u>	<u>17,408,005</u>
Unrestricted income funds	18	<u>32,460</u>	<u>42,993</u>
Total funds		<u><u>18,513,527</u></u>	<u><u>17,450,998</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 34 to 64 were approved and authorised for issue by the Governors and are signed on their behalf, by:


Dennis O'Sullivan, Headteacher
Accounting Officer

Date: 29.1.24

The notes on pages 37 to 64 form part of these financial statements.

CHAUNCY SCHOOL
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	20	1,412,761	1,442,779
Cash flows from investing activities	22	(591,521)	(94,218)
Cash flows from financing activities	21	(10,353)	(10,353)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		810,887	1,338,208
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		3,456,700	2,118,492
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	23, 24	<u>4,267,587</u>	<u>3,456,700</u>

The notes on pages 37 to 64 from part of these financial statements

CHAUNCY SCHOOL
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1. Accounting policies

A summary of the principal accounting policies adopted (which have been applied consistently, except where noted), judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty, is set out below.

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements of the academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historic cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Chauncy School meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

1.2 Going concern

The Governors assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the academy trust to continue as a going concern. The Governors make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.3 Income

All incoming resources are recognised when the academy trust has entitlement to the funds, the receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably.

- **Grants**

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance Sheet. Where income is received in advance of meeting any performance-related conditions there is not unconditional entitlement to the income and its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income until the performance-related conditions are met. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the year is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

Capital grants are recognised in full when there is an unconditional entitlement to the grant. Unspent amounts of capital grants are reflected in the Balance Sheet in the restricted fixed asset fund. Capital grants are recognised when there is entitlement and are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended.

- **Donations**

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis (where there are no performance-related conditions) where the receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

- **Other income**

Other income, including the hire of facilities, is recognised in the year it is receivable and to the extent the academy trust has provided the goods or services.

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

- **Charitable activities**

These are costs incurred on the academy trust's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the academy trust apportioned to charitable activities.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.5 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the academy trust; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the Balance Sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. Where there are specific conditions attached to the funding requiring the continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities and carried forward in the Balance Sheet. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land and assets under construction, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Freehold property	-	2%
Furniture and equipment	-	20%
Computer equipment	-	33%
Motor vehicles	-	25%

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use and reclassified to freehold or leasehold land and buildings.

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of any fixed asset may not be recoverable. Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts are recognised as impairments. Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.7 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1.8 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.9 Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the academy trust anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

1.10 Financial instruments

The academy trust only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the academy trust and their measurement bases are as follows:

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 15. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes 16 and 17. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.11 Pensions

Retirement benefits to employees of the academy trust are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ("TPS") and the Local Government Pension Scheme ("LGPS"). These are defined benefit schemes.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the academy trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently, the TPS is treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the academy trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each Balance Sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses.

1.12 Agency arrangements

The academy trust acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from the ESFA. Payments received from the ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the statement of financial activities as the academy does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The academy does not deduct a fee for administering the bursary. The funds received and paid and any balances held are disclosed in note 30.

1.13 Fund accounting

Unrestricted income funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the academy trust at the discretion of the Governors.

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by the funders where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received with restrictions imposed by the funder/donor and include grants from the Department for Education Group.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

CHAUNCY SCHOOL
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment

Estimates and judgments are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The academy trust makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 26, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

The carrying amount of the pension scheme as detailed in the Academy's independent actuarial report which stated that the Academy's pension fund was in a net asset position at the year end. Despite this, no surplus has been recognised on the basis that the asset has not led to a reduction in future contributions or a refund. As such, the carrying value in respect of the pension scheme in the balance sheet is £nil.

Critical areas of judgment:

Depreciation, amortisation and residual values

The trustees have reviewed the asset lives and associated residual values of all fixed asset classes and have concluded that asset lives and residual values are appropriate.

3. Income from donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Donations	1,923	-	1,923
Capital Grants	-	73,865	73,865
	<u>1,923</u>	<u>73,865</u>	<u>75,788</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

3. Income from donations and capital grants (continued)

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Donations	8,692	-	8,692
Capital Grants	-	24,779	24,779
	<u>8,692</u>	<u>24,779</u>	<u>33,471</u>

4. Funding for the academy trust's charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Educational activities			
DfE/ESFA grants			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	7,711,128	7,711,128
Other DfE/ESFA grants			
Pupil premium	-	242,984	242,984
Rates relief	-	30,992	30,992
Teachers' pension grant	-	40,488	40,488
Free school meals	-	118,037	118,037
Other ESFA income	-	92,411	92,411
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,236,040</u>
Other Government grants			
Local authority grants	-	258,917	258,917
	<u>-</u>	<u>258,917</u>	<u>258,917</u>
Other income from the academy trust's educational activities	590,743	66,032	656,775
COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)			
Catch-up Premium	-	61,722	61,722
	<u>-</u>	<u>61,722</u>	<u>61,722</u>
	<u>590,743</u>	<u>8,622,711</u>	<u>9,213,454</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

4. Funding for the academy trust's charitable activities (continued)

	590,743	8,622,711	9,213,454
	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>funds</u>	<u>funds</u>	<u>funds</u>
	<u>2022</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2022</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Educational activities			
DfE/ESFA grants			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	6,778,073	6,778,073
Other DfE/ESFA grants			
Pupil premium	-	219,031	219,031
Rates relief	-	27,648	27,648
Teachers' pension grant	-	47,154	47,154
Teachers' pay grant	-	21,112	21,112
Free school meals	-	84,688	84,688
Other ESFA income	-	109,916	109,916
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,287,622</u>
Other Government grants			
Local authority grants	-	149,884	149,884
	<u>-</u>	<u>149,884</u>	<u>149,884</u>
Other income from the academy trust's educational activities	422,491	54,804	477,295
COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)			
Catch-up Premium	-	29,091	29,091
	<u>-</u>	<u>29,091</u>	<u>29,091</u>
	<u>422,491</u>	<u>7,521,401</u>	<u>7,943,892</u>
	<u>422,491</u>	<u>7,521,401</u>	<u>7,943,892</u>

The academy received £31,158 of funding for Covid recovery premium and the costs incurred during the year in respect of this funding totalled £61,722, with the remaining funding of £14,338 (2022: £44,902) to be spent in 2023/24.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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5. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Rent of facilities	51,558	51,558

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Rent of facilities	36,211	36,211

6. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Investment income	19,742	19,742

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Investment income	1,059	1,059

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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7. Expenditure

	Staff Costs 2023 £	Premises 2023 £	Other 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Educational activities:				
Direct costs	5,511,092	-	723,722	6,234,814
Allocated support costs	947,004	795,391	436,804	2,179,199
	<u>6,458,096</u>	<u>795,391</u>	<u>1,160,526</u>	<u>8,414,013</u>
	Staff Costs 2022 £	Premises 2022 £	Other 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Educational activities:				
Direct costs	4,993,914	-	528,168	5,522,082
Allocated support costs	1,060,257	645,016	382,745	2,088,018
	<u>6,054,171</u>	<u>645,016</u>	<u>910,913</u>	<u>7,610,100</u>

8. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Educational activities	<u>674,499</u>	<u>7,739,514</u>	<u>8,414,013</u>
	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Educational activities	<u>459,343</u>	<u>7,150,757</u>	<u>7,610,100</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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9. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2023 £	Support costs 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Educational activities	6,234,814	2,179,199	8,414,013

	Activities undertaken directly 2022 £	Support costs 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Educational activities	5,522,082	2,088,018	7,610,100

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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9. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
FRS102 pension cost	3,000	42,000
Staff costs	947,004	1,060,257
Depreciation	433,804	366,582
Premises costs	446,128	325,032
Technology costs	15,187	4,709
Governance costs	15,282	17,688
Other support costs	318,794	271,750
	<u><u>2,179,199</u></u>	<u><u>2,088,018</u></u>

10. Net (expenditure)/income

Net (expenditure)/income for the year includes:

	2023 £	2022 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	433,804	366,582
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	10,500	9,500
- other services	4,725	4,350
	<u><u>15,225</u></u>	<u><u>13,850</u></u>

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

11. Staff

a. Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	4,855,640	4,305,386
Social security costs	481,004	433,304
Pension costs	1,121,452	1,315,481
	<u>6,458,096</u>	<u>6,054,171</u>

b. Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed by the academy trust during the year was as follows:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Teachers	79	79
Administration and support	109	133
Management	4	4
	<u>192</u>	<u>216</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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11. Staff (continued)

c. Higher paid staff

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	1	1
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	-	2
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	2	-
In the band £110,001 - £120,000	-	1
In the band £130,001 - £140,000	1	-

All of the above employees participated in the Teachers' Pension Scheme. During the year ended 31 August 2023, pension contributions for these staff amounted to £57,278 (2022: £52,081).

d. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the Governors and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £522,453 (2022: £529,002).

12. Governors' remuneration and expenses

One or more Governors has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the academy trust. The principal and other staff Governors only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff members under their contracts of employment. The value of Governors' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

		2023 £	2022 £
Dennis O'Sullivan (Headteacher)	Remuneration	130,000 -	115,000 -
		135,000	120,000
Owen Hawkrige	Remuneration	50,000 -	30,000 -
		55,000	35,000
	Pension contributions paid	10,000 -	5,000 -
Hannah Courtney		15,000	10,000
	Remuneration	35,000 -	30,000 -
		40,000	35,000
	Pension contributions paid	5,000 -	5,000 -
		10,000	10,000

During the year, retirement benefits were accruing to 2 Governors (2022 - 2) in respect of defined benefit pension schemes.

During the year ended 31 August 2023, no Governor expenses have been incurred (2022 - £NIL).

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

13. Governors' and Officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the academy trust has purchased insurance to protect Governors and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £2,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £219 (2022 - £219). The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

14. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost or valuation					
At 1 September 2022	17,213,918	401,648	240,756	49,521	17,905,843
Additions	470,708	92,453	83,507	38,460	685,128
At 31 August 2023	17,684,626	494,101	324,263	87,981	18,590,971
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2022	2,667,520	323,759	166,857	49,521	3,207,657
Charge for the year	347,203	35,785	50,015	801	433,804
At 31 August 2023	3,014,723	359,544	216,872	50,322	3,641,461
Net book value					
At 31 August 2023	14,669,903	134,557	107,391	37,659	14,949,510
At 31 August 2022	14,546,398	77,889	73,899	-	14,698,186

The academy trust's transactions relating to land and buildings included the completion of a new building for education purposes.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

15. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	6,584	-
Other debtors	86,035	45,479
Prepayments and accrued income	98,039	131,612
	<u>190,658</u>	<u>177,091</u>

16. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Other loans	10,353	10,353
Trade creditors	388,520	302,650
Other taxation and social security	123,847	114,821
Other creditors	171,826	149,908
Accruals and deferred income	187,789	226,000
	<u>882,335</u>	<u>803,732</u>

	2023 £	2022 £
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	134,914	41,677
Resources deferred during the year	89,231	134,914
Amounts released from previous periods	(134,914)	(41,677)
	<u>89,231</u>	<u>134,914</u>

At the balance sheet date, the School was holding funds received in advance for grants and trip income relating to the 2023/24 financial period.

Included in other loans are 2 salix loans amounting to £22,456 (2022: £32,599), both of which are repayable over more than 1 year.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

17. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other loans	11,893	22,246

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

18. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds - all funds	42,993	663,966	(674,499)	-	-	32,460
Restricted funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	2,752,516	7,711,128	(6,297,575)	(621,616)	-	3,544,453
Pupil Premium	-	242,984	(242,984)	-	-	-
Rates relief	-	30,992	(30,992)	-	-	-
Other DfE grants	-	250,936	(250,936)	-	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	324,949	(324,949)	-	-	-
Catch up premium	44,902	61,722	(97,274)	-	-	9,350
Salix loan	(32,599)	-	-	10,353	-	(22,246)
Pension reserve	(55,000)	-	(61,000)	-	116,000	-
	<u>2,709,819</u>	<u>8,622,711</u>	<u>(7,305,710)</u>	<u>(611,263)</u>	<u>116,000</u>	<u>3,531,557</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Class II Restricted Funds - all funds	14,698,186	-	(433,804)	685,128	-	14,949,510
DFC grant	-	73,865	-	(73,865)	-	-
	<u>14,698,186</u>	<u>73,865</u>	<u>(433,804)</u>	<u>611,263</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,949,510</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>17,408,005</u>	<u>8,696,576</u>	<u>(7,739,514)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>116,000</u>	<u>18,481,067</u>
Total funds	<u>17,450,998</u>	<u>9,360,542</u>	<u>(8,414,013)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>116,000</u>	<u>18,513,527</u>

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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18. Statement of funds (continued)

The General Annual Grant (GAG) fund relates to the Academy's operational activities.

The Fixed Asset fund includes funding received from the ESFA and the Academy's own funds which have been used to carry out works of a capital nature.

The Pension reserve relates to the Academy's share of the deficit of the Hertfordshire County Local Government Pension Scheme.

In the year ended 31 August 2023, there was a transfer in from restricted GAG funds to cover the capital expenditure. In the year ended 31 August 2022, there was also a transfer from restricted GAG funds to cover capital expenditure.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG it could carry forward at 31 August 2023.

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18. Statement of funds (continued)

Comparative information in respect of the preceding year is as follows:

	<i>Balance at 1 September 2021 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses) £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 August 2022 £</i>
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds - all funds	33,883	468,453	(459,343)	-	-	42,993
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,720,811	6,778,073	(5,640,738)	(105,630)	-	2,752,516
Pupil Premium	-	219,031	(219,031)	-	-	-
Rates relief	-	27,648	(27,648)	-	-	-
Other DfE grants	-	262,870	(262,870)	-	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	204,688	(204,688)	-	-	-
Catch up premium	71,011	29,091	(55,200)	-	-	44,902
Salix loan	(42,952)	-	-	10,353	-	(32,599)
Pension reserve	(2,386,000)	-	(374,000)	-	2,705,000	(55,000)
	<u>(637,130)</u>	<u>7,521,401</u>	<u>(6,784,175)</u>	<u>(95,277)</u>	<u>2,705,000</u>	<u>2,709,819</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Class II Restricted Funds - all funds	14,944,712	-	(366,582)	120,056	-	14,698,186
DFC grant	-	24,779	-	(24,779)	-	-
	<u>14,944,712</u>	<u>24,779</u>	<u>(366,582)</u>	<u>95,277</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,698,186</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>14,307,582</u>	<u>7,546,180</u>	<u>(7,150,757)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,705,000</u>	<u>17,408,005</u>
Total funds	<u><u>14,341,465</u></u>	<u><u>8,014,633</u></u>	<u><u>(7,610,100)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>2,705,000</u></u>	<u><u>17,450,998</u></u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

18. Statement of funds (continued)

19. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	14,949,510	14,949,510
Current assets	96,924	4,361,321	-	4,458,245
Creditors due within one year	(64,464)	(817,871)	-	(882,335)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(11,893)	-	(11,893)
Total	32,460	3,531,557	14,949,510	18,513,527

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	14,698,186	14,698,186
Current assets	46,347	3,587,443	-	3,633,790
Creditors due within one year	(3,354)	(800,378)	-	(803,732)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(22,246)	-	(22,246)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(55,000)	-	(55,000)
Total	42,993	2,709,819	14,698,186	17,450,998

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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20. Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Net income for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	946,529	404,533
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	433,804	366,582
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(73,865)	(24,779)
Interest receivable	(19,742)	(1,059)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	58,000	332,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	3,000	42,000
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(13,567)	191,459
Increase in creditors	78,602	132,043
Net cash provided by operating activities	1,412,761	1,442,779

21. Cash flows from financing activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Repayments of borrowing	(10,353)	(10,353)
Net cash used in financing activities	(10,353)	(10,353)

22. Cash flows from investing activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	19,742	1,059
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(685,128)	(120,056)
Capital grants from DfE Group	73,865	24,779
Net cash used in investing activities	(591,521)	(94,218)

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23. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash in hand and at bank	3,007,176	2,215,729
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	1,260,411	1,240,971
Total cash and cash equivalents	4,267,587	3,456,700

24. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2022 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	3,456,699	810,888	4,267,587
Debt due within 1 year	(10,353)	-	(10,353)
Debt due after 1 year	(22,246)	10,353	(11,893)
	3,424,100	821,241	4,245,341

25. Capital commitments

	2023 £	2022 £
Contracted for but not provided in these financial statements		
Fixed asset improvements	52,417	30,596

At the balance sheet date, £89,135 (2022: £13,614) had been paid in respect of contracted work which was completed after the balance sheet date.

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26. Pension commitments

The academy trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by Hertfordshire County Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2020 and of the LGPS 31 March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £130,101 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 (2022 - £111,394) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for full-time teachers in academies. All teachers have the option to opt-out of the TPS following enrolment.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme to which both the member and employer makes contributions, as a percentage of salary - these contributions are credited to the Exchequer. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 26 October 2023. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy)
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262,000 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222,200 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £39,800 million
- the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 17% above the rate of CPI..

The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2024.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £808,764 (2022 - £731,167).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website (<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2023/10/teachers-pensions-valuation-report.aspx>).

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The academy trust has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The academy trust has set out above the information available on the scheme.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

26. Pension commitments (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £317,000 (2022 - £273,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £250,000 (2022 - £217,000) and employees contributions totalled £ 67,000 (2022 - £56,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 22.65 per cent for employers and 5.5-12.5 per cent for employees.

As described in note the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the academy trust, who were the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who were eligible to, and did, join the Scheme in the year. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the academy trust at the balance sheet date.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of academy closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013.

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2023	2022
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.50	3.45
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	3.00	3.05
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.20	4.25

The current mortality assumptions include sufficient allowance for future improvements in mortality rates. The assumed life expectations on retirement age 65 are:

	2023	2022
	Years	Years
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	21.6	21.9
Females	24.8	24.4
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	20.9	22.9
Females	25.9	26.0

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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26. Pension commitments (continued)

Sensitivity analysis

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Discount rate -0.1%	86	91
CPI rate +0.1%	82	87
Salary increase rate +0.1%	6	6

Share of scheme assets

The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme was:

	At 31 August 2023 £	At 31 August 2022 £
Equities	2,274,090	2,091,500
Corporate bonds	1,070,160	962,090
Property	624,260	627,450
Cash and other liquid assets	490,490	501,960
Total market value of assets	4,459,000	4,183,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £+328,000 (2022 - £-277,000).

The amounts recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities are as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Current service cost	(308,000)	(549,000)
Interest income	183,000	72,000
Interest cost	(186,000)	(114,000)
Total amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities	(311,000)	(591,000)

The total charge noted above is split between Employers Pension Contributions of £250,000 (2022: £217,000) and FRS 102 adjustment charge of £61,000 (2022: £374,000).

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26. Pension commitments (continued)

Changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligations were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
At 1 September	4,238,000	6,640,000
Current service cost	308,000	549,000
Interest cost	186,000	114,000
Employee contributions	67,000	56,000
Actuarial gains	(261,000)	(3,054,000)
Benefits paid	(79,000)	(67,000)
Asset ceiling cap	(191,000)	-
At 31 August	4,268,000	4,238,000

Changes in the fair value of the academy trust's share of scheme assets were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
At 1 September	4,183,000	4,254,000
Interest income	183,000	72,000
Actuarial losses	(145,000)	(349,000)
Employer contributions	250,000	217,000
Employee contributions	67,000	56,000
Benefits paid	(79,000)	(67,000)
Asset ceiling cap	(191,000)	-
At 31 August	4,268,000	4,183,000

27. Operating lease commitments

At 31 August 2023 the academy trust had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Not later than 1 year	9,353	4,788
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	31,921	17,454
	41,274	22,242

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28. Members' liability

Each member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up while he/she is a member, or within one year after he/she ceases to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10 for the debts and liabilities contracted before he/she ceases to be a member.

29. Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust and the composition of the Board of Governors being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the governors have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, including notifying the ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions.

No related party transactions took place in the period of account, other than certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 12.

30. Agency arrangements

The academy distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for the ESFA. For the year ended 31 August 2023, the academy received £5,832 (2022: £8,197) and disbursed £3,047 (2022: £8,153) from the fund. An amount of £41,030 (2022: £38,245) is included in other creditors relating to undistributed funds that may be repayable to the ESFA.

31. Controlling party

In the opinion of the governors there is no ultimate controlling party.