

Value for Money Statement

Churchdown School Academy

Academy Company Number: 7773693

Year ended 31 August 2015

I accept that as accounting officer of Churchdown School Academy I am responsible and accountable for ensuring that the Academy delivers good value in the use of public resources. I am aware of the guide to academy value for money statements published by the Education Funding Agency and understand that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

I set out below how I have ensured that the academy's use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year.

Over the last financial period, Churchdown School Academy has continued to take a wide range of steps to ensure that the education standards and levels of attainment for all students have continued to improve.

The Academy has focused on targeted improvement linked to the School Development Plan of the Academy to ensure maximum impact on outcomes for students in these key areas. This has included ensuring that the Academy is delivering the new curriculum. The Academy has focused on improving the quality of teaching across the Academy by ensuring teachers set challenging targets for all pupils right across the curriculum, but especially in English and Mathematics, by ensuring teachers provide positive feedback to pupils that helps move their learning forward and by involving parents and children more in their education.

In addition, the Academy has actively promoted the wider use of revision sessions outside of the normal working day with many students attending sessions during the lunch breaks, after school and even on Saturday mornings in an effort to accelerate their progress across all subjects. The highest results achieved by the Academy in the summer exams showed that these strategies helped student achievement.

This year also saw the Academy review its staffing structure throughout and led to a rationalisation of the Support Centre staff which has reduced staffing costs by over £200,000 without losing any of the Support that our students will receive. We have created our own learning support base which will allow us to help some of our more challenging students in targeted areas, which has also reduced the spending with 'off site' educational establishments.

During the year we secured a Capital Grant to build a new 4 Classroom block and this enabled the Academy to take the opportunity to compartmentalise a number of curriculum Departments so that all lessons of the same subject are taught in the same area, this helps with planning, supervision and makes for much greater efficiency. At the same time we were able to redecorate these classrooms, install new carpets and provide new technology such as smart boards and computers, thereby improving the environment for our students and staff. We also completed the refurbishment of the roofs on all the blocks of the Academy which included the installation of roof insulation to prevent heat loss. We now hope to secure a Capital bid to double glaze the windows which will further reduce our heating bills moving forward.

Strict financial procedures are adhered to and we ensure proper competitive quotations are sought on all types of expenditure at all times and ensure that we obtain the best value for money that we can. All support services are carried out in house as this provides the most cost effective way to deliver these services including cleaning, catering, IT and facilities management, payroll and personnel.

During a period when there has been an increase to staffing on costs and reduced funding levels, we have been able to make significant savings on our expenditure areas without any loss of provision for in-classroom spending. This was achieved whilst the Academy continued to improve both academically and behaviourally.

The Academy has internal controls in place to ensure strict financial procedures are followed. A Responsible Officer is appointed to make independent checks. The Governing Body receives quarterly budget reports by the Business Manager which includes details of any variances of spend against budget, together with an estimate of a revised 'outturn' so that they are always fully aware of the financial position of the Academy at all times. Regular monitoring ensures the best use of resources and prevents waste. Bank balances are carefully monitored and reconciled. The Academy uses its own teaching staff and Cover Supervisors cover for absent teachers to reduce the cost of supply cover.

There is a constant desire within the Academy to improve the way in which we work and spend our limited resources that lead to better outcomes for our students; ensuring greater value for money is a key part of ensuring we are able to do this.



C J Bell

Accounting Officer