

Value for Money Statement

Organisation name: South Bromsgrove High Academy Trust

Company number: 8565135

Year ended 31 August 2014

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

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

Improving Educational Outcomes:

The school is committed to continuing improvement in examination results and ensuring that we have the best quality teachers and leaders to achieve positive outcomes

We have directed resources to where they are most needed and most effective having identified this need in the School Development Plan.

In particular we have:

- Increased the curriculum time in English and Maths in KS4 to ensure that there is sufficient capacity for learning
- Developed a more robust external monitoring of our school self-evaluation
- Recruited a SENCO at Assistant Headteacher level
- Used grant funding to purchase new equipment such as a 3D printer (Technology) and mixing desk (music)
- Expanded the leadership team to ensure that there is succession planning in place for leaders who are retiring
- Redeveloped our appraisal processes, using BlueSky, for teachers to make appraisal more transparent and useful to teachers and leaders.
- Introduced an appraisal process for support staff
- We have decided to lease, rather than purchase, teacher laptops as we believe this is more cost effective.

Financial Governance and Oversight:

Regular monitoring takes place through governors and the governing body committees, including the Resources committee and the Pay committee. The Resources committee receive regular financial reports and is accustomed to scrutiny of budgets, income and expenditure and cost control mechanisms as evidenced in minutes.

Two of our Governors work in accountancy/finance or related disciplines and our School Business Manager is a qualified accountant.

The work of these committees is further informed by Responsible Officer reports and with on-going termly support from Bishop Fleming Accountancy practice

Development of Teaching School

A small amount of grant funding has followed upon designation and we are working hard to develop and expand our teaching school work while achieving value for money in our partnerships. Examples of initiatives which are supporting income revenue:

- Hosting Inspire Days which are open to colleagues from other schools
- Working with Edge Hill University on a sub-license arrangement to deliver the National Professional Qualifications.
- Expanding School Direct Provision as the lead school for five other schools
- Developing Core Maths provision in Sixth Form with the support of a grant from DfE

Income Generation:

Examples of steps to maximise income include:

- providing consultancy services to other schools especially through the Headteacher's NLE role
- Maximising the efficiency of the school's banking arrangements to ensure that where cash flow allows, monies are transferred into a higher interest account and surpluses are on notice accounts.
- The building of a 3G astro turf facility which will be used by the local community.

Reviewing Controls and Managing Risks:

The Resources Committee, School Business Manager, budget holders and the Senior Leadership Team ensured that spending is within budget and forward plans are agreed and implemented when there has been any variance. Actions taken to manage risk include the purchase of an appropriate level of insurance cover, investigation into more robust ICT backup and the use of professional advice for areas of expertise outside of the school's level of expertise - for example purchasing of HR and contracts support from the LA and quick-call from Browne Jacobson, our legal advisers.

Future Planning:

Discussions have started at Governor level to explore more formal partnership working with other academies and/or local schools. This may allow the school and other schools to benefit from economies of scale in procuring products and services, developing staff and sharing knowledge, skill and expertise

Name: Mr Paul Topping
Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 15 Dec 2014