

Value for Money Statement

Academy trust name: Chesterton Community College

Academy trust company number: 07665396

Year ended 31 August 2014

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

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

The College Ethos underpins everything that we do. It states:

“Chesterton is a College where realising the potential of each student is the highest priority. It is a welcoming and happy place where people are respectful towards others and the College environment. We have the highest expectations of ourselves and of others and we are always striving to do better.”

This Ethos pervades every aspect of College life, including the control of finances and use of the funds and resources available to us. We strive to ensure that these are used wisely and effectively to support every student to realise their potential. In doing this we achieve good value for money by:

- 1) Setting appropriate budgets and holding budget holders accountable for managing these
- 2) Having good financial controls with clearly defined procedures and including segregation of key duties in order to eliminate risks of fraudulent activity
- 3) Competitive tendering processes for all significant expenditure and projects
- 4) Strong governor involvement in monitoring financial matters and performance and approving all significant projects / expenditure
- 5) Using the college's assets for the benefit of the Community as well as students thereby generating additional funds for educational use.

Some specific examples of how this has been achieved in 2013-2014 are as follows:

- 1) Increasing the involvement of members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) in the budgetary control process. Tight (significantly reduced) budgets have been set for 2014-15 and communicated to all staff by myself (as Headteacher and Accounting Officer). Added to this a bidding process has been put in place to request and justify additional expenditure, to be approved by SLT and to clearly link the requirement for expenditure to the School Improvement Plan. This ensures that expenditure is prioritised and utilised most effectively.
- 2) Greater use of various purchasing bodies (ESPO, Crescent Purchasing Consortium and Zenergi) has been made to ensure best value is consistently achieved in purchasing.
- 3) Competitive negotiation of insurance achieved a 15% reduction on previous year's premiums
- 4) Staffing structures were constantly reviewed and any opportunities (ie as specific staff left the school) were taken to modify those structures cost effectively
- 5) The use of very capable Progress Support Workers was introduced to support students in need of additional support and extended days used to make this as effective as possible
- 6) Linked to that a Breakfast Club was introduced to improve the learning of students who clearly needed that specific support
- 7) Working with Cambridge University and Cambridge Schools Teaching Network (CSTN) to support the training of new teachers and as an effective route to recruit new, good teachers
- 8) Maximising income generated through the school's facilities (ie its Community Sports Centre and lettings of other facilities). This has provided significant benefit to the local community as well as generating income of £170K for the school
- 9) A scheme was introduced to provide every student in the school (year's 8 to 11) with an iPad to support their learning. This is having a transformational effect on teaching and learning in the school and is almost entirely funded by voluntary parental contributions

Lucy Scott

Head Teacher and Academy Trust Accounting Officer

31 December 2014