

Value for Money Statement

Organisation name: Lydiard Park Academy

Company number: 7694023

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of Lydiard Park Academy 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.

We are extremely proud of the value for money we have delivered over the past year. We have a detailed and robust School Development Plan that drives management activity to continuously enhance the educational provision.

Our key measure of success is an improvement in educational results.

Examination results:

66% of students achieved five or more higher grade GCSE passes including English and mathematics, an increase of 5% on the school's previous best results and at a time when national results dropped by nearly five percent.

The results of our more able students were also a notable feature of this year's grades with forty students achieving five or more top (A/A*) grades.

Five students also managed to achieve six or more A* grades.

Added value:

National data suggests that the 2014 examination results place the school firmly in the top quarter of state schools for the amount of progress made by pupils between Years 7 and 11. Thus we add considerable value to the education of our pupils compared to schools deemed 'similar' both locally and nationally.

Our roll is growing and we have moved to a position of being significantly over subscribed for admission at year 7 as we have become seen as the school of choice in our traditional catchment area of West Swindon and also increasingly further afield. We have also started to extend the age range of the school to 11-18 years by opening a sixth form and so are expanding the number of pupils that benefit from receiving an education at the Academy.

Disadvantaged pupils at the school do better than their peers at 'similar' schools both locally and nationally, which reflects positively on the school's use of Pupil Premium funding. The GCSE results of Pupil Premium pupils in 2014 were significantly above both local and national averages, especially in the key subjects of Mathematics and English.

Performance Management:

The use of the performance management process has proved extremely successful and allowed staff to develop their skills to better meet the needs of the pupils and enabled departments to deliver better educational performance.

We have monitored school and departmental performance closely and can evidence a rise in teaching standards that has now fed through into higher subject and whole school results.

Financial Governance and Oversight:

We have robust procedures in place requiring sign off at every level to ensure budgeted spend is achieved with clear delegations of authority. We enacted a spending freeze at the end of the year limited to essential spend only. This was targeted at delivering the funding required for the new sixth form provision.

Governors meet and review finance on a regular basis and we received an exemplary audit.

All contracts are reviewed when they come up for renewal on a 'best value' basis with the aim of, where appropriate, delivering more for the same cost rather than necessarily driving cost reduction.

We are currently reviewing all service level agreements to ensure they are fit for purpose to enable us to renegotiate our arrangements as required.

We have robust sources of additional income derived from commercial activities which are well managed.

The future:

Sixth Form

We have managed a lean budget settlement carefully to enable a capital spend on the creation of sixth form accommodation and also to fund the additional new teaching resources needed.

Staff involved in our future sixth form provision are given development time to visit successful sixth form providers to observe lessons and gain knowledge of teaching requirements. They also take part in examination board training courses. Initial collaborative arrangements have been put in place with a neighbouring school's sixth form which will allow for the provision of shared classes where this will allow the new sixth form to operate more efficiently. We are now trialling extending this arrangement to a local FE college.

The Academy has a relatively new Business Manager who has made a good start to reviewing all aspects of the support functions including; staffing structures, supply and procurement arrangements and long term maintenance planning.

Name: Mr Clive Zimmerman

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 01 Dec 2014