

Value for Money Statement

Academy trust name: The Rushcliffe School Academy Trust

Academy trust company number: 8128513

Year ended 31 August 2013

I accept that as accounting officer of The Rushcliffe School 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 Results

The GCSE and A level results in 2013 were the best ever. At GCSE the upward trend continued with 88% of pupils achieving 5 or more grades at C or above including English and Maths. This was 4% higher than the previous year and 20% higher than in 2008. Earlier in the year Rushcliffe was notified by the Schools Minister that it was amongst the Top 100 schools in the country for guiding pupils to progress from years 6 to 11. This position seems to have been strengthened in 2013. It is also important to note that 38% of pupils achieved 5 or more A*/A grades.

The A level results continued to improve as well. The points per entry increased from 210 in 2011, 218 in 2012 to 223 in 2013. The average point per student increased also. In 2011 it was 784 points, in 2012 it was 864 and in 2013, 976. Almost all students in Y13 progressed to their chosen career option. Two students achieved places at Cambridge University and Rushcliffe students will be attending a wide range of top universities in 2013/14.

There is much evidence to support an argument that Rushcliffe supports pupils of all abilities in all subjects. Raise Online 2013 identifies the school as being in the Top 7% of all schools for attainment, the Top 2% for English and the Top 8% for Maths. 93% of pupils made the expected progress in English between Y6 and Y11 (national figure is 69%) whilst 91% made the expected progress in Maths (national figure 70%).

The quality of teaching has continued to improve. Our quality assurance programme shows that 90% of teaching is at least good and that much is outstanding. Investment in professional development has paid a dividend.

We reviewed the curriculum in the previous year and have adapted it include a course in Construction in Key Stage 4. We have also improved the range of enrichment opportunities on offer for Sixth Form students to include Mandarin and Fashion design. The Key Stage 3 curriculum has been adapted to allow all students to achieve a GCSE in Spanish.

Pupil attendance over the last year has been 96% and exclusions continue to fall. The steady decline in permanent exclusions continued in the last year with only 2 students being permanently excluded. Our work to eliminate exclusions continues and we have adapted a caretaker's bungalow to provide extra support for students at risk.

Financial Governance and Oversight

The Academy employs a qualified accountant to prepare and monitor Budgets and ensure that the Finance Policy is adhered to in managing the Academy's income and expenditure. The Finance and General Purposes Committee approve items of expenditure and ensure that the decision makers are challenged accordingly.

Local Authority Internal Audit is appointed as Responsible Officer and ensures that the systems for financial governance operate adequately. The Governing Body approves the annual budget and the Annual Report and Accounts as prepared by Baker Tilly, the external Auditors.

Better Purchasing

All significant purchases are sent to tender as required by the Finance Policy and approved by the Governing Body to ensure that contracts entered into represent the best Value for Money. Payment of Suppliers has been moved to BACS and Orders and Remittances are emailed where possible, greatly reducing Admin time and material costs.

The Academy has an ICT Strategy group made up of various stakeholders including the Head Teacher and members of the Governing Body in order to progress the modernisation and advancement of ICT across the School.

Better Income Generation

The Academy has been able to generate income by support of another school from November 12 to July 13. The Academy seeks to maximise other sources of income including Lettings.

Reviewing Controls and Managing Risk

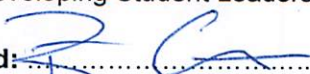
Monthly management accounts are reviewed by the Head and the Finance and General Purposes committee. Explanations of variances are used to make decisions regarding use of the Academy's resources. Rolling forecasts are produced with a view to investing any cash surpluses.

The Academy has a Risk Management Group comprising key personnel who are responsible for monitoring of the Risk Register as appropriate.

Lessons Learned

The Academy has reviewed the use of resources during the past financial year in order to inform the Budget for the New Year. A review of the curriculum offer is performed annually to determine the staffing budget.

The School Improvement Plan has been written to support identified areas for development which emerged from a comprehensive review of outcomes and practice. There are 5 Challenges identified : Maximising academic achievement of all groups, Improving teaching so that at least 50% is outstanding, Ensuring that student behaviour is of the highest standard, maximising the impact of ICT on the Rushcliffe experience and Developing Student Leadership.

Signed: 

Name: P. S. CROMPTON

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 20/12/13