

Value for Money Statement

Academy trust name: The Wey Valley School & Sports College

Academy trust company number: 8128803

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of The Wey Valley School 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 school saw significant improvements in the 2013/14 academic year with a 9% increase in students gaining 5 A* to C including English and maths (53%) and 98% of students gaining 5 A* to G grades.

The 2013/14 Year 11 cohort of students, were below national average on entry to the Wey Valley School and GCSE results this summer confirmed that the Year 11 cohort achieved higher than national average in English (74% A* to C) and higher than national average in Maths (65% A* to C).

There was notable success with Art & Design A* to C at 96%, Graphic Design at 92%, Photography 97%, Biology 92%, Additional Science 95%, BTEC Sport 98%, Physics 88%, Chemistry 88%, BTEC Dance 95%, Spanish 70%, English 74% and Maths 65%. 10% of students achieved four or more A* or As.

The school continues with the Teaching & Learning Plan which featured strongly in the School Development plan and the actions and developments continue at pace for the 2014/15 academic year with current student attainment expected to improve further in 2014/15.

The school rigorously reviews the impact of the Pupil Premium Grant with half termly reviews of intervention that supports student attendance and student learning in English and maths. The school's analysis of Pupil Premium confirms the narrowing of the gap between pupil premium and non-pupil premium students with the gap at 13% for 5 A* to C including English and maths. This has been achieved through deploying 73% of pupil premium funds on curriculum support with further redeployment of Learning Mentors to support pupil premium students in English and maths.

Whole school attendance was 94% for 2014/15 (0.4% increase on 2012/13) and the interventions employed by the school (Fast Track, Multi Agency, Personal Advisor, Learning Centre) through the pupil premium grant ensured attendance of pupil premium students remained at 90% last year.

As an Academy, the school is able to offer a broad range of subjects, from Ebac courses to vocational courses at Weymouth College. Students have a choice of 20 subjects in Year 8 when deciding their GCSE option choices for Year 9. All subjects are delivered by qualified teachers who teach their main subject area.

The Wey Valley School provides transition days to all five primary feeders schools with pupils in years 4, 5 and 6 visiting the school to experience a range of subjects, including maths, English, Science, Art, Food technology, PE and music. A development for transitional days in 2014/15 will be Festivals in Orienteering, Art Design and Tennis as well as Able and Talented sessions.

The school also delivers timetabled lessons to the Wyvern Academy (Science) and St Nicholas & St Laurence Primary School (MFL), both schools on campus. This will be extended through the Accelerated Reading Programme for pupils in Year 5 and 6 (60 pupils) at St Nicholas & St Laurence Primary School and in Years 7 and 8 (300 students) at Wey Valley, following the successful bid in the summer of £10k from the Foyle Foundation and ASPECT Trust.

The English and Maths Departments were involved in literacy / numeracy working groups across the Chesil Education Partnership to review strategies at primary school level for Level 6 progress.

The number of fixed term exclusions in 2013/14 reduced by 46% at 81 days (37 incidents) compared to 150 days (78 incidents) in 2012/13 and 277 days (127 incidents) in 2011/12. There were no permanent exclusions at the Wey Valley School during the 2013/14 academic year. These improvements reflect the investment in school with wrap around support through the Pupil Premium grant, Student Support Centre, the Learning Centre and multi-agency support across the school with attendance and exclusions continuing to improve in the Autumn 2014 term.

The school is in a strong financial position with accounts for the 2013/14 financial year showing a healthy surplus balance, albeit some of this balance is ring-fenced to forthcoming trips, capital funds, the Tennis Centre sink fund and other ring-fenced accounts.

The school has invested in an on-line payment facility (April 2014) and cashless catering (June 2014) for parents and students which has reduced staffing costs (admin and catering) and will in time see a reduction in overheads (insurance and banking costs). Over 40% of parents are already paying on line with 54% of all trip and meal payments

now on-line. The on-line system has significantly improved management information on school meals (in-house catering), including stock control, review of menus, monitoring wastage and free school meal take up. Parents and carers can also view on line to see meal purchases by their son / daughter.

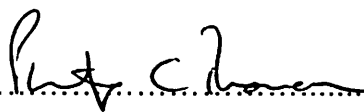
Governors receive a half termly budget monitoring report to review all accounts held in school and governors question variances to budgets, reserves held by the school and how funding supports teaching and learning in school.

The school continues to review all premises contracts and has used the Dorset County Council procurement framework this year for two significant capital projects (Window refenestration to English block and new Fire alarm system) funded by the EFA's Asset Management Capital Fund. The school accesses the TUCO (The University Caterers Organisation) procurement framework for catering, which is part of the wider Crescent Purchasing Consortium, which offers Academies a wider framework of procurement.

The Finance & Business Manager meets termly with colleagues from other Dorset Secondary Schools to network, share good practice and benchmark on staffing and resources.

The school's Finance policy (which is reviewed and approved annually by governors) includes tendering and quotation arrangements and large projects follow the procedures laid out in this policy to ensure the price and quality of major purchases follow best value principles.

The school with support of Wyvern Academy and St Nicholas & St Laurence Primary School on the Wey Valley campus have shared costs for cleaning, campus site team, campus ICT team, grounds maintenance, certain site costs, broadband costs. Through the campus site team, Wey Valley and Wyvern have seen a marked reduction in caretaker overtime costs for weekend lettings.

Signed: .....
Name: ...Philip C Thomas.....
Academy Trust Accounting Officer
Date: 12th December 2014.....