

Platanos Trust

Consolidated Annual Report and Financial Statements

31 August 2020

Company Limited by Guarantee
Registration Number
07492094 (England and Wales)



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Reference and administrative information

Members	Mr Akin Alabi (Chair) Mrs Agatha Domingo Mrs Amymay Bowes Mr Alan Rodriguez Monteiro
Trustees	Mr Humroy Whyte (Chair) Mrs Agatha Domingo (Director) Professor Josko Brakus (Director) Mr Jake Mayah (Director) Mr Terry McKenzie (Director) Mr Kevin McKenzie (Director) Mr Ben Morris (Director) Lizana Oberholzer (Director) (Joined June 2019)
Registered address	Platanos College Clapham Road London SW9 0AL
Company registration number	07492094 (England and Wales)
Company secretary	Vik Verma
Chief executive officer	Ms Judette Tapper
Senior management team	Ms Judette Tapper (Executive Headteacher and Chief Executive Officer) Ms Grace Baya-Tifu (Chief Finance Officer) Dr Chun Lok (Director of Administration)
Bankers	HSBC Bank Plc 512 Brixton Road London SW9 8ER Lloyds TSB 25 Gresham Street London EC2V 7HN
Solicitors	Judicium Consulting Limited 25 Watling Street London EC4M 9BR

Reference and administrative information

Independent Auditor	Buzzacott LLP 130 Wood Street London EC2V 6DL
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Trustees' report Year to 31 August 2020

The Trustees of Platanos Trust ('the Trust') have pleasure in presenting their statutory report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year to 31 August 2020. The Annual Report serves the purpose of both a Trustees report and a Directors report under company law.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 38 to 42 of the attached financial statements and comply with the Trust's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006, the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020, applicable laws and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounting in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Platanos Trust is a Multi Academy Trust with three schools; Platanos College, Winterbourne Boys' Academy and Castle Hill Academy.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee with no share capital (registration no 07492094).

The charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the Trust. The Articles of Association require the members to be responsible for the affairs of the company and the management of the schools within the Trust.

Members' liability

Every member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up while he/she is a member, or within one period after he/she ceases to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10 for the debts and liabilities contracted before he/she ceases to be a member.

Trustees' and Governors' Indemnities

The Directors/Trustees have purchased insurance to cover governors and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on school business. Details of the costs can be found in note 11 to the financial statements.

Principal Activities

The Trust's principal activities are to advance for the public benefit of education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing schools offering a broad and balanced curriculum.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Constitution (continued)

Principal Activities (continued)

The Trustees delegate authority to the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, the Strategic Committee, the Management Committee and the Transition Boards for Winterbourne Boys' Academy and Castle Hill Academy who are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the school by use of budgets and making major decisions about the direction of the schools, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments at the schools and recommending these to the Trustees for approval.

Recruitment of Trustees

From our previous recruitment strategy, we have in place an active list of prospective Trustees. In addition, there are occasions when members of the wider community write to the Chair of Trustees and/or the Headteachers with requests to sit on the Governing Body. Such requests are acknowledged and filed for future reference.

New Trustees undergo a comprehensive programme of induction covering a wide range of issues and topics related to governance. This enables new Trustees to feel confident in order to fulfil their role. This is also an excellent investment and ensures that Trustees are retained and can contribute effectively.

They are informally briefed by the senior staff and where appropriate are mentored by experienced Governors. They can choose the Committee they wish to join and are given extensive background information about the Trust such as Policies, Procedures and Plans. They are also encouraged to attend relevant training courses, especially those related to safeguarding, finance and wider accountability. All Governors are given a copy of "The Law for Governors" and the most up-to-date guidance on safeguarding.

At least, once per year, we review our 'skills set' to ensure that the right skills and expertise are reflected within the Governing Body. Governors continue to ensure that relevant training and development took place during the year.

During the year, Trustees received training on safeguarding, exclusions, finance for MATs and Health and Safety.

Safeguarding is at the heart of the work of Trustees.

As a result of the training and development, Trustees were able to continue to monitor large areas of the schools. Trustees were actively involved in working with the Executive Headteacher/CEO and other senior staff.

Trust Members

The Board of the Platanos Trust is the proprietor and legal governing body of all the academies within the Trust.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT *(continued)*

Members of the Trust

The Board of Members retain ultimate accountability and control for all decisions, with some delegation of functions. They are responsible for the strategic direction of the Trust and act as guardians of the constitution as set out in the Articles of Association.

Members are expected to uphold the Trust's core values and observe the highest standards of public service, impartiality and integrity.

Members are accountable to stakeholders and regulatory bodies for the Trust's actions.

Members are responsible for the strategic direction of the Trust.

Members act as guardians of the constitution as set out in the Articles of Association.

Members must safeguard the assets of the Trust.

Members are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Trust and are accountable to stakeholders and regulatory bodies for the Trust's actions. Members are expected to uphold the Trust's core values and observe the highest standards of public service, impartiality and integrity.

Members must ensure that the Trust is led and managed as a 'going concern'

Directors of the Trust

The Directors of the Platanos Multi-Academy Trust are stable, committed, skilled and effective. We continue to have long-standing and committed members and Directors with the knowledge and skills to govern effectively. Trustees (who are also the Directors of the Trust) reflect the diversity of the local community with particular strengths in business and finance, education, law, parenting, public service and community skills.

Attendance at Trustees and key committee meetings is good.

Expectations, Roles and Responsibilities of Directors and Governors

All Directors and Governors are required to commit to and uphold The Nolan Principles of Conduct Underpinning Public Life, outlined below:

Selflessness: Holders of public office should take decisions solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.

Integrity: Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might influence them in the performance of their official duties.

Objectivity: In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Directors of the Trust (continued)

Accountability: Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

Openness: Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

Honesty: Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

Leadership: Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

Directors are responsible for the governance and supervision of the Trust and its committees and must manage the Trust's affairs prudently.

Directors support and monitor the Trust against its objectives and key performance indicators.

Sub-committees report to the Board with responsibilities as follows: Finance, Audit and Risk, Strategic Committee, Complaints Committee (as and when arising) Staff disciplinary matters and Dismissal Committee (as and when arising).

Finance: overseeing the finances of the Trust and the Academies

- ◆ establishing a funding model for use across the Trust and the Academies;
- ◆ agreeing each Academy's annual budgets (in consultation with the LGB);
- ◆ compliance with the Academies Financial Handbook;
- ◆ oversight of finances of each Academy;
- ◆ determination after consultation with each academy the extent of services provided centrally to the Academy and the allocation of cost; and
- ◆ establishing processes for local management and maintenance of assets and appropriate.

The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee meet at least three times per year.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Trustees/Directors/the Board of Directors

The Board of Trustees/Directors is responsible for the governance and supervision of the Trust and its Committees and must manage the Trust's affairs prudently. Directors support and monitor the Trust against its objectives and key performance indicators.

Sub-committees report to the Board as follows:

- ◆ Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, including, Health and Safety, HR, Pay and Safeguarding.
- ◆ The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee reports to the Board of Directors on finance as set out in the Academies Financial Handbook, which includes the Scheme of Delegation.
- ◆ The Board of Directors oversee the finance of the Trust and its Academies and establishes a funding model for use across the Trust.
- ◆ The Board agrees each Academy's annual budget, ensures compliance with the Academies Financial Handbook and has oversight of the finances of each Academy.
- ◆ The Strategic Committee is not a decision-making Committee but oversees the key strategic projects set out in the Business Plan agreed by the Board of Directors.
- ◆ Complaints (as and when arising).
- ◆ Staff disciplinary matters and dismissal (as and when arising).
- ◆ Exclusions from school (as and when arising)
- ◆ The Board establishes processes for the local management and maintenance of assets.

The Management Committee

Chaired by the CEO. This is a sub-committee of the Trust Board responsible for taking tactical and operational management decisions on behalf of the Board. It has a professional focus on matters such as teaching and learning, standards and performance, monitoring the achievement of objectives, targets, outcomes and Safeguarding in each Academy across the Trust.

The Transition Boards

There are at present two Transition Boards, one each at the two primary academies. The responsibility of the Transition Boards is to bring about a rapid turnaround of the schools from their previous category.

The Transition Boards ensure that the strategic plan for each academy is being implemented and advise on its development and review. The focus is on the following areas:

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

The Transition Boards (continued)

- ◆ Safeguarding and the wellbeing of pupils and staff.
- ◆ Leadership management and governance.
- ◆ Teaching and learning.
- ◆ Facilities, resources and finance.

The Transition Boards report to the Platanos Trust Board on progress, recommending any further action as necessary. Following the principle of earned autonomy, the Transition Boards will be replaced by local governing bodies with a consultative and advisory function.

The Local Governing Bodies

A local governing body has an advisory function. Local governors are engaged in meeting pupils, parents and staff regularly, either to monitor aspects of school life, present prizes and/or meeting key managers informally.

Additional meetings/structures

- ◆ The Chair of Trustees holds regular meetings with the CEO.
- ◆ The Chair of Members holds periodic meetings with the Chair of Trustees and the CEO.
- ◆ The CEO holds regular meetings with the Headteachers of each school and where appropriate joins SLT/staff meetings in individual schools.

The lines of accountability flow upwards to the Board of Trustees and to the Board of Members.

Connected organisations

The Academy owns 100% of the issued ordinary shares of Platanos Development Ltd incorporated in England (registration no 08145335). The subsidiary started trading in April 2013. In the period to 31 August 2020, the subsidiary achieved a profit of all which was gifted under the covenant to the Academy. Further details regarding the subsidiary company are given in note 13 of the financial statement.

A Charitable Foundation, Platanos Foundation (Registered Charity Number 1155531), was formed as part of our vision to expand educational opportunities for pupils in our schools and the wider community.

There was no expenditure during this financial year.

Platanos Innovation (Community Interest Company) did not operate during this financial year.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Connected organisations (continued)

Platanos Foundation and Platanos Innovation are connected entities to Platanos Trust by virtue of having Trustees in common, but are not controlled by the Trust and are therefore not consolidated into these financial statements.

Risk management

The Trustees carefully considered a specific internal audit function and appointed Internal Auditors, Berringers and Company. The Trustees accept these arrangements to provide reasonable, not absolute, assurance that assets are safeguarded and transactions are authorised and properly recorded and that internal errors or irregularities are either prevented or detected in a timely basis.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

A Pay Policy is in place which is reviewed by Trustees each year. The Policy is implemented in a fair and equitable manner. All teachers are assessed annually through the Performance Management Policy.

- ◆ Pay progression is linked to performance.
- ◆ Pay progression on the upper pay scale is subject to teachers demonstrating substantial and sustained achievement and contribution in intervals of no less than two years.
- ◆ Teaching and Learning Responsibility Payments (TLRs) may be awarded to teachers on the upper scale.
- ◆ In exceptional circumstances, recruitment and retention incentives and benefits are available. This reward may be paid as a salary supplement or lump sum.
- ◆ Where appropriate, a Special Needs (SEN) allowance may be paid in line with the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD).
- ◆ The pay for key managers and members of the leadership team is determined by the Board of Directors and discharged via the Pay Committee. Directors take account of the circumstances and responsibilities of the post and will take account of any difficulties there may be in recruiting and retaining senior staff.
- ◆ Assistant Headteachers and Deputy Headteachers are set performance objectives annually, related to the School Improvement Plan (SIP) and pupil progress.
- ◆ Progression up the leadership pay spine takes place when there has been evidence of sustained high quality performance, taking account of the agreed performance objectives.
- ◆ Pay differentials take account of different levels of responsibilities and other material differences between posts, together with any requirements of the School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD). Differentials are justified on the basis of role specific requirements and responsibilities.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel (continued)

- ◆ For key management personnel recruited externally, pay is usually set in line with the job advert. The latter is usually based on a job evaluation and an assessment of the shortages in recruitment. We compare our salaries against those of other schools and academies in London in particular. Starting salaries for key management positions are negotiated with individual applicants and linked to the needs of the schools within the Trust.
- ◆ Salaries for support staff are assessed annually and determined by the responsibilities of the post as well as the performance of the post-holder in accordance with previously agreed objectives under the Performance Management Policy.

We awarded teachers – who did not hold TLR or Threshold points a 1% pay increase, despite the economic uncertainties.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects and aims

The principal object and activity of the charitable company is the operation of Platanos Trust to advance, for the public benefit, education for pupils of different abilities by establishing, maintaining, operating and developing education in both schools by offering a broad curriculum.

Achievements and performance

Who we are and what we stand for

Purpose of the platanos trust

The Trust holds true to its core purpose which is to maintain and develop Good and Outstanding schools, ensuring rapid improvement where needed.

Overall progress 2019-2020: Governance

In corporate terms the Trust has had a successful year, maintaining high standards of strategic development and accountability through the Board of Directors. We have welcomed new Trustees whose contributions as actively engaged critical friends have strengthened our development and ensured consolidation of what has been achieved.

Training

Among the extensive training and professional development that is provided for staff, this year's programme has afforded bespoke training in Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion, the feedback from which was very positive from all participants including trainers.

Governance training has included sessions on corporate governance, obligations under the Equalities Act and a range of educational issues including Ofsted inspection.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Staffing

We have been fortunate in maintaining high levels of staff retention across the Trust to ensure stability and continuity for pupils as far as possible.

Finance

The financial viability of the Trust shows capacity for development and expansion.

Communication and the development of local governance

Communication with parents, pupils and the community has been much better this academic year, particularly since the onset of the Covid 19 crisis which has affected all the academies across the Trust.

Parent and community participation in local governance is developing in the primary schools, now that both schools are substantively and demonstrably improving in keeping with the Trust's principle of earned autonomy.

Vitality

Trust staff have shown vitality, commitment and ingenuity during the current health crisis, developing and demonstrating an increasing capacity for managing change in emergency management. The Trust has always been characterised by its ability to build Leadership and Management and this has yet again emerged, helping to mitigate upheaval and distress for pupils.

Achievements

The academic year started with recognition of **Platanos College** as a leader in one of the Trust's core functions with the award of the **Inclusion Quality Mark** and status as a Centre of Excellence.

Platanos College leadership in narrowing the achievement gap between pupils through social mapping.

Surveys and research carried out by the College's senior leaders has revealed links between levels of deprivation in the fourteen London boroughs in which pupils live and the learning and attainment challenges they face. The College is able to refine support and intervention for individual learning and behavioural needs in order to optimise outcomes for pupils. This data helps to predict the needs of the next cohort of pupils and to ensure appropriateness of response.

We hope to extend social mapping to help pupils in all three schools in the Trust.

The College continues to benefit from the support of the Worshipful Company of Fuellers, notably via a series of academic lectures for Able pupils, the latest of which were on the subject of Reducing Energy Demand and Engineering and Energy-related Professions as Careers.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (continued)

Achievements (continued)

Castle Hill Academy underwent Ofsted inspection in November 2019 and was **graded Good in all categories: Overall, Quality of Education, Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development, Leadership and Management, Early Years Education**. This outcome was pleasing, the Academy only having been re-brokered to Platanos two years previously following years of poor performance under different sponsorship.

Castle Hill Academy has greatly improved community relations and viable parental links.

The school now takes part in community events and works in partnership with local organisations, such as New Addington Pathfinders and Place 2 Be, with robust counselling and support services for pupils and parents and improved attendance. The school benefits from stable Leadership and Management.

Winterbourne Boys' Academy Year 6 pupils achieved excellent Key Stage 2 results with SATs and progress scores well above the national average.

Winterbourne boys are able to benefit from the school's own Maths and Science Academy for Able pupils who show aptitude and enthusiasm for these subjects. Our aim is to broaden pupils' horizons and to present potential career opportunities for those with appropriate skills and commitment.

Year 6 pupils attended a Fuellers lecture about the modern energy industry. The Academy also received the generous donation of cricket whites from the Fuellers Charitable Fund to support the continued development and success of the school cricket team in inter-school competitions across Croydon.

Our Trust now comprises of one 'Outstanding' secondary academy and two 'Good' primary academies, ensuring the provision of at least a good education to more than two and a half thousand young people in our care.

Specific educational outcomes

Educational outcomes at the end of 2020 improved because of the vitality of our vision as well as the commitment and enthusiasm of our staff, from support staff, newly qualified teachers (NQTs) to very experienced members of staff.

We have also used the process of performance management for all staff (including the CEO) to improve the quality of learning across the Trust.

Our inclusive agenda was verified by the IQM accreditation for the second year, which enshrines our values and commitment to successfully working in challenging communities.

Despite the pandemic, we remain confident that our educational outcomes would have been externally verified as outlined below.

Outcomes at Platanos College (based on teacher assessment) were as follows:

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (continued)

Achievements (continued)

Specific educational outcomes (continued)

We are strengthening our Key Stage 3 curriculum. We have looked closely at our changing demographic and the needs of the pupils, and have been innovative, flexible and rigorous with the changes that we make to the curriculum in light of the needs of pupils.

In June 2020 our pupils in Year 7 and Year 8 were stronger in their basic Literacy and Numeracy.

We focused on Literacy across the curriculum, the Maths Mastery approach to reasoning questions and the development of the Science curriculum, crafting a different approach to teaching key topics and consolidating the learning. We looked forensically at the gap analysis across the core subjects, targeted the learning to the areas of need and focused on independent challenge tasks to stretch the Most Able pupils.

We looked at the pace of learning and ensured that this was a focus across the school.

These shifts contributed to the improved outcomes at the end of Key Stage 3.

Prior to the lockdown, Year 10 were in a very strong position in terms of their progress.

They were projected to achieve -0.16 at the end of the year and an attainment figure of 48.32. 97 pupils were projected to achieve a 4 or above in English and Maths. The latter can be attributed to the smaller teaching groups which started in September 2019.

This cohort started in Year 7 with particularly low starting points and we therefore had to implement significant intervention strategies. The outcomes are a testament to the success of the interventions. We are hopeful for a forecast of +0.45 progress at the end of Key Stage 4, given the baseline assessments and formal examination data.

Year 11

There were 184 pupils in the class of 2020. This was a very bright year group which were projected to achieve good or better outcomes.

Based on formal assessment and internal tracking data, we were forecasting a positive progress score of +0.35 across the Year 11 cohort in February 2020.

Our Attainment 8 outcome was 52.

Our progress overall was +0.65, which is a testament to the hard work of the pupils during the lockdown.

72% of pupils achieved English and Maths, grade 4 and above (standard pass). 49% of pupils achieved English and Maths, grade 5 and above (strong pass).

Our overall Grade 4 5+ GCSE figure including English and Maths was 71%.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (continued)

Achievements (continued)

Specific educational outcomes (continued)

Year 11 (continued)

Specific subject strengths are reflective of the subject curriculum development; we have seen the Science results improve, with 100% 5+ for Physics, Chemistry and Biology. The investment in Drama has seen significant progress in pupil outcomes. Computer Science gained 100% 5+, which is a significant achievement.

Outcomes for Castle Hill Academy (based on teacher assessment) were as follows:

In reception:

- ◆ We developed early writing skills sooner and support home activities that were writing specific.
- ◆ We also explored and shared writing opportunities in the home in addition to school improved school readiness through connections and sharing of practice with other EYFS and nursery providers.

We supported home reading with phonics instruction for parents.

Year 1

- ◆ We improved retention of number and letter formation.
- ◆ Supported home reading with phonics instruction for parents.
- ◆ Supported number facts retention through games and competitions.

Year 2

- ◆ The scores for this particular cohort were positive. They had a poor start to education in nursery before Platanos Trust took on the school.
- ◆ This year group will need targeted support as there is a significant % of SAL needs in this year.
- ◆ This year group did not engage well with the virtual school.

Year 3

- ◆ We strengthened number concept in this Year Group. We focussed on Numicon and memory work to recall and embed key number facts will continue this year.

Year 4

- ◆ Timetables were secure at the end of Year 3, so that Year 4 was spent embedding these facts.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (continued)

Achievements (continued)

Specific educational outcomes (continued)

Year 5

- ◆ Engagement in the Maths lessons online improved Maths attainment.
- ◆ Competitions and parent engagement with the platform improved skills further.

Year 6

- ◆ We are confident that our pupils would have achieved the following:

60% in Reading

75% in Writing

65% in Maths

At Winterbourne Boys' Academy

At Winterbourne Boys' Academy, we strengthened our curriculum by ensuring that CPD was approached at a much deeper level. The curriculum was also reviewed to meet the needs of boys' learning.

- ◆ A much better system for reading strategies was deployed with more interventions for reading.
- ◆ Improved teaching strategies for testing techniques were in place.
- ◆ Throughout the school, we modelled writing to support pupils with structuring their writing with a focus on texts to engage boys in order to develop their skills as writers.
- ◆ We taught arithmetic so that all boys improved their skills.
- ◆ The maths curriculum is taught systematically and explicitly to support reasoning.

The outcomes at WBA for Year 6 (based on teacher assessment were as follows:

74% in Reading

83% in Writing

89% in Maths

GOING CONCERN

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the schools within the Trust have adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. In making this assessment, the Trustees have considered the anticipated impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on the operational and financial results of the Trust. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial report for the year

The results for the year are shown on pages 34 to 61. The Trust recorded total income of £14,395,000 (2019 - £13,426,000) and expenditure of £14,221,000 (2019 - £13,930,000). Excluding movements within the restricted fixed asset funds, one off items of income and expenditure and non-cash movements on the pension provision the Trust recorded an operating surplus in excess of £234,000 (2019 – £33,000).

Financial and risk management objectives and policies

The objective of the Academy's Risk Management procedure is to identify the principal risks facing the Academy so that existing controls may be considered and further action taken if required. The governors have a comprehensive risk management process to identify and monitor the risk faced by the academy. The financial risks considered include economic and financial uncertainty, the risk of fraud, poor financial management and under-insurance.

RESERVES POLICY

The Trustees review the reserve levels of the School annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The Trust is not subject to restrictions on the amount it can hold in the ESFA GAG fund is limited as explained in note 1. The Trustees have determined that the level of free reserves at the year end is appropriate. The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance.

At the year end the Trust had total reserves of £33,495,000 (2019 - £33,274,000) of which £1,028,000 (2019 - £857,000) were free reserves.

FUNDRAISING

The Trust does not actively solicit donations and therefore are not registered with the Fundraising Regulator or subscribe to any fundraising codes of practice. When donations from individuals are received, the Trust aims to protect personal data and never sells data or swaps data with other organisations. During 2019 - 2020, the Trust received no complaints about fundraising activities.

FUTURE PLANS AND ACTIVITIES

- ♦ We will continue the journey of constantly improving our schools in line with our Vision and Business Plan.
- ♦ We intend to expand in order to make the Trust financially viable in the long term.

FUTURE PLANS AND ACTIVITIES (continued)

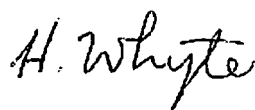
- ◆ We plan to develop fundraising activities to support future scholarships and bursaries.
- ◆ We plan to continue to prepare for a Sixth Form provision at Platanos College for 2022. In preparing for this provision, we have started the process of reducing pupil numbers at the College from September 2020.
- ◆ We intend to develop Winterbourne Boys' Academy and Castle Hill Academy to the 'outstanding' Ofsted category.
- ◆ We have plans to expand our teacher training programme and links with universities.
- ◆ To continue to respond to challenges arising as a result of COVID-19 and provide support to the stakeholders of the Trust in response to these challenges.

AUDITOR

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- ◆ there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- ◆ the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Approved by order of the board of the Trustees and signed on its behalf by:



H Whyte
Chair of the Trustees

Date: 15 December 2020

Scope of responsibility

As Trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibilities for ensuring that schools in the Trust have an effective and appropriate system of control, financial and otherwise. However such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives, and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The Trustees have delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the CEO, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Platanos Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the governing body any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance here supplements that described in the Trustees' report and in the statement of Trustees' responsibilities.

During the period, the attendance at meetings by Trustees was as follows:

Directors	Number of meetings attended	Out of a possible
Humroy Whyte (Chair)	4	4
Agatha	2	4
Terry McKenzie	4	4
Jake Mayah	3	4
Ben Morris	2	4
Professor Josko Brakus	2	4
Kevin McKenzie	3	4
Lizana Oberholzer	3	4

Despite meeting fewer than six times a year, the Board maintains effective oversight of the finance of the Trust, by reviewing the reports of its dedicated Committees. Trustees fully discussed their legal obligation in relation to this directive and agreed a less frequent programme of meetings was suitable because of the following:

- ◆ The Board meetings are lengthy and comprehensive agendas are sent out in advance of each meeting. All relevant papers are assessed by Trustees and discussed at each meeting.
- ◆ Taking into consideration the breadth, depth and quality of the information provided in preparation for meetings, all Trustees affirmed that they felt fully informed. However, reflecting on the fact that there is a long-standing Finance Committee with a very large remit, Trustees agreed to set up a Strategic Committee to reduce the overload on the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.
- ◆ The Trust Board are a well-established and experienced group of governors and Board meetings cover the entire Trust.
- ◆ There is an experienced CEO and key functions are delegated to sub-committees.

Governance (continued)

- ◆ It was agreed that most Trustees have very busy professional lives and meeting six times per year would create problems for Trustees. Indeed, some would resign. The current model helps to retain highly experienced and committed Trustees.
- ◆ The Transition Boards and Management Committee regularly check on educational matters, including Safeguarding, Attendance, the Curriculum, planning for Ofsted and a range of other activities.
- ◆ There are checks in place via the Board's Educationalist, Terry McKenzie and the Board has other key officers within the Trust.
- ◆ There are regular external reviews/checks on subjects, key curriculum areas, management development, Safeguarding, the use of the Pupil Premium and other important areas of the Trust's responsibilities.
- ◆ Trustees observed that Platanos is growing as a trust and the systems and procedures reflect this growth and development, as for example in the decision to set up a Strategic Committee. All Trust matters are discussed three times a year. Trustees commented that the Board action-plans with care and agreed that where it is necessary and appropriate, Trustees will meet more than three times per year, although at this stage in the MAT's growth there is no need as a general rule to meet more than three times a year.

In conclusion, the Board agreed it is confident of the existing frequency of meetings and governance structure.

The Trustees made provision for the Executive Headteacher/CEO to lead and manage the Transition Board (WBA) from September 2019 – September 2021 and the Transition Board (CHA) from September 2017 in place of a Local Governing Bodies. The Transition Boards are accountable to the Board of Trustees. The Trustees have monitored and approved all major decision taken during the period.

The Work of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee

This Committee is the main sub-Committee of the Trust. It is wide-ranging and holds considerable delegated powers in relation to budget-setting, oversight of Pay, Human Resources, Maintenance and Strategic Development. It therefore follows that this Committee is duty bound to ensure that its annual Committee Planner is wide-ranging and comprehensive. We regularly challenged the staff, especially the CEO and other senior members of staff.

The Committee Planner sets high expectations, is clear and separates the strategic decision-making from the operational. The Committee Planner complements the work of the Transition Boards, the Management Committee, the Platanos Governing Body as well as the regular educational reviews undertaken by our educationalist on the Board, and the work of a variety of external advisers.

Governance (continued)

The Work of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee (continued)

During the period, the Committee reviewed and agreed the Committee Planner for the year and worked through the Planner as follows:

- ◆ Risk Management was high on the agenda at every meeting as we looked particularly at the impact of pupil numbers on current and future finance.
- ◆ We also reviewed cash claims and reviewed the problems with claims in the cash flow process.
- ◆ We reviewed and implemented the statutory post-audit recommendations.
- ◆ There was a review of the use of the Occupational Health referrals, a part of risk assessment often overlooked, but an area with huge implications for staffing and learning.
- ◆ We continued to review finances on a monthly basis, ensuring that the Committee fully understood any underlying change to our finances across the Trust. The focus on individual academies proved useful in our ability to understand what happens at individual school level and at Trust level. This included monitoring the financial impact of COVID-19 on the Trust and the income and expenditure compared to amounts originally budgeted.
- ◆ We reviewed agency staff in each academy.

Despite the pandemic and lockdown, we were able to implement a wide range of building and associated works, including the following:

- ◆ In preparing to keep pupils in 'bubbles', considerable changes were made to signage in each school.
- ◆ We prioritised an online learning strategy and purchased a considerable number of laptops and software to accommodate a future lockdown and to enhance the skills of both pupils and staff. Independent learning was transformed. We set up a system for parents and carers to purchase laptops from a scheme we successfully launched during the lockdown.
- ◆ We strengthened the number and quality of Risk Assessments, increased respiratory hygiene and enhanced cleaning arrangements throughout the school day.
- ◆ New mobile hand wash units were installed in each school as well as new toilets and sinks in both primary schools.
- ◆ We made extensive refurbishments in all schools, including roof maintenance, drainage clearance and the renovation of some classrooms.
- ◆ The Trust provided extensive PPE equipment for staff and pupils.
- ◆ We were able to focus on specific issues in each academy.

Governance (continued)

The Work of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee (continued)

- ♦ A significant amount of investment was made in the area of Health and Safety development by training more staff in this area and providing extensive PPE equipment.
- ♦ The decision to outsource financial services was both lengthy and rigorous, resulting in what we hope will be a future reduction in costs.
- ♦ We were successfully able to make confident decisions about individual members of staff as they relate to HR, pay and conditions.
- ♦ The work of the Pay Committee (which forms an integral part of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee) was diligent by placing affordability at the heart of its work. As a result, the Pay Committee was able to award staff within the context of the current and future viability of the Trust.
- ♦ Procurement Policy Notes 02/20 and 04/20 have been considered and the Academy Trust has sustained contractual payments to suppliers when service levels have been adversely affected by COVID-19. This has been the case for cleaning and catering contracts. The Academy Trust has not made use of the furlough scheme given that Government funding has been maintained. The Academy Trust does not consider that the impact of COVID-19 on value for money obtained has been significant during the period.

Attendance at committee meetings was as follows:

Directors	Number of meetings attended	Out of a possible
Jake Mayah (Chair)	6	6
Agatha Domingo	6	6
Kevin McKenzie	6	6
Humroy Whyte (Joined in June 2020)	2	2

This Committee covers Pay and Personnel as well as wider Estates, Health and Safety matters.

The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Academy Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place at the Academy Trust for the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of Trustees.

Review of value for money

Accounting Officer Statement

I accept that, as Accounting Officer (the Chief Executive) of the Platanos 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 need to review value for money as directed by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and understand that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The Accounting Officer considers how the Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year and reports to the Board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate.

The following examples demonstrate how the Accounting Officer of the Academy Trust has improved the use of resources to deliver better value for money during the academic year:

- 1) The Trust has extensively reviewed its main facilities management provider for the college following the end of its contract term. As a result, it was able to identify additional cost savings by the use of new, independent maintenance contracts for each area of its premises. The use of smaller contractors as opposed to a single, large contractor has also increased the flexibility of the operation. Other aspects are managed through our in-house expertise, using out existing human resource, which has increased cost-effectiveness.
- 2) The Trust has developed increased capacity and expertise for Trust-wide, inter-school support between its schools for both teaching and non-teaching functions. The Trust has expanded its in-house CPD programmes and therefore maximised its most valuable internal resource in order to continue to develop pupil support strategies and drive improvement in pupil outcomes across the Trust. The close working relationships and support between schools through deployment of expert staff across the Trust as and when necessary has ensured effective support, the sharing of good practice and a standardised quality of delivery.
- 3) The Trust has been actively reviewing its catering facilities for one of its primary schools, as one of the various areas of future focus. The catering function will be operated by the Trust internally at the end of the current contract, using its own existing capacity, facilities and expertise. This will result in cost savings, as well as increased flexibility and control of the provision and quality.

The risk and control framework

- 4) The Trust has expanded its use of the Dfe 'Buying for schools' framework tool, as well as the use of other frameworks (such as from the Crescent Purchasing Consortium and ESPO), and negotiating long-term discounts directly with approved suppliers. This ensured savings and discounts on purchases such as learning resources.

The academy trust's system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular, it includes:

- ◆ comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of Trustees;
- ◆ regular reviews by the finance and general purposes committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- ◆ setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- ◆ clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- ◆ delegation of authority and segregation of duties; and
- ◆ identification and management of risks.

Internal Audit

- ◆ The Trust continued to appoint internal auditors, Berringers and Company, and commissioned an appropriate external review of finance in line with the standards established by the ESFA, this arrangement is not impacted by the revised Ethical Standard.
- ◆ The Trust also ensure financial leadership and governance by ensuring the Board includes a Director with considerable and successful experience as an accountant, who is able to interrogate budget headings in considerable depth and make expert deductions and recommendations where appropriate.
- ◆ The Trust reviews expenditure within each budget heading at the end of each year. Where appropriate, adjustments are made and new strategies are identified within School Improvement Plans. The latter is in turn approved and monitored by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee and the Trust.
- ◆ The Trust operates as a business and is clear about the need to implement its strategic plans in order to ensure the best outcomes for pupils by continuing to raise expectation and attainment. Although the Trust now has well developed plans to expand and continue to take on new challenges, at the same time, the Trust is cautious of ensuring capacity and the drawbacks of expansion that may be too rapid. It is therefore the intention of the Trust to continue its steady expansion to ensure its efficiency and effectiveness in delivering its services.

Internal audit reports summary 2019 - 2020

A review of other expenditure (January 2020)

This review focused on testing the system of internal controls of Trust expenditure. Although there were no substantive weaknesses, a few areas of weaknesses were identified.

It was recommended that the purchase order system should be used more to order items, even when the items were approved from the budget and to also reconcile outstanding purchase orders every month.

Invoices of £5,000 and above should be uploaded in the PSF system to ensure an electronic audit trail is maintained. It was also recommended that we set up an online payment system to reduce the time spent paying suppliers by cheque.

A review of charge cards (February 2020)

The objective of this audit was to ensure a full documentation of the systems, and to assess the controls currently in place.

The auditors assessed the relevant areas within PS Financials, reviewed the charge card expenses, authorisation levels and also conducted substantive testing samples from the nominal ledger, to source documentation.

The review recommended 2 areas for improvement:

- ◆ Budget holders placing Amazon orders of more than £150 should have an order form in place.
- ◆ Orders for more than £1,000 should be authorised by the CEO, prior to purchase.

A review of internal salary costs (July 2020)

This review looked at the current systems and controls in relation to payroll, namely to assess if they were suitably designed, consistently applied and effective.

The review found that the processing and payment of salaries appeared to be working well. There were no substantive weaknesses.

The recommendations raised during the previous financial year were implemented. The review also recommended that all employees files, especially older files at Castle Hill Academy to be located in the central office.

A review of income (August 2020)

This was a review of the internal controls in relation to the income process.

The review looked at the income from September 2019 to August 2020.

The internal controls in place with regards to the processing of income appeared to be working well.


Internal audit reports summary 2019 – 2020 (continued)

A review of income (August 2020) (continued)

The areas of weaknesses raised were mainly attributed to late payments from one Local Authority. As a result, we set up a dedicated team of staff to work with this authority to ensure funding due to the Trust are claimed on time.

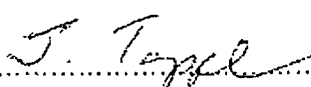
It was also recommended that the process of collecting unpaid school meals should be made in a formal manner and that a dedicated employee be assigned to manage the process in each school within the Trust.

Approved by order of the Trustees and signed on their behalf on 15 December 2020 by:

Signed 

H Whyte

Chair

Signed 

J Tapper

Accounting Officer

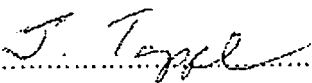
Statement on regularity, propriety and compliance 31 August 2020

Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

As accounting officer of Platanos Trust, I have considered my responsibility to notify the Trust's Trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with ESFA terms and conditions of funding, under the funding agreement in place between the Trust and the Secretary of State. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook.

I confirm that I and the Trust's Trustees body are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the Trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Trust's funding agreement and the Academies Financial Handbook.

I confirm that no instances of material irregularity, impropriety or funding non-compliance have been discovered to date.

Signed.....

Date: 15 December 2020

J Tapper
Accounting Officer

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities 31 August 2020

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the Annual Accounts Direction issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group and the Trust and of the Group's income and expenditure for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

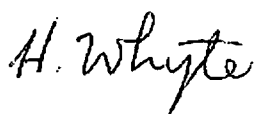
- ◆ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- ◆ observe the methods and principles in the Charities' Statement of Recommended Practice (the Charities' SORP);
- ◆ make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- ◆ state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- ◆ prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Trust will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Group's and Trust's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Group and Trust and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Group and Trust and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the Trust applies financial and other controls, which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring grants received from the ESFA have been applied for the purposes intended.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the Trust's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 15 December 2020 and signed on its behalf by:



H Whyte
Chair of Trustees

Independent auditor's report to the members of Platanos Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Platanos Trust (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 August 2020 which comprise the consolidated statement of financial activities, the balance sheets, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (the Charities SORP) and the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- ◆ give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2020 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- ◆ have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- ◆ have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- ◆ have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP and Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- ◆ the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or

Conclusions relating to going concern (continued)

- ♦ the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information (covers the reference and administrative details, the report of the trustees and strategic report and the governance statement)

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- ♦ the information given in the trustees' report, which is also the directors' report for the purpose of company law and includes the strategic report, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- ♦ the trustees' report, which is also the director's report for the purposes of company law and includes the strategic report, has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report including the strategic report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- ♦ the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- ♦ certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or

Matters on which we are required to report by exception (continued)

- ◆ we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Responsibilities of trustees'

As explained more fully in the trustee' responsibilities statement, the governors (who are also the directors for the purpose of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the governors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error,

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing , as applicable, matter related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Independent Auditors Report 31 August 2020

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Buzzacott LLP

Hugh Swainson (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Buzzacott LLP, Statutory Auditor
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL
Date: 16.12.2020

Independent reporting accountant's assurance report on regularity to Platanos Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 24 October 2016 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Platanos Trust during the period from 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to Platanos College and the ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Platanos Trust and the ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Platanos Trust and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Platanos Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Platanos Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2019, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period from 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020 issued by the ESFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

The objective of a limited assurance engagement is to perform such procedures as to obtain information and explanations in order to provide us with sufficient appropriate evidence to express a negative conclusion on regularity.

A limited assurance engagement is more limited in scope than a reasonable assurance engagement and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in a reasonable assurance engagement. Accordingly, we do not express a positive opinion.

Independent accountant's report 31 August 2020

Approach (continued)


Our engagement includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the regularity and propriety of the Trust's income and expenditure.

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- ◆ An assessment of the risk of material irregularity and impropriety across all of the Trust's activities;
- ◆ Further testing and review of the areas identified through the risk assessment including enquiry, identification of control processes and examination of supporting evidence across all areas identified as well as additional verification work where considered necessary; and
- ◆ Consideration of evidence obtained through the work detailed above and the work completed as part of our financial statements audit in order to support the regularity conclusion.

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the period from 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.



Hugh Swainson

Buzzacott LLP
Chartered Accountants
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

Date: 16.12.2020

Consolidated statement of financial activities Year to 31 August 2020

(including income and expenditure account)


		Unrestricted general fund £'000	Restricted funds		Year to 31 August 2020 Total funds £'000	Year to 31 August 2019 Total funds £'000
	Notes		General £'000	Fixed assets £'000		
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	2	10	—	802	812	124
Other trading activities	3	188	—	—	188	301
Investments	4	1	—	—	1	1
Charitable activities						
· Funding for the School's educational operations	5	—	13,394	—	13,394	13,000
Total income		199	13,394	802	14,395	13,426
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities						
· School's educational operations	7	20	13,672	529	14,221	13,930
Total expenditure	6	20	13,672	529	14,221	13,930
Net income (expenditure) before transfers		179	(278)	273	174	(504)
Gross transfers between funds	17	(8)	(63)	71	—	—
Net income (expenditure) for the year		171	(341)	344	174	(504)
Other recognised gains and losses						
Actuarial gain (loss) on defined benefit pension scheme	21	—	1,047	—	1,047	(1,214)
Net movement in funds		171	706	344	1,221	(1,718)
Reconciliation of funds						
Fund balances brought forward at 1 September 2019		857	(3,374)	34,791	32,274	33,992
Fund balances carried forward at 31 August 2020		1,028	(2,668)	35,135	33,495	32,274

All of the Trust's activities derived from continuing operations.

Balance sheets 31 August 2020

	Notes	Consolidated		Trust	
		2020 £'000	2019 £'000	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	12	34,481	34,791	34,454	34,758
Current assets					
Stock	14	47	37	47	37
Debtors	15	1,910	1,379	2,006	1,385
Cash at bank and in hand		720	296	651	329
		2,677	1,712	2,704	1,751
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(932)	(855)	(888)	(815)
Net current assets		1,745	857	1,816	936
Total assets less current liabilities		36,226	35,648	36,270	35,694
Pension scheme liability	21	(2,731)	(3,374)	(2,731)	(3,374)
Total net assets		33,495	32,274	33,539	32,320
Funds of the School					
Restricted funds					
. Fixed assets fund	17	35,135	34,791	35,108	34,758
. General fund	17	63	—	63	—
. Pension reserve	21	(2,731)	(3,374)	(2,731)	(3,374)
		32,467	31,417	32,440	31,384
Unrestricted funds					
. General fund		1,028	857	1,099	936
Total funds	18	33,495	32,274	33,539	32,320

The financial statements on page 34 to 61 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 15 December 2020 and are signed on their behalf by:

Signed 

H Whyte
Chair

The Platanos Trust
Company Limited by Guarantee
Registration Number: 07492094 (England and Wales)

Consolidated statement of cash flows Year to 31 August 2020

		2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	A	554	(1,213)
Cash flows from investing activities			
	B	(130)	(79)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		424	(1,292)
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds:			
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September		296	1,588
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August	C	720	296

A Reconciliation of net income (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Net expenditure for the year (as per the statement of financial activities)	174	(504)
Adjusted for:		
Depreciation (note 12)	529	404
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(802)	(124)
Interest receivable (note 4)	(1)	(1)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable (note 21)	339	283
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost (note 21)	65	54
Increase in stocks	(10)	(12)
Increase in operational debtors	183	(202)
Increase (decrease) in creditors	77	(1,111)
Net cash provided by operating activities	554	(1,213)

B Cash flows from investing activities

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	1	1
Increase in capital debtors	(716)	—
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(217)	(204)
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA	802	124
Net cash used in investing activities	(130)	(79)

C Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Cash at bank and in hand	720	296
Total cash and cash equivalents	720	296

Consolidated statement of cash flows Year to 31 August 2020

D Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2019 £'000	Cash flows £'000	At 31 August 2020 £'000
Cash	296	424	720
Total	296	424	720

Principal accounting policies 31 August 2020

Statement of accounting policies

A summary of the principal accounting policies adopted (which have been applied consistently, except where noted), judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty, is set out below.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements are presented in sterling and rounded to the nearest thousand pounds.

Going concern

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the company to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements. In making this assessment, the trustees have considered the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the financial and operational performance of the academy trust.

Income

All income is recognised when the academy trust has entitlement to the funds, the receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably.

Grants

Grants are included in the statement of financial activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of meeting any performance-related conditions there is not unconditional entitlement to the income and its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income until the performance-related conditions are met. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

The General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

Income (continued)

Grants (continued)

Capital grants are recognised when there is entitlement and are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended. Unspent amounts of capital grant are reflected in the balance in the restricted fixed asset fund. Capital grants are recognised when there is entitlement and are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended.

Donations

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis (where there are no performance-related conditions) where the receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Other income

Other income, including the hire of facilities, is recognised in the period it is receivable and to the extent the academy trust has provided the goods or services.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Charitable activities

These are costs incurred on the academy trust's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the academy trust apportioned to charitable activities.

All expenditure is stated net of recoverable VAT.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its estimated useful life.

- ◆ Leasehold property- 2% on cost
- ◆ Freehold property- 2% on cost
- ◆ Plant and machinery- 20% on cost
- ◆ Fixtures and fittings- 20% on cost
- ◆ Motor vehicles- 25% on cost
- ◆ Computer equipment- 25% on cost

Tangible fixed assets (continued)

Tangible fixed assets acquired since the Trust was established are included in the financial statements at cost.

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the balance sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. The related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the consolidated statement of financial activities and carried forward in the balance sheet. Depreciation on such assets is charged to the restricted fixed asset fund in the consolidated statement of financial activities so as to reduce the fund over the useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the School's depreciation policy.

Assets costing £500 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the academy trust anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Leased assets

Rentals under operating leases are charged on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Financial instruments

The academy trust only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the academy trust and their measurement basis are as follows:

Financial assets – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 15. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

Cash at bank – is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

Financial liabilities – trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 16. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument. Amounts due to charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

Stock

Unsold uniforms and catering stocks are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

Taxation

The Academy is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Academy is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Pensions benefits

Retirement benefits to employees of the academy trust are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ('TPS') and the Local Government Pension Scheme ('LGPS'). These are defined benefit schemes.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the academy trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. As stated in note 21, the TPS is a multi-employer scheme and there is insufficient information available to use defined benefit accounting. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

The LGPS is a funded scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the academy trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the statement of financial activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted income funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the Trust at the discretion of the trustees. Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, Department for Education or other funders where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

Fund accounting (continued)

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received and include grants from the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

The academy trust makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 21, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2020. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgement

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quinquennial valuations using a prospective benefit method. As stated in note 21, the TPS is a multi employer scheme and the School is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme and the contributions recognised as they are paid each year.

Notes to the Financial Statements Year to 31 August 2020

1 General Annual Grant (GAG)

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Trust was not subject to limits at 31 August 2020 on the amount of GAG that could be carried forward from one year to the next.

2 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Consolidated	
			Year to 31 August 2020 Total funds £'000	Year to 31 August 2019 Total funds £'000
Capital grants	10	802	812	124
	10	802	812	124

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Consolidated	
			Year to 31 August 2020 Total funds £'000	Year to 31 August 2019 Total funds £'000
Capital grants	—	124	124	124
	—	124	124	124

3 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Consolidated	
			Year to 31 August 2020 Total funds £'000	Year to 31 August 2019 Total funds £'000
Other income	45	—	45	155
Academy trip income	13	—	13	31
Hiring of facilities	24	—	24	43
Catering income	95	—	95	48
Sale of uniform	11	—	11	16
Sale of fixed assets	—	—	—	8
	188	—	188	301

Notes to the Financial Statements Year to 31 August 2020

3 Other trading activities (continued)

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Year to 31 August 2019 Total funds £'000
<i>Other income</i>	155	—	155
<i>Academy trip income</i>	31	—	31
<i>Hiring of facilities</i>	43	—	43
<i>Catering income</i>	48	—	48
<i>Sale of uniform</i>	16	—	16
<i>Sale of fixed assets</i>	8	—	8
	301	—	301

4 Investments

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Consolidated Year to 31 August 2020 Total funds £'000	Year to 31 August 2019 Total funds £'000
<i>Deposit account interest</i>	1	—	1	1

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Consolidated Year to 31 August 2019 Total funds £'000
<i>Deposit account interest</i>	1	—	1

5 Funding for the school's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Consolidated	
			Year to 31 August 2020 Total funds £'000	Year to 31 August 2019 Total funds £'000
DfE / ESFA revenue grant				
. General Annual Grant (GAG)	—	10,885	10,885	10,962
. Other DfE / ESFA grants	—	1,590	1,590	1,210
	—	12,475	12,475	12,172
Other government grants				
. Local authority grants	—	804	804	828
	—	804	804	828
Exceptional government funding				
Coronavirus exceptional support	—	115	115	—
	—	13,394	13,394	13,000

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Consolidated
			Year to 31 August 2019 Total funds £'000
DfE / ESFA revenue grant			
. General Annual Grant (GAG)	—	10,962	10,962
. Other DfE / ESFA grants	—	1,210	1,210
	—	12,172	12,172
Other government grants			
. Local authority grants	—	828	828
	—	13,000	13,000

The academy trust has been eligible to claim additional funding in year from government support schemes in response to the coronavirus outbreak. The funding received is shown above under "exceptional government funding".

- ♦ The funding received for coronavirus exceptional support covers £32,000 of premises costs, £16,000 of costs in relation to Free School Meals outside of the national voucher scheme, £50,000 on cleaning costs and £17,000 on other costs. These costs are included in notes 6 and 7 below as appropriate.

Notes to the Financial Statements Year to 31 August 2020

6 Expenditure

	Staff costs £'000	Non pay expenditure		Consolidated	
		Premises £'000	Other costs £'000	Year to 31 August 2020 Total funds £'000	Year to 31 August 2019 Total funds £'000
Funding for the school's educational operations (note 7)					
. Direct costs	8,549	369	1,086	10,004	9,533
. Allocated support costs	2,271	292	1,654	4,217	4,397
	10,820	661	2,740	14,221	13,930

	Consolidated	
	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Net income (expenditure) for the year includes:		
Operating Leases:		
. Plant and Machinery	91	82
Depreciation	528	404
Gains on sale of fixed assets	—	8
Fees payable to auditor		
. Statutory audit	18	18
. Other services	3	3

	Staff costs £'000	Non pay expenditure		Consolidated
		Premises £'000	Other costs £'000	Year to 31 August 2019 Total funds £'000
Funding for the school's educational operations (note 7)				
. Direct costs	7,951	283	1,299	9,533
. Allocated support costs	2,525	315	1,557	4,397
	10,476	598	2,856	13,930

Notes to the Financial Statements Year to 31 August 2020

7 Charitable activities - school's educational operations

	2020 Total funds £'000	2019 Total funds £'000
Direct costs	10,004	9,533
Support costs	4,217	4,397
	14,221	13,930

	2020 Total funds £'000	2019 Total funds £'000
Analysis of support costs		
Support staff costs	2,271	2,525
Depreciation	158	121
Technology costs	138	116
Premises costs	134	194
Legal costs	15	1
Other support costs	1,421	1,397
Governance costs	80	43
Total support costs	4,217	4,397

Notes to the Financial Statements Year to 31 August 2020

8 Comparative information

Analysis of income and expenditure in the year ended 31 August 2019 between restricted and unrestricted funds:

		Unrestricted general fund £'000	Restricted funds		Year to 31 August 2019 Total funds £'000
	Notes	£'000	General £'000	Fixed assets £'000	£'000
Income from:					
Donations and capital grants	2	—	—	124	124
Transfers on existing Academies joining the Trust	23	—	—	—	—
Other trading activities	3	301	—	—	301
Investments	4	1	—	—	1
Charitable activities					
Funding for the School's educational operations	5	—	13,000	—	13,000
Total income		302	13,000	124	13,426
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities					
School's educational operations	7	—	13,526	404	13,930
Total expenditure	6	—	13,526	404	13,930
Net income (expenditure) before transfers					
		302	(526)	(280)	(504)
Gross transfers between funds	17	(114)	34	80	—
Net income (expenditure) for the year		188	(492)	(200)	(504)
Other recognised gains and losses					
Actuarial gain on defined benefit pension scheme	21	—	(1,214)	—	(1,214)
Net movement in funds		188	(1,706)	(200)	(1,718)
Reconciliation of funds					
Fund balances brought forward at 1 September 2018		669	(1,668)	34,991	33,992
Fund balances carried forward at 31 August 2019		857	(3,374)	34,791	32,274

Notes to the Financial Statements Year to 31 August 2020

9 Staff costs

(a) Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	Consolidated	
	Year to 31 August 2020 Total funds £'000	Year to 31 August 2019 Total funds £'000
Wages and salaries	6,709	6,430
Social security costs	703	665
Pension costs	1,676	1,205
	9,088	8,300
Agency supply costs	1,676	2,176
Staff restructuring costs	56	—
	10,820	10,476

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

	Year to 31 August 2020 Total funds £'000	Year to 31 August 2019 Total funds £'000
Severance payments	45	—
Associated pension costs	11	—
	56	—

(b) Staff numbers

The average numbers of persons (including Senior Management Team) employed by the Trust during the period was as follows:

	Consolidated	
Charitable activities	Year to 31 August 2020	Year to 31 August 2019
Teachers	90	83
Administration and support	81	76
Management	22	13
Subsidiary	39	27
	232	199

Notes to the Financial Statements Year to 31 August 2020

9 Staff costs (continued)

(c) Higher paid staff

The number of employees whose emoluments fell within the following bands was:

	Consolidated	
	Year to 31 August 2020	Year to 31 August 2019
£60,001 - £70,000	12	9
£70,001 - £80,000	6	4
£80,001 - £90,000	2	2
£90,001 - £100,000	1	2
£120,001 - £130,000	1	1

(d) Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer national insurance and pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £383,851 (2019 - £456,642).

10 Related party transactions - Trustees' remuneration and expenses

Staff governors who are also Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of staff and not in respect of their services as Trustees. Other governors did not receive any payments from the school in respect of their role as governors. The value of trustees' remuneration was as follows:

	Consolidated	
	Year ended 31 August 2020 £	Year ended 31 August 2019 £
H Whyte – Staff Governor and Trustee		
. Remuneration	15,000 - 20,000	55,000 – 60,000
. Employer's pension contribution	1 – 5,000	5,000 – 10,000
J Tapper – CEO and Trustee		
. Remuneration	125,000 – 130,000	125,000 – 130,000
. Employer's pension contribution	30,000 – 35,000	20,000 – 25,000

During the year ended 31 August 2020, no travel and subsistence expenses (2019 - £nil) were reimbursed to governors or trustees.

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 22.

Notes to the Financial Statements Year to 31 August 2020

11 Trustees', Governors' and Officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees, Governors and Officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £2,000,000 (2019 - £2,000,000) on any one claim. The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

12 Tangible fixed assets

Trust	Leasehold property £'000	Freehold property £'000	Plant and machinery £'000	Fixtures and fittings £'000	Motor vehicles £'000	Computer equipment £'000	Total funds £'000
Cost							
At 1 September 2019	11,181	27,756	129	297	49	142	39,554
Additions	53	131	—	15	—	10	209
At 31 August 2020	11,234	27,887	129	312	49	152	39,763
Depreciation							
At 1 September 2019	223	4,093	129	224	36	91	4,796
Charge in year	225	223	—	29	7	29	513
At 31 August 2020	448	4,316	129	253	43	120	5,309
Net book value							
At 31 August 2020	10,786	23,571	—	59	6	32	34,454
At 31 August 2019	10,958	23,663	—	73	13	51	34,758

Trust	Leasehold Property £'000	Freehold property £'000	Plant and machinery £'000	Fixtures and fittings £'000	Motor vehicles £'000	Computer equipment £'000	Total funds £'000
Cost							
At 1 September 2018	11,150	27,656	129	469	68	377	39,849
Additions	31	100	—	36	—	1	168
Disposals	—	—	—	(208)	(19)	(236)	(463)
At 31 August 2019	11,181	27,756	129	297	49	142	39,554
Depreciation							
At 1 September 2018	134	3,871	111	405	48	301	4,870
Charge in year	89	222	18	27	7	26	389
Eliminated on disposal	—	—	—	(208)	(19)	(236)	(463)
At 31 August 2019	223	4,093	129	224	36	91	4,796
Net book value							
At 31 August 2019	10,958	23,663	—	73	13	51	34,758
At 31 August 2018	11,016	23,785	18	64	20	76	34,979

Title to the site at Clapham Road, London is being registered in the name of the School, but has not been included in these financial statements because the site is designated for educational purposes only and has no open market value.

12 Tangible fixed assets (continued)

The buildings at Winterbourne Road and Castle Hill Academy are owned by the Local Authority. We have 125 year leasehold contracts with Croydon Council. The value of the property has been derived from the last valuation done by Croydon Council adjusted for annual depreciation.

The Trust's subsidiary company, Platanos Development Limited held tangible fixed assets of £27,000 (2019 - £33,000) at the balance sheet date, which were all classified as plant and machinery. The total consolidated value of tangible fixed assets at 31 August 2020 was therefore £34,481,000 (2019 - £34,791,000). The subsidiary made additions to fixed assets of £8,000 in the year and the depreciation charge was £14,000.

13 Investment in subsidiary

The Trust has a subsidiary company, Platanos College Development Limited, which is wholly owned and incorporated in Great Britain. The principal activity of Platanos Development Limited is to generate income for the Trust. The subsidiary has brought forward retained losses and therefore the gift aid payable is £nil (2019 - £nil).

The following is a summary of the financial statements of Platanos Development Limited for the year ended 31 August 2020, which have been included in the consolidated financial statements:

	Year to 31 August 2020 £'000	Year to 31 August 2019 £'000
Turnover	1,370	1,304
Cost of sales	(141)	(201)
Gross profit	1,229	1,103
Administrative expenses	(1,228)	(1,149)
Net profit (loss) for the period	1	(46)
Interest payable and similar charges	—	—
Net profit (loss) before gift aid	1	(46)
Gift aid donation	—	—
Retained losses	(45)	(46)

14 Stock

	Consolidated		Trust	
	2020 £'000	2019 £'000	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Uniforms	47	37	47	37
	47	37	47	37

Notes to the Financial Statements Year to 31 August 2020

15 Debtors

	Consolidated		Trust	
	2020 £'000	2019 £'000	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Trade debtors	343	143	330	97
VAT recoverable	15	520	124	572
Prepayments	324	146	324	146
Accrued income	1,228	570	1,228	570
	1,910	1,379	2,006	1,385

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Consolidated		Trust	
	2020 £'000	2019 £'000	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Trade and other creditors	645	679	617	644
Taxation and social security	278	158	267	151
Accruals and deferred income	9	18	4	20
	932	855	888	815

17 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2019 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2020 £'000
Consolidated					
ESFA revenue grant fund					
. General Annual Grant (GAG)	—	10,885	(10,759)	(63)	63
. Pupil premium	—	952	(952)	—	—
. Other grant	—	1,557	(1,557)	—	—
	—	13,394	(13,268)	(63)	63
. Pension reserve	(3,374)	—	(404)	1,047	(2,731)
	(3,374)	13,394	(13,672)	984	(2,668)
Fixed assets fund					
. ESFA capital grants and inherited buildings	34,560	752	(448)	—	34,864
. Local authority capital grants	—	50	(1)	—	49
. Assets from subsidiary	33	—	(14)	8	27
. Capital expenditure from GAG	198	—	(66)	63	195
	34,791	802	(529)	71	35,135
Total restricted funds	31,417	14,196	(14,201)	1,054	32,456
Unrestricted funds					
. Unrestricted funds	857	199	(20)	(8)	1,028
Total unrestricted funds	857	199	(20)	(8)	1,028
Total funds	32,274	14,395	(14,221)	1,047	33,495

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Notes to the Financial Statements Year to 31 August 2020

17 Funds (continued)

ESFA revenue grant fund and other restricted funds

As described in note 1, under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the School was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2020.

Other funds relate to monies received for specific purposes.

Fixed asset funds

Restricted fixed asset funds were funded by the government grants, sponsors or donations. When capital expenditure is incurred a transfer is made from the fund which funded the acquisition to the restricted fixed asset fund. The asset is then depreciated through the restricted fixed asset fund over the lifetime of the asset.

Comparative information

	Balance at 1 September 2018 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2019 £'000
Consolidated					
ESFA revenue grant fund					
. General Annual Grant (GAG)	155	10,962	(11,151)	34	—
. Pupil premium	—	1,029	(1,029)	—	—
. Other grant	—	1,009	(1,009)	—	—
	155	13,000	(13,189)	34	—
. Pension reserve	(1,823)	—	(337)	(1,214)	(3,374)
	(1,668)	13,000	(13,526)	(1,180)	(3,374)
Fixed assets fund					
. ESFA capital grants and inherited buildings	34,797	124	(361)	—	34,560
. Assets from subsidiary	13	—	(15)	35	33
. Capital expenditure from GAG	181	—	(28)	45	198
	34,991	124	(404)	80	34,791
Total restricted funds	33,323	13,124	(13,930)	(1,100)	31,417
Unrestricted funds					
. Unrestricted funds	669	302	—	(114)	857
Total unrestricted funds	669	302	—	(114)	857
Total funds	33,992	13,426	(13,930)	(1,214)	32,274

17 Funds (continued)

Analysis of academies by fund balance

Fund balances at 31 August 2020 were allocated as follows:

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Platanos College	753	711
Winterbourne Junior Boys' Academy	169	171
Castle Hill Academy	169	(25)
	1,091	857
Restricted fixed asset fund	35,135	34,791
Pension reserve	(2,731)	(3,374)
Total	33,495	32,274

Analysis of academies by cost

Expenditure incurred by each academy during the year was as follows, Central Trust costs are currently charged to Platanos College while the other schools in the Trust grow a sustainable baseline of reserves:

	Teaching and Educational Support Staff Costs £'000	Other Support Staff Costs £'000	Educational Supplies £'000	Other Costs (excluding Depreciation) £'000	Total 2020 £'000
Platanos College	4,735	1,521	582	2,147	8,985
Winterbourne Boys' Academy	663	409	136	236	1,444
Castle Hill Academy	1,476	811	195	323	2,805
Central Trust	—	339	—	128	467
Academy Trust	6,874	3,080	913	2,834	13,701

	Teaching and Educational Support Staff Costs £'000	Other Support Staff Costs £'000	Educational Supplies £'000	Other Costs (excluding Depreciation) £'000	Total 2019 £'000
Platanos College	3,953	2,033	713	1,816	8,515
Winterbourne Boys' Academy	743	340	138	222	1,443
Castle Hill Academy	1,079	1,298	249	431	3,057
Central Trust	—	283	—	87	370
Academy Trust	5,775	3,954	1,100	2,556	13,385

Notes to the Financial Statements Year to 31 August 2020

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

Group	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset Fund £'000	Total 2020 £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2020 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	—	—	34,481	34,481
Current assets	1,028	995	654	2,677
Current liabilities	—	(932)	—	(932)
Pension scheme liability	—	(2,731)	—	(2,731)
Total net assets	1,028	(2,668)	35,135	33,495

Trust	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset Fund £'000	Total 2020 £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2020 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	—	—	34,454	34,454
Current assets	1,099	951	654	2,704
Current liabilities	—	(888)	—	(888)
Pension scheme liability	—	(2,731)	—	(2,731)
Total net assets	1,099	(2,668)	35,108	33,539

Group	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset Fund £'000	Total 2019 £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2019 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	—	—	34,791	34,791
Current assets	857	855	—	1,712
Current liabilities	—	(855)	—	(855)
Pension scheme liability	—	(3,374)	—	(3,374)
Total net assets	857	(3,374)	34,791	32,274

Trust	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset Fund £'000	Total 2019 £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2019 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	—	—	34,758	34,758
Current assets	936	815	—	1,751
Current liabilities	—	(815)	—	(815)
Pension scheme liability	—	(3,374)	—	(3,374)
Total net assets	936	(3,374)	34,758	32,320

19 Commitments under operating leases

Operating leases

At 31 August 2020, the total of the Academy's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was as follows:

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Amounts due within one year	107	96
Amounts due between two and five years inclusive	77	75
	184	171

20 Members' Liability

Each member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up while he/she is a member, or within one year after he/she ceases to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10 for the debts and liabilities contracted before he/she ceases to be a member.

21 Pension and similar obligations

The academy trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by the London Boroughs of Lambeth and Croydon. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016 and of the LGPS 31 March 2019.

There were no outstanding or prepaid contributions at either the beginning or the end of the financial year.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for teachers in academies. All teachers have the option to opt-out of the TPS following enrolment.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme to which both the member and employer makes contributions, as a percentage of salary - these contributions are credited to the Exchequer. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

21 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2016. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 5 March 2019. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- ♦ employer contribution rates set at 23.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy);
- ♦ total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £218,100 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £196,100 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £22,000 million; and
- ♦ the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 2.4% above the rate of CPI. The assumed real rate of return is 2.4% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.2%. The assumed nominal rate of return including earnings growth is 4.45%.

The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2023.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £979,000 (2019 - £550,000).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pension Scheme website.

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The academy trust has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The academy trust has set out above the information available on the scheme.

Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2020 was £434,000 (2019 - £472,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £335,000 (2019 - £372,000) and employees' contributions totalled £99,000 (2019 - £100,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 20% for employers and 5.5% to 12.5% for employees,

21 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Teachers' Pension Scheme (continued)

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of an academy trust closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013.

Principal Actuarial Assumptions	At 31 August 2020	At 31 August 2019
Rate of increase in salaries	2.3% - 2.7%	2.7% - 2.9%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	2.2% - 2.7%	2.3% - 2.4%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	1.7%	1.8% - 1.9%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.2% - 2.7%	2.3% - 2.4%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums – pre April 2008 Scheme	25% - 50%	25%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums – post April 2008 Scheme	63% - 75%	63% - 75%

The current mortality assumptions include sufficient allowance for future improvements in mortality rates. The assumed life expectations on retirement age 65 are:

	At 31 August 2020	At 31 August 2019
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	21.3 – 21.9 years	20.7 – 21.3 years
Females	23.5 – 23.9 years	23.0 – 23.4 years
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.5 – 22.7 years	22.2 – 22.3 years
Females	25.0 – 25.3 years	24.5 – 24.8 years

	At 31 August 2020 £'000	At 31 August 2019 £'000
Discount rate +0.1%	244	262
Discount rate -0.1%	(244)	(262)
Mortality assumption – 1 year increase	(345)	(390)
Mortality assumption – 1 year decrease	345	390
CPI rate +0.1%	(225)	(228)
CPI rate -0.1%	225	228

21 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Teachers' Pension Scheme (continued)

The Trust's share of the assets and liabilities in the scheme were:

	Fair value at 31 August 2020 £'000	Fair value at 31 August 2019 £'000
Equities	4,419	3,870
Bonds	1,710	1,641
Property	855	763
Cash and other liquid assets	143	107
Total market value of assets	7,127	6,381
	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Amounts recognised in statement of financial activities		
Current service cost	339	549
Past service cost	—	106
Interest income	(120)	(154)
Interest cost	185	208
Total amount recognised in the SOFA	404	709
	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as follows:		
At 1 September 2019	9,755	7,372
Current service cost	674	549
Past service cost	—	106
Interest cost	185	214
Employee contributions	99	100
Actuarial (gain) loss	(691)	1,518
Benefits paid	(164)	(104)
At 31 August 2020	9,858	9,755
	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Changes in the fair value of the Academy's share of scheme assets:		
At 1 September 2019	6,381	5,549
Interest income	120	160
Actuarial gain	356	304
Employer contributions	335	372
Employee contributions	99	100
Benefits paid	(164)	(104)
At 31 August 2020	7,127	6,381

22 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the Trust's operations and the composition of the Board of Trustees and Governors being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a trustee or governor may have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the Trust's financial regulations, normal procurement procedures and the Academies Financial Handbook.

The Trust has a wholly owned subsidiary company, Platanos College Development Limited the results of which are disclosed in Note 13. During the year, the Trust made purchases totalling £1,298,415 (2019 - £1,193,747) from the subsidiary.

There were no other transactions to disclose in relation to the current financial period (2019 – none).