



ATTITUDE DETERMINES ALTITUDE

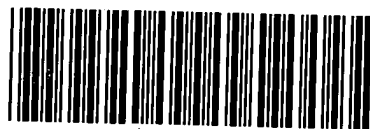
The Platanos Trust

Consolidated Annual Report and Financial Statements

31 August 2022

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

THURSDAY



ABWYRK52

A12

09/02/2023

#279

COMPANIES HOUSE

Contents

Reports

Reference and administrative information	1
Trustees' report	33
Governance statement	33
Statement of regularity, propriety and compliance	33
Statement of trustees' responsibilities	34
Independent auditor's reports	35

Financial statements

Consolidated statement of financial activities	42
Consolidated and Trust balance sheets	43
Consolidated statement of cash flows	44
Principal accounting policies	50
Notes to the financial statements	51

Reference and administrative information

Members	Mr Akin Alabi (Chair) Mrs Agatha Domingo Mrs Amymay Bowes (Until July 2022) 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) Lizana Oberholzer (Director)
Registered address	Platanos College Clapham Road London SW9 0AL
Company registration number	07492094 (England and Wales)
Chief executive officer	Ms Judette Tapper
Senior management team	Ms Judette Tapper (Executive Headteacher and Chief Executive Officer) Mr Tang Musi (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

Reference and administrative information

Solicitors

Judicium Consulting Limited
25 Watling Street
London
EC4M 9BR

Winckworth Sherwood
Minerva House
5 Montague Close
London
SE1 9BB

Independent Auditor

Buzzacott LLP
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

Trustees' report Year to 31 August 2022

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 2022. 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 46 to 50 of the attached financial statements and comply with the Trust's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006, the Academies Accounts 31st August 2022, 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' report Year to 31 August 2022

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.

The Trustees delegate authority to both the Board of Directors and the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, the Audit and Risk Assurance 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/Directors

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

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

New Directors are informally briefed by the senior staff and where appropriate are mentored by experienced Directors. They can choose the Committee they wish to join and are given extensive background information

Trustees' report Year to 31 August 2022

about the Trust such as its 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. Trustees continue to ensure that relevant training and development took place during the year.

As a result of the training and development, Directors were able to continue to monitor large areas of the schools. Directors 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.

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, the inspection of schools, law, parenting, public service and community skills.

- ◆ Attendance at Trustees and key Committee meetings is good.
- ◆ 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.

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.

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.

Trustees' report Year to 31 August 2022

MEMBERS

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 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'

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:

- ◆ The 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 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 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

The responsibility of the Transition Boards is to continue to transform each school to an outstanding 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:

- ◆ Safeguarding and the wellbeing of pupils and staff.
- ◆ Improving the quality of teaching and learning and pupil progress.
- ◆ Leadership, management, governance and accountability.
- ◆ Facilities, resources and finance.
- ◆ The marketing of each school, particularly in relation to increasing pupil numbers

The Transition Boards report to the Platanos Trust Board on progress, recommending any further action as necessary.

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.

Trustees' report Year to 31 August 2022

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 Headteachers and the CEO meet regularly to discuss and agree the safeguarding targets and areas for discussion across the Trust, projects, staffing and so forth. This group is also responsible with the CEO for setting and monitoring key budgets. The deployment of staff, particularly those with marked expertise is regularly on the agenda.

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 2022, 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. This company did not trade during the period but we intend to establish this company firmly within the local community for the good of those who attend our schools as well as those in the wider community.

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 Directors each year. The Policy is implemented in a fair and equitable manner. All teachers are assessed annually through the Performance Management Policy. There were difficulties in fully implementing all aspects of the policy during the period because of the pandemic.

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ 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

Trustees' report Year to 31 August 2022

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.

ENGAGEMENT WITH EMPLOYEES INCLUDING DISABLED PERSONS

We value and encourage staff engagement at all levels. Our Headteachers and senior staff meet regularly to share knowledge and good practice. Continuing staff development is a key part of this engagement; we are proud of our continuous internal bespoke programmes, designed to suit promote and encourage standards, regardless of starting points. We have an excellent induction programme. Staff surveys and feedback take place consistently.

Instant and regular feedback ensures that staff are kept informed and able to rapidly respond to change.

Regular Staff Briefings, Newsletters and Bulletins ensure that all staff are fully briefed on general and specific issues affecting each school.

We ensure that applications for employment from disabled persons are given full and fair consideration; they are given the opportunity to request for any special arrangements to be made as a result of a disability.

We conducted a comprehensive review of our work on disability during the period and found that the Trust continues to adapt the physical environment to meet the needs of disabled staff and pupils.

ENGAGEMENT WITH PUPILS, PARENTS AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY

We regard the consideration of the views of our pupils and parents as stakeholders and key to our success as a Trust. Pupil Voice is an integral part of our schools and channels of communication are available to parents.

We have developed an extensive programme of Pupil Leadership and rewards to ensure that our pupils take responsibility, for learning and development as members of our wider society. The Local Parent Forum plays an increasingly important part in engaging parents and wider stakeholders.

We engage with our pupils, parents and the wider community through a range of channels, such as our online learning platforms, websites, newsletters, bulletins, social media and focus groups. These cover a variety of topics ranging from safeguarding, pupils' wellbeing, to community projects.

ENGAGEMENT WITH SUPPLIERS AND OTHER BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS

The Trust has a clear code of practice which is the basis of our relationship with suppliers and wider business relationships. The latter is based on open procurement designed to ensure that value for money is obtained. We follow the extensive guidance enshrined in the Academies Trust Handbook. All Trustees and senior staff fully disclose any interests and decision making follows the Trust's Scheme of Delegation which is overseen by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.

PROMOTING THE SUCCESS OF PLATANOS TRUST SCHOOLS

At Platanos Trust, we believe in our pupils, regardless of starting points. We believe that all pupils can succeed, despite the obvious pressures. We place our schools at the heart of our communities and interact at a community level. We try to achieve the highest standard of conduct and carefully adhere to the seven principles of public life.

STREAMLINED ENERGY AND CARBON REPORTING

The academy Trust has not consumed more than 40,000 kWh of energy during the period. It is therefore not required to report on its emissions, energy consumption or energy efficiency activities. However, in the public interest we intend to complete a comprehensive energy survey of our schools and to use the information to set up a decarbonisation strategy next year.

TRADE UNION FACILITY TIME

During the period, no employee was paid union facility time. However, we paid a contribution of £6,885.82 to unions as a contribution to general union facilities.

GOING CONCERN/FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Trustees are confident that Platanos Trust Schools can continue to operate for the foreseeable future, despite the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the wider communities.

The Trustees recognise that material uncertainty exists outside of the life of the Trust, such as pensions liabilities resulting in significant actuarial losses.

Trustees' report Year to 31 August 2022

Platanos Trust is run on a Going Concern/Financial Sustainability basis and we have sufficient resources to operate for the foreseeable future. The financial statements have therefore been prepared on a going concern basis.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF GOVERNANCE

ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE PERIOD TO 31st AUGUST 2022

We remain financially viable as a Trust and we were able to fulfil our statutory obligations throughout the year:

PRINCIPLES UNDERLYING SERVICE DELIVERY AT THE PLATANOS TRUST

- ◆ Sustaining Excellence
- ◆ Focusing on children
- ◆ Enabling social mobility through education
- ◆ Encouraging a Business and Enterprise culture

OUR AMBITIONS FOR ALL OUR ACADEMIES

- ◆ To create and maintain inspirational environments at the heart of their communities.
- ◆ Academic rigour and high standards of scholarship.
- ◆ For pupils to aspire to and reach further and higher education.
- ◆ For pupils to be able to have a productive and worthwhile professional life.
- ◆ For pupils to be equipped to meet challenge and to develop.
- ◆ For pupils to be autonomous learners for life.
- ◆ For staff to be continuously reinforcing skills.
- ◆ For all associated with the Trust to share and commit to common goals.

PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS 2021-2022

During what must have been one of the most difficult sets of circumstances for schools ever known in peacetime, namely, the height of the pandemic and consequent restrictions, the educational needs of the pupils in the three Platanos Academies remained paramount in the thinking and actions of the Trust.

Pupils in all three academies have responded with enthusiasm to being back at school full time for the academic year under review. This has been shown in their end of year performance, particularly in the vital primary phase.

Winterbourne Boys' Academy was inspected by Ofsted in March 2022 and was pronounced to be continuing as a **Good school**.

“The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Leaders, including trustees, care deeply for pupils. Staff at all levels know pupils and their families well. They are quick to spot any change in pupils’ circumstances or demeanour. Staff report concerns swiftly, and leaders act on these with urgency. Leaders work effectively with external agencies. They make sure that pupils who are at risk and those who are most vulnerable receive immediate support. Pupils learn how to keep themselves safe at home, at school and online. They are taught how to stay safe when using the internet and social media, for example. Leaders also organise visits from the local police, which provide pupils with information on topics such as road safety and stranger danger.

- ♦ ***Leaders have designed a rich, well-thought-out curriculum.***
- ♦ ***Leaders and teachers also typically use assessment well.***
- ♦ ***Leaders support teachers to choose resources and strategies that enable pupils with SEND to learn the curriculum effectively.”***

(Ofsted March 2022)

Winterbourne Boys' Academy's performance at end of key stage 2 in July 2022 showed pupils achieving well above the national average in Reading, Writing and Mathematics.

Trustees' report Year to 31 August 2022

Castle Hill Academy (Ofsted Good 2020)

Castle Hill Academy's pupils' performance at the end of key stage 2 in July 2022 was significantly above the national average in all categories.

Platanos College (Ofsted Good March 2022)

The College was inspected in the Autumn term 2021 under a new inspection framework, having previously been graded Outstanding in three consecutive inspections. The new Ofsted inspection framework puts more emphasis on what are referred to as 'The Three Is' – Intent, Implementation and Impact of the curriculum. These are:

Intent - curriculum design and sequence

Implementation – how the curriculum is taught

Impact – the achievement of pupils

STRENGTHS OF PLATANOS COLLEGE IDENTIFIED BY OFSTED OCTOBER 2021

- ◆ The curriculum being developed is ambitious and relevant (Intent)
- ◆ Key concepts are well-sequenced and plans detailed (Intent and Implementation)
- ◆ Pupils are helped to remember and improve their work (Implementation)
- ◆ Pupils with SEND achieve well (Impact)
- ◆ The provision for pupils' personal development is strong. Leaders provide a wide range of clubs for pupils, including music, drama and dance clubs. Leaders make sure that all pupils benefit from these extra opportunities. (Implementation and Impact)
- ◆ Pupils are well-prepared for the next stage of their education. There is a comprehensive careers programme which meets pupils' needs and aspirations. (Implementation and Impact)
- ◆ Trustees oversee safeguarding effectively (Implementation and Impact)

These positive features grade the College as '**Good**' in all categories:

Quality of Education **Good**

Behaviour and Attitudes **Good**

Trustees' report Year to 31 August 2022

Personal Development **Good**

Leadership and Management **Good**

PROGRESS SINCE OFSTED OCTOBER 2021

The Trust Board has rigorously monitored and addressed the following at Platanos College:

- ◆ The key stage 3 curriculum at Platanos College is now a broad-ranging curriculum offering depth in Years 7 to 9.
- ◆ Assessment, marking and triangulation have been revisited and tightened up.
- ◆ Curriculum leaders are being challenged more rigorously by external review to ensure that the curriculum offer matches the Trust's ambitions; every pupil is taught Art, Music, Geography, and an agreed reduced emphasis on the EBacc entry facilitates consolidation at key stages 3 and 4.

CONTINUING TO IMPROVE STANDARDS

We took advantage of our small Trust status and improved the curriculum in each school through innovation and consolidating improvements made during the previous year. We used this opportunity to improve curriculum planning in each school and to specifically focus on bespoke staff development, given the challenging needs of the communities we serve.

We continued to promote access and diversity, creating environments for all our pupils to succeed.

- ◆ The curriculum is personalised and well-resourced to meet needs of individual pupils throughout the Trust.
- ◆ The curriculum is also flexible and can be adapted to meet the individual and group needs of pupil. We therefore developed a greater focus on progress.
- ◆ The curriculum is broad and balanced in each school and allows each school to place greater focus on basic skills.
- ◆ We have built a wide range of intervention, extension and enrichment programmes throughout our schools.
- ◆ We have a greater focus on differentiation across the curriculum and the 'Teach and Test' model is enshrined across the Trust. Regular assessments track pupil progress.

Trustees' report Year to 31 August 2022

- ◆ Boys' learning post-lockdown was high on the agenda and we were able to work closely with families most affected by the pandemic with innovative ways of modifying learning for specific groups of boys.
- ◆ The establishment of a Creative Arts Academy enabled pupils to refine their artistic skills through a range of projects.
- ◆ A wide range of trips throughout the year enhanced learning throughout our schools. For example, an extensive set of trips to the Theatre, Drama workshops and productions, Animal-Assisted Therapy, Transition Support, a wide range of sporting events and academies (such as Martial Arts and cricket Academies), extensive trips to museums, horse riding, debating clubs and societies.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR PARENTS/CARERS

There were greater training opportunities for parents/carers during the period, including the following:

- ◆ Parenting skills.
- ◆ Numeracy and Literacy skills.
- ◆ Supporting and complementing children's learning. For example, there were sessions on understanding autism and ADHD, support reading, study skills and managing behaviour.
- ◆ Wellbeing.
- ◆ Extensive information sessions regarding different aspects of the curriculum during key calendar events.
- ◆ These parental workshops are now fully embedded across the Trust.

A testament to the success of our commitment to inclusion was the fact that Platanos College achieved the flagship Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) in July 2022 while Castle Hill Academy maintained the Centre of Excellence in July 2022 and Winterbourne Boys' Academy will be inspected to become a Centre of Excellence in the academic year 2022-23.

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP

- ◆ The Articles of Association were revised by the Board in November 2021.
- ◆ The Trust's financial management has ensured a healthy reserve to protect against contingencies.
- ◆ The Trust's Development Company is in the position of having made a profit which will be used to develop provision for the schools.

Trustees' report Year to 31 August 2022

- ◆ The Trust Board has a skilled and stable team with a clear vision and the ability to systematically implement agreed actions for the benefit of pupils.
- ◆ Communication remains outstanding with regular, well-planned, well-conducted, well-attended meetings, supported by detailed reports and information.
- ◆ All three schools have been awarded Inclusion Quality Mark status.
- ◆ Staffing is stable and each school has coherent plans in place.
- ◆ Approval for expanding Platanos College to include a sixth form have been approved and plans are in place.
- ◆ Expansion and consolidation of Initial Teacher Training at the College have been achieved.
- ◆ Partnerships have been established with a range of educational institutions.

GOVERNANCE

- ◆ Range of skills on the Board of Directors. The Board's range of expertise and experience enables a high degree of clarity and strong communication as a basis for dealing with matters in depth.
- ◆ Consultation is a regular feature of the interactions between the Trust and staff in the three academies. Relations with trades unions are good and increasingly leading to a symbiotic approach to achieving productive processes and outcomes. The Board reaches decisions through effective dissemination of information and well-managed discussion leading to consensus.
- ◆ A new updated Business Plan with further expansion plans is in place for the period 2021 - 2026.
- ◆ Strong communications.
- ◆ All of the latest guidance, directives and other information is conveyed to Directors throughout the year, prioritised, discussed and acted upon by the Board. There is sufficient expertise among Members and Directors to ensure compliance with statutory and contractual responsibilities.
- ◆ The Platanos Board carries out a rigorous Annual Self-Evaluation and has introduced new processes of recruitment to maximise effectiveness and teamwork among Directors.

EVIDENCE OF EFFECTIVENESS, LEADERSHIP AND IMPACT:

The Trust was praised by IQM for “pragmatism and honest reflection”, being “outward-looking” and having a “partnership approach which promotes cohesion in both school and community settings.”

Trustees' report Year to 31 August 2022

- ◆ Platanos College, Winterbourne Boys' Academy and Castle Hill Academy have all been awarded IQM status.
- ◆ Directors support and monitor the Trust against its objectives and key performance indicators via meetings; presentations; minutes; external evaluative reports.
- ◆ Audit reports confirm the effectiveness of these functions.
- ◆ Above national average outcomes for pupils in all three academies (especially excellent progress rates of Castle Hill Academy) demonstrate the effectiveness of the Trust's governance in school improvement.
- ◆ Consultation is a regular feature of the interactions between the Trust and staff in the three academies. Relations with trades unions are good and increasingly leading to a symbiotic approach to achieving productive processes and outcomes. The Board reaches decisions through effective dissemination of information and well-managed discussion leading to consensus.
- ◆ Regular audit reports are presented to the Board of Directors by all sub-committees and the CEO to confirm the effectiveness of these functions
- ◆ Financial outcomes are positive year on year. Despite the challenges, the Trust has now made a profit for three years running, indicating prudent financial management and opening up expanded opportunities to fulfil its remit to provide enhanced educational opportunities for young people.
- ◆ Meetings have been maintained and communications between staff have continued. The Board has made effective use of virtual meetings and other communications to ensure that the Board is always fully informed and able to act swiftly when necessary.
- ◆ Risk management continues to be an important function as the Trust expands, builds capacity and navigates the local and wider challenges, including the Covid-19 pandemic.

We have continued to develop our Trust risk register as well as our individual school registers. These take into account different risks that are relevant to each school. To this end, the Trust commissioned an annual, external review of its risk registers as part of the regular evaluation process to ensure that our processes were up-to-date and reflected the current risks.

The external review has refined our processes to ensure closer monitoring at the school level, with greater awareness and integration with the day-to-day management processes of each school. It has equally allowed the Trust to mitigate and react to changing circumstances with a swift and dynamic

Trustees' report Year to 31 August 2022

approach. Importantly, this will also help us to continually inform our action planning and strategic direction.

STAFF CONSULTATION

Staff were consulted on a wide range of matters during the period. Post lockdown, it was important to work closely with staff to drive the school improvement agenda in order to refine our practices such as:

- ◆ Collective responsibility across the Trust, post-lockdown
- ◆ The use of training days.
- ◆ Pupil inclusion.
- ◆ The effective way or approaches to implementing lesson plans and objectives.
- ◆ Intervention programmes and strategies around 'Catch-up' and associated issues.
- ◆ Curriculum priorities for departments for the following year.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR

The results for the year are shown on pages 42 to 70. The Trust recorded total income of £13,892,000 (2021 - £13,529,000) and expenditure of £14,468,000 (2021 - £13,702,000). 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 of £117,000 (2021 – £483,000).

The main cost of the Trust remains staffing expenditure, however a proportion of services are outsourced and this causes the staff cost ratio of the Trust, which in 2022 was 64.6% to appear low in comparison to other academy trusts within the sector.

Operationally, the Trust continues to monitor spending of restricted funds including those relation to Special Educational Needs requirements, Pupil Premium and Recovery and Catch-up Premium to ensure that the desired outcomes can be achieved.

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.

The primary financial risks and mitigating actions are considered to be firstly the impact that reductions in pupil numbers would have on the educational income received by the Trust. To mitigate this, the Trust monitors enrolment regularly and budgets are updated to ensure if required costs can be reduced in accordance with pupil numbers. Boards at each school are also provided with insight to marketing to ensure that the benefits of education at the Trust are known within the communities we serve.

The secondary principal risk is considered to be costs associated with managing the estate of the Trust and ensure funding can be utilised for capital works. The Trust monitors the condition of each school and plans estates work prioritised based on this. When major capital works are anticipated the Trust makes application for relevant capital funding grants.

RESERVES POLICY

The Trustees review the reserve levels of the Trust annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The amount of reserves the Trust 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 £36,015,000 (2021 - £32,404,000) of which £1,428,000 (2021 - £1,195,000) were unrestricted.

Trustees' report Year to 31 August 2022

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 2021 - 2022, the Trust received no complaints about fundraising activities.

FUTURE PLANS AND ACTIVITIES

After a full review by the Board of Trustees, we agreed a new Trust Business Plan, 2021-2026 and fully intend to implement the following:

- ◆ We will continue our journey of constantly improving our schools in line with our Vision in the belief that every learner can success, regardless of starting point and that 'Attitude Determines Altitude'.
- ◆ The preparation for the establishment of a post-16 provision at Platanos College in September 2023 with new and exciting partners is also high on our agenda.
- ◆ We will further expand our Initial Teacher Training (Platanos model) in partnership with a university partner. This will be in place in September 2024.
- ◆ We will develop at least one business venture in order to promote the fulfilment and sustainability of the Trust's objective to expand its support for pupils in challenging circumstances.
- ◆ Implement a planned fundraising strategy.
- ◆ Continue to invest in the 'physical' estate as well as additional books, computers and other resources for our pupils.
- ◆ Develop Pupil Leadership in the schools as a marked strength of our operation.
- ◆ Strengthen our inclusion and diversity programmes.
- ◆ Strengthen our mental health support for pupils and parent(s)/carer(s).

AUDITOR

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- (a) there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- (b) 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.

Trustees' report Year to 31 August 2022

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


Chair of the Trustees
H Whyte

10/12/2022
Date:

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)	3	3
Agatha Domingo	1	3
Terry McKenzie	3	3
Jake Mayah	2	3
Professor Josko Brakus	1	3
Kevin McKenzie	3	3
Lizana Oberholzer	3	3

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. Directors fully discussed their legal obligation in relation to this directive and agreed a less frequent programme of meetings was suitable because of the following:

Governance statement 31 August 2022

- ◆ The Board meetings are lengthy and comprehensive agendas are sent out in advance of each meeting. All relevant papers are assessed by Directors and discussed at each meeting.
- ◆ Taking into consideration the breadth, depth and quality of the information provided in preparation for meetings, all Directors affirmed that they felt fully informed. However, reflecting on the fact that there is a long-standing Finance Committee with a very large remit, Directors 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.
- ◆ Most Directors have very busy professional lives and meeting six times per year would create problems for Directors. Indeed, some would resign. The current model helps to retain highly experienced and committed Directors.
- ◆ The Transition Boards and Management Committee regularly check on educational matters, including Safeguarding, Attendance, the Curriculum, standards in each school, planning for Ofsted and a range of essential activities.
- ◆ There are checks in place via the Board's Educationalist, Terry McKenzie and the Board has other key officers within the Trust to check on progress.
- ◆ The Board has a part-time Consultant who is also a SIP (School Improvement Partner) for one school. This Consultant provides the Board with extensive reviews and checks throughout the year.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Directors 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. Directors commented that the Board action-plans with care and agreed that where it is necessary and appropriate, Directors 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.

The Board is confident of the existing frequency of meetings and governance structure.

THE WORK OF THE FINANCE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

As the major sub-committee of the Trust, financial planning, monitoring, outcomes and related activities are key to our success as a Trust. The remit and membership of the Committee is reviewed annually.

The committee operates within the context of principal risks and uncertainties. Those risks include the following:

- ◆ The need to constantly support pupils who are vulnerable and who have special educational needs and disabilities.
- ◆ The constant need to train and retain teachers who are able to meet the challenging needs of pupils in our care.
- ◆ Changes to the local population serving each school. These are often complex and ever-changing.
- ◆ The management of Safeguarding is high on the agenda because failure could lead to considerable reputational damage.
- ◆ Uncertainty in relation to central government policy, especially in relation to 'small' multi-academy trusts.
- ◆ The management of very old buildings inherited through the academy system.

The Committee constantly reflects on these principal risks. The key risks drive our operational and strategic priorities. The Committee (and the Board), is diligent in mitigating these risks. The due diligent processes are stronger because of the need to constantly invest in strong education leadership at all levels and maintain as well as develop the infrastructure to support the needs of our pupils.

This Committee is accountable for financial compliance and statutory reporting. The Committee also has oversight of risk management and internal scrutiny across the Trust. The Committee is very experienced and remains enthusiastic, committed and ever vigilant.

- ◆ The Committee continued to improve Risk Management and produced detailed and accurate assessments of our key risks as a Trust and those at individual (school) level. A robust Action Plan is in place for the Trust and also for individual schools, to be implemented by each headteacher.
- ◆ We conducted an annual review of and updated the Value for Money Statement with the CEO.

Governance statement 31 August 2022

- ◆ We reviewed all service contracts as well as the role of consultants working across the Trust. The review of service contracts was focused on value for money. We assessed the work of consultants in relation to value for money as well as their impact on our wide-ranging educational remit.
- ◆ We continued to monitor the development company and its sustainability.
- ◆ The Pay Structure was discussed, revised and agreed for each school; it is important in our view to retain the pay differentials between inner and outer London.
- ◆ The now statutory self-assessment was completed, using a wide-range of information. The Trust is a going concern following our assessment of the 'sustainability' of the Trust.
- ◆ We continue to take a forensic approach to monitoring our budgets and regularly interrogate budgets headings.
- ◆ Benchmarking improved during the period and provides a robust context for decisions made by Trustees.
- ◆ Through lengthy discussions, we are re-building the music and performing arts elements of our offer, throughout the Trust, particularly at Platanos College.
- ◆ We reviewed and improved our Scheme of Delegation in line with our statutory obligations.
- ◆ Staff development is a strong feature of our Trust.

Attendance at Finance, Audit and Risk Committee meetings was as follows:

Directors	Number of meetings	
	attended	Out of a possible
Jake Mayah (Chair)	7	7
Agatha Domingo	5	7
Kevin McKenzie	7	7
Humroy Whyte	6	7

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

The CEO, CFO, relevant members of staff as well as external persons/organisations are invited to attend meetings.

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 2022 to 31 August 2022 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 2021 to 31 August 2022 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

The Accounting Officer (the Chief Executive) of the Platanos Trust, is responsible and accountable for ensuring that the Academy Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer is aware of the need to review value for money as directed by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and understands 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 Academy 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.

Governance statement 31 August 2022

The following examples demonstrate how the Accounting Officer of the Academy Trust has delivered improved value for money during the year:

- ◆ The Trust is making efficiency savings through the gradual replacement of LED lighting across its schools. The cycle of replacements is part of a gradual programme of electrical works with lighting systems replaced when fittings have reached end of life. We expect increasingly significant long-term savings over the next three years, particularly in the backdrop of increasing energy costs. In turn, this will release additional funds in each school for educational resources, as well as improving the learning environment with improved lighting.
- ◆ The Trust has continued to expand and enhance its capacity for Trust-wide school support as well as cost sharing. This has ensured the consistency of practice and standards, and value for money, by having Trust-wide services and developing Trust-wide expertise and that can be replicated and scaled. In particular, we have continued to build our inclusion practice and services. As a result, all schools within the Trust have now achieved the Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) Award – with two schools being centres of excellence. This is a national benchmark that recognises outstanding SEND (special educational needs and disability) practice that is improving outcomes for pupils with SEND. In addition, we deploy therapist services centrally (Trust-wide), to ensure economies of scale, which is increasing efficiency through cost sharing. This is also ensuring continuity of provision for SEND pupils, as well as others, that require the wellbeing support.
- ◆ The Trust and its school leaders together evaluate and coordinate its IT and online learning resources and platforms to ensure a consistent, Trust-wide system and approach. Schools share resources and strategy to arrive at a common approach, and resources are therefore procured strategically for all schools. As a result, this has ensured cost savings and increased value for money, particularly with the accelerated reliance on IT technology during the Covid pandemic. Both pupils and staff have also become much more adept in exploiting online learning tools in facilitating teaching and learning. Our digital curriculum has been enhanced significantly as a result.

THE RISK AND CONTROL FRAMEWORK

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.

During the year, the Academy Trust identified a fraudulent payment which was made to third party impersonating a genuine new supplier from whom services had been procured. This resulted in loss to the Trust amounting to £13,178. The Trust has declared this payment to the ESFA Fraud Team and has implemented additional control within the procurement cycle, in particular in relation to new suppliers, and taken further advice from bankers to reduce the risk of recurrence.

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.
- ◆ The Board includes a Director (who Chairs the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee) with considerable and successful experience as an accountant, who is able to interrogate budget headings in considerable depth and make expert deductions and recommendations to the Board.
- ◆ 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.

Governance statement 31 August 2022

- ♦ 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/A SUMMARY 2021 - 2022

The Trust carried out four internal audits during the year. The internal audit was done by Berringers LLP. The internal audit for the year from September 2021 to August 2022 was managed by the Finance, Risk and Audit committee. The Internal audit reports acted as the source of assurance for the Finance, Audit Risk Committee. Several areas of the finance were selected by the committee for review.

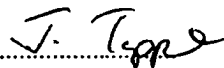
- ♦ A review of income.
- ♦ A review of agency costs.
- ♦ A review of salary costs.
- ♦ Using an independent company, the Trust also reviewed its asset management with positive results.

No material weaknesses were identified as a result of the above scrutiny.

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

Signed 

Chair H Whyte

Signed 

Accounting Officer J Tapper

On 10 December 2022


Statement on regularity, propriety and compliance 31 August 2022

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 Trust 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 Trust Handbook.

Other than one instance of irregular expenditure, as referred to on page 30, which is considered by the Trust to not constitute a material regularity exception, I confirm that no instances of material irregularity, impropriety or funding non-compliance have been discovered to date.

Signed 

Date: 18th December 2022

J Tapper

Accounting Officer

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities 31 August 2022

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.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities 31 August 2022

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 and signed on its behalf by:


Chair of Trustees
H Whyte

Date:
10/12/2022

Independent auditor's report to the members of Platanos Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Platanos Trust (the 'charitable parent company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 August 2022 which comprise the group statement of financial activities, the group and charitable parent company balance sheets, the group statement of cash flows, the principal accounting policies and the notes to the financial statements. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, 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 2019) and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 .

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- ◆ give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and of the charitable parent company's affairs as at 31 August 2022, and of the group's income and expenditure for the period 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 2019 and Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 .

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 group 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

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the group or charitable parent company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

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 purposes 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 directors' 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 group and the charitable parent 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:

- ♦ adequate accounting records have not been kept by the charitable parent company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- ♦ the charitable parent company 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
- ♦ we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- ♦ the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes 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 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 group's and the charitable parent 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 trustees either intend to liquidate the group or the charitable parent 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.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- ◆ the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- ◆ we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the group through discussions with management, and from our knowledge of the academy trust sector;
- ◆ the identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit;
- ◆ we considered the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the group and determined that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019, the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022, the Academy Trust Handbook 2021, and the academy trust's funding agreement with the ESFA as well as legislation pertaining to safeguarding in the UK;

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

- ◆ we understood how the group is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks by making inquiries to management and those responsible for legal, compliance and governance procedures. We corroborated our inquiries through our review of the minutes of trustees' meetings and the subsidiary company directors' meetings and papers provided to the trustees and directors.
- ◆ we planned and carried out a separate limited assurance engagement in respect of regularity, propriety and compliance in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts issued by the ESFA, as set out in our separate independent reporting accountant's assurance report on regularity.

We assessed the susceptibility of the group's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- ◆ making enquiries of management and those charged with governance as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- ◆ considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- ◆ performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- ◆ tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- ◆ tested the authorisation of expenditure as part of our substantive testing thereon;
- ◆ assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in the accounting policies were indicative of potential bias; and
- ◆ used data analytics to identify any significant or unusual transactions and identify the rationale for them.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- ◆ agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- ◆ reviewing the minutes of trustees' meetings and subsidiary company directors' meetings;
- ◆ enquiring of management and those charged with governance as to actual and potential litigation and claims;
- ◆ reviewing any available correspondence with Ofsted, ESFA and HMRC; and

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

- ♦ the work undertaken in relation to the limited assurance engagement in respect of regularity, propriety and compliance in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts issued by the ESFA, as set out in our separate independent reporting accountant's assurance report on regularity.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. International Standards on Auditing also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

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.

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.



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

16 December 2022

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 13 July 2018 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022, 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 2021 to 31 August 2022 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 Academy Trust Handbook 2021, extant from 1 September 2021, 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 2021 to 2022. 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 2021 to 31 August 2022 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 Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountant of Academy Trusts issued by 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 on regularity 31 August 2022

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

Other than one instance of irregular expenditure, as referred to on page 30, which is considered to not constitute a material regularity exception, 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 2021 to 31 August 2022 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.



Buzzacott LLP
Chartered Accountants
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

Date: 16 December 2022

Consolidated statement of financial activities Year to 31 August 2022

(including income and expenditure account)

		Unrestricted general fund £'000	Restricted funds		Year to 31 August 2022 Total funds £'000	Year to 31 August 2021 Total funds £'000
	Notes	£'000	General £'000	Fixed assets £'000		
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	2	62	—	34	96	35
Other trading activities	3	253	—	—	253	232
Investments	4	—	—	—	—	—
Charitable activities						
· Funding for the School's educational operations	5	—	13,543	—	13,543	13,262
Total income		315	13,543	34	13,892	13,529
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	7	214	—	—	214	—
Charitable activities						
· School's educational operations	7	—	13,737	517	14,254	13,702
Total expenditure	6	214	13,737	517	14,468	13,702
Net income (expenditure) before transfers		101	(194)	(483)	(576)	(173)
Gross transfers between funds	17	(82)	(143)	225	—	—
Net income (expenditure) for the year		19	(337)	(258)	(576)	(173)
Other recognised gains and losses						
Actuarial gain (loss) on defined benefit pension scheme	21	—	4,158	—	4,158	(918)
Net movement in funds		19	3,821	(258)	3,582	(1,091)
Reconciliation of funds						
Fund balances brought forward at 1 September 2021		1,195	(3,525)	34,734	32,404	33,495
Fund balances carried forward at 31 August 2022		1,214	296	34,476	35,986	32,404

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

Balance sheets 31 August 2022

	Notes	Consolidated		Trust	
		2022 £'000	2021 £'000	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	12	<u>34,476</u>	<u>34,080</u>	<u>34,405</u>	<u>34,066</u>
Current assets					
Stock	14	—	45	—	45
Debtors	15	<u>1,209</u>	<u>1,458</u>	<u>1,502</u>	<u>1,567</u>
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>1,632</u>	<u>1,480</u>	<u>1,490</u>	<u>1,435</u>
		<u>2,841</u>	<u>2,983</u>	<u>2,992</u>	<u>3,047</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	<u>(1,150)</u>	<u>(755)</u>	<u>(1,230)</u>	<u>(805)</u>
Net current assets		<u>1,691</u>	<u>2,228</u>	<u>1,762</u>	<u>2,242</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>36,167</u>	<u>36,308</u>	<u>36,167</u>	<u>36,308</u>
Pension scheme liability	21	<u>(181)</u>	<u>(3,904)</u>	<u>(181)</u>	<u>(3,904)</u>
Total net assets		<u>35,986</u>	<u>32,404</u>	<u>35,986</u>	<u>32,404</u>
Funds of the School					
Restricted funds					
Fixed assets fund	17	<u>34,476</u>	<u>34,734</u>	<u>34,476</u>	<u>34,734</u>
General fund	17	<u>477</u>	<u>379</u>	<u>477</u>	<u>379</u>
Pension reserve	21	<u>(181)</u>	<u>(3,904)</u>	<u>(181)</u>	<u>(3,904)</u>
		<u>34,772</u>	<u>31,209</u>	<u>34,772</u>	<u>31,209</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General fund		<u>1,214</u>	<u>1,195</u>	<u>1,214</u>	<u>1,195</u>
Total funds	18	<u>35,986</u>	<u>32,404</u>	<u>35,986</u>	<u>32,404</u>

The financial statements on page 42 to 70 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 10/12/2022 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 2022

		2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	A	1,031	508
Cash flows from investing activities	B	(879)	252
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		152	760
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds:			
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September		1,480	720
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August	C	1,632	1,480

A Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Net expenditure for the year (as per the statement of financial activities)	(576)	(173)
Adjusted for:		
Depreciation (note 12)	517	522
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(34)	(35)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable (note 21)	368	207
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost (note 21)	67	48
Decrease in stock	45	2
Decrease in operational debtors	249	114
Increase (decrease) in creditors	366	(177)
Net cash provided by operating activities	1,031	130

B Cash flows from investing activities

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Increase in capital debtors	—	338
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(913)	(121)
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA	34	35
Net cash used in investing activities	(879)	252

C Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Cash at bank and in hand	1,632	1,480
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,632	1,480

Consolidated statement of cash flows Year to 31 August 2022

D Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2021 £'000	Cash flows £'000	At 31 August 2022 £'000
Cash	1,480	152	1,632
Total	1,480	152	1,632

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 2021 to 2022 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 high inflationary environment 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 2022. 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 2022

1 General Annual Grant (GAG)

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Trust was not subject to limits at 31 August 2022 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 2022 Total funds £'000	Year to 31 August 2021 Total funds £'000
Capital grants	—	34	34	35
Other donations	62	—	62	—
	62	34	96	35

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Consolidated	
			Year to 31 August 2021 Total funds £'000	Year to 31 August 2021 Total funds £'000
Capital grants	—	35	35	35
	—	35	35	35

3 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Consolidated	
			Year to 31 August 2022 Total funds £'000	Year to 31 August 2021 Total funds £'000
Other income	54	—	54	81
Academy trip income	12	—	12	—
Hiring of facilities	41	—	41	33
Catering income	128	—	128	99
Sale of uniform	18	—	18	19
	253	—	253	232

Notes to the Financial Statements Year to 31 August 2022

3 Other trading activities (continued)

			<i>Consolidated</i>	
			<i>Year to 31 August 2021 Total funds £'000</i>	<i>Year to 31 August 2020 Total funds £'000</i>
	<i>Unrestricted funds £'000</i>	<i>Restricted funds £'000</i>		
<i>Other income</i>	81	—	81	45
<i>Academy trip income</i>	—	—	—	13
<i>Hiring of facilities</i>	33	—	33	24
<i>Catering income</i>	99	—	99	95
<i>Sale of uniform</i>	19	—	19	11
	232	—	232	188

4 Investments

			<i>Consolidated</i>	
			<i>Year to 31 August 2022 Total funds £'000</i>	<i>Year to 31 August 2021 Total funds £'000</i>
	<i>Unrestricted funds £'000</i>	<i>Restricted funds £'000</i>		
<i>Deposit account interest</i>	—	—	—	—

			<i>Consolidated</i>	
			<i>Year to 31 August 2022 Total funds £'000</i>	<i>Year to 31 August 2021 Total funds £'000</i>
	<i>Unrestricted funds £'000</i>	<i>Restricted funds £'000</i>		
<i>Deposit account interest</i>	—	—	—	—

Notes to the Financial Statements Year to 31 August 2022

5 Funding for the school's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Consolidated	
			Year to 31 August 2022 Total funds £'000	Year to 31 August 2021 Total funds £'000
DfE / ESFA revenue grant				
. General Annual Grant (GAG)	—	10,967	10,967	10,882
. UIFSM	—	15	15	13
. Pupil Premium	—	934	934	950
. Others	—	419	419	517
	—	12,335	12,335	12,362
Other government grants				
. Local authority grants	—	1,058	1,058	736
	—	1,058	1,058	736
COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)				
Recovery and catch-up premium	—	131	131	124
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	—	19	19	11
COVID-19 additional funding (non-DfE /ESFA)				
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme grant	—	—	—	29
	—	150	150	164
	—	13,543	13,543	13,262

- The trust received £131,000 of recovery premium (2021 - £124,000 of funding for catch-up premium) and costs incurred in respect of this funding totalled £131,000 (2021 - £124,000), with no balances carried forward to 2021/22.

- In 2021, the trust furloughed some of its catering staff under the government's CJRS. The funding received of £29,000 relates to staff costs in respect of 7 staff which are included within note 9 as appropriate.

Notes to the Financial Statements Year to 31 August 2022

5 Funding for the school's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Year to 31 August 2021 Total funds £'000
<i>DfE / ESFA revenue grant</i>			
. General Annual Grant (GAG)	—	10,882	10,882
. UIFSM	—	13	13
. Pupil Premium	—	950	950
. Others	—	517	517
	<u>—</u>	<u>12,362</u>	<u>12,362</u>
<i>Other government grants</i>			
. Local authority grants	—	736	736
	<u>—</u>	<u>736</u>	<u>736</u>
<i>COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)</i>			
Catch-up premium	—	124	124
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	—	11	11
<i>COVID-19 additional funding (non-DfE /ESFA)</i>			
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme grant	—	29	29
	<u>—</u>	<u>164</u>	<u>164</u>
	<u>—</u>	<u>13,262</u>	<u>13,262</u>

6 Expenditure

	Non pay expenditure			Consolidated	
	Staff costs £'000	Premises £'000	Other costs £'000	Year to 31 August 2022 Total funds £'000	Year to 31 August 2021 Total funds £'000
<i>Expenditure on raising funds</i>					
. Direct costs	—	—	214	214	—
<i>Funding for the school's educational operations (note 7)</i>					
. Direct costs	7,362	362	1,441	9,165	9,657
. Allocated support costs	2,223	430	2,436	5,089	4,045
	<u>9,585</u>	<u>792</u>	<u>4,091</u>	<u>14,468</u>	<u>13,702</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements Year to 31 August 2022

6 Expenditure (continued)

	Staff costs £'000	Non pay expenditure		Consolidated	
		Premises £'000	Other costs £'000	Year to 31 August 2021 Total funds £'000	Year to 31 August 2020 Total funds £'000
<i>Funding for the school's educational operations (note 7)</i>					
. Direct costs	8,106	364	1,187	9,657	10,004
. Allocated support costs	2,000	380	1,665	4,045	4,217
	10,106	744	2,852	13,702	14,221

	Consolidated	
	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Net income (expenditure) for the year includes:		
Operating Leases:		
. Plant and Machinery	90	107
Depreciation	517	522
Fees payable to auditor		
. Statutory audit	18	18
. Other services	3	3

7 Charitable activities - school's educational operations

	2022 Total funds £'000	2021 Total funds £'000
Direct costs	9,323	9,657
Support costs	5,089	4,045
	14,412	13,702

	2022 Total funds £'000	2021 Total funds £'000
Analysis of support costs		
Support staff costs	2,223	2,000
Depreciation	155	156
Technology costs	144	85
Premises costs	275	224
Legal costs	—	6
Other support costs	1,644	1,373
Governance costs	648	201
Total support costs	5,089	4,045

Notes to the Financial Statements Year to 31 August 2022

8 Comparative information

Analysis of income and expenditure in the year ended 31 August 2021 between restricted and unrestricted funds:

		Unrestricted general fund £'000	Restricted funds		Year to 31 August 2021 Total funds £'000
	Notes	£'000	General £'000	Fixed assets £'000	£'000
<i>Income from:</i>					
Donations and capital grants	2	—	—	35	35
Other trading activities	3	232	—	—	232
Investments	4	—	—	—	—
Charitable activities					
Funding for the School's educational operations	5	—	13,262	—	13,262
Total income		232	13,262	35	13,529
<i>Expenditure on:</i>					
Charitable activities					
School's educational operations	7	65	13,117	520	13,702
Total expenditure	6	65	13,117	520	13,702
Net income (expenditure) before transfers		167	145	(485)	(173)
Gross transfers between funds	17	—	(84)	84	—
Net income (expenditure) for the year		167	61	(401)	(173)
Other recognised gains and losses					
Actuarial (loss) gain on defined benefit pension scheme	21	—	(918)	—	(918)
Net movement in funds		167	(857)	(401)	(1,091)
<i>Reconciliation of funds</i>					
Fund balances brought forward at 1 September 2020		1,028	(2,668)	35,135	33,495
Fund balances carried forward at 31 August 2021		1,195	(3,525)	34,734	32,404

Notes to the Financial Statements Year to 31 August 2022

9 Staff costs

(c) Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	Consolidated	
	Year to 31 August 2022 Total funds £'000	Year to 31 August 2021 Total funds £'000
Wages and salaries	6,134	6,450
Social security costs	661	671
Pension costs	1,586	1,577
Apprentice levy	12	15
	8,393	8,713
Agency supply and contracted out staff costs	927	1,676
Staff restructuring costs	265	63
	9,585	10,452

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

	Year to 31 August 2022 Total funds £'000	Year to 31 August 2021 Total funds £'000
Redundancy and severance payments	265	59
Associated pension costs	—	4
	265	63

(d) Severance payments

The academy trust paid 8 severance payments in the year, disclosed in the following bands:

	2022 No.
£0 - £25,000	3
£25,001 - £50,000	5
£50,001 - £100,000	—
£100,001 - £150,000	—
£150,000+	—

(e) Special staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are special severance payments totalling £265,000 (2021: £59,000). Individually, the payments were: £47,000, £47,000, £41,000, £30,000, £30,000, £25,000, £25,000 and £20,000.

Notes to the Financial Statements Year to 31 August 2022

9 Staff costs (continued)

(f) Staff numbers

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

	Consolidated	
	Year to 31 August 2022	Year to 31 August 2021
Charitable activities		
Teachers	64	71
Administration and support	49	61
Management	23	23
Subsidiary	43	41
	179	196

(g) Higher paid staff

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

	Consolidated	
	Year to 31 August 2022	Year to 31 August 2021
£60,001 - £70,000	11	10
£70,001 - £80,000	5	5
£80,001 - £90,000	4	3
£90,001 - £100,000	3	2
£110,001 - £120,000	1	—
£120,001 - £130,000	1	1

(h) 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 £309,132 (2021 - £330,328).

Notes to the Financial Statements Year to 31 August 2022

10 Related party transactions - Trustees' remuneration and expenses

No Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of as Trustees. Other governors did not receive any payments from the school in respect of their role as governors.

During the year ended 31 August 2022, no travel and subsistence expenses (2021 -£nil) were reimbursed to governors or trustees.

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

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 (2021 - £2,000,000) on any one claim. The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

12 Tangible fixed assets

Academy 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 2021	11,250	27,978	129	45	49	154	40,014
Additions	98	695	—	38	—	—	831
At 31 August 2022	<u>11,347</u>	<u>28,673</u>	<u>129</u>	<u>493</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>154</u>	40,845
Depreciation							
At 1 September 2021	674	4,540	129	409	49	147	5,948
Charge in year	227	230	—	32	—	3	492
At 31 August 2022	<u>901</u>	<u>4,770</u>	<u>129</u>	<u>441</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>150</u>	6,440
Net book value							
At 31 August 2022	<u>10,446</u>	<u>23,903</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>4</u>	34,405
At 31 August 2021	<u>10,575</u>	<u>23,438</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>7</u>	34,066

12 Tangible fixed assets (continued)

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.

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 £71,000 (2021 - £14,000) at the balance sheet date, which were all classified as plant and machinery. The total consolidated value of tangible fixed assets at 31 August 2022 was therefore £34,476,000 (2021 - £34,080,000). The subsidiary made additions to fixed assets of £119,000 in the year and the depreciation charge was £25,000.

13 Investment in subsidiary

The Trust has a subsidiary company, Platanos 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 gift aid payable from the subsidiary to the Trust in 2022 was £69,000.

In 2021, the subsidiary had brought forward retained losses which was offset against the in year surplus and therefore the gift aid payable was £119,000.

Notes to the Financial Statements Year to 31 August 2022

13 Investment in subsidiary (continued)

The following is a summary of the financial statements of Platanos Development Limited for the year ended 31 August 2022, which have been included in the consolidated financial statements:

	Year to 31 August 2022 £'000	Year to 31 August 2021 £'000
Turnover	1,967	1,835
Cost of sales	(241)	(152)
Gross profit	1,726	1,683
Administrative expenses	(1,629)	(1,519)
Net profit for the period	97	164
Taxation	(28)	—
Net profit before gift aid	69	164
Gift aid donation	(69)	(119)
Retained losses	—	—

14 Stock

	Consolidated		Trust	
	2022 £'000	2021 £'000	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Uniforms	—	45	—	45
	—	45	—	45

15 Debtors

	Consolidated		Trust	
	2022 £'000	2021 £'000	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Trade debtors	381	304	202	241
Amount due from subsidiary	—	—	186	119
VAT recoverable	304	98	411	151
Prepayments	166	360	166	360
Accrued income	358	696	358	696
	1,209	1,458	1,502	1,567

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Consolidated		Trust	
	2022 £'000	2021 £'000	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Trade and other creditors	200	137	141	116
Amount due to subsidiary	—	—	176	86
Taxation and social security	432	173	420	167
Other creditors	497	415	472	411
Accruals and deferred income	21	30	21	25
	1,150	755	1,230	805

Notes to the Financial Statements Year to 31 August 2022

17 Funds

Consolidated	Balance at 1 September 2021 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2022 £'000
Revenue restricted funds					
. General Annual Grant (GAG)	379	10,967	(10,726)	(143)	477
. Pupil premium	—	934	(934)	—	—
. UIFSM	—	15	(15)	—	—
. Recovery premium	—	131	(131)	—	—
. Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	—	19	(19)	—	—
. Other grants	—	1,477	(1,477)	—	—
	379	13,543	(13,302)	(143)	477
. Pension reserve	(3,904)	—	(435)	4,158	(181)
	(3,525)	13,543	(13,737)	4,015	296
Fixed assets fund					
. ESFA capital grants and inherited buildings	34,461	34	(393)	—	34,102
. Local authority capital grants	46	—	(46)	—	—
. Assets from subsidiary	14	—	(25)	82	71
. Capital expenditure from GAG	213	—	(53)	143	303
	34,734	34	(517)	225	34,476
Total restricted funds	31,209	13,577	(14,254)	4,240	34,772
Unrestricted funds					
. Unrestricted funds	1,195	315	(214)	(82)	1,214
Total unrestricted funds	1,195	315	(214)	(82)	1,214
Total funds	32,404	13,892	(14,468)	4,158	35,986

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

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 2022.

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.

Notes to the Financial Statements Year to 31 August 2022

17 Funds (continued)

Comparative information

Consolidated	Balance at 1 September 2020 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2021 £'000
<i>Revenue restricted funds</i>					
. General Annual Grant (GAG)	63	10,747	(10,347)	(84)	379
. Pupil premium	—	950	(950)	—	—
. UIFSM	—	13	(13)	—	—
. Catch-up premium	—	124	(124)	—	—
. Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	—	11	(11)	—	—
. Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme grant	—	29	(29)	—	—
. Other grants	—	1,388	(1,388)	—	—
	63	13,262	(12,862)	(84)	379
. Pension reserve	(2,731)	—	(255)	(918)	(3,904)
	(2,668)	13,262	(13,117)	(1,002)	(3,525)
<i>Fixed assets fund</i>					
. ESFA capital grants and inherited buildings	34,864	35	(438)	—	34,461
. Local authority capital grants	49	—	(3)	—	46
. Assets from subsidiary	27	—	(13)	—	14
. Capital expenditure from GAG	195	—	(66)	84	213
	35,135	35	(520)	84	34,734
<i>Total restricted funds</i>	32,467	13,297	(13,637)	(918)	31,209
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>					
. Unrestricted funds	1,028	232	(65)	—	1,195
<i>Total unrestricted funds</i>	1,028	232	(65)	—	1,195
<i>Total funds</i>	33,495	13,529	(13,702)	(918)	32,404

Notes to the Financial Statements Year to 31 August 2022

17 Funds (continued)

Analysis of academies by fund balance

Fund balances at 31 August 2022 were allocated as follows:

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Platanos College	1,466	1,486
Winterbourne Junior Boys' Academy	249	114
Castle Hill Academy	(24)	(28)
	1,691	1,572
Restricted fixed asset fund	34,476	34,736
Pension reserve	(181)	(3,904)
Total	35,986	32,404

Castle Hill Academy has accumulated a deficit on funds of £24,000. The Trust is in the process of implementing plans to bring costs at the school down to sustainable levels.

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 2022 £'000
Platanos College	4,758	1,208	1,152	2,445	9,563
Winterbourne Boys' Academy	664	241	175	331	1,411
Castle Hill Academy	1,238	868	291	570	2,967
Academy Trust	6,660	2,317	1,618	3,346	13,941

	Teaching and Educational Support Staff Costs £'000	Other Support Staff Costs £'000	Educational Supplies £'000	Other Costs (excluding Depreciation) £'000	Total 2021 £'000
Platanos College	4,583	1,144	799	2,109	8,635
Winterbourne Boys' Academy	812	360	130	316	1,618
Castle Hill Academy	1,500	678	258	315	2,751
Academy Trust	6,895	2,182	1,187	2,740	13,004

Notes to the Financial Statements Year to 31 August 2022

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

Group	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset Fund £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	—	—	34,476	34,476
Current assets	1,214	1,627	—	2,841
Current liabilities	—	(1,150)	—	(1,150)
Pension scheme liability	—	(181)	—	(181)
Total net assets	1,214	296	34,476	35,986

Trust	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset Fund £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	—	—	34,405	34,405
Current assets	1,214	1,778	—	2,992
Current liabilities	—	(1,230)	—	(1,230)
Pension scheme liability	—	(181)	—	(181)
Total net assets	1,214	296	34,405	35,986

Group	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset Fund £'000	Total 2021 £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2021 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	—	—	34,080	34,080
Current assets	1,195	1,134	654	2,983
Current liabilities	—	(755)	—	(755)
Pension scheme liability	—	(3,904)	—	(3,904)
Total net assets	1,195	(3,525)	34,734	32,404

Trust	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset Fund £'000	Total 2021 £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2021 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	—	—	34,066	34,066
Current assets	1,195	1,184	668	3,047
Current liabilities	—	(805)	—	(805)
Pension scheme liability	—	(3,904)	—	(3,904)
Total net assets	1,195	(3,525)	34,734	32,404

19 Commitments under operating leases

Operating leases

At 31 August 2022, the total of the Academy's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was as follows:

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Amounts due within one year	56	90
Amounts due between two and five years inclusive	34	90
	90	180

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 £961,000 (2021 - £970,000).

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 2022 was £330,000 (2021 - £486,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £257,000 (2021 - £400,000) and employees' contributions totalled £73,000 (2021 - £86,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 20% for employers and 5.5% to 12.5% for employees,

Notes to the Financial Statements Year to 31 August 2022

21 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) (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 2022	At 31 August 2021
Rate of increase in salaries	3.05% - 3.55%	2.9% - 3.4%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	3.05%	2.9%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	4.25%	1.65%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	3.05%	2.9%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums – pre April 2008 Scheme	25% - 50%	25% - 50%
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 2022	At 31 August 2021
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	21.3 – 21.9 years	21.5 – 22.1 years
Females	23.7 – 24.1 years	23.9 – 24.3 years
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.7 – 22.9 years	23.0 – 23.1 years
Females	25.5 – 25.8 years	25.7 – 26.0 years

	At 31 August 2022 £'000	At 31 August 2021 £'000
Discount rate +0.1%	175	303
Discount rate -0.1%	(175)	(303)
Mortality assumption – 1 year increase	(300)	(506)
Mortality assumption – 1 year decrease	300	506
CPI rate +0.1%	(165)	(280)
CPI rate -0.1%	165	280

Notes to the Financial Statements Year to 31 August 2022

21 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) (continued)

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

	Fair value at 31 August 2022 £'000	Fair value at 31 August 2021 £'000
Equities	4,635	5,559
Bonds	2,226	2,096
Property	906	931
Cash and other liquid assets	364	146
Total market value of assets (per scheme actuary)	8,131	8,732
Adjustment to cap value of schemes in net asset position at £nil	(836)	—
Total value of assets (per financial statements)	7,295	8,732
 Total value of defined benefit obligations (per scheme actuary)	 (7,476)	 (12,636)
 Value of net defined benefit obligations (per financial statements)	 (181)	 (3,904)

The valuation of the net Trust obligation within the London Borough of Lambeth Local Government Pension Scheme identified a net asset of £836,000. Such amounts are recognised to the extent that the Trust considers recoverable, either through reduced contributions in the future or through refunds from the plan.

As the Academy does not anticipate being able to recover the surplus in the aforementioned manner, the surplus is not recognised on the balance sheet, and a corresponding adjustment is made within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities (as an actuarial loss) to bring the net LGPS position for this Local Authority to £nil.

The Trust is also a member of the London Borough of Croydon Local Government Pension Scheme, this scheme was in a net liability position of £181,000 at 31 August 2022, therefore no further adjustment was required to the actuarial movement with respect to this scheme.

Amounts recognised in statement of financial activities	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Current service cost	625	607
Interest cost	31	48
Total amount recognised in the SOFA	656	655

Notes to the Financial Statements Year to 31 August 2022

21 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) (continued)

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as follows:	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
At 1 September 2021	12,636	9,858
Current service cost	625	607
Interest cost	213	172
Employee contributions	73	86
Actuarial (gain) loss	(5,964)	2,029
Benefits paid	(107)	(116)
At 31 August 2022	7,476	12,636

Changes in the fair value of the Academy's share of scheme assets:	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
At 1 September 2021	8,732	7,127
Interest income	146	124
Actuarial (loss) gain	(970)	1,111
Employer contributions	257	400
Employee contributions	73	86
Benefits paid	(107)	(116)
At 31 August 2022	8,131	8,732

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 Academy Trust Handbook 2021.

The Trust has a wholly owned subsidiary company, Platanos Development Limited the results of which are disclosed in Note 13. During the year, the Trust made purchases totalling £1,865,250 (2021 - £1,733,881) from the subsidiary. A balance of £186,000 was owed by the Trust to the subsidiary at the year end (2021 - £119,000).

There were no other transactions to disclose in relation to the current financial period (2021 – none).