Hilbre High School Humanities College (A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Report and Financial Statements

Year Ended

31 August 2014

Company Number: 08075363

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Report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2014

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Reference and Administrative Details for the year ended 31 August 2014

Governors Members

- G Kemp (Chair)*
- J Levenson (Principal and Accounting Officer)*#
- S Wall (resigned 31.07.14)

Governors (Trustees)

- S Reynolds
- C Robinson
- J Jubb
- J Tillotson-Home (resigned 31.08.14) *#
- A Downie (resigned 07.05.14)
- C Steiger
- L Thierry
- C Keenan
- G Kerr *
- P Freeman *#
- S Jenkinson *#
- S Green (resigned 30.06.14)
- E Myers (staff governor appointed 20.10.13)
- C Joyce (staff governor)
- J Money (appointed 01.09.13)
- # Members of the Audit Committee
- * Members of the Academy, Business and Finance Committee

Senior Leadership Team

- M Bellamy Vice Principal
- S McNamara Assistant Vice Principal
- P Lloyd Assistant Vice Principal
- J Whisker Assistant Vice Principal
- E Wallace Senior Teacher (appointed 01.09.13)
- V Devonport Senior Teacher (appointed 01.09.13)

Company Secretary

K Rainsford

Reference and Administrative Details for the year ended 31 August 2014

Principal and Registered Office

Frankby Road

West Kirby

Wirral

CH48 6EQ

Company Registration Number

08075363 (England and Wales)

Bankers

Lloyds Bank

355 Woodchurch Road

Prenton

CH42 8PE

Solicitors

Browne Jacobson

44 Castle Gate

Nottingham

NG1 7BJ

Auditor

BDO LLP

5 Temple Square

Temple St

Liverpool

L2 5RH

Governors Report for the year ended 31 August 2014

The Governors (who also act as trustees and directors) present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's reports of the charitable company for the period 1st September 2013 to 31 August 2014. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The Charitable Company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust.

The Governors act as trustees of Hilbre High School Humanities College, who are also the directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law. The Charitable Company is known as Hilbre High School Humanities College.

Details of the Governors who served during the year are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

Members' Liability

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

Trustees' Indemnities

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the School trust has purchased insurance to protect the Governing Body from claims arising due to negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring on school business.

Principal Activities

To advance for the public benefit, education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, managing and developing a school offering a broad and balanced curriculum to challenge, support and motivate students in the years 11-18, in order to promote the best possible outcomes for all.

The Governing Body is the Admissions Authority and is responsible for the decisions on admission to the school. Our admissions procedure is co-ordinated by the Local Authority in accordance with the Wirral Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme. The admission number is 180.

The Academy is a company limited by guarantee (Company Registration No. 08075363) and an exempt charity. The Academy was incorporated on 18th May 2012 and commenced trading on 1st July 2012.

The Academy's Memorandum and Articles of Association, together with the Funding Agreement are the primary governing documents of the Academy. The Governors act as the trustees for the charitable activities of Hilbre High School Humanities College.

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

The School as set out in the articles of association has various stakeholders representing the school:

7 Parent Governors

Up to 2 Staff Governors

Up to 5 Community Governors

Up to 2 Partnership Governors

Up to 3 Co-opted Governors

Plus 1 Governor who may be appointed by the Members, who are the Principal, the Chair of Governors and the Chair of HR, Personnel and Performance Management Committee.

Governors Report for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

The method for recruitment of new governors must reflect the skills required at any given time by the School, as determined by the Governing Body.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

Governors undertake an induction programme in-line with the School's Induction Policy for Governors, including meetings with the Principal and Vice Principal, and the Assistant Vice Principal responsible for Academy business and finance, for Governors appointed to the Audit Committee and Academy, Business and Finance Committee

Organisational Structure

The Governing Body of the School is responsible for ensuring that the school meets all obligations placed upon it by the Secretary of State for Education. In order to better fulfil the obligations placed upon it the Governing Body has formed the following Committees:

- Academy, Business & Finance Committee, the Audit Committee;
- HR, Personnel & Performance Management Committee;
- Pav Committee:
- Curriculum, Achievement & Student Wellbeing Committee.

The key purposes of the Governing Body are:

- Monitoring the school's financial and academic performance;
- Developing strategic policies and procedures which reflect the school's vision and ethos;
- Promoting the school and fostering links with local, national and global communities.

In fulfilling the above purposes, the Governing Body discharges the following responsibilities:

- To develop and review the School Improvement Plan;
- To review and monitor the school's financial position on a regular basis, considering any significant contractual matters or issues;
- To monitor the educational performance of the School against outcomes and success criteria;
- To approve and review the implementation and effectiveness of key operational policies;
- To monitor and review the school's staffing structure against current provision and future requirements;
- To participate in marketing and communication with parents/carers and the local and wider community;
- To monitor and review the effective and efficient management of the school's site and buildings;
- To maintain an overview of the school's risk management procedures.

The Full Governing Body, together with all the above Committees, meet at least once every term with additional meetings being called as necessary. All meetings are minuted.

The School's Senior Leadership Team consists of the Principal, Vice Principal, 3 Assistant Vice Principals and 2 Senior Teachers. The Senior Leadership Team manages the school at an executive level, implementing the policies and procedures agreed and approved by the Governing Body.

Risk Management

Governors are responsible for the management of risks to which the school is exposed and are assisted in this task by the School Senior Leadership Team, Human Resource advisors from SAS Daniels LLP, Risk and Insurance Services and Health and Safety Services are purchased from the Local Authority with financial advice and support provided by BDO LLP.

Operational risks are identified, assessed and reported on at school level and these are reviewed by Governors who also identify and assess the key strategic risks facing the school during the academic year.

Governors Report for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

The key controls used by Governors include:

- Detailed Terms of Reference for all Committees;
- Formal agendas for all meetings and Committee meetings of the Governing Body;
- Minutes of Full Governing Body and Committee meetings are formally approved by governors and noted:
- · Schemes of Delegation and formal financial regulations for school staff;
- Approved formal written policies and procedures, including those required by law to protect the vulnerable:
- Clear and transparent authorisation and approval levels.

Risk Management procedures have been reviewed during the year and Governors are satisfied that the major risks identified in the Schools Risk Register have been reviewed, and processes have been established to manage those risks accordingly.

Pupil numbers and forecasted numbers based on the numbers of pupils within feeder primary schools are annually reviewed to ensure appropriate recruitment policies are adopted, including recruiting students from outside the immediate catchment area, to help ensure all places are filled.

Connected Organisations including Related Party Relationships

The Governing Body works closely with Wirral Borough Council, the DfE, the EFA, neighbouring secondary schools, especially Pensby Federated High School, which the school currently collaborates with to enhance local 6th form provision. Local primary schools and other local organisations also work closely with the Governing Body.

The school has Academy partners which are Liverpool John Moores University and Wirral University Teaching Hospital, who themselves are an NHS Foundation Trust based at Arrowe Park. In working alongside such local, highly-respected partners we are seeking to share best practice, broaden opportunity for both our students and the staff we employ, and provide a high quality education for all our learners.

The school runs the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and students participate in a wide range of activities including charitable activities such as funding raising initiatives for Claire house and an orphanage in Morocco.

The school also has links with South African and Chinese schools as part of its International School work and Humanities ethos.

The school has a fulltime careers officer on site, as part of a service level agreement with Merseyside Connexions. This provision allows students greater access to work experience opportunities, apprenticeships, and invaluable, one to one guidance for students not continuing with further education and academic studies. This ensures that the school has extremely low figures for the students becoming NEET (Not engaged in education or employment with training).

Objectives and Activities

Objects and Aims

Hilbre is a hardworking, lively school in which learning is an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

We recognise the varied and individual needs of our students and provide a broad, balanced education, both in and outside the classroom, ensuring our students are equipped with the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to contribute confidently to today's ever changing society.

Opening the door of Hilbre High School Humanities College, you will find an 11-18 co-educational high school with just over one thousand students on roll. We are a school which genuinely welcomes you into a partnership with a shared aim; to achieve the most we possibly can, both academically and socially, for the students we educate. We believe in success and are constantly striving to ensure that all our students achieve it, in whatever way it is measured.

Governors Report for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

At Hilbre High School Humanities College we aim to:

- Challenge all our students to do their very best: progress through endeavour;
- Provide a caring, healthy and supportive environment in which students can feel secure and happy and
 in which they can easily relate to people;
- Maintain exacting standards and provide a broad and balanced education both in and outside the classroom;
- Promote excellent teaching and learning across all curriculum areas, driven by our commitment to continuous improvement and our desire to develop independent learners;
- Provide an innovative and challenging curriculum which recognises the varied and individual needs of all our students;
- Provide sound academic foundations to enable our students to leave school with the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to contribute confidently to today's changing world;
- Enable children and parents to participate fully in the life of the school and enjoy the many and wide ranging activities on offer;
- Continue to enhance our capacity to meet the needs of a wide range of young people in our community;
- Enable our students to reach out to the wider world and become global citizens of the twenty-first century;
- Continue providing wide-ranging enrichment activities;
- Promote our students' pride in themselves and their school.

We value:

- · Learning as an enjoyable and rewarding experience for all our students;
- Our students making significant progress whilst at school and beyond;
- Our high levels of care, support and guidance for our students;
- Partnership with all our stakeholders including students, parents, staff and Governors;
- The achievement of significant honours in recognition of our school's many successes and the commitment of our staff and students;
- Our school environment including new state of the art buildings;
- Our students' participation in significant community work;
- Our partnerships with schools and other organisations at local, national and international levels.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The main focus of the School Improvement Plan 2012-15 is 'To ensure that all aspects of life and work at Hilbre are at least good and preferably outstanding by 2015'.

For Phase 2 – 2013/14, the key priorities are:

Raising the Quality of Teaching from Satisfactory to At Least Good

Actions include:

Raise attainment and improve the quality of teaching, thereby securing consistently good practice by:

- Eradicating the variation in lesson standards so that all lessons are good or outstanding
- Sharing best practice across disciplines, both internally and externally
- Focusing upon the development of transitions between tasks
- Ensuring lessons have discrete plenaries in which outcomes are demonstrated and understood
- SLT participate in half termly Learning Walks

Governors Report for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

Raise attainment by ensuring that all teachers use assessment information in order to plan lessons that include activities that meet the needs and abilities of all learners by:

- Planning for differentiation with careful attention given to student groupings, scaffolded tasks and variety
 of different level tasks
- Utilising student tracking to quality assure student experiences and outcomes

Raise attainment by sharing best practice in assessment and establishing a whole-school approach so that all students receive clear advice as to how to improve their work by:

- Ensuring key assessment points are built into schemes of work so that students are aware of when key assessments take place and what they require
- SLT reviewing curriculum area assessment and moderation tasks and activities prior to each year group's monitoring / review process
- Developing self and peer assessment against targets as mandatory

Further develop the consistency with which middle leaders undertake their monitoring role in order to promote the highest standards in Teaching and Learning by:

- Embedding comprehensive use of formative assessment and target setting in mathematics
- Continuing processes including Leadership Board meetings and termly meetings with the Principal and Vice Principal
- SLT maintaining assessment spot checks each half term

Improve standards of monitoring by:

- Ensuring monitoring data is signed-off by CALs before being distributed to parents
- Issuing monitoring results to Heads of House / Head of Sixth Form prior to the release to parents

Further develop the curriculum through:

- Implementation of appropriate key stage 4 progression routes for students accessing our Resource Provision and any other students for whom the current range of level 2 and 3 courses are not suitable
- Building our capacity at key stage 5 to deliver a suitable range of level 1 courses in order to provide a
 creative and viable route for students in the Resource Provision and other students for whom level 2 and
 3 courses are not appropriate
- Tracking developments in the Government's changes to the National Curriculum in order to respond promptly to emerging developments
- Developing strategic plans to ensure successful implementation of the new linear GCSE courses
- Developing strategic plans to ensure successful implementation of the new BTEC courses, particularly with regard to the new externally assessed components
- Developing strategic plans to ensure successful implementation of changes to A level and AS courses
- Monitoring the success and impact of the Dual Languages component for our Year 8 students
- Monitoring the success and impact of Mandarin as an extra-curricular enrichment
- Monitoring the newly implemented SEN Curriculum Attachment model to ensure that our SEN students are provided the best support to become independent, confident learners
- Further developing our three year Key Stage 4, beginning in Year 9, by:
 - Teaching Classical Civilisations GCSE in Year 11 to high ability students of English
 - Teaching Statistics GCSE in Year 11 to high ability students of mathematics

Reinforce learning through more interactive use of the VLP including:

- Full adoption of Moodle as a new interface
- Enhanced opportunities to access work
- More effective communication with parents, specifically real time reporting

Governors Report for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

 Creation of a lively and dynamic school website with an interface to attract regular interaction amongst school community members

Continue to 'Narrow the Gap' in achievement through:

- Improved access to group data and enhanced monitoring of progress
- Ensuring the intervention timetable is planned to accommodate the needs of all learners

Further develop strategies to 'challenge' our More able students, including:

- SLT monitoring specific year groups each half term
- Promoting activities for more able sixth formers
- Make active links with Russell Group University summer schools and programmes
- Director of Sixth Form to attend Higher Education Conferences and Oxford University to help enable students to access the more elite universities

Improve the Quality Assurance (QA) process by:

- Developing improvement and intervention strategies, post QA, to support staff to improve from 'satisfactory' to 'good' teaching
- Directing staff towards the training they need to improve from satisfactory to good
- Utilising the re-focused teacher coach role to facilitate better sharing of good and outstanding practice
- Tracking developments in the changes to the Ofsted Inspection Framework in order to respond promptly to emerging developments

Success Criteria / Impact:

- An increase in 'good' and 'outstanding' teaching to enable Hilbre to be classified as a 'good' or 'outstanding' school
- Less variability in the consistency of teaching
- Students' performance at all key stages improves to be significantly above the national average
- All lessons clearly demonstrate progress made by the students
- Students are more easily identified for interventional support, which leads to a raising of the achievement
 of specific groups
- Improved levels of support for a wider range of students by the SEN team
- A broader curriculum more suitable to the requirements and personalised learning needs of all students including the more able
- Improved levels of intervention and accountability from CALs when working with teachers in need of support in their CA
- More bespoke Inset depending upon individual teacher needs
- Teachers have an improved range of teaching strategies, gained from increased levels of peer observations
- Improved sharing of information and consultation with parents, so parents are better informed about strategies, including homework, to improve their child's progress
- Greater interaction with our Virtual Learning Platform from students and parents
- A greater range of activities drawing on specific work with Liverpool John Moores University and Wirral University Teaching Hospital

Governors Report for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

Improving Outcomes for Students at all Key Stages

Actions include:

Raise achievement through the implementation of new Monitoring and Review data through:

- Ensuring the Data Management Team are prepared for implementation of the new data in 2013
- Making the data available to all concerned
- Ensuring electronic tracking is used by all teachers for all students
- Improving the regularity with which parents have feedback about their child's progress

Improve achievement through the introduction of new target setting data for use with all teachers

Further developing the role of Middle Leadership through:

- Strategies to ensure accountability for student outcomes in their subject areas
- Taking on whole-school responsibilities through negotiation with Vice Principal / Assistant Vice Principal -Pupil Progress and Development
- Further development of termly meetings with CALs and Leadership Board Meetings so they include the contribution of Curriculum Leaders and Heads of House

Improve student voice through development of 'Learning Panels' by:

 Meeting with representatives from the student body, including the most able students, across year groups/Key Stages in order to reflect on the student learning experience and capture best practice/ investigate areas of concern and plan actions accordingly

Include parents in improving outcomes by:

 Issuing parental surveys with all spring term monitoring to ascertain parental feedback about student progress, leading to actions to further improve provision for student engagement

Success Criteria / Impact:

- All student groups achieving in-line with or above the national average
- Improvement in the accuracy and usefulness of monitoring data, based on reliable, regular and standardised subject assessments
- A new target setting system providing appropriate challenge for students through aspirational and realistic class / subject targets
- Middle Leadership making a greater contribution to whole-school initiatives through greater responsibility and accountability for student outcomes, developments and improvements within their areas of responsibility
- A school that is responsive to the voice of its students, acts effectively to address their concerns and celebrates by sharing and reporting good practice
- All groups of students achieve their potential; under-achievement is identified early and intervention is in place to support students quickly
- Parents, as critical stakeholders in a position to advise on how provision for their children can be further improved

Transforming Our Sixth Form

Actions include:

Improve academic rigour by:

- Improving the Quality of Teaching to consistently good or better in the Sixth Form (see Section 1)
- Planning for improved differentiation (see Section 1)

Governors Report for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

- Improving the quality and regularity of Sixth Form progress tracking
- Improving the quality and regularity of Sixth Form monitoring in line with our strategy for key stages 3 and
- Scheduling Independent Study Periods
- Reviewing the allocation of teaching staff to post-16 courses
- Encourage teachers to participate on accredited training courses, such as Tomorrow's Teachers

Further develop Sixth Form Collaboration with the Pensby Federation by:

- Sharing best Sixth Form teaching practice across the collaboration
- Purchasing SISRA for collaborative examination performance analysis
- Enhancing student consultation including the Collaborative Sixth Form Council and development of Sixth Form Leadership Team.
- Forging a Collaborative Sixth Form identity through collaborative projects, activities and responsibilities, as determined by Sixth Form Leadership

Increase the number of students in our Sixth Form by:

- Ensuring students throughout the school are better informed about the opportunities at Hilbre Sixth Form
- Introducing a Sixth Form recruitment drive for our Year 10 students in June of each year
- Introducing to current Year 10, a February Half Term Reward Trip for Sixth Formers to go to New York in 2014 and Paris in 2015, so current Year 10 are 'hooked' into saving and staying on
- Promoting more opportunities to participate in Gold D of E by extending the range of available 'Gold' pathways
- Encourage students from other schools to look at Hilbre as a first choice destination, through strategies including:
 - Marketing in local press and determining the impact of marketing strategies
 - Visiting other schools

Broaden and strengthen our current post-16 curriculum offer by:

- Working with other local post-16 providers to assure, through collaboration, the students have access to a wider breadth of appropriate provision, to which they are entitled
- Investigating possible post-16 courses for introduction into the Collaboration and improving the range of courses we are able to collaboratively offer

Further develop Sixth Form Care, Support and Guidance by:

- Ensuring high quality provision of information, advice and guidance on transition and exit points including UCAS applications
- Ensure that Sixth Form leadership and tutors are appropriately developed, resourced and supported to
 provide high quality information advice and guidance for our Sixth Form learners
- Reviewing induction practices to improve transition into Key Stage 5

Improve Sixth Form enrichment by:

- Formally timetabling of leadership opportunities including peer mentoring, paired reading, paired Maths, subject mentoring, lunchtime supervision and leading House Councils and new opportunities
- Extending enrichment opportunities by using facilities after school hours
- Ensuring the Sixth Form Council/ Management Team meet regularly to discuss and take decisions about aspects of Sixth Form life and promoting the Sixth Form in the main school

Governors Report for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

Success Criteria / Impact:

- Raised attainment of students in the Sixth Form so they all meet their FFT/D targets
- The most suitable teachers delivering the Sixth Form curriculum wider range of courses meeting a wider breadth of student need resulting in all students achieving their target grades
- Improved information, advice and guidance and identification of suitability for our KS4 students about potential KS5 pathways in our Sixth Form
- Earlier identification of students facing a barrier to learning, resulting in fewer students becoming NEET
- · Improved 'student voice' and responsibility in the Sixth Form
- An increase in collaborative projects, activities and responsibilities
- Increased participation in enrichment programmes, including the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, empowering more students to write stronger Personal Statements and make a valuable contribution to the community
- Improved representation of Hilbre in Sixth Form recruitment fairs and Wirral marketing of FE provision

Improving the Effectiveness of Pastoral Intervention and Multi-Agency Working

Actions include:

Use academic data to support mentoring programmes and targeted interventions by:

- Formally timetabling post-Monitoring interviews between the form tutor and students
- Keeping formal records of post-Monitoring discussions with students and using them to inform specific timetabling of post-Monitoring intervention
- Formalising scrutiny of data by Heads of House to inform interventions
- Formalising and implementing individual intervention plans for identified students requiring support

Further enhance pupil leadership and responsibility by:

- Extending the work of Student and House Councils
- Creating a wider range of opportunities for students to air and express their student voice

Support Pupil Engagement by:

- Ensuring that assemblies link to TS and its themes including Behaviour for Learning
- Ensuring that Schemes of Work for Tutorial Support meet the requirements of the Programme of Study for PSHE

Ensure school ethos and requirements are supported and followed by all students through:

- All Houses applying consistency and parity in their application and reinforcement of school rules including both sanctions and praise
- Maintaining our drive to improve the appearance of all students; encouraging Sixth Form students to set an example to the rest of the school community and ensuring all students adhere to our Uniform Policy and take pride in their appearance
- Promoting the interaction of older pupils with younger pupils through inter and intra-House activities

Create Attendance Panels by:

 Timetabling specific meetings each half term in which pupils, staff and parents formally meet, discuss and produce an action plan determining how attendance can be improved

Review our practices in working with 'Hard to Reach' families and implement new strategies with effect from 2013 by:

· Action planning for the identified needs of parents

Governors Report for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

 Orchestrating events and activities to help parents support their children's learning needs, enhance children's opportunities and include specific social events

Improve staff knowledge of a wider range of safeguarding issues by:

- Widening the number of staff trained in Level 2 Safeguarding
- Identifying training needs for Pastoral Assistants to enhance the provision and support they offer

Success Criteria / Impact:

- Improved consistency in the application of school policy regarding behaviour, attendance and appearance
- Clearer identification of strategies and interventions which work well with our most challenging students
- Attendance improved to above 95%
- Hard to reach families become more engaged with the life of the school
- Safeguarding training is consistently updated with a range of staff trained to Level 2

Forging New Approaches to Professional Development, Training and Performance Management

Actions include:

Develop and implement our strategic CPD programme through:

- Induction of the new Director of Sixth Form
- Training and development opportunities to ensure effective teamwork around the newly configured SLT
- Induction of all newly appointed staff, including staff at Hilbre with new roles and responsibilities
- Creative use of twilight Inset incorporating bespoke staff development packages

Support identified colleagues to improve the quality of their teaching by:

 Improving the strategic deployment of the Teacher Coach at key points during the school year to target individual staff needs for support

Promote a model of greater whole-staff accountability for improved teaching and learning by:

- Encouraging staff to seek opportunities to share emerging and improving practice with the Leadership Group
- Identifying training needs for the new Academy structure

Promote a model of greater staff involvement and interest in the strategic development of teaching and learning by:

- Encouraging a number of key staff to engage in Action Research projects which support recent developments in teaching and learning
- Providing the Pedagogy Focus Group with more opportunity and resource in order to share and disseminate best practice

Success Criteria / Impact:

- All teachers teaching 'good' or 'outstanding' lessons
- All staff have training suitable to their own personal CPD needs and to whole-school development leading to an increase in the number of staff delivering good and outstanding lessons
- Surety and evidence that our teachers are meeting the Teaching Standards pertinent to their responsibility in school, resulting in better quality of teaching and better standards of leadership and management for all responsibility holders

Governors Report for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

- Improved training of ITT students and mentors; more structured training for NQTs; better capacity for intervention work with teachers
- Staff empowered to take charge of their own performance and gain evidence for their Performance Management leading to improved prospects for career progression
- Staff aware of the most recent developments in T&L strategies; more staff benefiting from accreditation from local HE providers, ensuring all staff are up-to-date with the most recent developments in pedagogy and practice

Harnessing the Potential of our Newly Acquired Academy Status

Actions include:

Continue raising the awareness of multi-cultural issues amongst our learners by:

- Identifying further opportunities for international partnerships to promote Global Learning; for example, through:
 - the Duke of Edinburgh Award and South African development
 - the specialism and Humanities Week
 - curriculum enrichment through the Humanities
 - developing use of the VLP to enable closer links with our local, national and global communities, for example through blogging and creating an evidence trail

Build upon our newly forged relationship with Fuzhou No. 3 Middle School, by:

- Investigating the potential of local business links with Chinese enterprise
- Working with the British Council to establish funding streams to enable teachers and students
- Further developing our partnership, so that there is a greater impact upon our learners, which includes student visits to partner schools and the pursuit of relevant funding streams

Network locally, nationally and internationally by:

- Establishing our Duke of Edinburgh programme's international community work in South Africa, through collaborative networking with Steenberg High School and AfriTwin
- Expanding third party income to include the Sixth Form Building
- The Principal, in role as LLE, supporting a newly appointed Headteacher to a Wirral Secondary School
- Keeping abreast of new developments by attending relevant Conferences and Seminars
- Subscribing to membership of relevant institutions including FSB, NASBM, The Key

Further contribute to community development by:

- Extending and varying our range of community activities with a focus upon targeting motivation and
 enrichment opportunities for identified groups of learners including the re-establishment of charity work at
 local, national and international level, to be run by student leaders
- Developing cricket as an extra-curricular activity and expanding a comprehensive cricket programme

Establish the practice of working in collaboration and partnership by:

- Developing Service Level Agreements for services to other schools and education providers
- Working with other local Academies to develop a 'Wirral Academy Schools' Forum Group consisting of Heads, Principals and Business Managers in order to explore ways to benefit from 'best value'
- Implementing a working party to forge partnerships with local feeder primary schools in order to strengthen links and promote the school as the best 'secondary school' choice
- Developing links with local businesses to enhance educational provision for our students, including work experience
- Strengthening relationships with outside agencies in order to maximise potential service provision to the school and the local collaboration

Governors Report for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

Aim to gain the Healthy Schools Enhanced Status by working with outside agencies

Success Criteria / Impact:

- Feeder Schools: Ameliorating the impact of falling rolls in Wirral by improved communication and crossphase project work with our Primary Feeder schools
- New strands to our international work with improved partnerships, more extensive curriculum impact and better use of technology as a communication resource
- A secure partnership with Fuzhou No. 3 Middle School, leading to widened cultural understanding for all students
- Greater uptake of the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award because of a wider range of available programmes for students
- Service Level Agreements:
 - Delivery of key business services and solutions which enhance the role of the school in the wider community
 - Increase income streams, with profits being invested back into the school's education provision
 - Wirral Academy Forum Group shared practices and procedures to enhance best value and improve all financial planning activities
- Developing Links:
 - Successfully developed models for employer participation
 - A wider range of business contacts and networks to enhance opportunities both internally and externally for students and staff
- Outside Agencies:
 - Increased involvement with external support agencies
 - Expanded involvement with Hilbre from all relevant external agencies with strengthened relationships with all parties
 - Cricket more extra-curricular activities, enabling students to follow their passion beyond the classroom and play a positive role in their academic progress

The school's charitable activities are substantial and each year we elect to support three charities; one local; one national and one international.

The charities we support are elected annually by the Student Council after debate about the value of each charity. This academic year, 2013-14, we are supporting:

- Guide Dogs for the Blind (local)
- Alder Hey Children's Hospital (National)
- UNICEF (International)

On occasion, we also support other charities through short-term collections; these may be focused around an individual or a tutor group and will usually be supported because of a personal connection for an individual or individuals. For example, a charity that has benefited from this approach is Cancer Research. Strategies we deploy to raise funds for charities include:

- Fundraising Fridays. This involves a small team of students touring the school on 'Fridays' to hold a bucket collection for the selected charity.
- Sale of 'Beat Bullying' wristbands.
- Tutor Group Fundraising Initiatives such as Cake Sales.
- Textile Collections to raise funds for charities such as Chernobyl Children.
- Sponsored Events. For example, a sponsored walk by a year group.
- Sales Teams promoting events e.g. Fair Trade.
- We avoid non-uniform days but we held a 'wear coloured socks to school day' in support of Guide Dogs for the Blind.
- Bucket collections at events including Prize Giving.
- Bag packing at major local supermarkets.
- Staff make charity contributions instead of sending Christmas cards.

Governors Report for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

Public Benefit

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Academy's objectives and aims and in planning future activities for the year. Given the activities of the Academy and the student population that it services, the trustees consider that the company's aims are demonstrably to the public benefit.

Strategic Report

Achievements and Performance

Due to the vast changes in methodology it is almost impossible to compare our 2014 results with the results we achieved in 2013. Headline achievement data for 5A*-C, 5A*-C including English & Mathematics and 3+ levels of progress in English and Mathematics in 2014 are shown in the table below and have been broken down into various student groupings.

GCSE Examination Results: Summer 2014

5 x A* to C Measures								
	All	Boys	Girls	Not Pupil Premium	Pupil Premium			
Students with 5 x A* to C	63.7	51.9	80.8	66.7	55.3			
Students with 5 x A* to C inc. Eng & Maths	46.4	42.5	52.1	51.5	31.9			

		Students N	laking 3+ Lev	els of Progr	ess in Engli	ish '	
All	Boys	Girls	Lower	Middle	Upper	Not Pupil Premium	Pupil Premiun
55.3	50	63	44	50	72	56.8	511
	St	udents Mak	ing 3+ Level	s of Progress	s in Mathem	natics	
		0:1	, 			T =	
All	Boys	Girls	Lower	Middle	Upper	Not Pupil Premium	Pupil Premiur

Students Making 3+ Levels of Progress in English						Making 3+ Leve s in Mathemati	
Not SEN	SEN Action	SEN Action +	SEN Statement	Not SEN	SEN Action	SEN Action +	SEN Statement
63	56	25	39	69	39	38	39

Improved Progress of the Most Able: After identifying the need to improve progress for our most able students, we took actions including targeted student voice surveys, student mentoring by SLT, a persistent focus on most able students by Middle Leaders and curriculum re-organisation, allowing students directed self-study periods for intensive periods of learning and revision. Also, the Principal and SLT established meetings with the students and parents of students making most progress at Parents' Evenings in order to re-emphasise the importance of progress, not simply attainment. This resulted in a significant improvement of progress for Year 11 in 2014 compared with Year 11 in 2013.

Governors Report for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

In 2013, 57% of students made 3 levels of progress in English and 69% 3 levels of progress in mathematics, compared to 2014 figures of 72% for English and 75% for mathematics.

Progress KS2 to KS4

Qualification Name	A*-A %	A*-C %	A*-G %	3+ LOP %	4+ LOP %	5+ LOP %	Stu Count	Residu al	Avg Points	Avg Grade
BTEC Business Studies	36.8	100	100	100	78.9	47.4	19	6.6	47.3	B+
BTEC Engineering	17.6	100	100	100	41.2	17.6	17	2.8	43.5	B-
BTEC Sport	20	100	100	100	80	30	10	4.7	45.4	В
Chinese Mandarin	100	100	100	100	100	100	1	17.3	58	A*
Russian	100	100	100	100	100	100	1	11.3	52	A
BTEC Health Soc. Care	56	100	100	96	80	56	25	10.3	51	Α
BTEC Science Diploma	25	100	100	94.3	63.6	28.4	88	5.4	46.1	В
French	6.7	93.3	100	93.3	60	20	15	4.1	44.8	B-
Music	46.7	93.3	100	93.3	60	13.3	15	5.7	46.4	В
Citizenship	21.2	90.9	100	89.4	50	13.6	66	3.8	44.5	B-
Food	23.3	88.4	100	88.4	53.5	27.9	43	2.2	42.9	C+
RE GCSE	29.4	88.2	100	88.2	52.9	23.5	17	4.2	44.9	B-
Textiles	12.5	87.5	100	87.5	50	12.5	8	1.6	42.3	C+
Spanish	22	90	100	86	50	16	50	4	44.7	B-
Drama	27.3	76.4	100	81.8	54.5	21.8	55	2.9	43.6	B-
Art	12.8	76.9	100	76.9	33.3	10.3	39	1.1	41.8	C+
BTEC Science	0	100	100	75	25	0	4	2.3	43	B-
English Literature	7.8	72.7	100	68.8	25.8	2.3	128	0.5	41.2	C+
English Language	7	77.3	100	66.4	18.8	0	128	0.1	40.8	С
Science Additional	0	90	100	63.3	3.3	0	30	0.3	41	C+
Physics	32	88	100	62	40	12	50	4.2	44.9	B-
Maths	8.6	63.4	97.7	60.6	20	4	175	-3.8	36.9	D+
Biology	20	82	100	60	24	6	50	2.2	42.9	C+
Dida Double	0	70.3	70.3	59.5	10.8	0	37	-12.4	28.3	E
Chemistry	32	76	100	56	38	10	50	2.9	43.6	B-
History	11.1	66.7	98.1	55.6	31.5	13	54	-2	38.7	C-
Sociology	5.9	52.9	100	52.9	17.6	0	17	-4.2	36.5	D+
Science Core	0	72.7	100	50.9	1.8	0	55	-1.8	38.9	C-
PE GCSE ·	5.3	52.6	100	47.4	5.3	5.3	19	-3.9	36.8	D+
Graphic Design	0	50	100	41.7	8.3	0	36	-4.4	36.3	D+
Geography	4.1	46.6	100	41.1	17.8	5.5	73	-4.2	36.5	D+
DT Product Design	9.1	36.4	100	36.4	9.1	9.1	11	-7.2	33.5	D
RE SC	5.5	37.2	92.4	32.4	12.4	4.8	145	-9.2	31.5	D-
English	0	14.9	100	29.8	10.6	4.3	47	-9.3	31.4	D-

Governors Report for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

Total	14.9	75	98.4	61.4	27.8	9.2	177	0	40.7	C
Dance	0	22.2	100	22.2	0	0	′ 9	-8.7	32	D
Media Studies	0	46.3	100	24.1	0.9	0	108	-4.4	36.3	D+
Business Studies	0	35.3	100	29.4	5.9	0	17	-7.4	33.3	D

Considerable work carried out by the Principal and the English team saw an improvement in the overall English GCSE results when compared to the 2013 headline results. The English results were hampered by the last vestiges of early entry and by the removal of the speaking and listening component of the exam.

The Mathematics results dropped from the position they achieved in 2013. There is now a partnership mentoring system set up in Mathematics like the one in English to try and make in-roads in to the plateau of progress in the data for the mathematics results. This partnership scheme has also been replicated in Science, PE, Technology & Humanities who all saw fluctuations in their results this year both upwards and downwards. Considerable improvements in History results were most welcome and are testament to the efforts of the teachers in this subject.

A number of subjects have all continued to sustain results that are well above the national averages: French, Music, Citizenship, Food Technology, RE, Textiles, Spanish and Drama. In addition the success of our BTEC courses continue to produce impressive results.

Improved Target Setting: We have improved target setting for students, so targets are more challenging; this includes targets for the most able. Our new target setting process has individual aspirational target 'flight paths' that are differentiated depending upon student ability on entry.

Improvement of the Monitoring System: A new focus on 'Progress to Target' in Monitoring has resulted in improved swift identification of students below their projected target, leading to the prompt reporting of correctional subject interventions to parents/carers through the Monitoring reports. A further action is to review the impact of the interventions, through Monitoring Points throughout the year.

Post 16

In terms of points per entry, the score is up from 187 to 192 this year, and point score per student is up from 530 to 534. This modest improvement is suggesting that policies being implemented Post-16 are beginning to bear fruit. The most impressive improvements have been seen in the vocational courses where the Distinction starred qualifications increased significantly; in fact the average grade for most of the BTEC courses was a distinction.

Improved Bench Line Assessment of Sixth Form Students: To raise attainment in the Sixth Form, we have improved the standard and validity of assessment data in the Sixth Form. We have introduced CATs, reading age and spelling age tests to the Sixth Form, meaning staff are better informed of student ability and potential barriers to progress. This has impacted on differentiation in Sixth Form teaching. A further action is to determine the impact of this knowledge upon the quality of teaching in the Sixth Form. ALPS data is now used, which offers an analysis of subject performance against national data and has impacted on the level of scrutiny for under-performing subject areas. A further action is the use of this 'evidence' to ensure under-performing subjects take appropriate action to improve progress and outcomes.

Governors Report for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

Key Performance Indicators

The Audit Committee and Academy, Business & Finance Committee review key financial data, including performance indicators and outcomes, at each of their meetings. All Financial performances are measured using a series of control and monitoring systems and procedures.

A detailed commentary on performance for a specific period is presented, with comprehensive management accounts that include the following:

- Income to date against budget to date comparisons, analysed by income headings;
- Expenditure to date against budget to date comparisons, analysed by expenditure headings;
- Projected surplus/deficit for the academic year, analysed by income and expenditure headings;
- Bank and Investment balances, both month end and current.

Staff costs represent the majority of the School's expenditure and as such they are closely scrutinised with an agreed percentage of no more than 80% of the total budget. Actual staff costs are monitored monthly against budget settings with trends being extrapolated to provide expected year end outcomes.

As a PFI school, all utility costs are covered under the PFI monthly recharges, and as such, information provided by the Local Authority is interrogated to ensure efficient use of resources, having regard to environmental impact.

Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board of Governors has a reasonable expectation that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

Financial Review

The majority of the School's income is obtained from the Education Funding Agency (EFA) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes as detailed in the funding agreement. The grants received from the EFA during the period 1st September 2013 – 31st August 2014 and the associated expenditure is shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA).

The amount of recurrent grant funding for this period received from the Education Funding Agency was £5,207,501. A full listing of income received for this period from various sources is shown within the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA).

The School also receives grants for fixed assets from the EFA, in accordance with the Charities' "Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SoRP 2005). Such grants if received are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) as restricted income in the fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the useful life of the assets concerned.

The School has taken on the deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme in respect of its non-teaching staff transferred on conversion, the opening value at the start of this academic year was £1,639,000, and will be recovered from the school as annual lump sum payments over 25 years. The deficit is incorporated within the Statement of Financial Activity with details in the financial statements.

Pupil numbers - we expect the number of pupils in Years 7 to 11 to remain similar from 855 in September 2013, to approximately 867 in September 2014. The number of post 16 students is expected to significantly increase during this period, from 153 to 207.

Key financial policies adopted or reviewed during the period include the Financial Procedures Manual, Fraud and Corruption policy, Capital Revenue and Investment Reserves policy and Gifts and Hospitality. The Financial Procedures Manual sets out the framework for financial management, including financial responsibilities of the

Governors Report for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

Governors, Principal (as Accountable Officer), the Assistant Vice Principal for Academy, Finance and Business Development, budget holders and other affected staff as well as delegated authority for expenditure protocols.

The Governors have appointed BDO LLP to undertake agreed procedures in order to support the internal control process of the Academy School and undertake a programme of internal checks on financial control and processes. The Audit and Finance Committees receives detailed reports and feedback from such reviews and given the necessary support and guidance, if required. The reports issued during the year contained no significant issues or concerns in relation to the school's financial management.

The Governors have agreed a strategic approach to robust financial management and budgetary control whilst continuing to invest accordingly in Human and Physical resources to sustain the school's development priorities. The governing body has also taken a prudent approach to policy on reserves and investments, in order to protect the organisation from commercial, political and financial risk.

Financial and Risk Management Objectives and Policies

As an Academy Trust funded directly by the Department of Education, funding streams are considered to be relatively secure subject to management of pupil numbers, although the Governors recognise government policy and overall funding levels present an external risk to manage.

The Governors have a risk management strategy and policy which is managed and reviewed on a regular basis.

The Academy Trust manages its finances to ensure a healthy level of reserves adequate to cover unforeseen circumstances and to make planned use as a part of its medium to longer term financial plan.

The Governors examine the financial health formally every term, reviewing performance against budgets and overall expenditure by means of regular update reports at all full Governors', Academy, Business & Finance Committee and the Audit Committee meetings. The Governors also regularly review cash flow forecasts and ensure sufficient funds are held to cover all known and anticipated commitments.

At the year end, the Academy had no significant liabilities arising from trade creditors or debtors where there would be a significant effect on liquidity.

The Governing Body recognises that the defined benefit scheme deficit (Local Government Pension Scheme), which is set out in the financial statements, represents a significant potential liability, however, as the Governors consider that the School is able to meet its known annual contribution commitments for the foreseeable future, the risk from this liability is minimised.

Reserves Policy

The Governing Body reviews the reserve levels of the school annually at the year-end and as a part of its medium term budget planning. This review encompasses the nature of the income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. Particular regard is given to the likely levels of future income to be received from the Education Funding Agency and the likelihood that these will reduce over the forthcoming years.

Governors determine what the level of uncommitted reserves should be. The aim is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies or in-year expenditure over and above the agreed budget setting.

As a part of its monitoring of in-year financial performance the Governing Body reviews the forecast impact on reserves and considers this as a part of its medium term financial planning. As this is the first year of operation as an academy, the Governing Body plans to establish a reasonable level of restricted and unrestricted general reserves at the year-end in order to enable it to both manage unforeseen emergencies and also to enable planned use over the medium term to mitigate anticipated very challenging budget shortfalls.

Governors Report for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

As at 31 August 2014 the School held the following reserves:

Restricted Reserves

£(951,000)

Unrestricted Reserves

£844.000

On conversion to academy status, the School inherited the past service deficit in relation to the Local Government Pension Scheme that is provided for our non-teaching staff. The current deficit as of the 31st August 2014 was £1,602,000.

It should be noted however that this does not present the Academy with a current liquidity problem. Contributions to the pension scheme to cover this deficit will be paid on an annual basis over 25 years, increasing at 4.5% and it will be refined as part of the 2014 valuation, based on final membership information.

Investment Policy

Governors are firmly committed to ensuring that all funds under their control are administered in such a way as to maximise return while minimising risk. Governors do not consider the investment of surplus funds as a primary activity, but rather a requirement for the effective management of the various funds entrusted to the Governing Body.

Governor's management of cashflow should ensure that there are always sufficient funds in the main bank accounts to cover operational costs. Banks must be selected from the FCA Approved List included in the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS).

Governors will seek to ensure that any cash not required for operating expenses is placed on deposit at the most favourable rate. Arrangements for deposits may include, but are not limited to Treasury Bonds and CCLA Deposit Accounts. Deposit account providers must be selected from the FCA Approved List included in the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) or from the CCLA.

Where significant funds are have been accumulated that are not required in the short term for operational expenses, or as part of a planned surplus for a specific project, Governors may consider the investment of these funds in order to generate a longer term income or capital fund. In addition, the school may at times receive investments as part of a legacy or gift.

The approval of the Audit and Academy, Business & Finance Committees is required before any investment is made. The following criteria should be used in selecting an appropriate investment:

- What level of risk does the investment represent? The governors' approach to risk is cautious –typical investments will include corporate bonds and fixed interest funds.
- The anticipated level of return
- Management fees and associated costs
- Any penalties e.g. for early redemption
- Ease of access should governors wish to realise the investment.

The Audit and Academy, Business & Finance Committees will approve any changes to the organisations and/or accounts in which the School's funds are invested. However, in doing so, they will take a low risk approach to investment, particular at a time when investment returns are low, in order to protect the funds generated to date for the benefit of future years.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

Financial - the School has considerable reliance on continued Government funding through the EFA. As the majority of the School's incoming resources were ultimately Government funded, and with the introduction of new funding mechanisms from 2013 academic year, there are already reductions in areas of Academy funding for 2014-15, and no assurances that Government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will

Governors Report for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

continue at the same levels or on the same terms. As Post 16 funding continues to decline, with additional pressures in respect to significant changes in Special Educational Needs funding from the 1st September 2014, and the increase in employer costs, will impact schools in terms maintaining standards over the next few years and will increase the need for further prudent budgeting and contingency planning.

PFI contract – as the School is part of the Local Authority's PFI Scheme, Governors are mindful of the increasing unitary charges per annum. The PFI contract provides that from the first "Price Adjustment Date" and every five years thereafter the Provider is given the opportunity to revise the annual price charged for specific facilities management (FM) services in line with current market prices. This price is then fixed for the next five years. The first "Price Adjustment Date" for Wirral is 31st August 2013, by which time the revised price has to be agreed and implemented (at the time of this report being produced, the process is so far behind schedule, with actual costs still being unknown. Therefore, the current best estimate of these costs is £100k.) Collectively, the specific FM services are known as the "Tested Services". The Governors are aware that any additional increases to the annual unitary charge will have an impact on the school's budget setting and subsequent forecasts and will be addressed accordingly.

Failures in governance and/or management - the risk in this area arises from potential failure to effectively manage the School's finances, internal controls, compliance with regulations and legislation, statutory returns, etc. The Governors continue to review and ensure that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks.

Reputational - the continuing success of the School is dependent on continuing to attract applicants in sufficient numbers by maintaining the highest educational standards. To mitigate this risk Governors ensure that student success and achievement are closely monitored and reviewed.

Safeguarding and child protection - the Governors continue to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the areas of selection and monitoring of staff, the operation of child protection policies and procedures, health & safety and discipline.

Staffing - the success of the School is reliant on the quality of its staff and so the Governors monitor and review policies and procedures to ensure continued development and training of staff as well as ensuring there is clear succession planning.

Fraud and Mismanagement of Funds – The School has appointed a Responsible Officer to carry out checks on financial systems and records as required by the School's Financial Manual. The Governors have also a Fraud and Corruption Policy. All finance staff receive training to keep them up to date with financial practice requirements and develop their skills in this area.

The School has continued to strengthen its risk management process throughout the year by improving the process and ensuring staff awareness. A risk register is maintained and reviewed and updated on an annual basis.

Plans for Future Periods

Following the last Ofsted Inspection in February 2014 and subsequent Section 8 monitoring visit in June 2014, the school plans to maintain a clear focus on learning and the teaching that promotes it, including clear and concise targets, to ensure that every student, whatever their starting point, makes rapid and sustained progress through effective, high quality teaching, in order to achieve good outcomes within a caring and supportive environment.

The key priorities for 2014/15 Academic Year are:

Key Performance Indicators

Achievement

- To meet or exceed FFT D whole school KS4 targets
- To narrow the gap by meeting or exceeding FFT D KS4 estimates for student groups
- To meet or exceed ALPs targets for KS5 students.

Governors Report for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

To meet or exceed our school attendance target of 96%.

Quality Teaching

- 100% of lessons to be judged as good or better. (As judged through QA, book scrutiny and learning walks)
- To ensure that all teaching promotes good or better learning and progress. (As judged by monitoring grades and external examination results)
- All students demonstrate a consistently positive attitude towards their learning, their teachers and fellow students. (As judged by 'Ethos Walks', IRIS records, detention data, Libra referrals and exclusions)

Leadership & Management

- Expectation of student performance is universally high throughout the establishment following introduction of new target setting system. (As judged by student progress and outcomes)
- Middle leaders supported, challenged and held to account through external training, internal co-coaching and enhanced performance management reviews. (As judged through participation levels at training events, minutes of focus meetings with senior leaders and performance management)
- To ensure Governors are confident and equipped to be able to hold the school to account in regard to performance. (As judged by Governing Body minutes, Leadership Board meetings, Link Governor reports and Governor Monitoring of Post Ofsted Action Plan in conjunction with members of the Senior Leadership Team)

Behaviour & Safety

- All students attend school well and punctually, dressed in correct uniform and properly equipped. (As judged by student attendance figures, 'Ethos Walks', QA and lesson observations and effective implementation of active form time)
- All students demonstrate respect and consideration for each other, the staff, the school environment and the wider community. (As judged by bullying records, 'Ethos Walks' and the improved appearance of the environment)
- Reinforcement of school motto 'Progress through Endeavour' to ensure that all students regardless of their starting point make rapid and sustained progress through effective high quality teaching in order to achieve good outcomes within a caring and supportive environment. (As judged by 'Ethos Walks', Progress data and outcomes)

Key Priorities

Improving the Quality of Teaching, by:

- Improving the quality of marking
- Marking policy revised and applied
- Focused work scrutiny alongside CALs as part of revised QA process
- Calendared Learner Journal scrutiny by SLT
- Developing a learning community
- Peer observation programme completed –all staff–sharing the learning
- Staff briefing extended to allow for regular communication of developments
- · Teacher coach role to develop staff moving from 'Good' to 'Outstanding'
- Raising expectations of all.

Raising Attainment in the 6th Form

- Validity of assessment data.
- Advancing communication.
- 6th Form meetings.

Governors Report for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

- · Develop newsletter handbook
- Subject observations.
- Learner Journals.
- Outstanding lessons.
- Electronic mark books
- To improve the ethos of the 6th Form
- · Challenging the most able.

Raising Achievement through New Target Settings

- Implement new Target Setting system for the main 11-16 section of the school
- Implement new ALPs system for the Post 16 section of the school
- Implement new Monitoring system for the whole school.
- Implement new Middle Leadership monitoring system
- Monitor, review and evaluate the impact of 'Show my Homework'
- Investigate issues surrounding assessing progress without levels

Leadership and Management

- Implement partnering arrangements for SLT/CAL coaching model, in order to provide the requisite support and challenge to drive improvement across the curriculum
- Developing emerging junior TLR post holders and aspiring leaders through internal training programmes, and SLT mentoring in order to share and promote best practice
- Principal, Assistant Vice Principal (EWA) and Chair of Governors to participate in 'Through the lens of Ofsted' training run by HMIs Brian Padgett and Sally Kenyon, alongside 3 other Wirral secondary schools also judged as 'RI', to provide a sharper focus on Leadership and Management and offer school-toschool support and challenge
- Monitor the effectiveness of the newly established SLT structure and its impact upon each of the areas requiring improvement post-Ofsted (February 2014)

Performance Management

- Co-ordinate Performance Management Inset day (including training new appraisers)
- New Pay policy and Appraisal policy implemented
- · Training needs of teaching staff identified
- Appraisal observations undertaken

Attitudes and Behaviour for Learning

- Create and implement Tutorial Support Team to overhaul current Tutorial Support menus and programmes
- Commence oversight and support of KS4/5 Peer Mentoring programme
- Create and commence delivery of entire Enrich programme
- Create and implement Hilbre transfer team to optimise transition procedures for students to/from Hilbre

Harnessing the Potential of Academy Status

- Ensure that all support staffing structures are cost effective and fit for purpose
- Ensure that the school continues to provide an environment conducive to learning, to ensure that we continue to benefit from a net increase in numbers on roll
- Ensure that the school has approved policies in place to meet the needs of the Academy's financial and business responsibilities
- Focus on most able students who are categorised as Pupil Premium students Improvement and Self-Evaluation

Governors Report for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

- · Track and report impact of interventions for 'groups' and ensure actions are taken for non-responders
- Ensure the new SEN Policy/ School Offer and staffing structure are effectively applied in relation to the new SEN Code of Practice
- Summarise termly for Governors, the progress made with initiatives from across the school, 'group' progress and the impact of interventions on targeted students
- Further develop the school's Global Partnership with China

With school budgets becoming even more challenging and demanding, and the focus on achieving the 'best for less', the need to innovate has never been greater, especially in relation to setting a balanced budget. Being aware of future cost pressures allows the school to continue maintaining, managing and developing a school, offering a broad and balanced curriculum.

Funds Held as Custodian Trustee on Behalf of Others

The School does not hold funds on behalf of others.

Auditor

BDO LLP was appointed by the Governing Body for this period.

Insofar as the trustees are aware:

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

Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 10th December 2014 and signed on the board's behalf by:

G Kemp

Chair of Governors

Governance Statement for the year ended 31 August 2014

Scope of Responsibility

As Governors we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Hilbre High School Humanities College has 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 Governing Body has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Principal, 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 Hilbre High School Humanities College 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 included here supplements that described in the Governors' Report and in the Statement of Governors' Responsibilities. The Full Governing Body has formally met 4 times during the year.

Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

Governor	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
G Kemp (Chair)	4	4
J Levenson (Principal and Accounting Officer)	4	4
S Wall (resigned 31.7.14)	3	4
S Reynolds	1	4
C Robinson	4	4
J Jubb	4	4
J Tillotson-Home (1 year agreed sabbatical)(resigned	ed 31.08.14) 0	4
A Downie (resigned 07.5.14)	2	3
C Steiger	4	4
L Thierry	3	4
C Keenan	1	4
G Kerr	3	4
P Freeman	2	4
S Jenkinson	4	4
S Green (resigned 30.6.14)	1	3
J Money (appointed 1.9.13)	3	4
E Myers (staff governor)	3	4
C Joyce (staff governor)	3	4

For this academic year, this being the second Annual Report and Financial Statements, the key changes in the composition of the Governing Body, result from the appointment of a new Trust Partnership Governor, and the resignation of three Governors, in particular, a Governor who has served the school for over 20 years, and Governor with a legal background. New appointments will be made in line the skills matrix used by the school for recruiting new Governors with a key skill set, e.g. Legal, HR, and IT, in order for the school to have a broad and varied range of experienced Governors, which can be utilised to maximum effect.

Particular challenges that have arisen for the Governors include:

- Ofsted Inspection carried out in February 2014 and the subsequent Section 8 monitoring visit
- The approval of Post Ofsted Improvement Plan
- SEN Business Plan 2014/15

Governance Statement for the year ended 31 August 2014

Notwithstanding, the complexities and responsibilities held by nominated Members and appointed Governors, under the auspices of an Academy.

The Academy, Business and Finance Committee is a sub-committee of the main board of Governors. Its purpose is:

- To consider the Academy's indicative funding, notified annually by the DfE/EFA, and to assess its
 implications for the academy, in consultation with the Principal, in advance of the financial year, drawing
 any matters of significance or concern to the attention of the Governing Body.
- To consider and recommend acceptance/non-acceptance of the academy's budget, at the start of each financial year.
- To contribute to the formulation of the academy's development plan, through the consideration of
 financial priorities and proposals, in consultation with the Principal, with the stated and agreed aims and
 objectives of the academy.
- To receive and make recommendations on the broad budget headings and areas of expenditure to be adopted each year, including the level and use of any contingency fund or balances, ensuring the compatibility of all such proposals with the development priorities set out in the development plan.
- To liaise with and receive reports from the HR, Personnel, Pay and Curriculum committees, as appropriate, and to make recommendations to those committees about the financial aspects of matters being considered by them.
- To monitor and review expenditure on a regular basis and ensure compliance with the overall financial plan for the academy, and with the financial regulations of the DfE, drawing any matters of concern to the attention of the Governing Body.
- To monitor and review procedures for ensuring the effective implementation and operation of financial procedures, on a regular basis, including the implementation of bank account arrangements and, where appropriate to make recommendations for improvement.
- To prepare the financial statement to form part of the annual report of the Governing Body to parents and for filing in accordance with Companies Act and Charity Commission requirements.
- To receive Auditors' and Responsible Officer reports and to recommend to the Full Governing Body action as appropriate in response to audit findings.
- To recommend to the Full Governing Body the appointment or reappointment of the auditors
 of the academy.
- To advise the Board of Governors on acquisition and disposal of premises.
- Under the auspices of the School's PFI Agreement:
 - To evaluate proposals and quotations relating to major building works and other fixed assets.
 - To monitor/report on all works relating to buildings and other fixed assets.

The particular issues dealt by this committee for this period surrounds the conversion to Academy status and the implementation of practices, procedures and responsibilities in line with the Articles of Association and Funding Agreement.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Governor	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
G Kemp (Chair)	4 .	4
J Levenson (Principal and Accounting Officer)	4	4
J Tillotson-Home (1 year agreed sabbatical) (resign	ed 31.08.14)0	4
G Kerr	2	4
S Jenkinson	4	4
P Freeman	2	4

The Audit Committee is also a sub-committee of the main board of Governors. Its purpose is:

- To review the effectiveness of financial and other control systems.
- To ensure that all significant losses have been properly investigated and reported as appropriate.
- To oversee the academy's policy on fraud and irregularity

Governance Statement for the year ended 31 August 2014

- To oversee the academy's corporate governance arrangements including the code of practice.
- To monitor the implementation of approved recommendations relating to both the work performed by the auditors under agreed upon procedures and the External auditors.
- To monitor the effectiveness of the internal control monitoring procedures and External auditing service and to promote co-ordination between the two.
- To consider and advise the governing body on the audit needs assessment.
- To consider and advise the governing body on Agreed upon procedure reports,
- To monitor the academy's arrangements to secure value for money.
- Becoming familiar with the concepts and requirements of risk management.
- Acting as a catalyst for risk management activity across the school.
- Ensuring appropriate audit work on risk management.
- Collecting information on risks and risk management.
- To advise the governing body on the appointment and remuneration of external auditors and the scope of their work (in line with Academies Financial Handbook reporting requirements).
- To work with the External auditors on the nature and scope of the audit as necessary.
- To consider and advise the governing body on the External auditors Financial Statements and Accounting Reports.
- To consider the academy's financial statements as appropriate.
- To receive and review relevant reports relating to audit.
- To advise on Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Emergency Planning issues in respect of finance, buildings, systems and fixed assets.

The particular issues dealt by this committee for this period surrounds the conversion to Academy status and the implementation of such a Committee as per DfE guidelines and protocols.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Governors	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
J Levenson (Principal and Accounting Officer)	4	4
P Freeman	2	4 .
J Tillotson- Home (1 year agreed sabbatical)(resigned 31.8.14)	0	4
S Jenkinson	4 .	4

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 in Hilbre High School Humanities College for the period 1st September 2013 to 31st August 2014 and up to the date of approval of the Annual Report and Financial Statements.

Governance Statement for the year ended 31 August 2014

Capacity to Handle Risk

The Governing Body 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 Governing Body 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 1st September 2013 to 31 August 2014 and up to the date of approval of the Annual Report and Financial Statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Governing Body.

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 Governing Body;
- Regular reviews by the Audit Committee and Academy, Finance and Business 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;
- · Identification and management of risks.

The Governing Body has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided to continue with the current practice:

• Not to appoint an internal auditor. However, the Governing Body have appointed the School's nominated auditors to provide agreed upon procedures to support the Academy's internal review processes.

Governance Statement for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

Review of Effectiveness

As Accounting Officer the Principal has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

- The work of the Responsible Officer;
- The work of the Audit Committee;
- The work of the Auditors;
- The Financial Management and Governance self-assessment process;
- The work of the Assistant Vice Principal within the School who has responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Audit Committee and Academy, Finance and Business Committee and a plan to address weaknesses, if relevant and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 10th December 2014 signed on its behalf by:

G Kemp

Chair of Governors

*⊯*evenson

Pr/ncipal/Accounting Officer

Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

As Accounting Officer of Hilbre High School Humanities College I have considered my responsibility to notify the School's Governing Body and the Education Funding Agency of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with EFA terms and conditions of funding, under the funding agreement in place between the School and the Secretary of State.

As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook.

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

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

I confirm that any instances of material irregularity, impropriety or funding non-compliance discovered to date have been notified to the Governing Body and the EFA or, if occurring after the date of this statement, will be notified to the Governing Body and the EFA.

J Levenson // Accounting Officer

10th December 2014

Statement of Governors' Responsibilities for the year ended 31 August 2014

The Governors (who act as Trustees of Hilbre High School Humanities College and are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Governors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with the Annual Accounts Direction issued by the Education Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Governors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the Governors most not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Governors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards 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 charitable company will continue in business.

The Governors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company 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 charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Governors are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the charitable company 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 EFA/DfE have been applied for the purposes intended.

The Governors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company'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 10th December 2014 and signed on its behalf by:

G Kemp

Chair of Governors

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members and Trustees of Hilbre High School Humanities College

We have audited the financial statements of Hilbre High School Humanities College ("the Academy") for the year ended 31 August 2014 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the cashflow statement and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and the Academies Accounts Direction 2013 to 2014 issued by the Education Funding Agency ("the EFA").

This report is made solely to the Academy's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and to the trustees, as a body, in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2013 to 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Academy's members and trustees 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 Academy, the Academy's members as a body and the Academy's trustees as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of governors and auditor

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who act as governors of Hilbre High School Humanities College and 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. We have been appointed as auditor under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with that Act. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

A description of the scope of an audit of financial statements is provided on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditscopeukprivate.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Academy's affairs as at 31 August 2014 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2013 to 2014 issued by the EFA.

Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion the information given in the trustees' annual report, which includes the strategic report, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Board of Trustees of Hilbre High School Humanities College (continued)

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept in respect of the Academy, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements do not accord with the accounting records; or
- · certain disclosures of governor's remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- any information or explanation to which we are entitled has not been afforded to us.

DDO W

Mark Sykes (senior statutory auditor)
For and on behalf of BDO LLP, statutory auditor
Liverpool
United Kingdom
Date 12 December 2014

BDO LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales (with registered number OC305127).

Independent Reporting Auditor's Assurance Report on Regularity to Hilbre High School Humanities College and the Education Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 16 October 2014 and further to the requirements of the Education Funding Agency (EFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2013 to 2014, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by the Academy during the period 01 September 2013 to 31 August 2014 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial statements conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to the Academy and the EFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Academy and the EFA 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 Academy and the EFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of The Academy's accounting officer and the reporting auditor

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of the Academy's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 29 June 2012 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2013, 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 2013 to 2014. 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 1 September 2013 to 31 August 2014 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2013 to 2014 issued by the EFA. 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.

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes an assessment of the level of risk associated with the specific categories of income and expenditure and the potential for irregularities to be identified.

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Hilbre High School Humanities College and the Education Funding Agency (continued)

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year to 31 August 2013 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

BDO LLP

Chartered Accountants

Liverpool

United Kingdom

Date 12 Documer 2014

BDO LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales (with registered number OC305127).

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 August 2014

	Note	Un- restricted funds £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £'000	Total 2014 £'000	Total 2013 £'000
Incoming resources Incoming resources from						
generated funds:						
Voluntary income	2	_	_	-	_	982
Activities for generating funds	3	26	_	-	26	16
Investment income Incoming resources from	4	8	-	-	8	2
charitable activities:						
Funding for the academy trust's educational operations	5	7	6,134	31	6,172	7,258
Total income resources		41	6,134	31	6,206	8,258
_						
Resources expended						
Charitable activities:	_					
Academy trust educational operations	7	23	6,329	40	6,392	6,700
Other resources expended: Transfer from local authority on		-	-	-	-	1,493
conversion						
Governance costs	8	-	17 ————			22
Total resources expended	6	23	6,346	40	6,409	8,215
Net incoming/(outgoing)						
resources before transfers		18	(212)	(9)	(203)	43
Gross transfers between funds	15	-	-	-	-	-
				-		
Net income/(expenditure) for	•	40	(010)	(0)	(000)	40
the year		18	(212)	(9)	(203)	43
Other recognised gains and losses					,	
Actuarial (losses) gains on	45.00		440		445	(00)
defined benefit pension schemes	15,23	<u>-</u>	116	 -	116 	(63)
Net movement in funds		18	(96)	(9)	(87)	(20)

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 August 2014 *(continued)*

	Note	Un- restricted funds £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £'000	Total 2014 £'000	Total 2013 £'000
Reconciliation of funds Total funds brought forward at 1 September 2013	15	826	(930)	84	(20)	-
Total funds carried forward at 31 August 2014		844	(1,026)	75	(107)	(20)

All of the academy's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two financial periods.

Balance sheet at 31 August 2014

Company number: 08075363	Na4÷	2044	2044	2042	2042
	Note	2014 £'000	2014 £'000	2013 £'000	2013 £'000
Fixed assets					•
Tangible assets	12		75	•	84
Current assets					
Debtors	13	127		88	
Short term asset investments		300		300	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,436		1,351 1,739	
Liabilities		1,863		1,739	
Creditors: amounts falling due					
within one year	14	(443)		(204)	
·	• •				
Net current assets			1,420		1,535
Total assets less current					
liabilities			1,495		1,619
Net assets excluding pension			1,495		1,619
liability			1,433		1,013
Pension scheme liability	23		(1,602)		(1,639)
Net assets including pension			(407)		(20)
liability			(107)		(20)
Funds of the goodomy trust					
Funds of the academy trust Restricted funds					
Fixed asset fund	15	75		84	
General fund	15	576		709	
Pension reserve	15	(1,602)		(1,639)	
•					
Total restricted funds		(951)		(846)	
Unrestricted income funds					
General fund	15	844		826	
Total unrestricted funds			844		826
Total funds			(107)		(20)

The financial statements on pages [37 to 61] were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 10th December 2014 and are signed on their behalf by:

G Kemp Chair of Governors

Cash flow statement for the year ended 31 August 2014

·	Note	2014 £'000	2013 £'000
Net cash inflow from operating activities	18	77	785
Returns on investments and servicing of finance	19	8	. 2
Capital expenditure	20	-	(331)
Cash on conversion	18	-	895
(Decrease)/increase in cash in the year	21	85	1,351
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds			
Net funds at 1 September 2013		1,351	-
Net funds at 31 August 2014		1,436	1,351

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2014

1 Accounting policies

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards, the Charity Commission 'Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities' ('SORP 2005'), the Academies Accounts Direction issued by the EFA and the Companies Act 2006. A summary of the principal accounting policies, which have been applied consistently, except where noted, is set out below.

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 one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are recognised when the academy trust has entitlement to the funds, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grants Receivable

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 entitlement of receipt its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the year for which it is receivable and any unspent amount is reflected as a balance in the restricted general fund. Capital grants are recognised when receivable and are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended. Unspent amounts of capital grants are reflected in the balance in the restricted fixed asset fund.

Donations

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis where there is certainty of receipt 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 goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

Donated Services and Gifts in Kind

The value of donated services and gifts in kind provided to the academy trust are recognised at their open market value in the period in which they are receivable as incoming resources, where the benefit to the academy trust can be reliably measured. An equivalent amount is included as expenditure under the relevant heading in the Statement of Financial Activities, except where the gift in kind was a fixed asset in which case the amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with academy trust's accounting policies.

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Resources Expended

All expenditure is recognised in the period in which a liability is incurred and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Costs of Generating Funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable Activities

These are costs incurred on the academy trust's educational operations.

Governance Costs

These included the costs attributable to the academy trust's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management trustees' meetings and reimbursed expenses.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Tangible Fixed Assets

Assets costing £3,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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 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 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 academy trust's depreciation policy.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land, at rates calculated to write-off the cost of each asset on a straight-line and reducing balance basis over its expected useful life, as follows:-

Fixtures, fittings and equipment
 ICT equipment
 20% straight line
 33% straight line

Motor vehicles
 25% reducing balance

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use.

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of any fixed asset may not be recoverable. Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts are recognised as impairments. Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

PFI Agreement

The Academy occupies buildings which are owned by Wirral Borough Council and utilised by the Academy under a PFI agreement. The Academy pays revenue contributions in respect of facilities management. The Academy does not have any rights or obligations of ownership in respect of these assets and therefore they are not included on the Academy's balance sheet. The revenue payment is recognised in the SOFA.

Leased Assets

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

Taxation

The academy trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 2 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 trust 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 and the assets are held separately from those of the academy trust.

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 Government Actuary on the basis of quin-quennial valuations using a prospective benefit method. As stated in Note 23, the TPS is a multi-employer scheme and the academy trust 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.

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 a actuarial basis using the projected unit 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 gains and losses on settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs. Past service costs are recognised immediately in the Statement of Financial Activities if the benefits have vested. If the benefits have not vested immediately, the costs are recognised over the period until vesting occurs. The expected return on assets and the interest cost are shown as a net finance amount of other finance costs or credits adjacent to interest. Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other gains and losses.

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted income funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the academy 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 Funding Agency/Department for Education/other funders where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

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

2 Voluntary income

		Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2014 £'000	Total 2013 £'000
	Transferred on Conversion	-	-	-	982
		-	-	-	982
			<u></u>		
3	Activities for Generating funds				
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		Funds	Funds	2014	2013
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
	Hire of facilities	26	-	26	16
					
		26	-	26	16
					
4	Investment income				
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		Funds	Funds	2014	2013
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
	Short term deposits	8		8	2
		8	-	8	2
			•		

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

5 Funding for the Academy Trust's Educational Operations

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2014	Restated Total 2013
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
DfE/EFA revenue grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG) (note 2)	-	5,208	5,208	6,308
Capital grants	-	31	31	21
Other DfE/EFA grants	<u>-</u>	292	292	276
	-	5,531	5,531	6,605
				<u> </u>
Other Government grants				€
Local authority grants	_	375	375	530
Special educational projects	-	-	•	-
	-	375	375	530
Non Government grants				
Other income	7	-	7	-
School fund	-	259	259	123
	7	259	266	123
	41	6,165	6,206	8,258

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2014 *(continued)*

6	Resources expended		Nor	n Pay Expend	iture	·
		Staff costs £'000	Premises £'000	Other £'000	Total 2014 £'000	Total 2013 £'000
	Academy's educational operations: Direct costs Allocated support costs	3,662 872	- 745	725 388	4,387 2,005	4,683 3,510
	-	4,534	745	1,113	6,392	8,193
		Staff costs £'000	Premises £'000	Other £'000	Total 2014 £'000	Total 2013 £'000
	Governance costs including allocated support costs	-	-	17	17	22
	- -	4,534	745	1,130	6,409	8,215
	Incoming/outgoing resources for the year	r include:			2014 £'000	2013 £'000
	Operating leases Fees payable to auditor – audit Fees payable to auditor – other services				681 9 7	502 9 4
					Individual ite	
				Total £	Amount £	Reason £
	Ex-gratia/compensation payments	٠		19,500	8,000 8,000	Settlement Agreement Settlement Agreement

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2014 *(continued)*

Charitable activities		
·	Total	Total
	2014	2013
	£'000	£'000
Direct costs – educational operations		
Teaching and educational support staff costs	3,662	4,222
Technology costs	42	53
Educational supplies	105	132
Examination fees	91	110
Staff development	12	, 14
Educational consultancy	105	-
Other direct costs	370	152
,	4,387	4,683
	<u></u>	
Support costs – educational operations		
Support costs – educational operations Support staff costs	872	887
Support staff costs Depreciation	41	54
Support staff costs Depreciation Technology costs	41 53	54 54
Support staff costs Depreciation Technology costs Recruitment and support	41 53 30	54 54 65
Support staff costs Depreciation Technology costs Recruitment and support Maintenance of premises and equipment	41 53 30 710	54 54 65 572
Support staff costs Depreciation Technology costs Recruitment and support Maintenance of premises and equipment Cleaning	41 53 30 710 5	54 54 65 572 4
Support staff costs Depreciation Technology costs Recruitment and support Maintenance of premises and equipment Cleaning Rent and rates	41 53 30 710 5 29	54 54 65 572 4 33
Support staff costs Depreciation Technology costs Recruitment and support Maintenance of premises and equipment Cleaning Rent and rates Security and transport	41 53 30 710 5 29 7	54 54 65 572 4 33 25
Support staff costs Depreciation Technology costs Recruitment and support Maintenance of premises and equipment Cleaning Rent and rates Security and transport Catering	41 53 30 710 5 29 7 49	54 54 65 572 4 33 25 43
Support staff costs Depreciation Technology costs Recruitment and support Maintenance of premises and equipment Cleaning Rent and rates Security and transport	41 53 30 710 5 29 7	54 54 65 572 4 33 25
Support staff costs Depreciation Technology costs Recruitment and support Maintenance of premises and equipment Cleaning Rent and rates Security and transport Catering	41 53 30 710 5 29 7 49	54 54 65 572 4 33 25 43

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

8	Governance costs		
		Total 2014 £'000	Total 2013 £'000
	Legal and professional fees	1	9
	Auditors' remuneration Audit of financial statements Other accountancy costs	9 7	9 4
		17	22
9	Staff		
a.	Staff costs Staff costs during the period were:	2014 £'000	2013 £'000
	Wages and salaries	3,676	4,119
	Social security costs Pension costs	238 552	284 548
		4,466	4,951
	Supply staff costs Staff restructuring costs	42 26	73
		4,534	5,024

b. Staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are non-statutory/non-contractual severance payments totalling £19,500 (2013: nil). Two of the non-statutory/non-contractual payments exceeded £5,000 individually, and these were for £8,000 and £8,000.

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

9 Staff (continued)

c. Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed by the academy during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2014 No	2013 No
Charitable activities	140	NO
Teachers	62	-58
Administrations and support	57	66
Management	7	7
		
	126	131
	·	

d. Staff numbers

The number of employees whose emoluments exceeded £60,000 was:

	2014	2013
	No	No
£70,001 - £80,000	1	1
£100,001 - £110,000	1	1

Two of the above employees participated in the Teachers' Pension Scheme. During the year ended 31 August 2014 employer's pension contributions for these staff amounted to £20,180 (2013: £19,000).

10 Related party Transactions – trustees remuneration and expenses

The principal and other staff trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff, and not in respect of their services as trustees. Other trustees did not receive any payments, other than expenses, from the academy trust in respect of their role as trustees.

The value of trustees' remuneration was as follows:

J Levenson (principal and trustee): £120,000 - £125,000 (2013: £120,000 - £125,000) C Joyce (staff governor): £15,000 - £20,000 (2013: £20,000 - £25,000)

C Whiteley (staff governor): £nil (2013: £10,000 - £15,000)

E Myers (staff governor): £5,000 - £10,000 (2013: £5,000 - £10,000)

During the year ended 31 August 2014, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £nil (2013: £nil) were reimbursed to trustees.

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 24.

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

11 Trustees' and Officers' Insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice the academy has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £1,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2014 was £5,224 (2013: £6,101). The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

12 Tangible assets

	Furniture and equipment £'000	Computer equipment £'000	Motor Vehicles £'000	Total £'000
Cost or valuation At 1 September 2013 Additions	27 11	106 20	5	138 31
At 31 August 2014	38	126	5	169
Depreciation At 1 September 2013 Provided for the year	14 4	39 35	· 1	54 40
At 31 August 2014	18	74	2	94
Net book value At 31 August 2014	20	52	3	75
At 31 August 2013	13	67	4	84

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

13	Debtors	2014 £'000	2013 £'000
	VAT recoverable Prepayments and accrued income	21 · 106	5 83
		127	88
14	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2014 £'000	2013 £'000
	Taxation and social security Other creditors Accruals and deferred income	81 74 288	77 69 58
		443	204
	Deferred income		2014 £'000
	Deferred income at 1 September 2013 Resources deferred in the year Amounts released from previous years		23 15 (23)
	Deferred income at 31 August 2014		15

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding funds received in advance school trips for the autumn term 2014.

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

15 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2013	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Gains, losses and transfers	Balance at 31 August 2014
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Restricted general funds General Annual Grant (GAG) Transfer to Academy on conversion	612 97	5,215 -	(5,348) -	97 (97)	576 -
Other DfE/EFA grants	-	292	(292)	-	-
Pension reserve	(1,639)	-	`(79)	116	(1,602)
Local Authority grants	-	368	(368)	-	-
Other		259	(259)	-	-
	(930)	6,134	(6,346)	116	(1,026)
Restricted fixed asset funds				-	
DfE/EFA capital grants	11	31	(10)	-	32
Capital expenditure from GAG Transfer to Academy on conversion	31 42	-	(10) (20)	-	21 22
	. 84	31	(40)		75
Total restricted funds	(846)	6,165	(6,386)	116	(951)
Unrestricted funds Unrestricted funds	826	41	(23)	-	844
Total unrestricted funds	826	41	(23)		844
Total funds	(20)	6,206	(6,409)	116	(107)

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2014.

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2014 are represented by:

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted general funds	general fixed asset	Total funds
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	75	75
Current assets	851	1,012	-	1,863
Current liabilities	-	(443)	-	(443)
Pension scheme liability	-	(1,602)	-	(1,602)
Total net assets	851	(1,033)	75	(107)

17 Financial commitments

At 31 August 2014 the academy trust had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2014 £'000	2013 £'000
Land And buildings Expiring in over five years	670	500
	670	500
Other	2014 £'000	2013 £'000
Expiring within one year Expiring with two and five years inclusive	3 8 ————	15
	<u> </u>	15

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

18	Reconciliation of net income to net cash inflow from operating activities	es	
		2014 £'000	2013 £'000
	Net income	(203)	43
	Depreciation (note 12)	40	54
	Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(31)	(21)
	Interest receivable (note 4)	(8)	(2)
	FRS 17 pension cost less contribution payable (note 23)	. 8	. 1
	FRS 17 pension finance income (note 23)	71	82 (89)
	(Increase)/decrease in debtors Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(39) 239	(88)
	Pension on conversion	239	204 1,493
	Non cash on conversion	_	(86)
	Cash on conversion	-	(895)
		77	785
19	Returns on investments and servicing of finance		
		2014 £'000	2013 £'000
	Interest received	8	2
	Net cash inflow from returns on investment and servicing of finance	8	2
20	Capital expenditure and financial investment		
		2014	2013
		£'000	£'000
	Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(31) 31	(52)
	Capital grants from DfE/EFA Short term investments	3 I	(300)
	Onort term investments		(300)
	Net cash outflow from capital expenditure and financial investment	-	(331)

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

21	Analysis of changes in net debt	At 1 September 2013 £'000	Cash flow £'000	At 31 August 2014 £'000
	Cash in hand and at bank	1,351	85	1,436
		1,351	85	1,436

22 Member's 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.

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

23 Pension and similar obligations

The academy'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 Mercer. Both are defined-benefit schemes.

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2004 and of the LGPS 31 March 2013.

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

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pensions Regulations (2010) and, from 1 April 2014, by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for full-time teachers in academies and, from 1 January 2007, automatic for teachers in part-time employment following appointment or a change of contract, although they are able to opt out.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a 'pay as you go' basis – these contributions along with those made by employers are credited to the Exchequer. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

The Teachers' Pensions Regulations require an annual account to be kept of receipts and expenditure (including the cost of pensions' increases). From 1 April 2001, the account has been credited with a real rate of return, which is equivalent to assuming that the balance in the account is invested in notional investments that produce that real rate of return.

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2012 and in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 9 June 2014. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 16.48% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% employer administration charge (currently 14.1%);
- total scheme liabilities for service to the effective date of £191,500 million, and notional assets of £176,600 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £14,900 million; and
- an employer cost cap of 10.9% of pensionable pay will be applied to future valuations.

The new employer contribution rate is applicable from 1 April 2015 and will be implemented for the TPS from September 2015.

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

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

23 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Teachers' Pension Scheme Changes

Lord Hutton made recommendations in 2011 about how pensions can be made sustainable and affordable, whilst remaining fair to the workforce and the taxpayer. The Government accepted Lord Hutton's recommendations as the basis for consultation with trade unions and other representative bodies. In March 2012 the Department for Education published proposals for the design for a reformed TPS.

The key provisions of the reformed scheme include: a pension based on career average earnings; an accrual rate of 1/57th; and a Normal Pension Age equal to State Pension Age, but with options to enable members to retire earlier or later than their Normal Pension Age. Pension benefits built up before 1 April 2015 will be fully protected.

In addition, the proposed final agreement includes a Government commitment that those within 10 years of normal pension age on 1 April 2012 will see no change to the age at which they can retire, and no decrease in the amount of pension they receive when they retire. There will also be further transitional protection, tapered over a three and a half year period, for people who would fall up to three and a half years outside of the 10 year protection.

In his interim report of October 2010, Lord Hutton recommended that short-term savings were also required, and that the only realistic way of achieving these was to increase member contributions. At the Spending Review 2010 the Government announced an average increase of 3.2 percentage points on the contribution rates by 2014-15. The increases have been phased in since April 2012 on a 40:80:100% basis.

The Department for Education has continued to work closely with trade unions and other representatives bodies to develop the reformatted Teachers' Pension Scheme and regulations giving effect to it came into force on 1 April 2014. Communications are being rolled out and the reformatted scheme will commence on 1 April 2015.

Under the definitions set out in Financial Reporting Standard (FRS 17) Retirement Benefits, the TPS is a multi-employer pension scheme. The academy is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme. Accordingly, the academy has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 17 and has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The academy has set out above the information available on the scheme.

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

23 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme

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 2014 was £245,299, of which employer's contributions totalled £183,880 and employees' contributions totalled £61,419. The agreed contribution rates for future years are in the process of being agreed.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of academy 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	At 31
·	August	August
	2014	2013
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.70	4.00
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.20	2.50
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	4.00	4.80
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.20	2.50
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	50.00	50.00

Sensitivity analysis

	Approximate monetary amount £000
0.1% increase in discount rate0.1% increase in inflation1 year increase in life expectancy	(76) 78 50

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 2014	At 31 August 2013
Retiring today		£
Males	22.3 years	21.8 years
Females	25.2 years	24.7 years
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	24.7 years	23.7 years
Females	28.0 years	26.6 years

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

23 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme (continued)

	Expected return at 31 August 2014 %	Fair value at 31 August 2014 £	Expected return at 31 August 2013 %	Fair value at 31 August 2013 £
Equities	60.2	764	59.9	384
Government Bonds	13.7	174	15.2	102
Other Bonds	2.3	29	. 2.6	18
Property	7.8	99	8.4	57
Cash/liquidity	4.4	56	2.0	13
Other	11.6	. 147 	14.9	100
Total market value of assets. Present value of scheme liabilities		1,269		674
Funded		(2,871)		(2,313)
Surplus/(deficit) in the scheme		(1,602)		(1,639)

The expected rate of return on plan assets is based on market expectations, at the beginning of the period, for investment returns over the entire life of the related obligation. The assumption used is the average of assumptions appropriate to the individual asset classes weighted by the proportion of the assets in the particular class.

The actual return on scheme assets was £93,000 (2012: £80,000).

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities	2014 £'000	2013 £'000
Current service cost (net of employee contributions)	(192)	(194)
Total operating charge	(192)	(194)
Analysis of pension finance income/(costs)		
Expected return on pension scheme assets Interest on pension liabilities	47 (118)	31 (113)
Pension finance income/(costs)	(71)	(82)

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

23 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme (continued)

The actuarial gains and losses for the current year are recognised in the statement of financial activities. The cumulative amount of actuarial gains and losses recognised in the statement of financial activities since the adoption of FRS 17 is a £116,000 gain (2013: £63,000 loss).

Movements in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as follows:	2014 £'000	2013 £'000
At 1 September	2,313	-
Current service cost	192	194
Interest cost	118	113
Employee contributions	61	71
Actuarial (gain)/loss	187	112
Business combinations		1,823
At 31 August	2,871	2,313
Movements in the fair value of academy's share assets:	2014	2013
	£'000	£'000
At 1 September	674	-
Expected return on assets	47	31
Actuarial (gain)/loss	303	49
Employer contributions	184	193
Employee contributions	61	71
Business combinations	-	330
At 31 August	1,269	674

The estimated value of employer contributions for the year ended 31 August 2015 is £194,000.

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2014 (continued)

23 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme (continued)

The two-year history of experience adjustments is as follows:

Presented value of defined benefit obligations	2014 £'000 (2,871)	2013 £'000 (2,313)
Fair value of share of scheme assets	1,269	674
Deficit in the scheme	(1,602)	(1,639)
Experience adjustments on share of scheme assets Amount £'000	303	49
Experience adjustments on scheme liabilities Amount £'000	232	_

24 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust's operations and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trust has an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures. The following related party transaction took place in the period of account.

No related party transactions took place in the period of account.