

The **Sir John Brunner** Foundation

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 August 2023



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The Sir John Brunner Foundation – Company Number 11227336

Reference and Administrative Details

Members	Mrs L Allen (deceased 13 September 2022) Mr A Redley Mr D Shingler Dr J Staley Miss J Brandreth Miss K Kirkwood (appointed 01 September 2023)
Trustees	Mr A Redley (Chair) Mrs E Bromley Mr R Donovan Mr M Snelson (Accounting Officer) Mrs N Kirsten Mr C Lee Mr K Neary (resigned 08 October 2023) Mr C Penter Mrs J Hyslop Mr Scott Mulholland (appointed 18 October 2023)
Clerk to the Trustees	Mrs S Armstrong
Senior Leadership Team	Mrs K McBurnie (Chief Financial Officer) Mr M Snelson (Chief Executive Officer) Mr C Atherton (Principal Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College) Ms H Thurland (Headteacher Middlewich High School – resigned 16 April 2023) Mr R Warburton (Headteacher The County High School, Leftwich) Ms S Du Plessis (Interim Headteacher Middlewich High School – appointed 17 April 2023, resigned 31 August 2023) Ms L Naylor (Headteacher Middlewich High School – appointed 01 September 2023)
Company name	The Sir John Brunner Foundation
Principal and Registered Office	Monarch Drive Northwich Cheshire CW9 8AF
Company Registration Number	11227336 (England and Wales)
Independent Auditor	Murray Smith LLP Darland House 44 Winnington Hill Northwich Cheshire CW8 1AU

The Sir John Brunner Foundation – Company Number 11227336

Bankers

NatWest Bank
The Bull Ring
Northwich
Cheshire
CW9 5BN

Solicitors

Eversheds Sutherland
70 Great Bridgewater Street
Manchester
M1 5ES

The **Sir John Brunner Foundation**

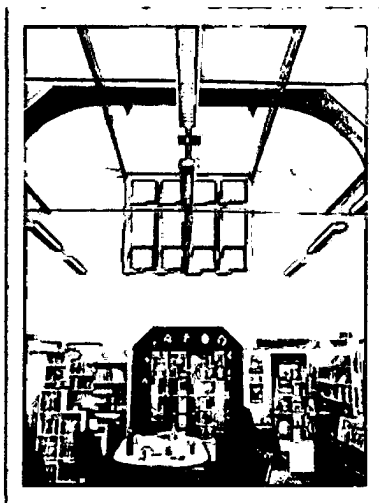
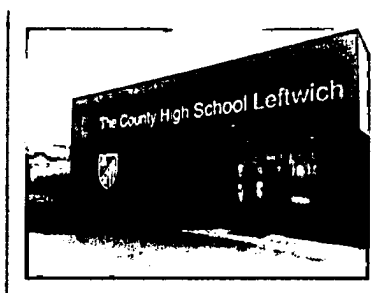
Every child's life is enhanced and advanced through the highest quality of education



The
COUNTY
HIGH SCHOOL
Leftwich



SIR JOHN DEANE'S
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
1557



Trustees' Report

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year to 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report and a directors' report under company law.

During the year the Foundation operated three academies; Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College, a 16-19 academy, The County High School, Leftwich an 11-16 academy and Middlewich High School an 11-16 academy. Both Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College and The County High School, Leftwich are located in Northwich, Cheshire whilst Middlewich High School is located in Middlewich, Cheshire.

The County High School, Leftwich had a published admission number of 1,050. It had 1,030 students on roll in the school census in October 2022. The school agreed to temporarily increase its published admission number to 210 for admissions in September 2022 and has now formally increased its published admission number on a permanent basis to 210 from September 2023, generating an overall admissions number of 1,050.

Middlewich High School has a published capacity of 700. It had 711 students on roll in the school census in October 2022. The school also has a resource provision agreed within its funding agreement with DfE for 20 places.

Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College has a declared capacity of 1,760 students and had 1,831 students on roll at the six-week October 2022 census point. The College has accommodated additional students with effective use of existing space, however is working towards increasing its physical capacity for September 2024 admissions.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Foundation 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 Foundation. The trustees of The Sir John Brunner Foundation are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as The Sir John Brunner Foundation, Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College, The County High School, Leftwich and Middlewich High School.

Details of the trustees who served during the period, and to the date these accounts are approved 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 Foundation has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Foundation business. The insurance provides cover up to £5,000,000 on any one claim. The cost of this insurance is not separately identifiable as it forms part of a combined commercial insurance policy the cost of which is included in the total insurance cost.

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

The Foundation's Articles of Association state that there should be a minimum of three trustees with no maximum. Up to eight of these trustees may be appointed by the Foundation's Members.

The Articles also state that provided the Chief Executive agrees to act, then the Members may also by ordinary resolution appoint the Chief Executive as a trustee. This has been done.

The Foundation has not appointed parent trustees to the Board of Trustees. Instead parents are elected to serve on the local governing bodies of Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College, The County High School, Leftwich and Middlewich High School. As additional schools join the Foundation it is intended that the same approach will be adopted.

The Board of Trustees has established a separate Search Committee in November 2023.. In line with the Foundation's Articles, up to eight Trustees may be appointed by the Members. The Trustees may also appoint Co-opted Trustees who do not require the approval of Members, but must be appointed by Trustees who are not themselves Co-opted Trustees.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

The Board of Trustees has approved the contents of an initial induction pack to be made available to all new trustees. This includes information about the Articles of Association, the duties and responsibilities of Company Directors and Charity Trustees, the funding agreements in place with the Department for Education and the Scheme of Delegation. Trustees are also provided with a guide prepared by the Sixth Form Colleges Association that gives a practical

overview of the requirements and responsibilities of trustees. Trustees also have access to resources available on the National Governance Association website.

New trustees have a series of induction meetings with the Clerk to the Foundation, the Chair, the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer.

Ongoing training is provided either by accessing appropriate external courses and workshops or through internally delivered training on specific aspects of the Foundation's operations (e.g. the safeguarding policy and procedures).

Organisational Structure

The Board of Trustees has approved a scheme of delegation that sets out the decisions that must be reserved for the Board of Trustees and those that can be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, the Audit and Compliance Committee and the Quality and Culture Committee of the Foundation or the Governing Bodies and Principal/Headteachers of the individual academies.

Key decisions that must be made by the Board of Trustees include:

- the approval of the annual budget and financial forecast for the Foundation
- agreeing the scheme of delegation
- approving the annual report and accounts of the Foundation
- determining and approving Foundation wide policies
- agreeing the risk assurance framework
- appointing the Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Financial Officer and Clerk to the Foundation
- appointing the Head Teacher/Principal of academies within the Foundation.

The Chief Executive Officer is also the Foundation's Accounting Officer and is responsible to Parliament for the use made of public funds provided for the education of students of the Foundation.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

Salaries for key management personnel are determined by the Foundation Board via the Remuneration Committee and have regard to the outcome of performance management reviews, available benchmarking data and pay awards agreed nationally for teachers and support staff.

Trade Union Facility Time

The Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017 require the Foundation to publish information on facility time arrangements for trade union officials at the Foundation. The figures below relate to the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 for Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College, The County High School, Leftwich and Middlewich High School.

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent employee number
2	2

Percentage of time on facilities time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	0
1-50%	2
51-99%	0
100%	0

Percentage of pay bill spent of facilities time

Metric	Figures
Total cost of facilities time (hourly cost x time on facilities time)	£1,325.00
Total pay bill	£15,144,446
Provide the percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time, calculated as: (total cost of facility time ÷ total pay bill) x 100	0.009%

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours calculated as: (total hours spent on paid trade union activities by relevant union officials during the relevant period ÷ total paid facility time hours) x 100	0 / 58 hrs x 100 = 0%
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Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

As a multi-academy trust, The Sir John Brunner Foundation has no structural or commercial affiliation to any other organisations. All pecuniary interests for relevant staff, trustees and governors are recorded and reviewed annually.

Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

Trustees are committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for all who work in The Sir John Brunner Foundation. The Foundation celebrates, respects and values positively, diversity and is committed to advancing equality of opportunity, regardless of age, disability, gender or gender identity, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, marital status or social background and family responsibilities. We do this by being inclusive in our leadership, our behaviours and through our values. The Equality Act 2010 provides a framework to support the Foundation's commitment to valuing diversity, tackling discrimination, promoting equality and fostering good relationships between people.

The Foundation's Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy sets out its approach to the treatment of applicants and/or employees with protected characteristics such that no one is discriminated against when it comes to employment, promotion or professional development opportunities. The Foundation is accredited with Disability Confident Committed status.

The three academies use a variety of methods to communicate key information and messages to employees, including regular staff briefings, bulletins, all staff e-mails and whole staff meetings. Information on key policies and procedures is also available digitally to staff via shared computer drives or intranet platforms.

The Foundation has an active and established Staff Consultative Association which represents all staff groups and acts as a conduit in the communication, consultation and discussion regarding Foundation policies, current issues and future developments. The SCA discuss general issues regarding working conditions, training and welfare of all employees. All academies within the Foundation have signed up to the Department for Education's Wellbeing Charter.

The Foundation has adopted and applies the national pay scales for all teaching and support staff.

Academies have regular CPD sessions throughout the academic year, where colleagues are given various opportunities to maintain and enhance their professional development and skillsets. All academies have local procedures in relation to staff appraisals. The performance of colleagues significantly contributes to the success and outcomes of students and the appraisal process encourages all colleagues to reach their full potential. CPD, appraisals and

regular staff briefings all aim to give colleagues a clear understanding of their contributions to the success of the Academy and the wider Foundation.

Engagement with suppliers, customers and others in a business relationship with the trust

The Foundation's core customers are the students who attend the three academies and their families. All academies engage extensively with these groups, using a variety of communication methods including:

- parents/carers' evenings and other formal and ad hoc meetings with parents/carers
- information posted on the academies' websites
- social media
- e-mails and texts
- telephone calls
- dedicated parent/carers portals
- open events for prospective parents/carers and students.

The intent is to enable every child to feel happy and safe and to have the necessary information to fulfil their potential.

The Foundation seeks to support its local communities by using local suppliers where possible, whilst remaining mindful of the need to demonstrate that it has obtained value for the public purse. The Foundation's procurement policy outlines how everyone involved in the procurement process will manage constructive supplier relationships, in order to meet the Foundation's strategic priorities whilst fulfilling the general needs of its community.

In line with other multi academy trusts the Foundation has many other stakeholders, which include:

- Education sector funding bodies
- Regions Group
- Local authorities
- Staff
- Other regional schools and colleges
- The local community
- Professional bodies

The Foundation recognises the importance of these relationships and engages in regular communication with all of these groups.

Objectives and Activities

Objects and Aims

The Foundation's objects as set out in the Articles of Association are as follows:

- a. 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, carrying on, managing and developing schools offering a broad and balanced curriculum ("**the mainstream Academies**") or educational institutions which are principally concerned with providing full-time or part-time education for children of compulsory school age who, by reason of illness, exclusion from school or otherwise, may not for any period receive suitable education unless alternative provision is made for them ("**the alternative provision Academies**") or 16 to 19 Academies offering a curriculum appropriate to the needs of its students ("**the 16 to 19 Academies**") or schools specially organised to make special educational provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs ("**the Special Academies**") and
- b. to promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of the area served by the Academies the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have the need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The Sir John Brunner Foundation seeks to ensure that every child's life is enhanced and advanced through the highest quality of education.

Students and professionals are encouraged and supported to 'live' these values throughout our Foundation. These values are front and centre when making decisions throughout the Foundation.

Excellence in:

- Student care, experience and progress
- Impactful innovation, including leadership development and progression
- Consistently and persistently focusing on helping students meet expectations

A strong sense of **Belonging**, with:

- Happy, safe and successful students and professionals at the heart of what we do
- Students and professionals cared for, known and valued
- Academies maintaining a strong sense of inclusivity, identity, place and purpose

A **Partnership** of:

- Professionals contributing to our vision, through innovation and impactful collaboration
- Students and professionals contributing to their community and the world around them
- Professionals embracing learning from and support of each other

The Foundation is striving to achieve its' **Strategic Priorities** to enable it to further advance and enhance children's lives. The Strategic Priorities are:

Continual improvement and enhancement of **quality**

- Students embracing high quality educational provision
- Professionals supported and challenged to provide the best student experience possible
- Students making exceptional progress

Maximise use of resources ensuring a **sustainable** learning organisation

- Recruiting, developing and retaining exceptional professionals
- Utilising and managing resources effectively and efficiently including finance and digital
- Managing estates and environment with sustainability at the heart

Considered, targeted and carefully managed **growth**

- Supporting even more students to make exceptional progress
- Providing even more professionals with the opportunity to work in a forward-thinking trust
- Discovering fresh thinking and ideas and influencing local and national decision making

Professional curiosity and **innovation**

- Research informed, utilising great intellect and judgement to embrace the freshest and innovative ideas
- Innovative curriculum design and teaching and learning

- Continually improving business support practices and effective and efficient systems

Public Benefit

In setting and reviewing the Foundation's strategic priorities, the trustees have had due regard for the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and particularly upon its supplementary guidance on the advancement of education. The guidance sets out the requirement that all organisations wishing to be recognised as charities must demonstrate, explicitly, that their aims are for the public benefit.

In delivering its strategic objectives, the Foundation provides the following identifiable public benefits through the advancement of education:

- High quality teaching
- High quality student outcomes at both KS4 and KS5
- Excellent progression for students

Strategic Report

Achievements and Performance

The County High School Leftwich, Middlewich High School and Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College work together to ensure that all students lives are enhanced and advanced through the highest quality of education.

Whilst exams and national standards returned to pre-pandemic levels, the Department for Education states "School and college performance data for the 2022/2023 academic year should be used with caution: In 2022/23, qualifications returned to pre-pandemic standards. Performance measures that are based on qualification results will reflect this, and cannot be directly compared to measures from 2021/2022. There are ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which affected individual schools, colleges and pupils differently."

The results of these exams for The County High School Leftwich and Middlewich High School are summarised below:

	The County High School Leftwich	Middlewich High School
Progress 8	+0.33	-0.53
Disadvantaged Progress 8	-0.72	-0.83
Attainment 8	54.74	38.48
Progress 8 Score: English	+0.24	-0.61

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Progress 8 Score: Maths	+0.59	-0.10
Progress 8 Score: EBacc slots	+0.55	-0.43
Progress 8 Score: Open slots	0.00	-0.98
EBacc Entry	91%	83%

The County High School, Leftwich has achieved a Progress 8 Score which means, on average, students have achieved over a third of a grade higher than they would have done at an average school nationally. This is in line with the very high standards the Academy has achieved historically.

The 2023 Progress 8 Score for Middlewich High School means, on average, students have achieved over half of a grade lower than they would have done at an average school nationally. Middlewich High School are continuing their journey of improvement with a new Headteacher in post being supported by the Foundation to deliver high-quality teaching and learning.

The results for Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College are summarised below:

2022 Results	
Top grade A*	15.2%
High, High Grades (A*-A)	45.7%
High Grades (A*-B)	77.4%
Pass Rate	99.4%
BTEC Distinction*- Distinction	81.6%
BTEC Distinction* - Merit	99.5%
ALPs A Level Quality Indicator Score	1.07
ALPs A Level Quality Indicator Grade	2

Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College have, once again achieved extremely high results, which continues to place them as one of the top performing sixth form colleges in the Country.

In the 2022/23 academic year Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College received funding for 1,729 students aged 16-19 compared with 1,768 for 2021/22. These students generated annual funding of £8,066,236 on a lagged basis with receipt in 2022/23, compared with a funding allocation for the academic year 2021/22 of £7,570,791.

The County High School had 1,009 students on roll at the October 2021 census point. The pupils on roll at the October 2021 census point generated annual funding of £5,575,003 on a lagged basis with receipt in 2022/23, compared with 994 funded students and £5,383,710 for the 2021/22 academic year.

In the 2021/22 academic year Middlewich High School received funding for 702 students. At the October 2021 census point the school had 705 students on roll, compared to a declared capacity of 700. This generated annual funding of £4,201,849 on a lagged basis with receipt in 2022/23, compared with £3,062,964 for the academic year 2021/22, although it is important to note that this represents 9 months' worth of funding from the date of conversion in 2021/22 and not a full 12-month comparison.

Key Performance Indicators

The County High School Leftwich continues to be an Outstanding school in all areas (Ofsted, April 2022). In December 2022, Middlewich High School was judged to be a Good school overall, with Good Quality of Education, Personal Development and Leadership and Management. Behaviour and Attitudes was judged to Require Improvement. Sir John Deane's was judged to be Outstanding in all areas by Ofsted in October 2022.

Along with Student Outcomes and Ofsted judgements, The Foundation set the Academies Key Performance Indicators for Student Attendance and Student Recruitment.

Indicator	Target	The County High School Leftwich (CHSL)	Middlewich High School (MHS)	Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College (SJD)
Student Attendance	Aspirational Target 95% Minimum Target Above national (91%)	93% Minimum Target Achieved	90% Minimum Target Not Achieved (by 1%)	93% Minimum Target Achieved
Student Recruitment	CHSL Target Year 7 2023 applicants (as of 31 st October 2022) – 210 MHS Target Year 7 2023 applicants (as of 31 st October 2022) – 140 SJD 1,830 funded students	Target Achieved	Target Achieved	Target Achieved

Indicator	Target	Actual Performance	Assessment
Current ratio	> 2 : 5	3.7 : 1	Target exceeded
Cash at bank	> £2.5 million	£6,681,826	Target exceeded
Cash days (excluding cash investment)	> 50 days	114	Target exceeded
External debt to annual income	< 20%	7.6%	Target exceeded
Borrowing costs as % of annual income	< 4%	1.2%	Target exceeded
EBITDA as % of income	> 0.75%	3.6%	Target exceeded
Staff costs as % of income	< 77%	74.5%	Target exceeded

Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Foundation 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 about the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

Promoting the success of the Foundation

The Foundation is committed to enhancing and advancing every child's life through the highest quality in education, as well as improving the condition of life of the inhabitants of the area served by our academies, in line with our Articles of Association.

During the academic year the Foundation invested time and resources developing further the Academy Improvement Model. This included providing professionals with access to high quality continued professional development. The model included a Foundation designed and led Early Careers Programme and Leadership Programmes, incorporating the National Professional Qualification in Leading Teaching. It also included Professionals Groups, where leaders in areas including safeguarding and attendance collaborated to share and create good practice. The Executive Heads Group developed a quality assurance model to ensure good practice is highlighted and replicated and areas for improvement are addressed. Business Support professionals collaborated in the various Working Groups in Finance, HR, Estates, Sustainability and IT.

Central to developing the student experience across the Foundation is ensuring that students within the Foundation are provided with opportunities to excel outside the classroom. There are numerous examples of sporting success and experiences for students to develop their leadership skills, including by those students who participated in the Duke of Edinburgh Award. All Foundation academies are proud to share and exhibit students' art work in their buildings.

Students have performed on the stage and at events demonstrating their musical expertise. One example being the stunning performance of Little Shop of Horrors at Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College, along with drama and musical performances at The County High School Leftwich and Middlewich High School, where students showcased their talents, passions, skill and resilience.

All of these achievements, and many more, are captured in the Ofsted Inspection Reports from the last academic year for Sir John Deane's and for Middlewich High School of which the Foundation are proud of the achievement and determined to be even better as guided by the Areas for Improvement.

Financial Review

In the previous financial year, on 1 December 2021, Middlewich High School joined the Foundation. The information in these accounts for the prior year includes 9 months of Middlewich High School operating within the Foundation in the Statement of Financial Activities and the transfer to the Foundation of the school's assets and liabilities with a net value of £9,871,827. The table in note 31 to the accounts sets out in detail the assets and liabilities that were transferred and their values. The reporting for the current financial year 2022/23 includes a full 12 months of operations for Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College, the County High School Leftwich and Middlewich High School.

In the year ended 31 August 2023 the Foundation generated an in-year surplus of £547,274. This is calculated as the movement between the total of the restricted general reserves (excluding the pension reserve) and the unrestricted reserve as shown below.

	Restricted General Reserves	Unrestricted Reserves	Total 2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
At 1 September	4,435,722	2,135,699	6,571,421	5,039,559
Transfer from Middlewich High School	0	0	0	627,827
In year surplus/ (deficit)	182,376	364,898	547,274	904,035
At 31 August	4,618,098	2,500,597	7,118,695	6,571,421

At 31 August the total of the Foundation's restricted general reserves and unrestricted reserves stood at £7,118,695 excluding the pension reserve. When the pension reserve of £2,055,000 is taken into account the total increases to £9,173,695.

The pension reserve relates to the Foundation's share of the net surplus in the Cheshire Pension Fund Local Government Pension Scheme. Non-teaching staff at all academies are able to join the Fund which is a defined benefit scheme. The Pension Fund's actuaries produce an annual report that sets out each academy's share of the Fund's assets and liabilities. The calculation is made using a number of assumptions as set out in note 28.

The pension surplus/deficit for each academy at 31 August 2023 and movement during the year is as follows:

	At 31 August 2023 £000	At 1 September 2022 £000	Movement £000
The County High School	118	(111)	229
Sir John Deane's	1,736	1,192	544
Middlewich High School	201	69	132
Total	2,055	1,150	905

The overall pension surplus calculated for accounting purposes does not have a direct impact on cash expenditure. The employer contribution rates are calculated every three years in a separate funding valuation exercise that uses different assumptions. The employer contribution rates remained unchanged at the recent valuation exercise, with effect from April 2023 and applies for three years. The rate for The County High School stands at 21.0%, the rate for Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College stands at 19.6% and the rate for Middlewich High School stands at 27.6%.

The net income figure in the Statement of Financial Activities includes non-cash pension adjustments of £178,000 and £45,000 in interest income.

The balance sheet position is based on the results of the 2022 funding valuation, whereas the previous year 31 August 2022 balance sheet position was based on the results of the 2019 funding valuation.

The outlook for corporate bond yields has significantly improved this year end compared to the previous year. As a result, the August 2023 discount rate (or assumed future investment return) is significantly higher this year. All else being equal, the higher discount rate places a significantly lower value on the pension fund obligations and improves our accounting balance sheet position for the pension reserve. This improvement is despite the April 2023 10.1% pension increase order being included in the obligations.

The Foundation receives the majority of its income from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grants for the provision of education to 16-19 year-old students at Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College and 11-16 students at The County High School Leftwich and Middlewich High School. Other material sources of income during the year included:

- Non-recurrent funding grants including Covid catch up premium and Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG).
- Income from parents contributing to the cost of transport to Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College. The College arranges transport from surrounding areas for which parents pay a monthly contribution.
- Grant funding from Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester Local Authorities to support pupils with high needs.

During the year the Foundation had an operating cash inflow of £1,196,472 and cash balances remained strong. Cash at bank at 31 August 2023 totalled £6,681,826 with a further £872,086 invested in a deposit account with Close Brothers. This account requires six months' notice for withdrawals and is therefore classed as a short-term investment.

The Foundation expended £454,637 on tangible fixed assets, including IT switch upgrades at both the County High School Leftwich and Middlewich High School and a contribution of £141,354 on the expansion scheme at the County High School to accommodate an increased intake of students. The Foundation's capitalisation threshold of £2,000 per individual item means that expenditure on laptops and desk top PCs is treated as revenue expenditure.

At the year-end the Foundation had a strong balance sheet with net current assets of £6,063,722 and a current ratio of 3.7.

The operational deficit in year, before actuarial gains/losses of (£193,387) is an improvement against the previous year (£1,246,343 deficit after the effects of the Middlewich High School transfer are excluded), largely due to additional DfE funding received via the General Annual Grant and supplementary grants. The Foundation has improved its unrestricted reserve net in-year surplus position, largely as a result of an improved financial transport provision at Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College.

The Foundation has carefully managed its financial performance in order to support its strategic objectives of sustainability and growth. In line with these objectives, going forward, the Foundation has planned to invest its reserves to support growth in student numbers at Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College and in estate management and improvements at Middlewich High School.

Reserves Policy

The Foundation has a Reserves Policy that is approved by the Board of Trustees and is reviewed every two years to ensure that it remains appropriate. The Board of Trustees approved a Reserves Policy in June 2023, which is intended to ensure the financial stability of the Foundation and its individual academies' operations. The Reserves Policy provides protection against temporary financial difficulties as well as allowing the Foundation to take advantage of new opportunities as they arise. Maintenance and renewal work carried out with the aid of Condition Improvement Grants is an example of such opportunities arising where funding from reserves is required to fund the academy's financial contribution to the project.

Having access to healthy financial reserves has also given the Senior Leadership Team and Trustees confidence that any temporary failure to recruit sufficient student numbers or greater than planned staff pay awards, can be absorbed without threatening the long-term viability of the Foundation or impacting adversely on the outcomes for students.

The Foundation considers a number of aspects to determine the appropriate level of reserves, including:

- Sufficient working capital reserves to provide stability against unplanned expenditure or loss of income, whilst ensuring compliance with any loan covenants;
- Planned maintenance reserves to address the identified future accommodation needs that the Foundation will consider as part of a longer-term property strategy; and
- Capital investment reserves to fund specific projects to expand or improve the Foundation's facilities.

At 31 August 2023 the Foundation held a total of £7,553,912 in cash that is immediately accessible or held on six months' notice. This balance meets the objectives of the Reserves Policy to provide financial stability over the longer term and facilitate future investment.

The total reserves, including pension reserves, at 31 August 2023 of £51,808,274 include a restricted fixed assets funds total of £42,634,579 whilst unrestricted funds total £2,500,597. The Foundation's restricted general reserves are £6,673,098 including the pension surplus of £2,055,000. The pension surplus arises because of the significant improvement in outlook for corporate bond yields. As a result, the August 2023 discount rate (or assumed future investment return) is significantly higher this year. All else being equal, the higher discount rate places a significantly lower value on the pension fund obligations and improves the accounting balance sheet position for the pension reserve. This has meant a continuation of the pension fund asset at 31 August 2023. As the defined benefit pension asset is recoverable through reduced future contributions or refunds from the plan, the asset has been recognised in the Balance Sheet.

Investment Policy

The Foundation adopts a risk averse approach to investment that is set out in the Financial Regulations approved by the Board of Trustees. During the year funds not immediately required for the day to day operation of the Foundation were placed in an interest bearing Business Reserve account with the NatWest Bank. An automatic sweep moves money between the current account and the Business Reserve account on a daily basis to leave a balance of £10,000 in the current account.

Funds that are unlikely to be required in the short term are currently invested with Close Brothers in a deposit account that pays a higher rate of interest in return for requiring six months' notice for any withdrawal.

The Foundation does not invest in equities or other financial instruments where there is a greater risk to the original capital sum invested.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The Board of Trustees has approved a risk management policy that is regularly reviewed and sets out the processes by which trustees will receive information about the principal risks and uncertainties that the Foundation faces and the control measures that have been put in place to mitigate the likelihood of risks materialising or to minimise the impact on the Foundation if they were to occur. This includes consideration of trustees' responsibilities to ensure the estate is safe, well maintained and complies with relevant regulations.

The principal risks currently identified include the following:

- Cyber security remains a continued concern. There is evidence of cyber criminals increasingly targeting education establishments. At the same time, we become ever more reliant on technology to be able to deliver lessons and support our students effectively. The Foundation employs skilled staff and/or third party providers to ensure that adequate protocols are in place, with effective systems back up and restoration. The Trust also has cyber insurance in place to provide effective support in the event of an incident.
- The Foundation recognises the importance of providing a safe, sustainable and high quality environment to support our learners and staff. Estates risks including but not limited to RAAC and asbestos have been raised in profile over the year. The Foundation manages these risks with a clear asset management framework and Health and Safety Policy Statement, with each of our academies signing up to an academy H&S Statement of Intent.
- Maintaining a high level of quality of education across all of our academies is an increased risk as our Foundation grows in size. All of our academies follow a quality

assurance calendar which is aligned with the principles in the Foundation policy. Colleagues from all academies engage in teacher development programmes including NPQSL, NPQLT and the ECT programme.

Fundraising

The majority of the Foundation's charitable income is received from the Education Skills Funding Agency under the terms of a master funding agreement between the Secretary of State for Education and the Trustees of The Sir John Brunner Foundation. Supplemental agreements are in place relating to the funding for Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College, The County High School, Leftwich and Middlewich High School.

Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting

UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period	1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023	1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)		
Energy consumption breakdown (kWh)		
• Gas	2,407,983	2,923,429
• Electricity	1,539,673	2,323,612
• Transport fuel	10,215	4,128
<u>Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u>		
Gas consumption	440.49	533.64
Owned transport – mini-buses	0.73	0.34
<u>Total scope 1</u>	441.22	533.98
<u>Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u>		
Purchased electricity	318.83	449.34
<u>Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u>		
Business travel in employee owned vehicles	1.82	1.02
Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO ₂ e	761.87	984.34
<u>Intensity ratio</u>		
Tonnes CO ₂ per pupil	0.21	0.29

Quantification and Reporting Methodology: -

We have followed the 2019 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. We have also used the GHG Reporting Protocol – Corporate Standard and have used the 2023 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company Reporting. It is important to note that the data reported in 2021-22 includes 9 months of activity with the Foundation for Middlewich High School.

Intensity measurement

The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.

Measures taken to improve energy efficiency

The Foundation has developed a sustainability working group, which includes under its remit measures to improve energy efficiency. Heat decarbonisation plans have been developed and approved for all three of our academies.

All of our academies have implemented a programme during the year to replace failing lights with energy efficient LEDs.

Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College has also run a 'switch it off' campaign, made improvements to the core heating system, replaced equipment with more energy efficient versions, as well as reducing the 'idle' time before computers are shut down.

The County High School Leftwich has replaced old projectors with energy efficient screens and there a number of energy efficiency measures implemented within the new build expansion project the school, including air sourced heat pumps, solar panels, an energy efficient BMS system and Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points.

Middlewich High School has commenced a Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) roofing replacement/improvement scheme, which is providing additional insulation and reducing heat loss at the school. The school has similarly replaced old projectors with more energy screens.

Plans for Future Periods

On 28th June 2023 the North West Regions Group Advisory Board approved the transfer of The Macclesfield Academy, a single academy trust, to the Sir John Brunner Foundation. Trustees were delighted to welcome The Macclesfield Academy with effect from 01st December 2023. The Foundation is looking forward to integrating the school into our Trust and working with the school to provide the highest quality of education for our Macclesfield community.

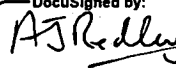
The Trustees plan to maintain their focus on delivering excellent outcomes for all our students. A Director of School Improvement has been appointed from 01st September 2023, focusing on maintaining and improving the standards of education across all of our academies. In addition, the Foundation is planning further investment of resources, with significant reserves allocated to a fire safety scheme at Middlewich High School whilst also supporting a growth project at Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College.

Auditor

Insofar as trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware
- 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.

The Trustee's report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 14 December 2023 and signed on the Board's behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

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Alan Redley
Chair

Governance Statement

Scope of Responsibility

As trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that The Sir John Brunner Foundation 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 Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive Officer, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and are in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to the Foundation in the funding agreement between The Sir John Brunner Foundation and the Secretary of State for Education. The Chief Executive Officer is also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met six times during the year, four of which were annually scheduled meetings and two of which were additional meetings. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings Attended	Out of a possible
Alan Redley (Chair)	6	6
Liz Bromley	5	6
Richard Donovan	6	6
M Snelson (Chief Executive & Accounting Officer)	6	6
Natasha Kirsten	4	6
Carl Lee	6	6
Christopher Penter	4	6
Kevin Neary	5	6
Joanne Hyslop	3	6

The scheme of delegation sets out the detailed responsibilities of the Board of Trustees, which includes the safeguarding of the Foundation's assets, ensuring adequate financial planning is in place, the efficient, economical and effective management of resources and setting the

framework for the pay and conditions of all staff. The scheme of delegation outlines clearly the responsibilities of the Members and Board of Trustees and where responsibilities have been delegated to committees of the board, the Chief Executive Officer, local governing bodies and academy headteachers/principals.

The full Trust Board and its committees complete a self-assessment to review effectiveness on a cyclical basis and have concluded that they are effective. The Board recognises that recruitment continues to be a challenge and has established a Search Committee during 2023-24 to assist in trustee recruitment.

The Foundation has a comprehensive process in place to manage conflicts of interest. This includes maintaining an up to date and complete register of interests, which is formally updated annually. In addition, declaration of interests is a standard item at every board, committee and governing body meeting. The Foundation has in place a Conflicts of Interest policy, which ensures that trustees comply with their legal duties, protects the integrity of the Foundation's decision-making process and protects the integrity and reputation of the Foundation and its trustees and senior staff. The policy sets out the requirement to disclose interests and the process for the management of conflicts of interest. The Foundation's Financial Regulations also clearly set out expectations and guidance with respect to conflicts of interest.

The Academy Trust Handbook 2022 also states that management accounts must be shared with the Chair of Trustees each month and with the other Trustees six times a year. The Foundation produces management accounts that include a detailed commentary on a monthly basis but shares these with all Trustees each month. Trustees are invited to raise any questions they may have with the Chief Financial Officer. In this way the Trustees consider that they are able to maintain effective financial oversight.

The Audit and Compliance Committee meet at least three times a year and formally consider the Foundation's latest financial performance against budget at those meetings.

All scheduled Board meetings were able to take place as planned. All the meetings were conducted in part on Teams and in part in person, where possible.

Audit and Compliance Committee

The Audit and Compliance Committee has responsibility to provide independent advice to the Foundation on the adequacy and effectiveness of its systems of internal control and its arrangements for risk management, control and governance processes. All Committee meetings were able to take place as planned. The meetings were conducted in part on Teams and in part in person, where possible. There were three scheduled meetings during the year.

Attendance during the year at meetings of the Audit and compliance Committee was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings Attended	Out of a possible
Kevin Neary (Chair)	3	3
Liz Bromley	3	3
Richard Donovan	2	3
Carl Lee	3	3

The Audit and Compliance Committee oversees the financial performance of the Foundation as well as agreeing an annual programme of internal audit review. The programme of reviews is developed in discussion with the independent auditors, RSM, and with due consideration of the Foundation's risk register. The Committee considers the reports arising from the individual audit assignments and any recommendations made by the auditors for improvements in the design or implementation of controls. The Committee also receives reports on progress towards the implementation of previously agreed actions arising from audit recommendations.

The agreed internal audit programme for 2022/23 included reviews of the following areas:

- Business continuity planning arrangements
- Procurement and value for money processes
- Growth framework
- Student attendance monitoring and engagement controls
- Follow up of actions agreed from reviews conducted in the previous year

Further detail regarding these reviews is included in the later section on the Risk and Control Framework.

The Committee also receives a report from the Statutory and Regularity Auditors, Murray Smith. Where relevant the auditor's management letter includes details of control weaknesses that have been identified during the audit and includes recommendations for improvements. No weaknesses have been identified during the audit of these accounts.

Committee members meet annually with both the internal and statutory auditors without management being present. This is an opportunity for committee members to gain additional assurance by having candid and confidential discussions about the Foundation's financial and risk control environment.

Review of Value for Money

As accounting officer, the Chief Executive Officer has responsibility for ensuring that the Foundation delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer

understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider social outcomes, as well as estates safety and management, achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

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

A Value for Money report was presented to the Audit and Compliance Committee in November 2023. The report summarised where procurement savings had been achieved for the Foundation and future actions.

All academies make use of pre-tendered purchasing frameworks and purchasing consortia where appropriate, to ensure value for money is obtained in an efficient manner. Where specialist input is required, such as when tendering for significant building works, effective use is made of independent expertise. The Foundation has been able to take advantage of joint procurement across the three academies, using pre-tendered purchasing frameworks for grounds maintenance contracts. A procurement action plan is also in place to ensure continued improvement in gaining value for money.

The Foundation ran a tender exercise to engage a main contractor for replacement and repair roofing works at Middlewich High School. A competitive tender process was followed and issued to seven tenderers, based on a JCT Intermediate Building Contract 2016 Edition. Value for money principles were adopted throughout the process, which has culminated in the successful tenderer having been appointed and securing safe and well-maintained roofing at the school.

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 Foundation 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 The Sir John Brunner Foundation for the period from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Foundation is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Foundation's significant risks that has been in place for the period from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

The Risk and Control Framework

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Trustees
- regular reviews 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
- identification and management of risks

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided to appoint RSM as internal auditor.

The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial and other matters and performing a range of checks on the Foundation's systems of control, both financial and non-financial.

The areas reviewed during the course of the academic year were:

- Business continuity planning arrangements – the audit report concluded that substantial assurance could be taken.
- Procurement and value for money processes - the audit report concluded that substantial assurance could be taken.
- Growth framework - the audit report concluded that substantial assurance could be taken.
- Student attendance monitoring and engagement controls - the audit report concluded that substantial assurance could be taken.

- Follow up of actions agreed from reviews conducted in the previous year – the audit report concluded that the Foundation had demonstrated good progress in implementing agreed management actions.

RSM provides an annual summary report to the Audit and Compliance Committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress. The annual report includes an opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the risk management, governance and internal control processes based upon the work undertaken during the year. For 2022/23 the report concludes that The Sir John Brunner Foundation had an adequate and effective framework for risk management, governance and internal control. The report has identified further enhancements to the framework for risk management, governance, internal control and economy, efficiency and effectiveness to ensure it remains adequate and effective.

The Board of Trustees has agreed a programme of internal audit assignments for the academic year 2023/24.

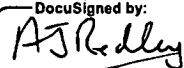
Review of Effectiveness

As accounting officer, the Chief Executive Officer has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

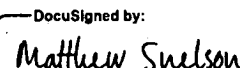
- the work of the internal auditor
- the work of the external auditor
- the school resource management self-assessment tool
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Audit and Compliance Committee and a plan to ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 14 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

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Alan Redley
Chair of Trustees

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Matthew Snelson
Accounting Officer

Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

As accounting officer of The Sir John Brunner Foundation I have considered my responsibility to notify the Foundation Board of Trustees and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

I confirm that I and the Foundation Board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the Foundation, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Foundation's funding agreement and the Academy Trust Handbook 2022.

I confirm that no instances of material irregularity, impropriety or funding non-compliance have been discovered to date. If any instances are identified after the date of this statement, these will be notified to the Board of Trustees and the ESFA.

DocuSigned by:

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Matthew Snelson
Accounting Officer
14 December 2023

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 published by the Education & Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the 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 trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023
- 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
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees 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.

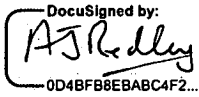
The trustees are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the charitable company applies financial and other controls, which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring grants received from the ESFA/DfE have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

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom

The Sir John Brunner Foundation – Company Number 11227336

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 14 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

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Alan Redley
Chair of Trustees

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of The Sir John Brunner Foundation

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Sir John Brunner Foundation for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Foundation's affairs as at 31 August 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the period then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Report, but does not include the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' Report including the Strategic Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- The Trustees' Report and the Strategic Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Foundation and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

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

- proper accounting records have not been kept;
 - the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns;
- or

- all the information and explanations required for the audit were not received.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities set out in the trustee's annual report, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Board of Trustees determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Board of Trustees is responsible for assessing the Foundation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Board of Trustees either intends to liquidate the Foundation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

The audit procedures designed to identify irregularities included:

- enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims
- enquiry of Academy staff with responsibilities for compliance matters to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations
- reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, intentional misrepresentations or through collusion.

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Members, as a body, those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' 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 Foundation and the Members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

DocuSigned by:

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Michael Benson (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Murray Smith LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
Darland House
44 Winnington Hill
Northwich
Cheshire
CW8 1AU

Date: - 14 December 2023

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to The Sir John Brunner Foundation and the Education and Skills Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 23 March 2018 and further to the requirements of the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by The Sir John Brunner Foundation during the period from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of The Sir John Brunner Foundation's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Sir John Brunner Foundation's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 26 March 2018 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2022, 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 2022 to 2023. 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 2022 to 31 August 2023 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Framework and guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountant of Academy Trusts issued by ESFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

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

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

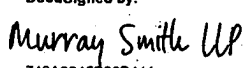
Our engagement includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the regularity and propriety of the academy trust's income and expenditure.

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- review of arrangements in place over financial management; and
- review of the Foundation's expenditure during the year.

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 2023 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

DocuSigned by:

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Murray Smith LLP

14 December 2023

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
Darland House
44 Winnington Hill
Northwich
Cheshire CW8 1AU

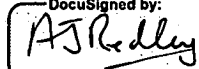
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2023

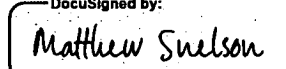
	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total 2022/23 £	Total 2021/22 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	2	0	374,385	113,699	488,084	295,425
Transfer from Middlewich High School	31	0	0	0	0	9,871,827
Charitable activities:						
Funding for the Foundation's educational activities	3	90,593	20,753,636	0	20,844,229	18,382,113
Other trading activities	4	1,008,320	0	0	1,008,320	675,547
Investments	5	98,127	0	0	98,127	11,468
Total income		1,197,040	21,128,021	113,699	22,438,760	29,236,380
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	6	50,760	0	0	50,760	21,413
Charitable activities:	7					
Foundation educational operations		781,382	20,594,586	1,205,419	22,581,387	20,589,483
Other		0	0	0	0	0
Total expenditure		832,142	20,594,586	1,205,419	22,632,147	20,610,896
Net income / (expenditure)		364,898	533,435	(1,091,720)	(193,387)	8,625,484
Transfers between funds	18	0	(484,059)	484,059	0	0
Other recognised gains / (losses):						
Actuarial gains / (losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	28	0	1,038,000	0	1,038,000	8,373,000
Net movement in funds		364,898	1,087,376	(607,661)	844,613	16,998,484
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		2,135,699	5,585,722	43,242,240	50,963,661	33,965,177
Total funds carried forward		2,500,597	6,673,098	42,634,579	51,808,274	50,963,661

Balance sheet as at 31 August 2023

	Notes	31 August 2023 £	31 August 2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	12	45,188,499	45,939,281
Current assets			
Debtors	13	784,091	853,855
Investments	14	872,086	844,883
Cash at bank and in hand		6,681,826	5,355,272
		8,338,003	7,054,010
Current Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(2,274,281)	(1,518,209)
Net current assets		6,063,722	5,535,801
Total assets less current liabilities		51,252,221	51,475,082
Creditors – amounts falling due after more than one year	16 / 17	(1,498,947)	(1,661,421)
Net assets excluding pension asset/(liability)		49,753,274	49,813,661
Defined benefit pension scheme asset/(liability)	28	2,055,000	1,150,000
Total net assets		51,808,274	50,963,661
Funds of the Foundation:			
Restricted funds			
Fixed asset fund	18	42,634,579	43,242,240
Restricted income fund	18	4,618,098	4,435,722
Pension reserve	18	2,055,000	1,150,000
Total restricted funds		49,307,677	48,827,962
Unrestricted income funds	18	2,500,597	2,135,699
Total funds		51,808,274	50,963,661

The financial statements on pages 39 to 71 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 14 December 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

 0D4BFB8EBABC4F2...
Alan Redley
 Chair

DocuSigned by:

 EF55ABB0878E480...
Matthew Snelson
 Accounting Officer

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Note	Year ended 31 August 2023 £	Year ended 31 August 2022 £
Cash flow from operating activities			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	22	1,196,472	940,737
Cash flows from investing activities	24	400,391	(59,451)
Cash flows from financing activities	23	(270,309)	(264,815)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		1,326,554	616,471
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2022		5,355,272	4,110,974
Cash transferred from Middlewich High School on conversion	31	0	627,827
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2023	25	6,681,826	5,355,272

Notes to the accounts

1. Accounting policies

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

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements of the Foundation, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Going Concern

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

Transfer of a newly converted Academy into the Foundation

The transfer of Middlewich High School to the Foundation, involved the transfer of identifiable assets and liabilities and the operation of the school for £nil consideration. The substance of the transfer is that of a gift and it has been accounted for on that basis as set out below.

The assets and liabilities transferred from Middlewich High School to the Foundation have been valued at their fair value. The fair value has been derived based on that of equivalent items. The amounts have been recognised under the appropriate balance sheet categories, with a corresponding amount recognised in Donations – transfer on conversion in the Statement of Financial Activities and analysed under unrestricted funds, restricted general funds and restricted fixed asset funds. Further details of the transaction are set out in note 31.

Income

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

Grants

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

General Annual Grant (GAG) is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

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

Sponsorship Income

Sponsorship income provided to the Foundation which amounts to a donation is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which it is receivable (where there are no performance-related conditions), where the receipt is probable and it can be measured reliably.

Donations

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

Investment Income

All income from short term deposit accounts is credited to the Statement of Financial Activity in the period in which it is earned on a receivable basis.

Other Income

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

Donated goods, facilities and services

Goods donated for resale are included at fair value, being the expected proceeds from sale less the expected costs of sale. If it is practical to assess the fair value at receipt, it is recognised in stock and 'Income from other trading activities'. Upon sale, the value of the stock is charged against 'Income from other trading activities' and the proceeds are recognised as 'Income from other trading activities'. Where it is impractical to fair value the items due to the volume of low value items they are not recognised in the financial statements until they are sold. This income is recognised within 'Income from other trading activities'.

Transfer of new academies into the academy trust

Where assets and liabilities are received on the transfer of a new academy into the academy trust, the transferred net assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the balance sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the academy trust. An equal amount of income is recognised for the transfer of an existing academy into the academy trust within Donations and capital grant income to the net assets acquired.

Donated fixed assets (excluding Transfers on conversion/into the Foundation)

Where the donated good is a fixed asset it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor should be used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the Foundation's accounting policies.

Expenditure

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

Expenditure on Raising Funds

This includes all expenditure incurred by the Foundation to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Charitable Activities

These are costs incurred on the Foundation's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the academy trust apportioned to charitable activities. All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT, where applicable.

Tangible Fixed Assets

Assets costing £2,000 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. Where there are specific conditions attached to the funding requiring the continued use of the asset, 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 the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold and long leasehold land (where the Academy is able to continue using the land indefinitely at no cost) and assets under construction, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

Long leasehold buildings – 50 years

Furniture and fixtures – 3 – 10 years

Plant and equipment – 3 – 10 years

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use and reclassified to freehold or leasehold land and buildings.

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.

Subsequent expenditure on existing fixed assets

Where significant expenditure is incurred on tangible fixed assets after initial purchase it is charged to the statement of financial activities in the period it is incurred unless it increases

the future benefits to the Foundation, in which case it is capitalised and depreciated on the relevant basis.

Liabilities

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

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Foundation has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event which it is probable will result in the transfer of economic benefits and the obligation can be estimated reliably.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

Leased Assets

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

Financial Instruments

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

Financial assets – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 13. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial liabilities – trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes 15 and 16. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

Taxation

The Foundation is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

Accordingly, the Foundation is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by part 11, chapter 3 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Pensions Benefits

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Foundation in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently, the TPS is treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

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

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

Fund Accounting

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

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received with restrictions imposed by the funder/donor and include grants from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

Agency Arrangements

The Foundation acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from the ESFA. Payments received from the ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the statement of financial activities as the Foundation does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The Foundation can use up to 5% of the allocation towards its own administration costs and this is recognised in the statement of financial activities. The funds received and paid and any balances held are disclosed in note 30.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit asset / liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 28, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

The foundation has recognised the pension asset calculated by the actuaries on the basis that it is recoverable through reduced contributions or refunds from the plan.

Critical areas of judgement

Tangible fixed assets are depreciated over their useful lives taking into account residual values, where appropriate. The actual lives of the assets and residual values are assessed annually and may vary depending on a number of factors. In re-assessing asset lives, factors such as technological innovation and maintenance programmes are taken into account. Residual value assessments consider issues such as future market conditions, the remaining life of the asset and projected disposal values.

Short term employment benefits

Short term employment benefits such as salaries and compensated absences (holiday pay) are recognised as an expense in the year in which the employees render service to the Foundation. Any unused benefits are accrued and measured as the additional amount the Foundation expects to pay as a result of the unused entitlement.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash includes cash in hand, deposits repayable on demand and overdrafts. Deposits are repayable on demand if they are in practice available within 24 hours without penalty.

Cash equivalents are short term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value. An investment qualifies as a cash equivalent when it has a maturity of 3 months or less from the date of acquisition.

2. Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£
Capital grants	0	465,789	465,789	260,060
Donated fixed assets	0	0	0	0
Other donations	0	22,295	22,295	35,365
Total	0	488,084	488,084	295,425

3. Funding for the Foundation's educational operations

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
DfE / ESFA grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	0	18,003,088	18,003,088	16,124,363
Other DfE/ESFA grants				
Pupil Premium	0	355,519	355,519	284,834
Teachers pension	0	338,040	338,040	345,851
Teachers Pay	0	0	0	122,393
Supplementary	0	504,536	504,536	147,611
High value course premium	0	321,000	321,000	214,000
Others	0	270,852	270,852	253,442
Other DfE Group grants	0	9,326	9,326	19,389
Other Government grants				
Local authority grants	0	637,050	637,050	379,649
Salix grants	0	18,601	18,601	0
Other income from the foundation's educational operations	90,593	295,624	386,217	458,522
COVID-19 additional funding (non-DfE/ESFA)				
Other Covid-19 funding	0	0	0	32,059
	90,593	20,753,636	20,844,229	18,382,113

4. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Hire of facilities	36,201	0	36,201	7,775
Income from other charitable activities	0	0	0	235
Income from ancillary trading activities	972,119	0	972,119	667,537
Total	1,008,320	0	1,008,320	675,547

5. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Short term deposits - interest	98,127	0	98,127	11,468
Total	98,127	0	98,127	11,468

6. Expenditure

	Staff Costs £	Premises £	Other £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
<i>Expenditure on raising funds:</i>					
Direct costs	36,282	11,554	2,924	50,760	21,413
Allocated support costs	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Foundation's educational operations:</i>					
Direct costs	11,913,864	0	1,418,524	13,332,388	11,984,299
Allocated support costs	4,339,730	1,480,824	3,428,445	9,248,999	8,605,184
Total	16,289,876	1,492,378	4,849,893	22,632,147	20,610,896

6. Expenditure (cont.)

Net expenditure for the period includes:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Operating lease rentals	87,001	61,058
Depreciation	1,205,419	1,225,496
(Gain) / loss on disposal of fixed assets	0	2,502
Fees payable to statutory auditor for:		
-audit	10,820	10,305
-other services	289	268
Total	1,303,724	1,299,629

7. Charitable Activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Direct costs – educational operations	13,332,388	11,984,299
Support costs – educational operations	9,248,999	8,605,184
	22,581,387	20,589,483

Analysis of support costs

	2023	2022
	Educational Operations	Educational Operations
	£	£
Support staff costs	4,339,730	4,479,990
Depreciation	1,205,419	1,225,496
Technology costs	381,096	319,981
Premises costs	1,480,824	957,845
Legal costs – conversion	0	21,578
Legal costs - other	4,898	7,232
Other support costs	1,808,859	1,567,907
Governance costs	28,173	25,155
Total support costs	9,248,999	8,605,184

8. Staff**a. Staff costs**

Staff costs during the period were:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	11,849,927	10,267,423
Social security costs	1,235,464	1,071,734
Pension costs	2,748,495	3,287,427
	15,833,886	14,626,584
Agency staff costs	429,419	206,761
Staff restructuring costs	26,571	62,283
Total staff costs	16,289,876	14,895,628

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Redundancy payments	7,419	3,249
Severance payments	19,152	59,034
	26,571	62,283

b. Severance payments

The academy trust paid 3 severance payments in the year, disclosed in the following bands:

0 - £25,000	3
£25,001 - £50,000	0
£50,001 - £100,000	0
£100,001 - £150,000	0
£150,000 +	0

c. Special staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are special severance payments totalling £1,737 (2022: £31,611). Individually, the payments were: £1,200 and £537.

8. Staff (cont.)**d. Staff numbers**

The average number of persons employed by the Foundation during the period was:

	2023	2022
Teachers	178	169
Administration and support	201	195
Management	17	15
	396	379

e. Higher paid staff

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs and employer national insurance contributions) exceeded £60,000 was:

	2023 No	2022 No
£60,001 to £70,000 p.a.	6	5
£70,001 to £80,000 p.a.	2	0
£80,001 to £90,000 p.a.	2	3
£90,001 to £100,000 p.a.	1	0
£100,001 to £110,000 p.a.	1	0

f. Key management personnel

Key management personnel of the Foundation comprise the trustees and the senior leadership team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Foundation was £594,425 (2022: £461,109).

9. Central Services

The Foundation has provided the following central services to its academies during the year: HR and payroll, financial services, legal services where required and some educational support services.

The Foundation charged for these services on the following basis:

- Flat percentage of income based on core recurrent funding

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

9. Central Services (cont.)

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College	294,043	200,955
The County High School Leftwich	195,125	134,563
Middlewich High School	147,065	76,593
	636,233	412,111

10. Related party transactions – Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One trustee has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from employment with the Foundation. The Chief Executive Officer only receives remuneration in respect of services provided undertaking the role of Chief Executive Officer of The Sir John Brunner Foundation, under a contract of employment.

The value of trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

M Snelson (Chief Executive Officer and trustee – appointed 1 August 2022):

Remuneration £105,000 - £110,000 (2022: £5,000 - £10,000)

Employer's pension contributions paid £25,000 - £30,000 (2022: £0 - £5,000)

During the year ended 31 August 2023 no travel and subsistence expenses were reimbursed or paid directly to the trustees (2022: £nil).

11. Trustees and Officers' Insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Foundation has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Foundation business. The insurance provides cover up to £5,000,000 on any one claim and forms part of a commercial combined policy with Aviva. Because the policy combines a number of different insurances the cost for the Trustees' and Officers' liability cover is not separately identifiable and is included in the total insurance cost.

12. Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold Land and Buildings	Assets Under Construction	Furniture and Equipment	Computer Equipment	Total
Cost or valuation	£	£	£	£	£
At 1 September 2022	49,204,894	0	652,362	581,753	50,439,009
Additions	87,279	106,880	16,016	244,462	454,637
Disposals	0	0	(3,915)	(64,061)	(67,976)
At 31 August 2023	49,292,173	106,880	664,463	762,154	50,825,670
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2022	3,714,868	0	336,476	448,384	4,499,728
Charge for period	984,335	0	84,869	136,215	1,205,419
Eliminated in respect of disposals	0	0	(3,915)	(64,061)	(67,976)
At 31 August 2023	4,699,203	0	417,430	520,538	5,637,171
Net book value at 31 August 2022	45,490,026	0	315,886	133,369	45,939,281
Net book value at 31 August 2023	44,592,970	106,880	247,033	241,616	45,188,499

Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College occupies its land and buildings under the terms of a 125-year lease from the Sir John Deane's Foundation Scheme Trustees (a separate charitable trust). Legal title in the lease was transferred to The Sir John Brunner Foundation on 1 April 2019.

The County High School, Leftwich occupies its land and buildings under the terms of a 125-year lease from Cheshire West and Chester Council effective from 1 September 2012. Legal title in the lease was transferred to The Sir John Brunner Foundation on 1 September 2019.

Middlewich High School occupies its land and buildings under the terms of a 125-year lease from Cheshire East Council effective from 1 December 2021. Legal title in the lease was transferred to The Sir John Brunner Foundation on 1 December 2021.

Under the terms of the leases the Foundation is fully responsible for the maintenance, insurance and general upkeep of the land and buildings. As a result, the Foundation has determined that the most appropriate accounting treatment is to recognise the substance of the transaction rather than the legal form and capitalise the land and building assets in the Foundation's accounts.

13. Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	20,503	181,734
VAT recoverable	292,891	187,314
Other debtors	18,700	14,654
Prepayments and accrued income	451,997	470,153
	784,091	853,855

14. Current investments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Short term deposits	<u>872,086</u>	<u>844,883</u>

The above deposits were invested with Close Brothers in an interest-bearing notice account for which six months' notice is required for all withdrawals.

15. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	674,888	327,567
Other taxation and social security	289,728	265,590
Bank loans	159,854	150,588
Other loans	2,620	2,620
Other creditors	309,613	280,025
Accruals and deferred income	837,578	491,819
	2,274,281	1,518,209

15. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (cont.)

	2023	2022
	£	£
Deferred income at 31 August 2022	152,337	84,315
Released from previous years	(152,337)	(84,315)
Resources deferred in year	561,117	152,337
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	561,117	152,337

At the balance sheet date, the Foundation was holding the following funds received in advance:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bus overpayments and deposits	15,736	9,968
Unspent 16-19 Bursary funds carried forward	70,854	73,432
Grant reclaims	23,263	28,105
Specific donations and unspent balances	12,915	11,912
Educational funds, visits and expeditions income	84,851	28,920
Government grants (CIF & sustainability)	353,498	0
	561,117	152,337

Other loans of £2,620 from Salix are repayable in twice yearly instalments until September 2028.

16. Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bank loans	1,487,159	1,647,014
Other loans	11,788	14,407
	1,498,947	1,661,421

Included within the total is loans of £11,788 from Salix repayable in twice yearly instalments until September 2028.

17. Maturity of Debt

Bank loans and overdrafts

Bank loans and overdrafts are repayable as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
In one year or less	159,854	150,588
Between one and two years	169,949	159,854
Between two and five years	574,168	541,158
In five years or more	743,042	946,002
	<u>1,647,013</u>	<u>1,797,602</u>

The Foundation has an unsecured loan with Lloyds Bank at a fixed rate of 6.38% repayable by quarterly instalments until November 2031.

18. Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022	Income	Expenditure	Gains (Losses) and Transfers	Balance at 31 August 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted General Funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	3,077,692	18,003,088	(17,251,021)	(484,059)	3,345,700
Pupil Premium	0	355,519	(355,519)	0	0
Other Grants	1,078,169	2,451,495	(2,541,822)	0	987,842
Other income	279,861	317,919	(313,224)	0	284,556
Pension Reserve	1,150,000	0	(133,000)	1,038,000	2,055,000
	5,585,722	21,128,021	(20,594,586)	553,941	6,673,098
Restricted Fixed Asset Funds					
Transfer on conversion	42,839,081	0	(1,029,720)	0	41,809,361
DfE Group capital grants	351,835	113,699	(101,838)	0	363,696
Other capital grants	178,710	0	(3,990)	0	174,720
Capital expenditure from GAG	(127,386)	0	(69,871)	484,059	286,802
	43,242,240	113,699	(1,205,419)	484,059	42,634,579
Total Restricted Funds	48,827,962	21,241,720	(21,800,005)	1,038,000	49,307,677
Total Unrestricted Funds	2,135,699	1,197,040	(832,142)	0	2,500,597
Total Funds	50,963,661	22,438,760	(22,632,147)	1,038,000	51,808,274

The academy trust is not subject to GAG carried forward limits.

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

Restricted general funds – includes all income with specified criteria attached to its use and the corresponding expenditure in relation to this income.

Restricted fixed asset funds – includes all income and expenditure related to the purchase of fixed assets.

Unrestricted funds – includes all other income and expenditure which has no specific criteria attached to its use.

18. Funds (cont.)

Comparative information in respect of the previous period is as follows:

	Balance at 1 September 2021	Income	Expenditure	Gains (Losses) and Transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2022
	£	£	£		£
Restricted General Funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,797,562	16,752,191	(15,472,061)	0	3,077,692
Pupil Premium	0	284,834	(284,834)	0	0
Other DfE/ESFA Covid-19 funding	0	32,059	(32,059)	0	0
Other Grants	964,563	1,523,774	(1,410,168)	0	1,078,169
Other income	286,808	400,806	(407,753)	0	279,861
Pension Reserve	(5,106,000)	(976,000)	(1,141,000)	8,373,000	1,150,000
	(2,057,067)	18,017,664	(18,747,875)	8,373,000	5,585,722
Restricted Fixed Asset Funds					
Transfer on conversion	33,719,386	10,220,000	(1,100,305)	0	42,839,081
DfE Group capital grants	398,092	36,620	(82,877)	0	351,835
Other capital grants	950	182,000	(4,240)	0	178,710
Capital expenditure from GAG	(86,810)	0	(40,576)	0	(127,386)
	34,031,618	10,438,620	(1,227,998)	0	43,242,240
Total Restricted Funds	31,974,551	28,456,284	(19,975,873)	8,373,000	48,827,962
Total Unrestricted Funds	1,990,626	780,096	(635,023)	0	2,135,699
Total Funds	33,965,177	29,236,380	(20,610,896)	8,373,000	50,963,661

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College	5,440,860	4,525,871
The County High School Leftwich	251,048	352,475
Middlewich High School	646,335	562,465
Central Services	780,452	1,130,610
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	7,118,695	6,571,421
Restricted fixed asset fund	42,634,579	43,242,240
Pension reserve	2,055,000	1,150,000
Total	51,808,274	50,963,661

18. Funds (cont.)**Total cost analysis by academy**

Expenditure incurred by each academy during the year was as follows:

	Teaching and Educational Support Staff Costs £	Other Support Staff Costs £	Educational Supplies £	Other Costs (excluding depreciation) £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College	4,486,256	1,764,179	647,381	1,976,248	8,874,064	8,723,914
The County High School Leftwich	4,188,926	1,219,915	425,993	514,454	6,349,288	6,336,890
Middlewich High School	3,053,674	1,135,876	343,274	1,101,619	5,634,443	3,912,289
Central Services Academy Trust	22,251	418,799	1,876	126,007	568,933	409,805
	11,751,107	4,538,769	1,418,524	3,718,328	21,426,728	19,382,898

19. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	0	417,996	44,770,503	45,188,499
Current assets	2,500,717	5,837,286	0	8,338,003
Current liabilities	(120)	(1,637,184)	(636,977)	(2,274,281)
Non-current liabilities	0	0	(1,498,947)	(1,498,947)
Pension scheme assets	0	2,055,000	0	2,055,000
Total net assets	2,500,597	6,673,098	42,634,579	51,808,274

Comparative information in respect of the previous period as at 31 August 2022 is as follows:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	0	237,120	45,702,161	45,939,281
Current assets	2,135,699	4,918,311	0	7,054,010
Current liabilities	0	(719,709)	(798,500)	(1,518,209)
Non-current liabilities	0	0	(1,661,421)	(1,661,421)
Pension scheme assets	0	1,150,000	0	1,150,000
Total net assets	2,135,699	5,585,722	43,242,240	50,963,661

20. Capital and other commitments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Commitments contracted for, but not provided for at 31 August	<u>165,892</u>	<u>0</u>

21. Long-term commitments, including operating leases**Operating leases**

At 31 August the total of the Foundation's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Amounts due within one year	99,918	94,216
Amounts due between one and five years	51,650	149,018
Amounts due after five years	0	0
	<u>151,568</u>	<u>243,234</u>

22. Reconciliation of net income/ (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net income / (expenditure) for the period	(193,387)	8,625,484
Adjusted for:		
Net assets transferred from Middlewich High School	0	(9,871,827)
Depreciation (note 12)	1,205,419	1,225,496
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	0	2,502
Capital grants from DfE and other capital grants	(465,789)	(260,060)
Interest paid	117,101	120,357
Interest receivable (note 5)	(98,127)	(11,468)
Defined benefit scheme cost less contributions payable (note 28)	178,000	1,035,000
Defined pension scheme finance cost (note 28)	(45,000)	106,000
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	102,661	(307,772)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	395,594	277,025
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>1,196,472</u>	<u>940,737</u>

23. Cash flows from financing activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Repayments of borrowing	(153,208)	(144,458)
Cash inflows from new borrowing	0	0
Interest paid	(117,101)	(120,357)
Net cash provided by / (used in) financing activities	(270,309)	(264,815)

24. Cash flows from investing activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	98,127	11,468
New deposits in short term investments	(27,203)	(7,407)
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(454,637)	(323,572)
Capital grants from DfE Group	784,104	260,060
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	0	0
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities	400,391	(59,451)

25. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash in hand and at bank	6,681,826	5,355,272
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	0	0
Total cash and cash equivalents	6,681,826	5,355,272

26. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2022	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2023
	£		£
Cash	5,355,272	1,326,554	6,681,826
Cash equivalents	0	0	0
	5,355,272	1,326,554	6,681,826
Loans falling due within one year	(153,208)	(9,266)	(162,474)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(1,661,421)	162,474	(1,498,947)
Total	3,540,643	1,479,762	5,020,405

27. Members liability

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

28. Pension and similar obligations

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

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016 and of the LGPS 31 March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £293,929 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 (2022: £269,913) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

28. Pension and similar obligations (cont.)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions.

Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 30 October 2023, with implementation from April 2024. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy)
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262,000 million, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222,200 million giving a notional past service deficit of £39,800 million
- the SCAPE discount rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 1.7% above the rate of CPI, and is based on the Office for Budget Responsibility's forecast for long-term GDP growth.

The next valuation result as at 31 March 2024 is due to be implemented from 1 April 2027.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £1,825,052 (2022: £1,630,083).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the [Teachers' Pensions website](#).

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

28. Pension and similar obligations (cont.)

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £950,195 (2022: £783,698), of which employer's contributions totalled £733,710 (2022: £606,427) and employees' contributions totalled £216,485 (2022: £177,271). The agreed employer contribution rates for future years are 19.6% in respect of Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College, 21.0% in respect of The County High School, Leftwich and 27.6% in respect of Middlewich High School and for employees range from 5.5% to 12.5% depending on salary.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of an academy trust closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013 and on 21 July 2022, the Department for Education reaffirmed its commitment to the guarantee, with a parliamentary minute published on GOV.UK.

Principal Actuarial Assumptions – Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College

	At 31 August 2023	At 31 August 2022
Rate of increase in salaries	3.7%	3.9%
Future pensions increases	3.0%	3.2%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.2%	4.25%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	3.0%	3.2%

Principal Actuarial Assumptions – The County High School Leftwich and Middlewich High School

	At 31 August 2023	At 31 August 2022
Rate of increase in salaries	3.7%	3.75%
Future pensions increases	3.0%	3.05%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.2%	4.25%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	3.0%	3.2%

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

28. Pension and similar obligations (cont.)

	At 31 August 2023	At 31 August 2022
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	21.5 years	21.2 years
Females	24.5 years	23.8 years
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	21.5 years	22.1 years
Females	25.3 years	25.5 years

Sensitivity Analysis

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Discount rate: + 0.1%	(279)	(311)
Discount rate: - 0.1%	279	311
Mortality assumption: 1 year increase	531	564
Mortality assumption: 1 year decrease	(531)	(564)
CPI rate: + 0.1%	262	286
CPI rate: - 0.1%	(262)	(286)

The Foundation's share of the assets in the scheme were:

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Equities	7,515	7,464
Bonds	4,908	4,874
Property	1,994	1,980
Cash and other liquid assets	<u>920</u>	<u>914</u>
Total fair value of assets	<u>15,337</u>	<u>15,232</u>

The actual return on the scheme assets was £337,000 (2.2%).

28. Pension and similar obligations (cont.)**Amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities**

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Current service cost	(909)	(1,637)
Past service cost	(21)	(0)
Interest income	662	260
Interest cost	(617)	(366)
Benefit changes, gain / (loss) on curtailment and gain / (loss) on settlement	0	0
Admin expenses	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total amount recognised in the SOFA	<u>(885)</u>	<u>(1,743)</u>

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as follows:

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
At 1 September 2022	14,082	19,057
Transfer in of Middlewich High School	0	3,036
Current service cost	909	1,637
Interest cost	617	366
Employee contributions	216	177
Actuarial (gain) / loss	(2,299)	(9,936)
Benefits paid	(265)	(255)
Past service cost	<u>21</u>	<u>0</u>
At 31 August 2023	<u>13,281</u>	<u>14,082</u>

Changes in the fair value of the Foundation's share of scheme assets were as follows:

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
At 1 September 2022	15,232	13,951
Transfer in of Middlewich High School	0	2,060
Interest income	662	260
Actuarial gain / (loss)	(1,261)	(1,563)
Employer contributions	752	602
Employee contributions	216	177
Benefits paid	<u>(265)</u>	<u>(255)</u>
At 31 August 2023	<u>15,336</u>	<u>15,232</u>

29. Related Party Transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust 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 trustees have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook and with the Foundation's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions.

No related party transactions took place in the period of account, other than certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 10.

30. Agency Arrangements

The Foundation distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for the ESFA. In the year to 31 August 2023 the Foundation received and distributed the following funds:

	2023	2022
	£	£
16-19 bursary funds received from ESFA in year	95,237	92,543
Unspent funds carried over from previous year	73,432	52,485
Funds transferred from Free College Meals allocation	2,381	4,806
	171,050	149,834
Amount disbursed to students	(95,603)	(71,907)
Administration costs	(4,593)	(4,495)
Balance unspent included in creditors at 31 August	70,854	73,432

31. Transfer of newly converted academy

On 1 December 2021 Middlewich High School joined the trust and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to The Sir John Brunner Foundation from Middlewich High School for £nil consideration.

The transfer has been accounted for as a combination that is in substance a gift. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair value and recognised in the balance sheet under the appropriate headings with a corresponding net amount recognised as a net gain in the Statement of Financial Activities as Donations – Transfer from Middlewich High School. The following table sets out the fair values of the identifiable assets and liabilities transferred and an analysis of their recognition in the SOFA.

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total £
Tangible Fixed Assets				
Leasehold land and buildings	0	0	10,220,000	10,220,000
Current assets				
Cash	0	627,827	0	627,827
Non-current liabilities				
LGPS Pension Deficit	0	(976,000)	0	(976,000)
Net assets	<u>0</u>	<u>(348,173)</u>	<u>10,220,000</u>	<u>9,871,827</u>

32. Events after the end of the reporting period

On 1 December 2023 The Macclesfield Academy joined the trust and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to The Sir John Brunner Foundation from The Macclesfield Academy.