

Company Registration Number: 7898905 (England & Wales)

SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	J M Swettenham K Boulton (appointed 22 November 2023) J Gee M Seager V Miller
Trustees	J Swettenham, Chair ^{1,2,3} C Costello, Head Teacher ^{1,2,3} K Shaunak-Hobbs ² K Boulton, Vice Chair & Head of Resources ^{1,3} J Beard, Chair of Standard & Performance ^{2,3} S Roberts ² A Williams ¹ D Churchill ^{2,3} V Noonan (resigned 1 November 2023) ¹ C Hoddy ² J Gray ² G Haines ² C D'Silva ¹ A Mauger (appointed 23 November 2023) ¹ A Dedominicis (appointed 23 November 2023)
	¹ Member of the Resources Committee ² Member of the Standards and Performance Committee ³ Member of the Pay Committee
Company registered number	7898905
Company name	Shenfield High School
Principal and registered office	Shenfield School Alexander Lane Shenfield Essex CM15 8RY
Company secretary	S Roberts
Accounting officer	C Costello
Senior management team	C Costello, Headteacher J Martin, Deputy Headteacher A Cooke, Assistant Headteacher D J Barron, Assistant Headteacher (left February 2024) B Clifford, Assistant Headteacher R Drew, Assistant Headteacher (left April 2024) J Rigg, Deputy Headteacher S Roberts, Chief Finance & Operations Officer T Poole, Assistant Headteacher K Shaunak-Hobbs, Assistant Headteacher N Bolitho, Assistant Headteacher

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Independent auditors	MWS Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditor Kingsridge House 601 London Road Westcliff-on-Sea Essex SS0 9PE
Bankers	Lloyds Bank PLC PO Box 1000 BX1 1LT
Solicitors	Essex County Council Legal Services Essex County Council County Hall Market Road Chelmsford CM1 1QH

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TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report under company law.

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

The Academy is a charitable company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity.

The charitable company's Memorandum of Association is the primary governing document of the Academy and is dated 01/02/2012.

The Trustees of Shenfield High School are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law.

Details of the Trustees who served during the year, and to the date these accounts are approved are included in the Reference and administrative details on page 1.

b. 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.

c. Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

The Board understands the mix of skills that it needs to be an effective Board and the requirements placed upon it by its Funding Agreement with regard to parent and other types of Governor. It undertakes a skills audit and a self-evaluation exercise and in March 2023 an external review of governance took place. Where a skills gap is identified, and for succession planning, new Governors are sought with required skills, either as additional Governors or replacements when existing Governors stand down. It is anticipated that the great majority of new Governors will be drawn from the local community being either parents or carers of students at the Academy or others that have shown an interest in the future well-being of the Academy and its students. Recruitment is therefore likely to be through a combination of approaches to individuals with known skills, to the parent and carer body and to the wider Shenfield community, employing advertising as necessary.

New Governors will be appointed to the Board either by Members or by the existing Governors for a period of 4 years. At the end of a 4 year term, retiring Governors are eligible for re-appointment for a further term, if they continue to meet the appropriate criteria. Parent Governors are elected by parents/carers of registered pupils at the School for a term of four years and may seek re-election at the end of the term. They must be a parent/carer of a registered pupil at the time they are elected. Staff governors are appointed for a period of 4 years by the staff body.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Structure, governance and management (continued)

d. Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

Governors attend training courses and conferences organised by appropriate bodies in order to ensure their knowledge and understanding is fully up to date. The Chair of Governors regularly attends the Director of Education termly briefings and reports back to governors. The Academy purchases standard Governor training from Juniper Services. Newly appointed Governors are required to attend an external induction course to give them a good grounding in their role. Bespoke training programmes for individual governors have been introduced to further support all governors in their training and professional development. Internal training sessions are also offered, often led by senior members of the Academy staff. All governors are required to undertake safeguarding training annually.

Governors also use the National Governor Association online training modules and the Government's online PREVENT training. Some governors have received safer recruitment training.

e. Organisational structure

The Governors have responsibility for setting and monitoring the overall strategic direction of the Charitable Company, approving decisions reserved to Governors and appointing key members of staff. The Governors meet as a Board at least four times each year. All decisions reserved to the Governors are taken by the Board as a whole with the exception of pay decisions which are delegated to the Pay and Head Teacher's Appraisal Committees. Seven sub committees have supported the work of the Board. The Resources Committee met four times during the year and the Standards and Performance Committee met three times, with the others meeting as necessary, to consider detailed matters and recommend decisions to the full Board.

The Committees are:
 Standards and Performance
 Resources
 Pay
 Headteacher's Appraisal
 Student Discipline
 Staff Appeals
 Pay Appeals

The Headteacher, Clare Costello, is the Accounting Officer and works closely with both the other Governors and the senior staff of Shenfield High School. Clare Costello was appointed in September 2022 as the Academy's Headteacher, following a rigorous and robust selection process after the retirement from teaching of our previous headteacher.

The day to day management of Shenfield High School rests with the Headteacher who has overall responsibility for the School. The Headteacher is responsible for establishing a Senior Leadership Team which includes a Chief Finance & Operations Officer, Deputy Heads and Assistant Heads.

The Board of Shenfield High School sets the strategic direction of the Academy through our three year strategic plan and monitors progress and developments through, among other tools, Governor monitoring days and visits from those governors with specific link roles, such as Safeguarding, Attendance, Inclusion, Health & Safety and Careers, who report back findings to the Full Board. The Safeguarding link governor meets with the designated safeguarding lead at least termly. Further reports and evidence are also received from the Headteacher and other members of the senior team in committees and the Full Governing Board meetings.

The Board approves the overall budget allocations in line with agreed priorities, and delegates authority for decision making in a Scheme of Delegation. Monitoring and operational management of the budget is reported regularly and any changes mid year are all approved by Governors.

The Standards and Performance Committee combines its work reviewing the Academy's progress against priorities, with analysis of student progress and attainment, with particular attention paid to the way in which the Academy applies the Pupil Premium Grant to improve the prospects of success for those students who trigger

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Structure, governance and management (continued)

the allocation of the Pupil Premium Grant. It monitors the Academy's safeguarding, behaviour and attendance policies, and procedures. It considers the Academy's admissions policy and its PAN and makes appropriate recommendations to the Board. The committee also considers the school's CPD programme and recognises the importance of good quality professional development for the school's staff. Attendance statistics are reviewed by the Standards and Performance Committee and compared to Essex and national standards which play a part in setting targets.

The Resources Committee reviews and monitors the deployment of the budget and the cashflow against forecasts, makes decisions on reallocation of budgets at the strategic level and considers future budget projections and the draft budget for the forthcoming year, making recommendations to the Board as appropriate. It oversees progress against estate management plans. It monitors the Academy's strategic risk register, making recommendations for change to the Full Board. Committee members have made site visits from time to time, and one member has responsibility for monitoring the Academy's health and safety activity. It also reviews human resources policies for recommendation to the Board, considers, and approves where necessary, the Senior Leadership Team's staffing plans, and monitors recruitment, retention, absence and other staffing data.

The Pay Committee meets twice a year to receive the Headteacher's report on staff performance and commensurate pay enhancements, and to make decisions on enhancements for those for whom the Head does not have delegated authority.

The Headteacher's Appraisal Committee meets annually to receive the report of the independent assessor and other appropriate information to enable assessment of the Headteacher's performance against the objectives set at the beginning of the year, to consider appropriate remuneration, to give the Headteacher feedback on performance and to agree objectives for the new year.

The Student Disciplinary Committee meets as necessary to review any decision taken by the Headteacher to permanently exclude a student of the Academy.

The Staff Appeals Committee meets as necessary to hear appeals from members of staff against decisions made by the Headteacher or Senior Leadership Team, for example in the case of dismissal.

The Pay Appeals Committee meets when a member of staff appeals against the amount of remuneration agreed by the Pay Committee for that individual.

f. Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

Trustees of Shenfield High School Academy Trust receive no pay or remuneration. Those set for the officers of the Trust follow the School's Pay Policies which are reviewed regularly by the Pay Committee and approved by the full Board. While following the principles of the School Teacher's Pay and Conditions Document, governors make use of the flexibility afforded by academy status to ensure that pay and remuneration for teachers meet the needs of the School in terms of recruiting and retaining high quality staff to enable it to maintain the progress it has made in raising standards.

The Pay Committee has delegated responsibility to review the evidence supporting the decisions made by the Headteacher on pay awards for mainstream teaching and support staff. They receive recommendations from her on appropriate awards for the Senior Leadership Team, supported by evidence.

For the Headteacher, objectives and targets related to the School Improvement Plan are agreed for each academic year. In the autumn term, Governors commission an independent assessment of the Headteacher's performance which includes a review of the extent to which objectives have been achieved. This assessment informs any pay awards which the Committee agree for the Headteacher.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Structure, governance and management (continued)

g. Trade union facility time

We currently have no trade union officials employed at the school.

Objectives and activities

a. Objects and aims

The charitable objectives for which the charitable Company was established are set down in the governing document as follows:

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 a school offering a broad and balanced curriculum ("The Academy").

To promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of Shenfield and the surrounding area the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age or 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.

b. Objectives, strategies and activities

Shenfield High School was originally a Local Authority operated school which converted to academy status on 1st February 2012. The charitable Company was incorporated on 5th January 2012. It provides education for 11 to 19 year olds across the secondary school and sixth form facilities.

Our vision is to prepare our students to embrace all opportunity and fulfil all ambitions. At Shenfield High School our students are known and known well and prepared for a future of lifelong learning. Our key values are entrenched in the ethos and practice of our school community.

Be Respectful at all times treating others with kindness and dignity and valuing the diversity our community

Be Responsible for our words, actions and learning

Be Ready to learn at all times

Challenge ourselves every day

Collaborate with all others in our school community

Contribute positively to the school community

In order to provide exceptional learning opportunities for students of The Academy management concentrate on a number of key priorities:

- a) Outstanding teaching and learning — the aim is to provide outstanding teaching and learning to ensure that all students achieve at the highest possible level within a supportive, compassionate, and scholarly culture.
- b) Care for the individual — the structures and ethos of the Academy ensure that Shenfield High School is a Healthy School where individual stakeholder needs are acknowledged and supported.
- c) A fit place to learn — the aim is to provide an inspirational and well-run environment in which students can learn and grow.
- d) Develop a 'Shenfield Way' – so all students experience and benefit from a consistent approach and staff feel empowered through a collegiate approach.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Objectives and activities (continued)

- e) Aspirational leadership — every leader in The Academy keeps their area of responsibility under review, competing with the best.

The wellbeing and safeguarding of our students and staff is at the heart of what we do. All students have access to a curriculum pathway that is well matched to their individual need but ambitious for their individual progress. Our facilities are being improved and developed so that the environment promotes a culture of positivity and supports maximum engagement and achievement. Our site will continue to support the community through the accessibility of its facilities.

c. Public benefit

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)' when preparing their statements on public benefit contained within this Governors' annual report.

Shenfield High School's contribution to the public benefit is to develop its young people to be responsible and capable members of the society in which they live, so they are able to contribute effectively to the economic and social activity of that community.

The Academy will work with members of its community, such as local primary schools, and charitable institutions, to ensure that students are exposed to their community responsibilities throughout their time at school.

Benefits & Beneficiaries:

In accordance with its charitable objectives, the charitable Company strives to advance the education of the students attending the School. The charitable Company's primary beneficiaries are therefore the students, and benefits to students are provided through continuing to maintain a high standard of education throughout the Academy.

The School was inspected by OFSTED in April 2024. The report confirmed that Shenfield High School continues to be a good school. OFSTED observed that leaders know the school well and "make decisions that have the best interests of pupils at heart" They noted that "The school is a welcoming place for pupils. They enjoy coming to school. Pupils feel safe and are supportive of one another ".The Academy provides educational services to all children in the local area.

The Governors confirm that they have complied with the duty of the Charities Act to have due regard to the public benefit guidance provided by the Charity Commission.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

a. Achievements and performance

The school has continued its mission to improve all aspects of school performance and to manage the school safely and appropriately. There has been a particular focus on, supporting well-being for both staff and students, embedding our new approaches to professional development to support the quality of teaching, and ensuring the highest expectations for behaviour for learning.

The continuing review of our curriculum aims to ensure that the curriculum is the model of progress. Students are assessed against the requirements of the subject and attitude to learning is a key indicator of whether further support, intervention or challenge required. There is a whole school focus on the primacy of lessons within a broad and ambitious curriculum.

The school has a well developed pastoral system with the objective that every student should be known and known well. As the school has grown, structures have been enhanced with Heads of Year being appointed for all years Y7 to Y13. Our successful House system offers opportunities for challenge and collaboration and our well developed student leadership opportunities allow our students to be excellent role models and make a valuable contribution to Shenfield High school." House leadership teams make positive contributions to the School. The considerable range of opportunities means pupils successfully develop skills that they can use throughout their lives" OFSTED May 2024.

The school strives to ensure that all students can develop particular interests. Together with excellence in the creative and the physical (including awards of the Gold Artsmark and Platinum Sportsmark), the School offers an extensive extra-curricular programme that serves to develop wider interests and foster natural talent. Unique opportunities are offered with our thriving Combined Cadet Force affiliated with the 7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery. Students have a wide range of extra curricular opportunities including many clubs and societies including amongst others a creative writing club, a Politics Society and an Engineering Club. There are opportunities for educational visits and trips including World Challenge. "The opportunities available to pupils outside the classroom are extensive." OFSTED 2024.

Governors recognise the importance and value of a rich and varied extra curricular offer, for the role it plays in improving academic performance, exploring interests and creating broader opportunities, developing essential life skills, increasing social opportunities and helping develop confidence and self-esteem.

- Our popular 6th form, which has a strong reputation for pastoral support and teaching excellence that sees both those who have been students at Shenfield in KS3 and 4 and those who join us afresh in Year 12 settling quickly and demonstrating high degrees of academic and personal success.
- Sporting Academies, offering a strong mix of academic study and professional coaching at KS5 in football and cricket for both girls and boys.
- A Performing Arts Academy at KS5, offering professional support for those with dance, acting and musical talents and aspirations, alongside an academic curriculum.
- Access to these enhanced specialisms from Year 7 for a number of students with those aptitudes. This academic year marks the sixth year of the Junior Academies. The Admissions criteria means that the aptitude criterion will always be used with up to 10% of year 7s being admitted on that basis.
- The school is noting a considerable increase in mental health issues amongst our students. The school has reviewed its provision ensuring that it is needs-led with a critical case team determining appropriate interventions. The senior DSL and another colleague have undertaken mental health training.
- The three-year Pupil Premium strategy has been implemented and is closely monitored by Governors.
- A number of intervention have been introduced to support students in being able to access the curriculum: including the introduction of the RISE Curriculum.

The School was inspected by OFSTED in April 2024. The report confirmed that Shenfield High School continues to be a good school. OFSTED observed that leaders know the school well and "make decisions that have the best interests of pupils at heart" They noted that "The school is a welcoming place for pupils. They enjoy coming to school. Pupils feel safe and are supportive of one another".

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Governors remain confident that the school has the capacity, led by our Headteacher, to ensure that the Academy continues to develop and improve supported by the loyalty and motivation of a talented and hard-working staff.

b. Key performance indicators

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2020-21</u>	<u>2019-20</u>
NOR 11-16	1194	1192	1169	1095	1037
NOR 16-19	307	339	384	322	316
Staff costs as % of total expenditure	81.65%	74.50%	80.80%	75.30%	80.50%
Staff costs as % of ESFA & LA funding	83.80%	79%	81.71%	85.20%	86.20%
Average teacher cost (FTE)	£70,215	£62,575	£58,929	£57,199	£52,279
Pupil to teacher (FTE) ratio	17.58	18.21	18.97	17.07	18.14

Regular financial reviews of in year performance against budget and cashflow against forecast, are presented at the Governors' Resources Committee meetings. 3 year forecasts are also regularly reviewed at Resources. All Governors receive monthly monitoring reports and bespoke updates as necessary between committee meetings.

Resources committee gives consideration as to whether the financial position is robust and stable enabling the provision of sufficient quality resources to fulfil the Academy's educational obligations.

Benchmarking and review of the schools VMFI data against comparable schools are reviewed and there are plans in place to expand this and drive future key performance indicators especially around any areas considered to be needing closer monitoring.

c. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Academy has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Strategic report (continued)

Financial review

a. Reserves policy

Governors' policy is to apply reserves generated to benefit the education of the students and the environment in which we operate. Some investment in building conditions and facilities has been undertaken this year including improvements to outside areas and social spaces as well as ventilation to specialist areas of the school.

In addition to this objective, Governors recognise the importance of building and maintaining reserves of around £250,000 and this is a target of the trust. These reserves would be to cover the impact of sudden or unforeseen expenditure that may come up throughout the year. The current energy market prices are still high by historic standards and general inflationary pressures remain. It is recognised that the reserves position at the end of 2023-24 is below the £250,000 target and the school is reviewing staffing solutions as vacancies arise in order to reduce expenditure for 2024-25 and restore the reserves position to where we want it to be.

At the balance sheet date, the charitable Company had total reserves of £26,539,850. This was made up of restricted fixed asset reserve of £26,325,035, restricted reserves of £797 (2023: £6,901) and free reserves of £214,018 (2023: £332,602).

At the year end the pension surplus was £Nil after applying an asset ceiling of £214,000 (2023: £100,000 deficit); this amount has been guaranteed by the Department for Education.

b. Investment policy

The Academy maintains all of its funds in a current account.

c. Financial review

The Academy began the year with a balanced budget and managed its resources tightly to ensure that expenditure did not exceed funds available.

The Academy's financial performance demonstrates total income of £10,865,239 (2023: £9,990,143) with an in-year deficit for the year ending 31 August 2024 of £69,500 (2023: £281,318). The deficit has been allocated to reserves.

At the balance sheet date, the charitable Company had free reserves (excluding pension) of £214,018 (2023: £332,602) and restricted reserves of £797 (2023: £6,901).

Governors strongly believe in our comprehensive ethos. We understand that the improvement in standards and performance achieved has been possible because of the Academy's commitment to pastoral support which in turn improves behaviour, attendance and then outcomes. We recognise the importance of cultural capital, of broadening horizons and enhancing educational excellence. The School ensures that our students develop the essential knowledge, skills and experiences that will enable them to succeed in life and contribute meaningfully to society.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

d. Principal risks and uncertainties

The Board determines the Academy's risk appetite — the extent to which it is prepared to tolerate risks which threaten the Academy's achievement of its objectives. Shenfield High School operates to provide the best possible education for all its students, and to provide parents and children in the area with a high quality offer as those children approach secondary school age. The Academy's risk appetite requires that mitigating action be taken wherever possible to treat or transfer risks which inherently threaten achievement of its objectives. It will only tolerate danger risks, where those risks remain inherent even after treatment, and not to tolerate the risk would require the closure of the Academy, and this is also deemed to be a disproportionate response.

A register of strategic level risks has been maintained and reviewed on a regular basis by the full board Governing Board and the Resources Committee. The Committee has ensured that risks are regularly updated — removed from the register if no longer a threat, added if newly emerged — and that mitigating actions are having the expected impact or are refreshed or replaced as necessary.

The most significant risk Governors always carefully monitor is safeguarding of our students. The very essence of our purpose is to act in their best interests, to help them to be the very best citizens they can be. The threats to our children's health and well-being are increasing with the impact of social media. The mitigating actions the Board has taken to manage this risk includes the appointment of three designated Safeguarding Officers who work closely with the Deputy Head to ensure that appropriate policies and procedures are in place, that they are used effectively and that individual incidences are progressed appropriately. The designated Safeguarding Governor monitors this work. If a potentially serious incident is identified, the Safeguarding Governor and Chair of Governors are informed so that they can monitor actions taken. The Board receives an annual safeguarding report, and updates on the interim position. Reports include information on staff training so Governors can be satisfied that staff are well supported to recognise and deal with any potential safeguarding issues. Governors devote one of their in-house training sessions to safeguarding, so they too can ensure they are aware of the potential threat to students, and a governors' role in protecting them. This is supported by a monitoring visit during which safeguarding issues are tested, The visit provides governors with reassurance that this risk is well managed.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Fundraising

The predominant source of The Academy's income is provided by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurring grants. The principal grant is the general annual grant (GAG). Other smaller grants are received from the ESFA. Each of the foregoing grants is "restricted" to particular purposes for the running of the Academy and providing services in accordance with the Academy's' objectives.

For capital projects, The Academy receives fixed asset grants from the ESFA (DFC) for smaller projects and applies to the ESFA for CIF funding for larger or higher priority projects each year.

The trust also generates a significant amount of funding by letting out facilities after 18:00 weekdays, at weekends, and during school holidays.

The trust's approach to fundraising is to carefully plan what the funds would be used for in line with the Academy's' priorities and strategic direction. The purpose of the fundraising is published and communicated appropriately so that people know what their donations are towards.

Most of the fundraising is from members of the school community (i.e parents, family of staff/pupils), and we apply the same standards as we do to any fundraising directed at the public. We carefully consider approaches taking into account volume of requests, circumstances of the people being approached, and utilise the least intrusive method of communication. We always action any requests to be removed from communication lists relating to fundraising, and we ensure any complaints or queries are processed as quickly as possible.

All fundraising is monitored and records of income are maintained. Any donations in the form of cash are stored in the safe and banked as quickly as possible.

We do not currently work with professional fundraisers but we do have links with the PTA who raise funds and donate to the school. All fundraising either undertaken directly by the school or by the PTA is carried out in line with the relevant codes of practice.

Plans for future periods

Shenfield High School will continue to focus on improving student progress and attainment, attendance, behaviour and well being.

Funds held as custodian on behalf of others

The academy trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for ESFA. In the accounting period ending 31 August 2024 the trust received and disbursed amounts from the fund as detailed in note 30 to the financial statements.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware, and
- that 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 auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

The auditors, MWS, have indicated their willingness to continue in office. The designated Trustees will propose a motion reappointing the auditors at a meeting of the Trustees.

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 10 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

J Swettenham

C Costello - Accounting Officer

.....
J Swettenham
Chair of Trustees

.....
C Costello
Accounting Officer

SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Scope of responsibility

As Governors., we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Shenfield High School 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.

As Governors., we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in DfE's Governance Handbook and competency framework for governance.

The board of Governors. has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Headteacher, as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Shenfield High School and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of Governors. any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' report and in the Statement of trustees' responsibilities. The board of Governors. has formally met 4 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees is detailed in the table below.

Changes to the membership of the governing board during the year include the appointment of Amelia Mauger and Alexandre Dedominicis in November 2023 and the resignation of Victoria Noonan in November 2023.

The Governing Board has worked closely with the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team to monitor the three year strategic plan which has been regularly reviewed throughout the academic year. Governors monitored closely the implementation of the strategic plan. Governing Board have also agreed and monitored the School Improvement Plan. Governors have provided support and challenge to the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team. Comprehensive data on assessment, exam results, staffing, curriculum, behaviour, attendance and finance are available to Governors. The Headteacher presents a detailed report at every meeting of the governing board. All committees have clear terms of reference which are regularly reviewed throughout the academic year.

We are confident that effective financial oversight has been maintained via the committee structure and regular financial reporting. The Resources Committee met 4 times throughout the year in addition to the Full Board. The Resources Committee monitors and scrutinises the financial health of the school via the detailed reports presented at each meeting.

All Governors also receive regular financial monitoring reports and updates throughout the year.

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

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
J Swettenham, Chair	4	4
C Costello, Headteacher	4	4
K Shaunak-Hobbs	4	4
K Boulton, Vice Chair & Head of Resources	4	4
J Beard, Chair of Standard & Performance	2	4
S Roberts	4	4
A Williams	4	4
D Churchill	4	4
V Noonan	0	1
C Hoddy	3	4
J Gray	1	4
G Haines	0	4
C D'Silva	3	4
A Mauger	1	3
A Dedominicis	0	3

Conflicts of interest are managed effectively by maintaining an accurate register of business interests. This is completed by all Governors in September each year. At every meeting of all committees and meetings of the full governing board, there is a standing agenda item allowing for Governors to declare any new business interests. The registers of interest are published on the school website.

The Governing Board undertakes self-evaluation on a regular basis. In March 2023 an external review of governance conducted by Ruth Murton took place. Following the completion of the review an action plan was prepared and this is a regular item at full governing board meetings so governors can review progress. In addition an annual skills audit is undertaken in the autumn term. The skills audit helps to inform training and recruitment.

The Board continues to operate via a number of sub-committees undertaking detailed monitoring of performance and financial data, and its regular monitoring visits provided evidence to support officers' reports. Reports were then made to the full Board at its termly meetings. The Board is satisfied that the quality of the data that it receives enables it to meet its obligations with regard to the financial management of the Academy and students'

SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance (continued)

outcomes, attendance and behaviour.

As a result of its regular self-evaluation, and the recent external governance review, resulting action, its organisation and the work it has undertaken during the year, the Board believe it is fully effective in its governance of the Academy.

The board maintained effective oversight of funds by delegating the first line monitoring to the Resources committee and also receiving reports at each board meeting.

In addition, the financial oversight and monitoring reports were published monthly and available to all Trustees for review.

The Resources Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Governors Its purpose is to report back to the Governing Board on the Academy's financial undertakings and the use and maintenance of premises. The Resources Committee also serves as the Audit Committee. The three year budget plans are closely monitored by the Resources Committee. The Committee receives financial updates from the CFO and the Headteacher.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
K Boulton	4	4
C Costello, Headteacher	3	4
J Swettenham	4	4
A Williams	3	4
C D'Silva	4	4
A Mauger	2	3
S Roberts	4	4
A Dedominicis	1	2

SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Review of value for money

As accounting officer, the Headteacher has responsibility for ensuring that the Academy delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes, as well as estates safety and management, achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

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

- Building the curriculum in line with available staffing, skills and funding, to maximise efficiency whilst delivering a diverse and balanced education.
- Making use of purchasing consortiums wherever possible to check value for money and help reduce costs.
- Benchmarking major expenditure with similar schools
- Continuing to ensure staff costs are monitored and reviewed with a target of maintaining them at around 85%, but no higher than 90% of ESFA income.

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Academy 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 Shenfield High School for the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to handle risk

The board of Governors. has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Governors. is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy's significant risks that has been in place for the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of Governors.

The risk and control framework

The Academy'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 Governors.
- regular reviews by the Resources Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks

The Board of Trustees has decided to employ Juniper Education Services as internal auditor.

SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

The risk and control framework (continued)

The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy's financial systems. In particular the checks carried out in the current period included:

- Financial oversight, planning and monitoring
- Risk management
- Internal scrutiny (inc. Governance, scheme of delegation, and financial regulations)
- Internal control (inc. separation of duties, banking procedures, and payment authorisation)
- Payroll processing
- Balance sheet management

Internal Control Evaluations were undertaken once a term, with reports to the Finance Manager, Chief Finance and Operations Officer, and the Headteacher. The Chief Finance and Operations Officer reported to the Resources Committee on control issues identified and the response of the Academy, advising as appropriate.

On a termly basis, the internal auditor reports to the board of Governors. through the Resource Committee which incorporates the Audit Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Governors.' financial responsibilities, and annually prepares a summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

The internal auditor has delivered the planned schedule of work for the period and there were no material control issues reported. Any other issues that were raised have been addressed and approved by Governors.

In addition to the scope of works from the external auditor, the Audit Committee has directed a review of cyber security and a review of the new finance and budget system to include a review of procurement, payroll and financial governance.

Review of effectiveness

As accounting officer, the Headteacher 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 Juniper Education Services internal controls evaluation service;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process;
- the work of the executive managers within the Academy who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- the work of the external auditors;

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

Conclusion

Based on the advice of the audit and risk committee and the accounting officer, the board of trustees is of the opinion that the academy trust has an adequate and effective framework for governance, risk management and control.

SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 10 December 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

J Swettenham

.....
J Swettenham
Chair of Trustees

C Costello - Accounting Officer

.....
C Costello
Accounting Officer

SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As accounting officer of Shenfield High School I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy 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 and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2023, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

I confirm that I and the Academy board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the Academy, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Academy's funding agreement and the Academies Financial Handbook 2023.

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 ESFA.

C Costello - Accounting Officer

C Costello
Accounting Officer
Date: 10 December 2024

SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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 published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial . 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 of the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024;
- 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 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 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 10 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

J Swettenham
.....
J Swettenham
Chair of Trustees

C Costello - Accounting Officer
.....
C Costello
Accounting Officer

SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Shenfield High School (the 'academy') for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise the Statement of financial activities, the Balance sheet, the Statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Academy's affairs as at 31 August 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

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 Academy in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL (CONTINUED)**

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. 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 course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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 our knowledge and understanding of the Academy and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report including the Strategic report.

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

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

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

SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL (CONTINUED)**

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks applicable to the Company and the industry in which it operates. We determined that the following laws and regulations were most significant: the Companies Act 2006, Safeguarding (including statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education), employment law and public sector pay and conditions. We enquired of management to obtain an understanding of how the Academy Trust is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks and whether they had any knowledge of actual or suspected fraud. We corroborated the results of our enquiries through our review of the board minutes for the year. We did not identify any matters relating to material non compliance with laws and regulation or matters in relation to fraud; as non-material breaches would not normally be communicated within this report.

We obtained an understanding of how the Company is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks by making inquiries of management and those responsible for legal and compliance procedures;

In assessing the potential risks of material misstatement, we obtained an understanding of the Company's operations, including its objectives and strategies to understand the expected financial statement disclosures and business risks that may result in risks of material misstatement;

In assessing the appropriateness of the collective competence and capabilities of the engagement team, the engagement partner considered the engagement team's:

- understanding of, and practical experience with, audit engagements of a similar nature and complexity through
- appropriate training and participation
- the specialist skills required and
- knowledge of the industry in which the client operates.

We assessed the susceptibility of the Company's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- assessing the design effectiveness of controls management has in place to prevent and detect fraud;
- challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in its significant accounting estimates;
- identifying and testing journal entries, in particular manual journal entries made at year end for financial statement preparation; and
- assessing the extent of compliance with the relevant laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement item.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance.

SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL (CONTINUED)**

The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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 Auditors' report.

Use of our report

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

Clive Smith

Clive Smith FCA (Senior statutory auditor)

for and on behalf of

MWS

Chartered Accountants

Statutory Auditor

Kingsridge House

601 London Road

Westcliff-on-Sea

Essex

SS0 9PE

Date: 18 December 2024

SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated November 2018 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Shenfield High School during the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 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 Shenfield High School and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Shenfield High School and 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 Shenfield High School and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Shenfield High School's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Shenfield High School's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 1 February 2012 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2023, 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 2023 to 2024. 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 year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO SHENFIELD
HIGH SCHOOL AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)**

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's income and expenditure.

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Assessing the risk of material irregularity in the Academy Trust
- Commissioning a self-assessment review of the Trustees' governance arrangements and consideration of any material non-compliance with the Academies Financial Handbook
- Investigating any areas of significant risk identified
- Consideration of the work performed under our audit engagement and any impact this may have on our regularity conclusion or regularity risk assessment
- A review of the internal controls and internal audit procedures for areas of significant risk and performing further substantive testing where necessary.

In line with the Framework and guide for external auditors and reporting accountants of academy trusts issued April 2023, we have not performed any additional procedures regarding the Trust's compliance with safeguarding, health and safety and estates management.

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggest in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

MWS

MWS
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Kingsridge House
601 London Road
Westcliff-on-Sea
Essex
SS0 9PE

Date: 18 December 2024

SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

	Note	Restricted funds 2024 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	2,700	341,755	265,644	610,099	339,500
Other trading activities		-	-	260,885	260,885	211,639
Investments	6	6,000	-	123	6,123	125
Charitable activities		9,988,132	-	-	9,988,132	9,438,879
Total income		9,996,832	341,755	526,652	10,865,239	9,990,143
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds		-	-	237,233	237,233	178,007
Charitable activities	8	10,205,903	396,932	94,671	10,697,506	10,093,454
Total expenditure		10,205,903	396,932	331,904	10,934,739	10,271,461
Net (expenditure)/income		(209,071)	(55,177)	194,748	(69,500)	(281,318)
Transfers between funds	18	286,967	26,365	(313,332)	-	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		77,896	(28,812)	(118,584)	(69,500)	(281,318)
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	26	16,000	-	-	16,000	1,161,000
Net movement in funds		93,896	(28,812)	(118,584)	(53,500)	879,682
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		(93,099)	26,353,847	332,602	26,593,350	25,713,668
Net movement in funds		93,896	(28,812)	(118,584)	(53,500)	879,682
Total funds carried forward		797	26,325,035	214,018	26,539,850	26,593,350

The Statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 32 to 62 form part of these financial statements.

SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 7898905

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	26,344,781	26,394,301
		<u>26,344,781</u>	<u>26,394,301</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	15	325,949	130,478
Cash at bank and in hand		595,797	915,473
		<u>921,746</u>	<u>1,045,951</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(717,556)	(725,756)
Net current assets		<u>204,190</u>	<u>320,195</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>26,548,971</u>	<u>26,714,496</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	17	(9,121)	(21,146)
Net assets excluding pension asset / liability		<u>26,539,850</u>	<u>26,693,350</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme asset / liability	26	-	(100,000)
Total net assets		<u><u>26,539,850</u></u>	<u><u>26,593,350</u></u>
Funds of the Academy			
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	18	26,325,035	26,353,847
Restricted income funds	18	797	6,901
		<u>26,325,832</u>	<u>26,360,748</u>
Restricted funds excluding pension asset	18	26,325,832	26,360,748
Pension reserve	18	-	(100,000)
Total restricted funds	18	<u>26,325,832</u>	<u>26,260,748</u>
Unrestricted income funds	18	214,018	332,602
Total funds		<u><u>26,539,850</u></u>	<u><u>26,593,350</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 28 to 62 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 10 December 2024 and are signed on their behalf, by:

SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 7898905

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

M Swettenham

.....
J Swettenham
Chair of Trustees

C Costello - Accounting Officer

.....
C Costello
Accounting Officer

The notes on pages 32 to 62 form part of these financial statements.

SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	21	(226,192)	136,685
Cash flows from investing activities			
	23	(74,176)	18,782
Cash flows from financing activities			
	22	(19,308)	(23,308)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(319,676)	132,159
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		915,473	783,314
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	24, 25	595,797	915,473

The notes on pages 32 to 62 form part of these financial statements

SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1. Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements of the Academy, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historic 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 2023 to 2024 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Shenfield High School meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

1.2 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 Academy to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the Academy has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Academy's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.3 Income

All incoming resources are recognised when the Academy 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 is recognised in full in the Statement of financial activities in the year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the year 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.

• **Donations**

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

• **Other income**

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

• **Donated fixed assets (excluding transfers on conversion or into the Academy)**

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 Capital Grants' and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the Academy's accounting policies.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

1.4 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.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.4 Expenditure (continued)

• **Expenditure on raising funds**

This includes all expenditure incurred by the Academy 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 Academy's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the Academy apportioned to charitable activities.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.5 Government grants

Government grants relating to tangible fixed assets are treated as deferred income and released to the Statement of financial activities over the expected useful lives of the assets concerned. Other grants are credited to the Statement of financial activities as the related expenditure is incurred.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Assets costing £5,000 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 land 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:

The estimated useful lives are as follows:

Freehold property	- 50 years
Furniture and fixtures	- 5 years
Computer equipment	- 4 years

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.

1.7 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.8 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.9 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 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.

1.10 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 15. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the Academy's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment. Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

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 16 and 17. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument. Amounts due to the Academy's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

1.11 Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.12 Pensions

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Academy 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 Academy 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.

1.13 Agency arrangements

The academy trust acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from ESFA. Payments received from ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the statement of financial activities as the trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The trust 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 31.

1.14 Fund accounting

Unrestricted income funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the Academy at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by the 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 Department for Education Group.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.15 Concessionary loans

As allowed per the Statement of Recommended Practice 2015 (FRS 102), it is the policy of the Academy to measure the loans at the amount received, with the carrying amount adjusted for any repayments and accrued interest (and adjusted if necessary to the settlement account if the loan or part of the loan is waived).

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 26, 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 2024. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgment:

At the reporting date the Academy Trust's estimated fair value of LGPS scheme assets exceeded the estimated liabilities. The Trust have judged that the value of the asset should be reduced to £nil, in line with the valuation of the actuary, with the expectation that future contributions will not reduce, nor will the Trust receive any refund of contributions already made.

3. Income from donations and capital grants

	Restricted funds	Restricted fixed asset funds	Unrestricted funds	Total funds	<i>Total funds</i>
	2024	2024	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Donations					
Educational trips and visits	-	-	242,100	242,100	201,295
Lottery/Jack Petchey	2,700	-	-	2,700	2,700
Donations	-	-	23,544	23,544	46,791
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,700	-	265,644	268,344	250,786
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

3. Income from donations and capital grants (continued)

	Restricted funds 2024 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
LA Grants	-	192,047	-	192,047	-
Government grants	-	149,708	-	149,708	88,714
	-	341,755	-	341,755	88,714
Total 2024	2,700	341,755	265,644	610,099	339,500
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>2,700</i>	<i>88,714</i>	<i>248,086</i>	<i>339,500</i>	

4. Funding for the Academy's charitable activities

	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Educational Operations			
DfE/ESFA grants			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	7,074,858	7,074,858	6,571,783
Other DfE/ESFA grants			
16 - 19 Core Funding	1,730,572	1,730,572	1,873,149
Pupil Premium	223,080	223,080	207,777
Teacher threshold	284,881	284,881	83,113
Supplementary Grant	-	-	216,951
Mainstream Grant	253,519	253,519	105,633
Other Grants	140,573	140,573	182,212
	-	9,707,483	9,240,618
Other Government grants			
Other LA grants	24,223	24,223	30,140
Special educational needs	232,709	232,709	144,321
	256,932	256,932	174,461
Other income from the Academy's educational operations	23,717	23,717	23,800
Total Educational Operations	9,988,132	9,988,132	9,438,879

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

4. Funding for the Academy's charitable activities (continued)

	9,988,132	9,988,132	9,438,879
	<u>9,988,132</u>	<u>9,988,132</u>	<u>9,438,879</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>9,438,879</u>	<u>9,438,879</u>	

16-19 Core Programme Funding has been shown separately this year as requested by the DfE as a material grant, and hence the comparative has been reallocated for presentation purposes.

5. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Hire of facilities	159,830	159,830	132,676
Catering	334	334	131
School sales	48,512	48,512	46,391
Recharges and reimbursements	52,209	52,209	32,441
Total 2024	<u>260,885</u>	<u>260,885</u>	<u>211,639</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>211,639</u>	<u>211,639</u>	

6. Investment income

	Restricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Pension income	6,000	-	6,000	-
Interest receivable	-	123	123	125
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>-</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>125</u>	

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

7. Expenditure

	Staff Costs 2024 £	Premises 2024 £	Other 2024 £	Total 2024 £	<i>Total 2023 £</i>
Expenditure on raising voluntary income:					
Direct costs	-	-	237,233	237,233	178,007
Educational Operations:					
Direct costs	6,902,914	-	428,264	7,331,178	6,536,974
Support costs	1,525,737	1,218,146	622,445	3,366,328	3,556,480
Total 2024	8,428,651	1,218,146	1,287,942	10,934,739	10,271,461
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>7,615,781</i>	<i>1,511,936</i>	<i>1,143,744</i>	<i>10,271,461</i>	

8. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Restricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	<i>Total 2023 £</i>
Educational Operations	10,602,835	94,671	10,697,506	10,093,454
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>9,999,564</i>	<i>93,890</i>	<i>10,093,454</i>	

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2024 £	Support costs 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Educational Operations	7,331,178	3,366,328	10,697,506	10,093,454
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>6,536,974</i>	<i>3,556,480</i>	<i>10,093,454</i>	

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs

	Educational Operations 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Staff costs	6,902,914	6,902,914	6,164,514
Technology costs	57,463	57,463	28,156
Educational supplies	107,643	107,643	114,483
Examination fees	175,815	175,815	163,605
Staff development	13,437	13,437	20,614
Educational consultancy	66,444	66,444	41,055
Other direct costs	7,462	7,462	4,547
Total 2024	7,331,178	7,331,178	6,536,974
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>6,536,974</i>	<i>6,536,974</i>	

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Educational Operations 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Pension cost	-	-	40,000
Staff costs	1,525,737	1,525,737	1,451,267
Depreciation	396,932	396,932	388,264
Technology costs	83,839	83,839	74,354
Recruitment and support	17,046	17,046	16,407
Maintenance of premises and equipment	284,098	284,098	305,134
Cleaning	80,755	80,755	211,374
Rent, rates & utilities	424,964	424,964	573,481
Insurance	27,646	27,646	33,684
Security and transport	30,980	30,980	27,882
Catering	94,671	94,671	93,890
Finance charges	291	291	195
Legal and professional costs	220,958	220,958	136,054
Other support costs	178,411	178,411	204,494
Total 2024	<u>3,366,328</u>	<u>3,366,328</u>	<u>3,556,480</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>3,556,480</u>	<u>3,556,480</u>	

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

10. Net (expenditure)/income

Net (expenditure)/income for the year includes:

	2024	<i>2023</i>
	£	£
Operating lease rentals	113,173	<i>78,420</i>
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	396,932	<i>388,264</i>
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	9,200	<i>8,800</i>
- other services	2,300	<i>2,200</i>
	=====	<i>=====</i>

SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

11. Staff

a. Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	6,192,692	5,670,658
Social security costs	641,640	572,520
Pension costs	1,357,521	1,307,697
	<u>8,191,853</u>	<u>7,550,875</u>
Agency staff costs	236,798	64,906
	<u><u>8,428,651</u></u>	<u><u>7,615,781</u></u>

b. Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed by the Academy during the year was as follows:

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Leadership	10	9
Teachers	93	91
Administration and support	87	67
	<u>190</u>	<u>167</u>

c. Higher paid staff

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

	2024 No.	2023 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	4	5
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	1	2
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	2	-
In the band £110,001 - £120,000	-	1
In the band £120,001 - £130,000	1	-
	<u><u>1</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>

7 (2023: 7) of the above employees participated in the Teachers' Pension Scheme. During the year ended 31 August 2024, pension contributions for these staff amounted to £142,471 (2023: £120,333).

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

11. Staff (continued)

d. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy was £1,037,570 (2023 £859,590).

12. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more Trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the Academy. The principal and other staff Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff members under their contracts of employment. The value of Trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

		2024	2023
		£	£
K Shaunak-Hobbs	Remuneration	60,000 -	55,000 -
		65,000	60,000
	Pension contributions paid	15,000 -	10,000 -
		20,000	15,000
S J Roberts	Remuneration	80,000 -	75,000 -
		85,000	80,000
	Pension contributions paid	5,000 -	15,000 -
		10,000	20,000
C Costello, Head Teacher	Remuneration	120,000 -	110,000 -
		125,000	115,000
	Pension contributions paid	30,000 -	25,000 -
		35,000	30,000

During the year, retirement benefits were accruing to 3 Trustees (2023 - 3) in respect of defined benefit pension schemes.

During the year ended 31 August 2024, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2023 - £NIL).

13. Trustees' and Officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the Academy has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £5,000,000 on any one claim and the cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

14. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Furniture and fixtures £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation				
At 1 September 2023	30,001,391	212,641	287,868	30,501,900
Additions	294,022	17,377	36,013	347,412
At 31 August 2024	<u>30,295,413</u>	<u>230,018</u>	<u>323,881</u>	<u>30,849,312</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2023	3,710,570	159,222	237,807	4,107,599
Charge for the year	350,135	23,019	23,778	396,932
At 31 August 2024	<u>4,060,705</u>	<u>182,241</u>	<u>261,585</u>	<u>4,504,531</u>
Net book value				
At 31 August 2024	<u>26,234,708</u>	<u>47,777</u>	<u>62,296</u>	<u>26,344,781</u>
<i>At 31 August 2023</i>	<u>26,290,821</u>	<u>53,419</u>	<u>50,061</u>	<u>26,394,301</u>

15. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	968	81
Other debtors	40,947	14,300
Prepayments and accrued income	284,034	116,097
	<u>325,949</u>	<u>130,478</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

16. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Concessionary loans	12,025	19,308
Trade creditors	(382)	54,378
Other taxation and social security	140,105	140,395
Other creditors	129,535	108,466
Accruals and deferred income	436,273	403,209
	<u>717,556</u>	<u>725,756</u>

	2024 £	2023 £
Deferred income at 1 September 2023	68,744	30,317
Resources deferred during the year	125,361	68,744
Amounts released from previous periods	(68,744)	(30,317)
	<u>125,361</u>	<u>68,744</u>

At the balance sheet date the Academy Trust was holding funds received in advance for:

Trips and events £84,036 (2023: £61,625)
 Lessons and clubs £180 (2023: £3,132)
 Grants received in advance £40,159 (2023: £Nil)
 Other £986 (2023: £3,988)

17. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Concessionary loans	9,121	21,146
	<u>9,121</u>	<u>21,146</u>

The aggregate amount of liabilities payable or repayable wholly or in part more than five years after the reporting date is:

	2024 £	2023 £
Payable or repayable by instalments	1,500	3,000
	<u>1,500</u>	<u>3,000</u>

Included above are two Salix loans provided by the Department for Education at 0% interest.

Loan one: £116,528 total and is being paid off £7,283 twice yearly for 8 years, £7,283 was outstanding at the year end.

Loan two: £25,936 total and is being paid off £1,621 twice yearly for 8 years, £4,863 was outstanding at the year end.

Also included above is a CIF loan provided by the Department for Education at 2.29% interest.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

17. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year (continued)

Loan three: £15,000 total is being paid off £141 monthly for 10 years, £9,000 was outstanding at the year end.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

18. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Unrestricted funds						
Unrestricted funds	332,602	526,652	(331,904)	(313,332)	-	214,018
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	8,805,430	(8,675,397)	(130,033)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	678,973	(678,973)	-	-	-
Pupil premium	5,981	223,080	(229,061)	-	-	-
Local authority grants	-	256,932	(256,932)	-	-	-
Other grants	920	26,417	(26,540)	-	-	797
Pension reserve	(100,000)	6,000	(339,000)	417,000	16,000	-
	(93,099)	9,996,832	(10,205,903)	286,967	16,000	797
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Inherited on conversion	22,769,493	-	(266,720)	-	-	22,502,773
Fixed assets purchased	2,486,797	-	(73,210)	-	-	2,413,587
DfE/ESFA capital grants	1,138,011	149,708	(56,760)	9,991	-	1,240,950
Salix loans	(40,454)	-	-	19,308	-	(21,146)
Local Authority Grant	-	192,047	(242)	(2,934)	-	188,871
	26,353,847	341,755	(396,932)	26,365	-	26,325,035
Total Restricted funds	26,260,748	10,338,587	(10,602,835)	313,332	16,000	26,325,832
Total funds	26,593,350	10,865,239	(10,934,739)	-	16,000	26,539,850

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

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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18. Statement of funds (continued)

Restricted general funds

These funds relate to the Academy's development and operational activities.

Restricted pension funds

These funds represent the LGPS obligation to the employees of the Academy Trust.

Restricted fixed asset fund

These funds relate to long term assets held by the Academy Trust and grants to purchase or maintain these assets.

Unrestricted funds

These funds relate to amounts generated or acquired with no restricted covenants attached to them other than for use within the charitable objects of the Academy.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG it could carry forward at 31 August 2024.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

18. Statement of funds (continued)

Comparative information in respect of the preceding year is as follows:

	<i>Balance at 1 September 2022</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers in/out</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses)</i>	<i>Balance at 31 August 2023</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds						
Unrestricted funds	289,611	459,850	(271,897)	(144,962)	-	332,602
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	4,216	8,482,392	(8,119,189)	(367,419)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	550,449	(550,449)	-	-	-
Pupil premium	26,131	207,777	(227,927)	-	-	5,981
Local authority grants	-	174,461	(174,461)	-	-	-
Other grants	2,694	26,500	(28,274)	-	-	920
Pension reserve	(1,156,000)	-	(511,000)	406,000	1,161,000	(100,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	(1,122,959)	9,441,579	(9,611,300)	38,581	1,161,000	(93,099)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Inherited on conversion	23,036,213	-	(266,720)	-	-	22,769,493
Fixed assets purchased	2,475,598	-	(71,874)	83,073	-	2,486,797
DfE/ESFA capital grants	1,098,967	88,714	(49,670)	-	-	1,138,011
Salix loans	(63,762)	-	-	23,308	-	(40,454)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	26,547,016	88,714	(388,264)	106,381	-	26,353,847
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Restricted funds	25,424,057	9,530,293	(9,999,564)	144,962	1,161,000	26,260,748
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funds	25,713,668	9,990,143	(10,271,461)	-	1,161,000	26,593,350
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

19. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current period

	Restricted funds 2024 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	26,344,781	-	26,344,781
Current assets	617,348	1,400	302,998	921,746
Creditors due within one year	(616,551)	(12,025)	(88,980)	(717,556)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(9,121)	-	(9,121)
Total	797	26,325,035	214,018	26,539,850

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period

	<i>Restricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	-	26,394,301	-	26,394,301
Current assets	644,604	-	401,347	1,045,951
Creditors due within one year	(637,703)	(19,308)	(68,745)	(725,756)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(21,146)	-	(21,146)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	(100,000)	-	-	(100,000)
Total	(93,099)	26,353,847	332,602	26,593,350

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

20. Transfers between funds

Funds have been transferred in respect of the following:

£7,057 has been transferred from restricted funds to the restricted fixed asset fund representing assets purchased from revenue funds.

£19,308 has been transferred from the restricted fund to the restricted fixed asset fund representing the repayment of salix and CIF loans, including the interest thereon, allocated within the restricted fixed asset fund.

£313,332 has been transferred from the unrestricted fund to the restricted fund representing revenue expenditure paid from the unrestricted fund.

£417,000 has been transferred from the restricted fund into the pension reserve representing employers contributions towards the fund.

21. Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Net expenditure for the period (as per Statement of financial activities)	(69,500)	(281,318)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	396,932	388,264
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(145,618)	(88,714)
Interest receivable	(123)	(125)
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	(84,000)	105,000
Increase in debtors	(195,473)	(41,529)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(128,410)	55,107
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	(226,192)	136,685

22. Cash flows from financing activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Repayments of borrowing	(19,308)	(23,308)
Net cash used in financing activities	(19,308)	(23,308)

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

23. Cash flows from investing activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	123	125
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(219,917)	(70,057)
Capital grants from DfE Group	145,618	88,714
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities	(74,176)	18,782

24. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash in hand and at bank	595,797	915,473
Total cash and cash equivalents	595,797	915,473

25. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2023 £	Cash flows £	Other non- cash changes £	At 31 August 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	915,473	(319,676)	-	595,797
Debt due within 1 year	(19,308)	19,308	(12,025)	(12,025)
Debt due after 1 year	(21,146)	-	12,025	(9,121)
	875,019	(300,368)	-	574,651

26. Pension commitments

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

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2020 and of the LGPS 31 March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £125,848 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2024 (2023 - £98,734) and are included within creditors.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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26. Pension commitments (continued)

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.

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 ensure scheme costs are recognised and managed appropriately and the review specifies 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 27 October 2023, with the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, applying a notional investment return based on 1.7% above the rate of CPI. The key elements of the valuation outcome are:

- employer contribution rates set at 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy). This is an increase of 5% in employer contributions and the cost control result is such that no change in member benefits is needed.
- 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 result of this valuation will be implemented from 1 April 2024. The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2028.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £1,012,884 (2023 - £861,945).

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 Academy trust is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the plan. Accordingly, the academy trust has taken advantage of exemption in FRS 102 and has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The Academy has set out above the information available on the scheme.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

26. Pension commitments (continued)

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 2024 was £518,000 (2023 - £510,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £417,000 (2023 - £406,000) and employees' contributions totalled £ 101,000 (2023 - £104,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 25 per cent for employers and between 5.5 per cent to 12 per cent for employees.

As described in note the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the Academy, who were the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who were eligible to, and did, join the Scheme in the year. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the Academy at the balance sheet date.

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

	2024	<i>2023</i>
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.80	<i>3.90</i>
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.80	<i>2.90</i>
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.05	<i>5.35</i>
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.80	<i>2.90</i>
Inflation assumption (RPI)	3.15	<i>3.25</i>

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

	2024	<i>2023</i>
	Years	Years
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	20.7	<i>20.7</i>
Females	23.3	<i>23.2</i>
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.0	<i>22.0</i>
Females	24.7	<i>24.6</i>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

26. Pension commitments (continued)

Sensitivity analysis

	2024	<i>2023</i>
	£000	<i>£000</i>
Discount rate +0.1%	(135)	<i>(119)</i>
Discount rate -0.1%	138	<i>122</i>
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	240	<i>213</i>
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	(233)	<i>(207)</i>
Salary increases +0.1%	9	<i>9</i>
Salary increases -0.1%	(9)	<i>(9)</i>
	=====	<i>=====</i>

Share of scheme assets

The Academy's share of the assets in the scheme was:

	At 31 August 2024	<i>At 31 August 2023</i>
	£	<i>£</i>
Equities	4,738,000	<i>4,250,000</i>
Gilts	146,000	<i>94,000</i>
Property	592,000	<i>572,000</i>
Cash and other liquid assets	144,000	<i>214,000</i>
Alternative assets	1,260,000	<i>1,156,000</i>
Other managed funds	1,554,000	<i>1,019,000</i>
	=====	<i>=====</i>
Total market value of assets	8,434,000	<i>7,305,000</i>
	=====	<i>=====</i>

The actual return on scheme assets was £858,000 (2023 - £298,000).

The amounts recognised in the Statement of financial activities are as follows:

	2024	<i>2023</i>
	£	<i>£</i>
Current service cost	(334,000)	<i>(467,000)</i>
Interest income	398,000	<i>271,000</i>
Interest cost	(392,000)	<i>(311,000)</i>
Administrative expenses	(5,000)	<i>(4,000)</i>
	=====	<i>=====</i>
Total amount recognised in the Statement of financial activities	(333,000)	<i>(511,000)</i>
	=====	<i>=====</i>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

26. Pension commitments (continued)

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

	2024	2023
	£	£
At 1 September	7,405,000	7,366,000
Current service cost	334,000	467,000
Interest cost	392,000	311,000
Employee contributions	101,000	104,000
Actuarial losses/(gains)	444,000	(651,000)
Benefits paid	(242,000)	(192,000)
	8,434,000	7,405,000
At 31 August	8,434,000	7,405,000

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

	2024	2023
	£	£
At 1 September	7,305,000	6,210,000
Interest income	398,000	271,000
Actuarial gains	460,000	510,000
Employer contributions	417,000	406,000
Employee contributions	101,000	104,000
Benefits paid	(242,000)	(192,000)
Administration costs	(5,000)	(4,000)
	8,434,000	7,305,000
At 31 August	8,434,000	7,305,000

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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Net pension liability	2024	2023
	£	£
Present value of the defined benefit obligation	(8,434,000)	<i>(7,405,000)</i>
Fair value of fund assets	8,434,000	<i>7,305,000</i>
	-	<i>(100,000)</i>
	-	<i>(100,000)</i>

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Impact of the McCloud/Sargeant judgement on the Local Government Pension Scheme

An allowance was made in 2019 for the Court of Appeal judgement in relation to the McCloud & Sargeant cases which relate to age discrimination within the Judicial & Fire Pension schemes respectively. On 27 June 2019 the Supreme Court denied the Government's request for an appeal, and on 15 July 2019 the Government released a statement to confirm that it expects to have to amend all public service schemes, including the LGPS.

The estimated impact on the total liabilities at 31 August 2019 was allowed for as a past service cost and has resulted in a slight increase in the defined benefit obligation as at 31 August 2024.

This adjustment is an estimate of the potential impact on the Trust's defined benefit obligation as provided by the scheme's actuary.

On 13 May 2021, the Government issued a ministerial statement on the proposed remedy to be applied to LGPS benefits in response to the McCloud and Sargeant cases. It is not anticipated that there are any material differences between the approach underlying the estimated allowance in 2019 and the proposed remedy.

Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) Equalisation

As a result of the High Court's Lloyds ruling on the equalisation of GMPs between genders, it is anticipated that the Fund will pay limited increases for member that have reached State Pension Age (SPA) by 6 April 2016, with the Government providing the remainder of the inflationary increase.

For members that reach SPA after this date, it was assumed that the Fund will be required to pay the entire inflationary increase. It is not therefore necessary to make any adjustments to the value placed on the liabilities as a result of the above outcome.

Goodwin case

Following a case involving the Teachers' Pension scheme, known as the Goodwin case, differences between survivor benefits payable to members with same-sex or opposite-sex survivors have been identified within a number of public sector pension schemes. As a result, the Government have confirmed that a remedy is required in all affected public sector pension schemes, which includes the LGPS.

It is anticipated that the impact on the value of LGPS liabilities as a whole, and for the majority of employers participating in the LGPS, will not be material. However, the impact on individual employers will vary depending on their specific membership profile.

Sufficient information is not currently available to assess the actual impact on the Academy Trust as such no provision has been included within these financial statements.

Asset Ceiling

At the reporting date the Academy Trust's estimated fair value of LGPS scheme assets exceeded the estimated total liabilities. The resulting surplus should only be recognised where there is an expectation that future contributions will reduce, or that the scheme will refund contributions already made.

The scheme actuaries have assessed the position and concluded:

- There is no right for the Trust to receive a refund of the surplus at a level required by the accounting standard.
- The Trust is expected and assumed, as an academy trust, to participate in the scheme indefinitely.
- The Trust is bound by a minimum funding requirement to make contributions to the fund, and there is no expectation for the contribution rates to change beyond the information provided by the existing Rates and Adjustments certificate.
- FRS102 does not require any additional liability recognised from an onerous funding commitment.
- Any reduction in contributions is expected to have an economic benefit of £Nil.

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As the recognition threshold for the surplus has not been reached the Academy Trust's share of the net plan assets/liabilities have been reduced to £Nil in the financial statements.

The amount of asset derecognised was £214,000 and is included in the gains and losses on the Trust's share of scheme assets.

27. Operating lease commitments

At 31 August 2024 the Academy had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Not later than 1 year	100,438	103,404
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	81,790	162,690
	182,228	266,094
	182,228	266,094

The following lease payments have been recognised as an expense in the Statement of financial activities:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Operating lease rentals	113,173	78,420
	113,173	78,420

28. 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.

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29. Related party transactions

The following employees are related to trustees and were paid during the year under normal employment contracts:

Employee	Related to	Relationship	Role	Remuneration
A Shaunak	K Shaunak-Hobbs	Brother	Teacher	£72,131 (2023: £56,534)
M Marlborough	A Williams	Wife	Invigilator	£1,070 (2023: £1,681)
B Costello	C Costello	Son	Site staff	£889 (2023: £Nil)

All of the above are paid within the normal pay scales for their role and receive no special treatment as a result of their relationships to trustees. None of the trustees were involved in the appointment of their family members. Remuneration figures include pension contributions paid by the Trust.

Trustee remuneration has been disclosed within note 12.

Owing to the nature of the Academy 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 Academy Trust Handbook, including notifying the ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the Academy's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions.

30. Agency arrangements

The academy trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for the ESFA. In the accounting period ending 31 August 2024 the trust received £22,659 (2023: £25,526) and disbursed £28,703 (2023: £24,344) from the fund. An amount of £3,688 (2023: £9,733) is included in other creditors relating to undistributed funds that are repayable to the ESFA.