

Value for Money Statement

Organisation name: KESGRAVE HIGH SCHOOL

Company number: 7681739

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of KESGRAVE HIGH SCHOOL I am responsible and accountable for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. I am aware of the guide to academy value for money statements published by the Education Funding Agency and understand that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

I set out below how I have ensured that the academy trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year.

Improving Education Results

The Academy achieved a strong set of attainment results, with the Progress 8 value of 0.43 showing outstanding progress across the whole ability group.

Targeted Improvement

We have deployed staffing and resources particularly successfully to the following areas:

Ø Special Education Needs

Ensuring the needs of all statemented students are met, and that they are well supported across the school in an inclusive manner. (An amazing value added score of 1015 maintained).

Ø Supporting Pupil Premium Students

A range of measures and programmes across all year groups to target extra support to this group of students, resulting in a rapidly narrowing of the gap in achievement.

The programmes include:

- o Catch up intervention in year 7 for English and Maths.
- o Targeted support programmes for Year 11 in English and Maths.
- o Attendance and behaviour intervention strategies leading to improvements in attendance (now above 95%) and another reduction in exclusion levels across all year groups, with no permanent exclusions.
- o A mentoring programme for Year 11 students in need of support.
- o A peer mentoring support programme.
- o Targeted educational visits to support vulnerable groups, and to raise aspirations.
- o Collaboration with the North Ipswich and Coastal Estuary partnership schools to share good practice, particularly in relation to engaging disaffected learners, those at risk of exclusion and potential 'NEETs'.
- o Launching the second school based Project Management scheme which is now accredited.

Quantifying Improvements

Data 2011 2012 2013

Average capped total point score (Best 8) 360 359 364

% Persistent absences 6.8 4.8 5.6

% Fixed term exclusions 1.96 1.39 1.38

The school has maintained a minimal carry forward (£270,000 at the end of 2013/2014 financial year) spending wisely to maintain specialist curriculum provision and positive well-being for the students and staff.

Financial governance and oversight

We seek external guidance and audit from:

- Ø Suffolk County Council Finance Team (CSD)
- Ø External Auditors – MacIntyre Hudson
- Ø The senior team of leaders in the Academy
- Ø Specialist Governors with superb financial acumen and experience

We collaborate with other local Academies to ensure we gain the best possible deal when purchasing services. Our expenditure is benchmarked against other Academies to identify areas where we may be able to make savings.

Our Business Manager meets frequently with other Academies to ensure that we procure resources in a cost effective manner.

Generating additional income

We are always seeking to source additional income, as the following examples illustrate:

- Ø Letting premises during the evening for clubs and sport.
- Ø Income from teacher training and Teaching School activities.

Controls and managing risks

We regularly review our budget situation, acting to manage our cash flow effectively. We manage risks through the Finance and Premises Committees, saving scarce resources to ensure top-quality accommodation and resources are maintained, and whenever possible, improved.

The Governors have determined that an appropriate level of reserves should be maintained to ensure there is sufficient working capital to cover our spending commitments.

Lessons learned

- Ø To monitor finances carefully to ensure all sub-groups remain in budget.
- Ø To continue to source external finance to help improve the provision of facilities.
- Ø Reducing the Leadership Team by two to reflect the strong talent and experience base established in the team.

Name: Mr Nigel Burgoyne
Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 19 Dec 2014