

Value for Money Statement

Organisation name: Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy Trust

Company number: 7349394

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy Trust 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 educational outcomes

The exam results for the 13/14 academic year were once again very impressive, with 99% of all Yr. 11 students achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A* to C. In addition, 67% of pupils achieved 5 or more GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and Maths. This has put the academy at the very top of the league table for Runcorn and significantly above local and national average scores. The sixth form has once more achieved excellent results with the A-level pass rate of 99%, well above the national average.

Ofsted visited the Academy in November 2012 and judged it to be 'Good', with all four categories in the inspection judged as 'Good'.

The academy has reviewed its staffing structure and has directed resource to areas of the curriculum requiring additional support. The differing needs of pupils are constantly reviewed and one to one support is provided to pupils when required

The academy runs an award winning Saturday Academy that provides opportunities for primary students to attend a variety of workshops and induction activities. Many of the local primary schools spend taster days at the academy and have taken part in English, Maths, Spanish, Enterprise, ICT. These days have been a massive success and the academy will continue to provide this high quality transition programme. The academy also ran a successful summer school during 2014.

There is a vast and diverse after school Enrichment programme for all students in place which features a plethora of sporting, academic, vocational and leisure activities. The Academy's staff lead these sessions, with external providers such as Liverpool Football Club and our own Chinese Assistant also contributing.

Financial governance and oversight

Monthly reports of spend compared to budget are reviewed and action is taken if any issues are identified. The outlook for the year is also revisited on a monthly basis and monitored against budget.

The Finance and General Purpose Committee review termly financial reports and monitor spend against budget and forecast outcomes for the year. Governors approve the annual budget and longer term plans and are mindful of the need to balance expenditure against income.

The scheme of delegation for approval limits for purchases and tenders is reviewed annually by the Finance and General Purpose Committee.

Departmental budgetary control is achieved through electronic purchase ordering so that budget holders are able to constantly review spend against budget. Purchase order approval limits are also enforced by this system. During the 2013/14 financial year internal audit duties were provided by the services of Mazars LLP who reviewed key internal financial controls, policies and procedures and report to the governors of the academy.

Services and contracts are regularly reviewed to ensure that value for money is being achieved. For example photocopying service agreements have been reviewed and the price per copy reduced. Three quotes are obtained for all significant purchases that are below the tender limit. The academy is a member of a purchasing consortium to help ensure that quality and value for money is achieved on purchases. This has enabled savings to be made on a number of different purchases. The academy also benefits from economies of scale from services negotiated by the Ormiston Academies Trust, and this is likely to increase in the future. Benchmarking reports have been

compiled and are reviewed to identify areas where there are potential savings.

Staffing levels are constantly reviewed to ensure that curriculum needs are matched and to monitor against budgeted expenditure.

Opportunities for generating income are constantly explored to maximise future revenue streams.

Name: Mr John Rigby

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 16 Dec 2014