

Value for Money Statement

Academy Trust name:

St John's School & Sixth Form College
A Catholic Academy

Company Registration Number 7835950 (England and Wales)

Year ended 31 August 2013

I accept that as Accounting Officer of St John's School & Sixth Form College A Catholic Academy 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 the methodology I have adapted to ensure that the Academy Trust's use of resources has provided good value for money throughout the academic year.

Improving Educational Results

KS4

St John's has recorded sustained improvement in KS4 performance over a 10 year period. The most recent performance tables document our best ever results. Whilst 2013's GCSE results did not quite reach the heights of 2012, they still demonstrate our second best ever levels of attainment and show significantly positive progress exceeding national averages.

With 73% 5ACEM, Year 11 have achieved results significantly above national average and significantly above the most challenging estimates (FFT 68%). A 13% gap in achievement between males and females is a disappointing slip back from last year's improvements and boys' attainment and achievement continues to be a high priority.

Having been challenged by Governors to improve the performance of disadvantaged students, thus closing this particular gap in achievement, we were delighted that 63% of ever6 FSM achieved 5ACEM. In 2013, the gap between the attainment of disadvantaged students and other students was 13%.

Levels of progress in English were 80% and Maths were 78% (well in excess of the National average, when compared with the most challenging FFT Maths progress indicator of 69% and the most challenging FFT English progress indicator of 78%, 44% of students achieved better than expected progress in English and 35% of students achieved better than expected progress in Maths. This is in line with most challenging FFT estimates.

Capped point scores in 2013 are in line with 2012 (359 compared with 361 the year before). The average grade achieved by students in their best eight qualifications was a B-. Science attainment continues to be very high with 91% of students achieving two or more good Science

qualifications. The increase in English Baccalaureate grades (from 4% to 27%) reflects a positive change in our curriculum provision for middle and high attaining students. 40% achieving a good modern language grade reflects the effort put into raising the profile and attainment in MFL (although there is still work to be done in this area).

KS5

St John's Sixth Form has continued the upward trend of academic performance in 2013. The A level and Vocational results for 2012/13 document the best ever results and using ALIS as an academic barometer of this attainment, both course routes show that value is added.

The average point score per student has improved from 2012 (736) now set in 2013 at 844 including equivalences. The success of Wider Key Skills at Key Stage 5 has contributed to this improvement. With the further inclusion of the Extended Project in 2013/14 the Sixth Form is offering wider opportunities to increase the average point score and create a broader curriculum. 24 Year 12 students and 17 Year 13 students are currently studying for the EPQ.

The average point score per entry including equivalences has also risen from 2012, moving from 215 to 219. The average point score per A level student has risen significantly from 2012, moving from 567.5 (2012) to 783.3. The average point score per A level entry has also improved in the same time frame, moving from 207.6 (2012) to 216.6 (2013). A similar pattern in attainment has occurred with A level and other academic qualifications having risen from 567.5 (2012) to 855.8 (2013) and 207.6 (2012) to 226.8 (2013).

There are a number of key departments that have contributed significantly to the overall improvement of attainment. Noticeably 13 departments at A level (2013) have shown an improvement from the previous year using ALIS. In Maths (+1.0 – 84%) and Further Maths (+1.1 – 86%) attainment was up, alongside History (+0.6 -72%), Geography (+0.7 – 77%), Physics (+1.6 – 95%) and Psychology, continued to offer value (+0.3 – 62%). The vocational courses boasted a similar profile. Health & Social Care continues to offer outstanding value (+0.9 – 82%) alongside BTEC Business (+0.4 – 66%).

Financial Governance and Oversight

The Finance and General Purposes Committee is a sub-committee of the main Governing Body. Its purpose is;

- To consider all matters received relating to the financial aspects of the Academy, including approval of internal financial procedures, financial regulations manual, purchasing and procurement including limits for tendering
- To keep under review and advise the Governing Body as necessary on the arrangements for efficient control and management of the Academy's financial affairs, and on the financial status of the Academy
- To advise and monitor termly the Academy's estate strategy on behalf of the Governing Body
- To consider annual estimates of income and expenditure, including the provisions for capital expenditure, prepared by the Assistant Headteacher with responsibility of finance, and make recommendations to the Governing Body.

- To liaise with the Community & Premises Committee on action to secure the future well-being and physical development of the Academy's assets
- To approve on behalf of the Governing Body the contractual arrangements for capital building projects and monitor the progress of these projects
- To advise the Governing Body on the establishment of Trusts or companies for trading, exploitation of inventions or other relevant purposes

The Finance Committee approve the annual budget forecast of the Academy Trust including a review of pupil admissions / forecasts, the medium term financial plan (3 years) and a rolling 12 month cash flow statement to ensure the long term sustainability of the Academy and thus that the Academy remains a 'going concern'.

On a termly basis the Committee review the budget monitoring reports and updated cash flow forecasts, approve additional expenditure requirements or reductions, and ensure compliance with the Academy Trusts procurement regulations.

Following the annual audit, the Finance Committee receives and reviews the financial statements and the external auditor's management report prior to forwarding these to the Governing Body for approval. The external auditor presents this report to the Committee prior to approval at the Annual General Meeting.

The Governing Body reviews the work of the Finance Committee prior to ratifying the decisions.

Value for Money and Efficient Use of Resources

The Academy strives to focus on value for money and understanding the value of our assets and how they can be used to increase our students' rate of progress. Existing service delivery is proactively challenged and alternative provision is evaluated.

The Academy promotes fair competition through quotations and tenders in accordance with its Financial Regulations thus ensuring that goods and service are secured in the most economic, efficient and effective way, including working collaboratively with other academies to reduce the administration and procurement costs.

The Principal Officer reviews and authorises all invoices over £500 on behalf of the Academy and regularly challenges these for efficiency and effectiveness. In turn, the Governing Body reviews the functions of the school, challenging how services are provided and setting targets and performance indicators for improvement.

Maximising income generation

The Academy explores all opportunities to generate additional income including maximising income from the improved catering arrangements thus enabling the benefits to be passed on to students, the hire of Academy facilities, offering support to other schools and Academies and the submission of appropriate grant applications. All surplus monies are actively managed and invested in term deposits.

Reviewing Controls and Managing Risks

The Academy has a dedicated Audit and Risk Committee that maintains an oversight of its risk management, value for money framework and governance arrangements.

The Academy appointed Evolution Accountants to act as Responsible Officer, who undertakes system and accounting checks and reports these findings back to the Audit and Risk Committee.

The Audit and Risk Committee consider the strategic risks facing the Academy including how these risks are managed via a termly review of the Risk Register. Significant risks are then delegated to the appropriate committee to ensure appropriate action is taken and progress monitored.

The Headteacher, Head of School and Finance Director review budget monitoring reports on a monthly basis addressing any significant variances against budget.

Signed: Gerard Moran
Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 5th December 2013