

Value for Money Statement

Torquay Boys' Grammar School Multi Academy Trust

Academy trust company number: 7394671

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of Torquay Boys' Grammar School Multi Academy Trust (TBGSMAT) 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 we have ensured that the Academy Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year.

Educational standards

The key focus of TBGSMAT is to ensure that the outstanding academic performance at Torquay Boys' Grammar School (TBGS) is maintained and that the achievements at Torquay Academy (TA) continue to improve. Continual review of both the staffing structure and the teaching and learning practices and outcomes in both academies ensure that Value for Money is achieved. Where improvements or change are deemed to be necessary the options will be considered taking account of the resources used and the outcomes that will be expected.

Targeted Improvement:

At TA 45% of all students are entitled to Pupil Premium. Thus to ensure that the focus is on narrowing the gap for these students we have taken the decision to increase the number of class sets in core subjects, Mathematics and English. This ensures that smaller group teaching allows for greater individual support. In addition small group and 1-2-1 interventions are used as appropriate. The results for 2014 saw the gap narrow for GCSE 5+ A* - C from 15% to 8% compared to a National average of 26%. The number of Pupil Premium students achieving more than the expected progress at GCSE in Mathematics rose from 8% to 10% and in English 16% to 24% between 2013 and 2014. In addition the number of all students achieving more than expected progress at GCSE in Mathematics rose from 9% in 2013 to 15% in 2014.

At TBGS we continue to have outstanding success at GCSE, A Level and the International Baccalaureate (IB). The IB is continuing to prove popular and in 2014 100% of students achieved the IB with an average score of 36 points against an International average point score of 29.

At TA the new sixth form is growing and a wide variety of courses are offered, at both Level 2 and Level 3 with the aim of reducing the numbers of NEETs. By introducing sixth form provision at TA we have been able to attract a greater range of staffing to the Academy who wish to teach at KS5 as well as at KS3 and KS4.

Staffing

During 2013-14 academic year TA has significantly strengthened its Senior Leadership Team (SLT). This has been done intentionally to support the need to raise achievement for all students as well as

standards of Teaching and Learning. The Leadership team has increased their teaching workload which means they are able to demonstrate outstanding lessons to help embed good practice.

Staff training for all staff at TA has focussed on improving Teaching and Learning skills and consistency of practice in all areas.

Collaboration

During the year new Headteachers were appointed at both Trust schools. They have worked together to determine the best means of collaboration between the sponsor school and the sponsored school. Consequently the heads of a number of curriculum areas have met to share good practice, discuss moderation and for support to be offered. However, the difference in the profile of the students of the two schools does mean that the strategies can be significantly different.

Collaboration with primary schools continues to ensure that transition to secondary is a positive experience and that learning outcomes are paramount.

Transition

Nearly 70% of all students in the current Year 7 attended the Summer School at TA. This offered them the opportunity to meet their new peer group, familiarise themselves with their new environment and the routines and expectations of them. This meant that on joining the school they were able to settle down to learning from day one and reduced the number of issues arising from the upheaval of a new school. This was considered excellent value for the resources expended and both the staff and students benefited from the experience.

Purchasing

During the year particular attention has been given to resources and services that are used. When contracts have come up for renewal cost comparisons have been carried out and where the providers differ between the schools consideration has been given to whether joint procurement will lead to economies of scale and if the contracts can be combined. Re-tendering of energy contracts at TA during the year will lead to future savings due to lower tariffs.

The catering department at TA has benefited from collaboration with TBGS. Sharing good practice has led to changed working arrangements, new menus and greater uptake of meals at TA.

Financial governance and oversight

The governance structure of TBGSMAT allows for local governance of the individual academies with an over-arching Board of Trustees, representing both academies, which ensures good, shared practice.

The Principal Finance Director has oversight of all financial aspects of TBGSMAT and aims to ensure uniformity of policies and procedures, including delivering Value for Money in all aspects of the Trust's work. A new Financial Management Policy and Financial Procedures Manual was approved during the year. These will be reviewed and updated regularly. Regular meetings of the Trustees ensures that they are all aware of the financial position of both schools and that where differences in practices between the schools exist they are discussed to ensure a satisfactory outcome is achieved.

The Trust's system of financial control is based on a framework of delegation and accountability which includes:

- an annual budget based on the School Improvement Plan
- regular monitoring of the budget both at senior leadership and governor level
- oversight of both academies finances by the Board of Trustees
- financial procedures relating to all financial aspects including purchasing, income, and payroll

Effectiveness of the financial controls is informed by:

- Responsible Officer reports
- the audit committee
- external auditors

Value for Money underpins decision making by both governors and senior managers. These include decisions on:

- the allocation of resources to promote the aims and values of TBGSMAT
- the targeting of resources to improve standards and the quality of provision of teaching and learning
- the use of resources to support the educational needs of all students
- all support functions of the academies

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Following the retirement of the Headteacher of TBGS in December 2013, he was subsequently appointed on a fixed term appointment as CEO. This ensured that the new Headteacher was able to concentrate on his new role whilst the CEO was able to concentrate on establishing the principles of the MAT with all stakeholders.

Reviewing controls and managing risk

TBGSMAT has appointed Francis Clark LLP as external auditors and they have also been entrusted with the provision of financial advice. To ensure uniformity of financial procedures across the Trust, the Principal Finance Director oversees the financial procedures and controls within the academies. The PFD works with both academies and reports to Trustees.

The risk registers are reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure that risks are identified and monitored and their effects mitigated.

During the year the Trust has been able to place surplus funds in high interest deposits with no risk, to maximise investment income whilst minimising risk to the Trust.



P Lawrence

Accounting Officer

Torquay Boys' Grammar School Multi-Academy Trust