



Value for Money Statement

Beaumont School (“the Academy”)

Company number: 08104190

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of Beaumont School (“the Academy”) I am responsible and accountable for ensuring that the Academy 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’s use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year.

Improving educational outcomes

Targeted Improvement

Improving educational outcomes for students is a key priority. In order to achieve this, there is a strong focus on the needs of individual students with all students having aspirational individual targets based on appropriate national data. A robust tracking system is used to monitor student progress at all levels and this monitoring is then used to identify where targeted interventions may be required.

In order to continue to improve on classroom teaching the Academy has set up the Teaching and Learning team, an exceptional team of highly motivated teachers who aim to share best practice through peer support and providing training and development opportunities for teaching staff. This is a good example of the Academy achieving value for money by reducing expenditure on less effective external courses and using the expertise of existing staff to develop teaching skills.

The continued focus in targeted improvement contributed significantly to the Academy being judged Outstanding in all categories in the Ofsted inspection in March 2014.

Focus on individual students

The development of all learners is underpinned by a strong and well-established pastoral system. As part of this students at risk of underperformance are identified through termly data snapshots and appropriate remedial measures such as academic mentoring, one to one support and the involvement of external agencies are put in place. Vulnerable and disadvantaged learners receive additional support through the targeted use of Pupil

Premium funding, e.g. one to one and small group tuition, reduced class sizes and additional input from agencies including Hertfordshire's Attendance and Improvement Officer, Youth Connexions and a school counsellor. Gifted and talented students are stretched within the classroom environment and also receive enrichment opportunities including lunch time clubs and external visits.

The targeted use of pupil premium funding across the year resulted in a significant improvement in the percentage of pupil premium students achieving 5A* - C at GCSE. This increased from 45% in 2013 to 67% in 2014.

Collaboration

The Academy collaborates with other educational providers in various ways. This includes working in partnership with two other local secondary schools to deliver a wide range of courses at Key Stage 5 more effectively and also to provide a community education programme. The Academy also delivers language classes to local primary schools, and participates in a highly successful Graduate Teacher Programme as a member of a network of six schools.

New initiatives

During August 2014 the Academy ran a Summer school for a group of new students who had been identified as having potential transition issues due to low levels of literacy or other social issues. This enabled the Academy to identify where early interventions were needed for individual students, to get these in place, and also to prepare the students for transition to secondary school. This resulted in a very smooth transition for these students with very positive feedback from both students and parents.

Financial governance and oversight

There is strong oversight of all areas of financial governance by the Academy trustees and accounting officer. The resources committee has met regularly across the year to monitor and review the Academy's financial position. The trustees also commissioned and received termly reports from the auditors, Hillier Hopkins, LLP in the role of Responsible Officer and any recommendations have been considered and actioned as appropriate.

Ensuring the Academy demonstrates good value for money and efficient and effective use of resources

During the year the Academy has shared information with other local academies in order to benchmark specific areas of expenditure and since the release of the EFA benchmark data for 2012/13 a more detailed review of income and expenditure has been considered by the resources committee.

