

Company registration number 08873553 (England and Wales)

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

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GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

S Balchin
D Adams
D Martin

Trustees

G Davis (Principal and accounting officer)
S Harris (Resigned 3 July 2024)
M Horrobin
M Smith (Chair of Finance and Resources Committee)
G Taylor
J Trugdian (Resigned 3 July 2024)
A Wild (Chair of Trustees)
Mr Jonathan Elliott (Appointed 31 January 2024)
Mr J Stanford (Appointed 29 November 2023)
Mr K Sang NG (Appointed 3 July 2024)
Mrs N Jones (Appointed 29 November 2023)
Mrs S Hodges (Appointed 29 November 2023)

Senior management team

- Principal	G Davis
- Vice Principal	D Clarke
- Senior Assistant Principal	K Hughes Resigned Dec 23
- Assistant Principal	R Greenish
- Assistant Principal	L Winsbury Resigned Feb 24
- Assistant Principal	D Smith
- Assistant Principal	C Rodway
- Assistant Principal	E Flynn
- Business Manager	E Frobisher

Company registration number

08873553 (England and Wales)

Registered office

William Morris Way
Tadpole Garden Village
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN25 2PP

Independent auditor

Moore (South) LLP
33 The Clarendon Centre
Salisbury Business Park
Dairy Meadow Lane
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP1 2TJ

Solicitors

Veale Wasbrough Vizards
Orchard Court
Orchard Lane
Bristol
BS1 5WS

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The trustees present their annual report together with the accounts and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report and strategic report under company law.

The academy trust operates an academy for pupils aged 11 to 18 serving a catchment area in Swindon, opened in September 2018 with one year group of students. In 2023/24 the academy had students in years 7 to 13. It has a nominal net capacity of 1210 when full and had a roll of 956 in the school census of October 2023 (up from 880 in October 2022).

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust.

The trustees of Great Western Academy Limited are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as Great Western Academy (GWA).

Details of the trustees who served during the year, and to the date these accounts are approved, are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

Members' liability

Each member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the charitable company in the event of it being wound up while they are a member, or within one year after they cease to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10, for the debts and liabilities contracted before they ceased to be a member.

Trustees' indemnities

In accordance with the Companies Act 2006 it is confirmed that the Academy insurance cover includes Trustees' indemnity.

Trustees benefit from indemnity insurance purchased at the Academy Trust's expense to cover the liability of the Trustees. Great Western Academy Trust is part of the Department of Education's risk protection arrangement, an alternative to insurance where UK Government funds cover losses that arise. The scheme protects the Trustees and officers and provides cover of up to £10,000,000.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

The trust's Articles of Association allow for the following to be appointed as trustees:

- up to 9 trustees appointed by the members of the trust
- 2 parent trustees
- 1 staff trustee
- the chief executive officer may be appointed as trustee

The recruitment of new Trustees follows the national guidelines for Safer Recruitment. These guidelines apply to all staff, Trustees and Members recruited by the Trust. The Chair of Trustees is fully trained in Safer Recruitment.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

new trustees receive training from current board members and from well-regarded Governor training providers. Any additional training is dependent upon the result of a skills gap analysis being undertaken. This will always include the provision of any documents that are required for them to undertake their role efficiently and effectively.

Organisational structure

The Academy has a structure which consists of the Trustees, Principal and Senior Leadership Team, and middle leaders in core subject, pastoral and administrative roles. The Principal is the Accounting Officer. The Principal works with the Leadership Team to make operational decisions. The Principal and the Business Manager are responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed limits, as set out in the financial scheme of delegation.

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Leadership Team comprises of the key management personnel of the academy in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the Trust on a day to day basis. All trustees give their time freely and no trustee received remuneration in the year.

The pay of key management personnel is determined by the School Teacher's pay and conditions document.

The pay of the Principal is determined by size of the school in accordance with the STPC document and the scale of the Assistant Principal is linked to the Principal's with the appropriate differentials. The trustees set and review the Principal's appraisal objectives on an annual basis.

The Business Manager's pay is set in line with comparative roles based on the NJC Pay scales.

Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	1
Full-time equivalent employee number	1.00

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	1
1%-50%	-
51%-99%	-
100%	-

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time	104
Total pay bill	5,256,059
Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time	-

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	-
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Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

There are no related parties which either control or significantly influence the decisions and operations of Great Western Academy.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The Academy Trust's objectives are specifically restricted to the following:

to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing a school offering a broad and balanced curriculum.

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Objectives, strategies and activities

The Academy's approach is based around core values of Achievement, Care and Excellence. The Academy believes that pupils should become enterprising people ready to embark on new adventures full of boldness and initiative. Adults of tomorrow need to be independent thinkers and lifelong learners since their careers may include different jobs – some of which have not yet been created.

The main aims for 2023/24 were to ensure successful outcomes and destinations for year 11 and 13 students, and to continue to provide all our students with an exceptional educational experience. The Academy was also being prepared for further growth into 2024/25 as the Sixth Form numbers continue to expand due to a second cohort of students staying on from year 11.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commissioners general guidance on public benefit in exercising their powers or duties. They have referred to this guidance when reviewing the Academy's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities. All of our charitable activities are undertaken to further our charitable purposes for the public benefit.

The admissions area for GWA is determined on a distance basis. Most of our pupils are from the immediate area – mainly Tadpole Garden Village - and live less than one mile from the school. They are part of our local community.

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

The Academy achieved the large majority of its aims for 2023/24

- The Academy's second set of GCSE results built upon the first, showing good progress (provisional P8 +0.14, slightly up on last year) with notable strengths in Humanities, English and Maths and no particular weaknesses
- The figures of 53% of students in year 11 achieving grade 5+ in both Maths and English, 73% grade 4+ in both, and 90% grade 4 in either English or Maths were particularly impressive. The Academy continues to secure well above national average outcomes from a cohort which matches national average on intake.
- Year 13 results were a significant increase on those for 2022/23 and showed good student progress from their GCSE starting points
- Year 13 students all progressed to positive destinations, including Oxford and other Russell group universities and prestigious apprenticeships
- Student attendance was the best of Swindon secondary schools and in the top 30% of all schools nationally
- The Academy remained heavily over-subscribed, with waiting lists for entry into years 7 to 11
- Recruitment strategies to year 12 were successful and resulted in 120 starters in that year group in September 2024, taking the Sixth Form to 210 students overall and triggering extra funding for 6th form growth during the 2024/25 academic year
- The Academy secured a change to planning permission that allowed the All-Weather Pitch to be hired out to the community
- The Academy remains in a strong financial position, as detailed in this report.

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Key performance indicators

As detailed in previous reports GWA sought external reviews of performance throughout its first years, and the experience of these and lessons learnt from them were fundamental in helping to secure a Good Ofsted outcome in January 2023. The small number of actions listed in the report have been addressed during 2023/24.

The first cohort to have attended the Academy also achieved the Academy's first set of GCSE outcomes. Key benchmarks, from an intake with almost exactly national average profile, include:

	P8	A8	Entries per student	EBacc Pts per entry	%5+EM	%4+EM	%Ebacc
GWA 2024	+0.14	47.8	8.4	4.32	52	72	29
GWA 2023	+0.08	47.1	8.6	4.21	44	70	48
National 2023*	0	46.2	7.9	4.05	45	65	39

**2024 figures unavailable at time of publication*

Trustees monitor all other aspects of the Academy's performance by close scrutiny of the Academy's Development Plan. Trustees remain assured that the Academy is performing well in all aspects of its work.

The key financial indicator for the year 2023/24 was that the Academy operated within its means and continued to accrue reserves. The Trustees consider benchmarking against other financial indicators as very difficult during the first few years of establishment and growth. For example, costs of maintaining the premises and of buying new educational resources are disproportionate during the first few years of operation. All spending is monitored, some benchmarking has been carried but DfE figures lag and there has some difficulty in comparing against other schools meaning we are not comparing like with like. However this will improve now that the Academy is approaching full capacity. The Trustees will consider further financial performance indicators as benchmarking data becomes relevant.

Going concern

The Trustees are focused on the education of young people in Swindon. The board of trustees is satisfied that the academy trust has a good reputation in Swindon, a long waiting list in Years 7 to 11 and adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Academy has used its funds prudently but has not shirked away from buying equipment and resources needed to deliver the curriculum. For this reason it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

Financial review

Most of the Academy's income is obtained from the Department for Education (DfE), via the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grant received from the DfE during the year ended 31st August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as Restricted Funds in the statement of Financial Activities.

Total funds at 1 September 2023 = £20,846,105 (2022: £20,349,278)

Total income for the year = £6,675,315 (2023: £7,031,882)

Total expenditure for the year = £7,039,498 (2023 £6,508,055)

Actuarial (losses)/gains on the defined pension scheme = £(85,000) (2023: £(9,000))

Total funds at 31 August 2024 = £20,414,922 (2023: £20,864,105)

The academy made an in year revenue deficit of £17,088 (2023: surplus £205,251) (The in-year surplus is the change in balance of restricted general funds (excluding pension reserve) plus unrestricted funds). At 31 August 2024, the actual position of revenue reserves was £859,180 (2023: £876,268) (being the total balance at 31 August 2024 on restricted general funds plus the balance on unrestricted funds).

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Reserves policy

The trustees review the reserve levels of the Academy annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The trustees take into consideration the future plans of the Academy, the uncertainty over future income streams and other key risks identified during the risk review.

The trustees have determined that the appropriate level of free reserves should be approximately £450,000 representing one month's charitable activities resources expended (excluding depreciation). The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies, such as urgent maintenance.

As at 31 August 2024, the Academy had free reserves (total funds less the amount held in fixed assets and restricted funds) of £356,517 (2023: £226,587).

The academy also held an amount of £502,663 (2023: £649,681) on restricted general funds. The reserves held are above the required level.

The total balance at 31 August 2024 on restricted general funds (excluding pension reserve) plus the balance on unrestricted funds was £859,180 (2023: £876,268)

In total, at 31 August 2024, the funds of the academy were £20,414,922 (2023: £20,864,105), which is represented by £20,058,405 (2023: £20,637,518) of restricted funds and £356,517 (2023: £226,587) unrestricted funds.

£19,555,742 (2023: £19,987,837) of the restricted funds can only be realised by disposing of tangible fixed assets.

Investment policy

The only investments held are cash balances. During the coming year the trustees will review investment of free cash reserves.

The reserves are currently held in a separate bank account attracting a higher rate of interest than the current account.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The trustees confirm that the major risks have been reviewed and systems or procedures have been established to manage those risks. The principal risks and uncertainties facing the Academy are:

Safeguarding and child protection

The Trustees continue to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the areas of selection and monitoring of staff, the operation of child safeguarding and protection policies and procedures, health and safety and discipline.

Financial

The Academy has a considerable reliance on continued funding from the Government through the ESFA. Whilst this level is expected to continue, there is no assurance that Government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same rate.

Failures in Governance or management

The risk in this area arises from potential failure to effectively manage the Academy's finances, internal controls, compliance and regulations and legislation, statutory returns etc. The Trustees continue to review and ensure that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks.

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Growing pupil numbers

Sixth Form numbers are good and the Sixth Form affords many benefits to the Academy, not least reputational, and in terms of recruiting subject specialist teachers. The risk is that both our students and external students choose alternative Sixth Form provision. Trustees consider this risk has so far been well managed and the Academy is naturally growing in numbers as our own year 11 students joined the Sixth Form from September 2023.

There is also a risk that the coming new Year 7 cohorts will be undersubscribed, although this is currently a low risk as the Academy is currently oversubscribed and has significant waiting lists in all year groups 7 to 11. Numbers in local primary schools are also strong.

Reputational

The continuing success of the Academy is dependent on continuing to attract applicants in sufficient numbers by maintaining the highest educational standards. To mitigate this risk Trustees ensure that student success and achievement are closely monitored and reviewed as well as the public reputation of the school.

Staffing

The success of the Academy is reliant on the quality of its staff and so the Trustees monitor and review policies and procedures to ensure continued development and training of staff as well as ensuring there is clear succession planning.

Estate Management

Great Western Academy take their Health and Safety and compliance obligations seriously. They have appointed an external Health and Safety Consultant and a Facilities Management company to ensure all building compliance checks and routine maintenance are carried out in a timely manner. There is a Facilities and Maintenance team comprising of 5 staff members. Two full time and three part-time staff. These staff deal with the day to day running and maintaining of the building, equipment, minibuses, health and safety assessments and risk assessments. The Facilities Team is managed by the Business Manager.

Fraud and mismanagement of funds

All finance staff receive training to keep them up to date with financial practice requirements and develop their skills in this area. This includes counter fraud awareness training. Trustees also receive the counter fraud awareness training.

Fundraising

The Academy Trust does not use any external fundraisers. All fundraising will be monitored by the Trustees who are looking to raise external funds. These will be to supplement but not replace the GAG funding.

Plans for future periods

The Academy Trust continues to aim to provide exceptional education for students already attending, and to recruit strongly for future year groups, both in terms of numbers of students and in terms of quality of staff.

Trustees continue to consider the strategic future of the Academy Trust taking into account local and regional developments in how schools work together in Multi-Academy Trusts.

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Auditor

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 18 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



A Wild

Chair of Trustees

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Scope of responsibility

As trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Great Western Academy Limited has an effective and appropriate system of control, financial and otherwise. However, such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives, and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the principal, as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Great Western Academy Limited and the Secretary of State for Education. The accounting officer is also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Conflicts of interest are managed by ensuring robust appointment of Trustees, Members and Senior Leadership, declarations of interest at all meetings, annual returns of declarations of interests and following the guidance within the Academy Trust Handbook. Governors are reminded that they must declare any personal or pecuniary interest in any item that might arise during the meeting. Governors who have declared an interest must leave the meeting while the item is discussed, and any decision is taken by the governing board.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Report of the Trustees and in the Statement of Trustees Responsibilities. The board of trustees has formally met 6 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
G Davis (Principal and accounting officer)	6	6
S Harris (Resigned 3 July 2024)	0	4
M Horrobin	6	6
M Smith (Chair of Finance and Resources Committee)	6	6
G Taylor	6	6
J Trugdian (Resigned 3 July 2024)	0	5
A Wild (Chair of Trustees)	6	6
Mr Jonathan Elliott (Appointed 31 January 2024)	4	6
Mr J Stanford (Appointed 29 November 2023)	5	5
Mr K Sang NG (Appointed 3 July 2024)	1	2
Mrs N Jones (Appointed 29 November 2023)	5	5
Mrs S Hodges (Appointed 29 November 2023)	3	5

Governance reviews

The board undertook an audit of strengths of Trustees to ensure that any newly required Trustees would provide the expertise required. New Trustees can bring significant experience in education, finance, health and safety and views of the wider community. Those appointed during this year bring a range of these skills.

There are two committees that meet six times a year and each reviews its remit and effectiveness annually

Finance and Resources Committee:

The role of the Finance and Resources Committee is to receive, review and monitor Financial performance information and review premises and maintenance information at Great Western Academy. The Finance and Resource Committee met 6 times in 2023 - 2024. The meetings were held two weeks before the Full Governing body meetings in order for any relevant information to be passed on.

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
G Davis (Principal and accounting officer)	6	6
S Harris (Resigned 3 July 2024)	0	2
M Horrobin	6	6
M Smith (Chair of Finance and Resources Committee)	6	6
J Trugdian (Resigned 3 July 2024)	1	4
A Wild (Chair of Trustees)	6	6
Mr J Stanford (Appointed 29 November 2023)	3	3

Review of value for money

As accounting officer, the principal has responsibility for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes, as well as estates safety and management, achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The accounting officer considers how the academy trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the board of trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate. The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- ensuring the efficient and effective deployment of staff to maximise educational attainment
- making the academy's facilities available to the local community at competitive rates which support the use of the site by community groups and generate income for the academy
- ensuring the creation of reserves

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of charitable company policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they happen. To manage them efficiently, effectively and economically, the system of internal control has been in place in Great Western Academy for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

The Trustees appointed One West Auditors, part of Bath and North East Somerset Council, to carry out an internal Audit during 2023 to 2024. The academy testing areas covered were Password and Cyber Security, Income and Finance Policy, and Pupil Premium. There were 4 high risks, which were already being addressed, zero medium risks and two low risks. The overall opinion from the One West Auditors was 'Level 4 – Substantial Assurance.

Capacity to handle risk

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the academy trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The risk and control framework

The academy trust's system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular, it includes:

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of trustees
- regular reviews by board of trustees which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties
- identification and management of risks

The internal scrutineer has delivered the programme of work, as planned, across three reviews during the year and provided an opinion of overall substantial assurance across each of the three business areas monitored. The Governors have taken steps to rectify any issues deemed as high risk.

Review of effectiveness

As accounting officer the principal has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:


- the work of the external auditor
- the work of the internal auditor
- the school resource management self-assessment tool
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the board of trustees and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 18 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



G Davis
Principal and accounting officer



A Wild
Chair of Trustees

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

As accounting officer of Great Western Academy Limited, I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust board of trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the academy trust, including responsibilities for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement in place between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Trust Handbook 2022, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

I confirm that I and the academy trust's board of trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the academy trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the academy trust's funding agreement and the Academies Trust Handbook 2022.

I confirm that no instances of material irregularity, impropriety or funding non-compliance have been discovered to date. If any instances are identified after the date of this statement, these will be notified to the board of trustees and ESFA.



G Davis
Accounting Officer

18 December 2024

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The trustees (who are also the directors of Great Western Academy Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the accounts in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year. Under company law, the trustees must not approve the accounts unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period.

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the charitable company applies financial and other controls, which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring that grants received from ESFA/DfE have been applied for the purposes intended.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of accounts may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 18 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



A Wild
Chair of Trustees

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of Great Western Academy Limited for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the accounts, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the accounts:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the academy trust's affairs as at 31 August 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts' section of our report. We are independent of the academy trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the accounts themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (which includes the strategic report and directors' report) for the financial year for which the accounts are prepared is consistent with the accounts; and
- the trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the academy trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report, including the incorporated strategic report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the accounts, the trustees are responsible for assessing the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these accounts.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the accounts is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Explanation as to what extend the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are; to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the accounts due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the Academy Trust.

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Our approach was as follows:

- The engagement partner selected staff for the audit, led by persons who it was deemed had sufficient experience and who had the required competence and skills to be able to identify or recognise non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We assessed the risk of irregularities as part of our audit planning, and ongoing review, including those due to fraud, management override was identified as a significant fraud risk. This is due to the ability to bypass controls through inappropriate expenditure and accounting policies adopted.
- Completeness of income was identified as a significant risk to the audit, as grant income may not be recognised in accordance with the SORP.
- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charity and we considered the most significant to be Academies Accounts Direction, the Charity SORP, UK financial reporting standards as issued by the Financial Reporting Council, Companies Act 2006 and UK Taxation legislation. We considered how the Academy Trust complies with these requirements by discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations. Consideration was also made of the internal controls in place to mitigate the identified risks.
- We assessed the control environment, documenting the systems, controls and processes adopted. The audit approach incorporated a combination of controls where appropriate, analytical review and substantive procedures involving tests of transactions and balances. Any irregularities noted were discussed with management and additional corroborative evidence was obtained as required.

To address the risk of fraud through management override we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify any unusual transactions;
- tested items of expenditure to ensure that they were valid and appropriate;
- confirmed monthly management accounts were reviewed by the board;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias;
- reviewed the disclosures within the accounts to ensure they meet the requirements of the accounting standards and relevant legislation.

In response to the risk of irregularities with regards to completeness of income we:

- completed analytical work, to include comparison with prior periods;
- agreed a sample of documentation to confirm that relevant entries were reflected in the accounting records and allocated to the correct period and
- reviewed minutes of trustees' meetings and confirmed income sources mentioned were included correctly within the accounts.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the academy trust's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the academy trust's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the academy trust and the academy trust's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Robert MacDonald (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Moore (South) LLP

23 December 2024

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

33 The Clarendon Centre
Salisbury Business Park
Dairy Meadow Lane
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP1 2TJ

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 3 September 2021 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Great Western Academy Limited during the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to Great Western Academy Limited and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Great Western Academy Limited and ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Great Western Academy Limited and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Great Western Academy Limited's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Great Western Academy Limited's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 13 February 2018 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2023, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance, and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountant of Academy Trusts issued by ESFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

The objective of a limited assurance engagement is to perform such procedures as to obtain information and explanations in order to provide us with sufficient appropriate evidence to express a negative conclusion on regularity.

A limited assurance engagement is more limited in scope than a reasonable assurance engagement and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in a reasonable assurance engagement. Accordingly, we do not express a positive opinion.

Our engagement includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the regularity and propriety of the academy trust's income and expenditure.

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- consideration of the evidence supporting the accounting officers statement on regularity, propriety and compliance.
- analytical procedures on the general activities of the academy trust;
- a review of minutes of committees and board meetings which may be relevant to regularity;
- consideration of discussions with key personnel including the accounting officer and governing body;
- tests of control have been carried out on a control activity which are relevant to regularity;
- substantive testing of individual transactions

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Moore (South) LLP

Reporting Accountant
Moore (South) LLP
33 The Clarendon Centre
Salisbury Business Park
Dairy Meadow Lane
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP1 2TJ

Dated: 23 December 2024

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	-	65	19,432	19,497	1,031,364
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	283,887	6,197,852	-	6,481,739	5,842,819
Other trading activities	5	150,350	-	-	150,350	144,142
Investments	6	23,729	-	-	23,729	13,557
Total		457,966	6,197,917	19,432	6,675,315	7,031,882
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	8	328,036	6,160,778	550,684	7,039,498	6,508,055
Total	7	328,036	6,160,778	550,684	7,039,498	6,508,055
Net income/(expenditure)		129,930	37,139	(531,252)	(364,183)	523,827
Transfers between funds	16	-	(99,157)	99,157	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	18	-	52,000	-	52,000	30,000
Adjustment for restriction on pension assets	18	-	(137,000)	-	(137,000)	(39,000)
Net movement in funds		129,930	(147,018)	(432,095)	(449,183)	514,827
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		226,587	649,681	19,987,837	20,864,105	20,349,278
Total funds carried forward		356,517	502,663	19,555,742	20,414,922	20,864,105

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2023	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted funds:		Total
		funds	General	Fixed asset	2023
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	-	262	1,031,102	1,031,364
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	212,381	5,630,438	-	5,842,819
Other trading activities	5	119,324	24,818	-	144,142
Investments	6	13,557	-	-	13,557
Total		345,262	5,655,518	1,031,102	7,031,882
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	8	273,345	5,418,213	816,497	6,508,055
Total	7	273,345	5,418,213	816,497	6,508,055
Net income		71,917	237,305	214,605	523,827
Transfers between funds	16	-	(94,971)	94,971	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	18	-	30,000	-	30,000
Adjustment for restriction on pension assets	18	-	(39,000)	-	(39,000)
Net movement in funds		71,917	133,334	309,576	514,827
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		154,670	516,347	19,678,261	20,349,278
Total funds carried forward		226,587	649,681	19,987,837	20,864,105

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		19,555,742		19,987,837
Current assets					
Debtors	13	183,891		101,058	
Cash at bank and in hand		963,528		1,184,256	
			1,147,419		1,285,314
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(288,239)		(409,046)	
Net current assets			859,180		876,268
Net assets excluding pension asset			20,414,922		20,864,105
Defined benefit pension scheme asset	18		-		-
Total net assets			20,414,922		20,864,105
Funds of the academy trust:					
Restricted funds	16				
- Fixed asset funds			19,555,742		19,987,837
- Restricted income funds			502,663		649,681
Total restricted funds			20,058,405		20,637,518
Unrestricted income funds	16		356,517		226,587
Total funds			20,414,922		20,864,105

The accounts on pages 20 to 42 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 18 December 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:

A Wild

Chair of Trustees



Company registration number 08873553 (England and Wales)

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	19		(145,300)		330,894
Cash flows from investing activities					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		23,729		13,557	
Capital grants from DfE Group		19,432		113,185	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(118,589)		(208,156)	
Net cash used in investing activities			(75,428)		(81,414)
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			(220,728)		249,480
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			1,184,256		934,776
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year			963,528		1,184,256

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

Great Western Academy Limited is a charitable company limited by guarantee. The address of its principal place of business is given on page 1 and the nature of its operations are set out in the trustees' report.

A summary of the principal accounting policies adopted (which have been applied consistently, except where noted), judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty, is set out below.

1.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts of the academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

1.2 Going concern

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate, ie whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charitable company to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the accounts and have concluded that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

1.3 Income

All incoming resources are recognised when the academy trust has entitlement to the funds, the receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably.

Grants

Grants are included in the statement of financial activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of meeting any performance-related conditions there is not unconditional entitlement to the income and its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income until the performance-related conditions are met. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the period for which it is receivable, and any abatement in respect of the period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

Capital grants are recognised in full when there is an unconditional entitlement to the grant. Unspent amounts of capital grants are reflected in the balance sheet in the restricted fixed asset fund. Capital grants are recognised when there is entitlement and are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended.

Donations

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis (where there are no performance-related conditions) where the receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Other income

Other income, including the hire of facilities, is recognised in the period it is receivable and to the extent the academy trust has provided the goods or services.

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Donated fixed assets

Donated fixed assets are measured at fair value unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor is used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the academy trust's accounting policies.

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Charitable activities

These are costs incurred on the academy trust's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the academy trust apportioned to charitable activities.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets costing £1,500 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the balance sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. Where there are specific conditions attached to the funding that require the continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities and carried forward in the balance sheet. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

Freehold property	10 - 100 years
Computer equipment	3-5 years
Furniture and equipment	5 years

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of any fixed asset may not be recoverable. Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts are recognised as impairments. Impairment losses are recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.6 Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the academy trust anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.7 Leased assets

Rentals under operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

1.8 Financial instruments

The academy trust only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the academy trust and their measurement basis are as follows.

Financial assets

Trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

Financial liabilities

Trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition.

Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

1.9 Taxation

The academy trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the academy trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by chapter 3 part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

1.10 Pensions benefits

Retirement benefits to employees of the academy trust are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ('TPS') and the Local Government Pension Scheme ('LGPS'). These are defined benefit schemes and the assets are held separately from those of the academy trust.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the academy trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary based on quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. The TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently, the TPS is treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions are recognised in the period to which they relate.

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the academy trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high-quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to net income or expenditure are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the statement of financial activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses. Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses.

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.11 Fund accounting

Unrestricted income funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the academy trust at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by funders where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received with restrictions imposed by the funder/donor and include grants from the Department for Education Group.

1.12 Agency arrangements

The academy trust acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from ESFA. Payments received from ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the statement of financial activities as the trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The trust can use up to 5% of the allocation towards its own administration costs and this is recognised in the statement of financial activities. The funds received and paid and any balances held are disclosed in note 24.

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Accounting estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

The academy trust makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 18, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2024. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgement

None

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Capital grants	-	19,432	19,432	1,031,102
Other donations	-	65	65	262
	-	19,497	19,497	1,031,364

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

4 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
DfE/ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	5,243,667	5,243,667	4,805,987
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- Pupil premium	-	138,944	138,944	131,800
- Start up grants	-	75,000	75,000	75,000
- Teacher pay grant	-	81,989	81,989	11,410
- Teacher pension grant	-	76,647	76,647	17,513
- Supplementary Grant	-	157,778	157,778	138,752
- ESFA Donations	-	-	-	121,725
- Others	-	67,028	67,028	119,013
	-	5,841,053	5,841,053	5,421,200
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	356,799	356,799	209,238
Other incoming resources	283,887	-	283,887	212,381
Total funding	283,887	6,197,852	6,481,739	5,842,819

ESFA/DFE Covid funding has been included in other ESFA/DFE grants inline with the Academies Model Accounts, as a result the comparative of £29,532 has been reclassified into ESFA/DFE Other grants as well.

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Hire of facilities	44,957	-	44,957	24,974
Visits and Trips	39,408	-	39,408	50,697
Other income	65,985	-	65,985	68,471
	150,350	-	150,350	144,142

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Other investment income	23,729	-	23,729	13,557

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Non-pay expenditure Premises £	Other £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	4,728,758	-	567,231	5,295,989	4,587,605
- Allocated support costs	452,301	894,923	396,285	1,743,509	1,920,450
	<u>5,181,059</u>	<u>894,923</u>	<u>963,516</u>	<u>7,039,498</u>	<u>6,508,055</u>

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2024 £	2023 £
Operating lease rentals	11,777	12,749
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	547,749	808,920
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	2,935	7,577
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	9,900	9,450
- Other services	4,270	4,070
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	(10,000)	(5,000)

8 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Direct costs				
Educational operations	53,055	5,242,934	5,295,989	4,587,605
Support costs				
Educational operations	274,981	1,468,528	1,743,509	1,920,450
	<u>328,036</u>	<u>6,711,462</u>	<u>7,039,498</u>	<u>6,508,055</u>

Analysis of costs

	2024 £	2023 £
Direct costs		
Teaching and educational support staff costs	4,759,172	4,111,287
Staff development	12,039	14,608
Technology costs	139,977	129,889
Educational supplies and services	209,177	176,578
Examination fees	115,672	88,353
Educational consultancy	23,790	20,692
Other direct costs	36,162	46,198
	<u>5,295,989</u>	<u>4,587,605</u>

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

8	Charitable activities	(Continued)	
	Support costs		
	Support staff costs	464,123	374,436
	Depreciation	550,684	816,497
	Maintenance of premises and equipment	121,539	234,676
	Cleaning	120,206	114,526
	Energy costs	53,206	18,886
	Rent, rates and other occupancy costs	49,288	47,013
	Security and transport	4,979	3,544
	Catering	297,774	227,173
	Finance costs	(10,000)	(5,000)
	Legal costs	2,380	630
	Other support costs	72,985	71,222
	Governance costs	16,345	16,847
		<u>1,743,509</u>	<u>1,920,450</u>

9	Staff		
	Staff costs and employee benefits		
	Staff costs during the year were:		
		2024	2023
		£	£
	Wages and salaries	3,915,153	3,351,217
	Social security costs	378,094	331,149
	Pension costs	887,812	764,148
	Staff costs - employees	<u>5,181,059</u>	<u>4,446,514</u>
		5,181,059	4,446,514
	Staff development and other staff costs	<u>54,275</u>	<u>53,817</u>
	Total staff expenditure	<u>5,235,334</u>	<u>4,500,331</u>

Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed by the academy trust during the year was as follows:

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
Teachers	67	66
Administration and support	35	39
Management	9	9
	<u>111</u>	<u>114</u>

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

9 Staff

(Continued)

The number of persons employed, expressed as a full time equivalent, was as follows:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Teachers	60	60
Administration and support	30	28
Management	9	9
	<u>99</u>	<u>97</u>

Higher paid staff

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs and employer national insurance contributions) exceeded £60,000 was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	4	2
£70,001 - £80,000	1	1
£90,001 - £100,000	-	1
£100,001 - £110,000	1	-
	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £708,687 (2023: £763,034).

10 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more of the trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the academy trust. The principal and other staff trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff members under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their services as trustees.

The value of trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

G Davis (principal and trustee)

Remuneration £100,000 - £105,000 (2023: £90,001 - £95,000)

Employer's pension contributions £25,001 - £30,000 (2023: £20,001 - £25,000)

S Hodges (Staff trustee)

Remuneration £40,001 - £45,000

Employer's pension contributions £10,001 - £15,000

There were £123.77 (2023: Nil) of trustees' expenses reimbursed for the year ended 31 August 2024.

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

11 Trustees' and officers' insurance

The academy trust has opted into the Department for Education's Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA), an alternative to insurance where UK government funds cover losses that arise. This scheme protects trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy trust business, and provides cover up to £10,000,000. It is not possible to quantify the trustees and officers indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme.

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property	Computer equipment	Furniture and equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 September 2023	21,071,580	537,880	1,659,950	23,269,410
Additions	-	91,103	27,486	118,589
Disposals	-	(9,229)	-	(9,229)
At 31 August 2024	21,071,580	619,754	1,687,436	23,378,770
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2023	1,379,906	394,569	1,507,098	3,281,573
On disposals	-	(6,294)	-	(6,294)
Charge for the year	380,775	119,692	47,282	547,749
At 31 August 2024	1,760,681	507,967	1,554,380	3,823,028
Net book value				
At 31 August 2024	19,310,899	111,787	133,056	19,555,742
At 31 August 2023	19,691,674	143,311	152,852	19,987,837

13 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	15,814	2,390
VAT recoverable	47,843	41,907
Prepayments and accrued income	120,234	56,761
	183,891	101,058

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	96,935	123,819
Other taxation and social security	85,998	170,594
ESFA creditors - abatement of GAG	-	45,700
Other creditors	5,936	21,352
Accruals and deferred income	99,370	47,581
	<u>288,239</u>	<u>409,046</u>

15 Deferred income

	2024 £	2023 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	<u>60,363</u>	<u>11,304</u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2023	11,304	46,517
Released from previous years	(11,304)	(46,517)
Resources deferred in the year	<u>60,363</u>	<u>11,304</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2024	<u>60,363</u>	<u>11,304</u>

Deferred income refers to income received in the period to 31 August 2024 which relates to the year ending 31 August 2025:

	£
Trips	<u>60,363</u>
Total	<u>60,363</u>

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

16 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	649,681	5,243,667	(5,291,528)	(99,157)	502,663
Start up grants	-	75,000	(75,000)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	138,944	(138,944)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	383,442	(383,442)	-	-
Other government grants	-	356,799	(356,799)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	65	(65)	-	-
Pension reserve	-	-	85,000	(85,000)	-
	<u>649,681</u>	<u>6,197,917</u>	<u>(6,160,778)</u>	<u>(184,157)</u>	<u>502,663</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE group capital grants	19,850,084	19,432	(489,190)	2,609	19,382,935
Capital expenditure from GAG	137,753	-	(61,494)	96,548	172,807
	<u>19,987,837</u>	<u>19,432</u>	<u>(550,684)</u>	<u>99,157</u>	<u>19,555,742</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>20,637,518</u>	<u>6,217,349</u>	<u>(6,711,462)</u>	<u>(85,000)</u>	<u>20,058,405</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>226,587</u>	<u>457,966</u>	<u>(328,036)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>356,517</u>
Total funds	<u>20,864,105</u>	<u>6,675,315</u>	<u>(7,039,498)</u>	<u>(85,000)</u>	<u>20,414,922</u>

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

16 Funds

(Continued)

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

General Annual Grant - the GAG is applied in strict accordance with the terms of the Model Funding Agreement. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2024.

Other DfE Group grants - these include catch up premium for those pupils who did not attain level 4 in reading and maths, the rates relief to continue towards the rates bill, the teachers pay grant and the teachers pension grant.

Pupil premium - grant to assist pupils from low income families.

Other government grants - this is the special educational needs top up funding from Swindon Borough Council and other local authorities.

Pension reserve - this represents the funds in the Local Government Pension Scheme in relation to employees past and present.

DfE Group capital grants - this represents funding specifically provided to support capital expenditure on fixed assets and the freehold property acquired when the Academy opened.

Capital expenditure from GAG - this represents the cost less depreciation of assets purchased from the GAG.

Start up grant - this represents the Project Development Grant received by new schools to cover pre opening costs.

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

16 Funds

(Continued)

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	481,979	4,805,987	(4,543,314)	(94,971)	649,681
Start up grants	-	75,000	(75,000)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	131,800	(131,800)	-	-
Catch-up premium	34,368	-	(34,368)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	408,413	(408,413)	-	-
Other government grants	-	209,238	(209,238)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	25,080	(25,080)	-	-
Pension reserve	-	-	9,000	(9,000)	-
	<u>516,347</u>	<u>5,655,518</u>	<u>(5,418,213)</u>	<u>(103,971)</u>	<u>649,681</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE group capital grants	19,591,736	1,031,102	(768,794)	(3,960)	19,850,084
Capital expenditure from GAG	86,525	-	(47,703)	98,931	137,753
	<u>19,678,261</u>	<u>1,031,102</u>	<u>(816,497)</u>	<u>94,971</u>	<u>19,987,837</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>20,194,608</u>	<u>6,686,620</u>	<u>(6,234,710)</u>	<u>(9,000)</u>	<u>20,637,518</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>154,670</u>	<u>345,262</u>	<u>(273,345)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>226,587</u>
Total funds	<u>20,349,278</u>	<u>7,031,882</u>	<u>(6,508,055)</u>	<u>(9,000)</u>	<u>20,864,105</u>

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	19,555,742	19,555,742
Current assets	416,880	730,539	-	1,147,419
Current liabilities	(60,363)	(227,876)	-	(288,239)
Total net assets	<u>356,517</u>	<u>502,663</u>	<u>19,555,742</u>	<u>20,414,922</u>

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

(Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £	General £	Restricted funds: Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	19,987,837	19,987,837
Current assets	237,891	1,047,423	-	1,285,314
Current liabilities	(11,304)	(397,742)	-	(409,046)
Total net assets	226,587	649,681	19,987,837	20,864,105

18 Pension and similar obligations

The academy trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by Wiltshire Pension Fund. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2020, and that of the LGPS related to the period ended 31 March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £113,667 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2024 (2023: £91,583) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for teachers in academy trusts. All teachers have the option to opt out of the TPS following enrolment.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme to which both the member and employer makes contributions, as a percentage of salary. These contributions are credited to the Exchequer. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to ensure scheme costs are recognised and managed appropriately and the review specifies the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors.

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 27 October 2023, with the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, applying a notional investment return based on 1.7% above the rate of CPI. The key elements of the valuation outcome are:

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

18 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% employer administration charge).
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262,000 million, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222,200 million giving a notional past service deficit of £39,800 million
- the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 1.7% above the rate of CPI.

The result of this valuation were implemented from 1 April 2024. The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2028.

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £757,681 (2023: £595,834).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website.

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The academy trust is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the plan. Accordingly, the academy trust has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 and has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The academy trust has set out above the information available on the scheme.

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 25.2% for employers and 5.5 to 12.5% for employees. The estimated value of employer contributions for the forthcoming year is £227,000 (2023: £168,000).

The level of employer contributions have been set as follows:

Period (1 April - 31 March)	Employer Primary Contribution Rate
2022/23	25.2%
2023/24	25.2%
2024/25	25.2%

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of academy closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013 and on 21 July 2022, the Department for Education reaffirmed its commitment to the guarantee, with a parliamentary minute published on GOV.UK.

Total contributions made	2024 £	2023 £
Employer's contributions	226,000	166,000
Employees' contributions	43,000	39,000
Total contributions	269,000	205,000

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

18 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions	2024 %	2023 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.15	3.45
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.65	2.95
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.00	5.20

The current mortality assumptions include sufficient allowance for future improvements in mortality rates. The assumed life expectations on retirement age 65 are:

	2024 Years	2023 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	21.4	21.4
- Females	23.6	23.6
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	20.2	20.3
- Females	25.9	25.9

Scheme liabilities would have been affected by changes in assumptions as follows:

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Discount rate - 0.1%	37	22
Mortality assumption + 1 year	46	29
Pension increase rate +0.1%	37	19
Salary increase rate +0.1%	1	

Defined benefit pension scheme net asset	2024 £	2023 £
Scheme assets	1,427,000	862,000
Scheme obligations	(1,144,000)	(716,000)
Restriction of scheme assets (surplus not recognised)	(283,000)	(146,000)
Net asset	-	-

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

18 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme	2024 Fair value £	2023 Fair value £
Equities	599,340	474,100
Bonds	413,830	249,980
Cash	71,350	17,240
Property	342,480	120,680
Total market value of assets	1,427,000	862,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £94,000 (2023: £(6,000)).

Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities	2024 £	2023 £
Current service cost	(75,000)	(4,000)
Interest income	(57,000)	(31,000)
Interest cost	47,000	26,000
Total operating charge	(85,000)	(9,000)

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations	2024 £
At 1 September 2023	716,000
Current service cost	151,000
Interest cost	47,000
Employee contributions	43,000
Actuarial gain	(15,000)
Benefits paid	202,000
At 31 August 2024	1,144,000

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

18 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Changes in the fair value of the academy trust's share of scheme assets

	2024 £
At 1 September 2023	862,000
Interest income	57,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss	37,000
Employer contributions	226,000
Employee contributions	43,000
Benefits paid	202,000
At 31 August 2024	1,427,000
Restriction of scheme assets (surplus not recognised)	(283,000)
At 31 August 2024	1,144,000

At the balance sheet date the pension valuation estimated the pension was in a net asset position of £283,000, this asset has not been recognised in the financial statements as the asset does not meet the criteria to be recognised inline with FRS 102. The trust has no right to a refund from the pension as the assets belong to the members, and there is no certainty that the asset will lead to reduced pension contribution rates in the future.

The asset ceiling has been calculated at £Nil based on the prevailing view that a minimum funding requirement for future service exists in the LGPS and that employers have no unconditional right to a refund in the LGPS.

19 Reconciliation of net (expenditure)/income to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(364,183)	523,827
Adjusted for:		
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(19,432)	(1,031,102)
Investment income receivable	6 (23,729)	(13,557)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	18 (75,000)	(4,000)
Defined benefit pension scheme finance income	18 (10,000)	(5,000)
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	547,749	808,920
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	2,935	7,577
(Increase) in debtors	(82,833)	(5,268)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(120,807)	49,497
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	(145,300)	330,894

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

20 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2023 £	Cash flows £	31 August 2024 £
Cash	1,184,256	(220,728)	963,528

21 Long-term commitments

Operating leases

At 31 August 2024 the total of the academy trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2024 £	2023 £
Amounts due within one year	6,636	6,322
Amounts due in two and five years	20,254	24,700
	26,890	31,022

22 Related party transactions

No related party transactions took place in the period of account other than certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 10.

23 Members' liability

Each member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up while he or she is a member, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10 for the debts and liabilities contracted before he or she ceases to be a member.

24 Agency arrangements

The academy trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for ESFA. In the accounting period ending 31 August 2024, the trust had £7,020 of brought forward bursary funds from the prior year, the trust received £3,629 (2023: £4,941) and disbursed £4,713 (2023: £16,287) from the fund. An amount of £5,936 (2023: £7,020) is included in other creditors relating to undistributed funds that are repayable to ESFA.