

# Value for Money Statement

**Academy trust name:**

**Northampton School *for Boys***

**Academy trust company number:** 07333885

**Year ended 31 August 2014**

I accept that as accounting officer of **Northampton School *for Boys*** I am responsible and accountable for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. I am aware of the guide to academy value for money statements published by the Education Funding Agency and understand that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

I set out below how I have ensured that the academy trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year.

The school has continued to be very attractive with regard to applications from parents for places in the school at both age 11 and 16. The school continues to operate above its PAN in all year groups.

In November 2014 the school had a full Ofsted Inspection and was judged to be Outstanding in every category. The examination results continue to be very good. 30% of our A Level students gained places at Russell Group Universities and there was 0% NEET. The % A\*-B and APS per entry rose on the previous year. Despite turbulence in GCSE results Nationally the % 5A\*-C grades rose slightly and the EBacc results held at 47%. The students' achievement exceeded National expected progress in Maths and English and the attainment of Pupil Premium students rose significantly and is above National attainment for all boys.

There is room for further improvement with Pupil Premium students in 2014-15 to narrow the in-school gap and this is a major feature within the school development plan. The summer schools for 2014 focussed on disadvantaged as well as low attaining students and this will help us to continue to raise the performance of these students.

The quality of teaching and learning over the year 2013-14 continued to improve. With the prospect of new qualifications at GCSE there are challenges ahead and further improvement will be sought in 2014-15.

The breadth of extra-curricular experiences which underpin the school's ethos has remained remarkable and undoubtedly adds value to the educational experiences of students at the school. The staff continue to go the extra mile to ensure that students do as well as they can and that their educational experiences are as rich as possible.

The students of the school continue to benefit from a range of grants, bursaries and subsidies which enable them to participate fully in wider educational opportunities and gain support in transition to higher or further education through the donations from the Old Grammar School Foundation. The Foundation also facilitates the extra-curricular opportunities in Sport, Music and Drama.

Extra-curricular sport is supported to a very high level through an active Sports Development Fund which raises money through donation and sponsorship to support the huge range of teams which compete at National Level – as National Champions in Cross Country and National finalists in Athletics, Basketball, and Football. The U14 Football team reached the National Final again this year and there was National success in table tennis.

Recognition for outstanding achievement in Music came with the National Festival of Music awards and the invitation to perform at the Royal Albert Hall. Our Street Dance teams performed at the World Championships in August and scored two 4<sup>th</sup> places and one world championship.

As a Teaching School, Northampton School *for Boys* collaborates with a range of educational institutions to promote good practice in Education. The efficient arrangements for staff training and development save this school and others unnecessary expenditure. Grants and income from these activities makes this a cost effective activity for the school. The start-up grant ceases in 2014-15 and this means that the teaching school will need to be self-sufficient in funding going forward.

The school commissioned our internal auditors to do a value for money review of the school practices during our second year as an academy and this has informed the approach adopted during 2012-14. It was their view that the delegation of small budgets to a large number of staff sees a widespread responsibility for making best use of school resources and a lot of people working hard to make the most of their budgets.

The school has an active programme of reducing energy costs by the replacement of windows throughout the older parts of the campus, by the automatic shutting down of idle computers and by the replacement of traditional lighting with LED. Efficiency savings have been sought in staffing costs across the school.

The school has secured considerable additional private funding to help provide facilities at a standard well above that possible from Government funding and this continues with the £4.9 million building project to replace the swimming pool and build a health and

fitness suite and dance studio, funded by a private benefactor. This has been completed, within budget and on-time and is ready for full use in January 2015. This will, in years to come, provide benefit to the wider community as well as to the students who come to the school and at no cost to the tax payer.

Twice yearly audits ensure that the robust systems of internal control, separation of duties and financial control are implemented to a high standard and regular finance meetings by a committee of very experienced governors ensure that operational scrutiny is sound.

The school recognises the need to balance efficiency of operation and tight financial control and that value for money is broader than buying the cheapest. Providing the best quality of education possible within the resources available remains at the heart of the systems in operation.

The comparative tables published by the EFA show the school to be in the bottom 13% secondary schools for per-pupil funding and we have recently been contacted by the Education Funding Agency to point out the financial constraints the school will face going forward. To deliver improved academic performance, significantly improve the facilities and capital value of the school and do so whilst increasing the school's financial reserves to cope with the pressure ahead makes 2013-14 one where the taxpayer has received an exceptional return from the school for funding provided.

Signed:  .....

Name: ..... Mr R Bernard.....

**Academy Trust Accounting Officer**

Date: ..... 15/12/2014.....