

Company Registration Number: 07698914 (England & Wales)

QEGSMAT
(A company limited by guarantee)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

QEGSMAT
(A company limited by guarantee)

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	Mrs E Barnes Mrs J Shepherd Mr M Betteridge (resigned 18 June 2024) Mr S Jones (appointed 18 June 2024)
Trustees	Mr H Tresidder, Vice Chair and Chair of Finance, Audit and Risk Committee Mrs A Martin, Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer Mr S Smith (resigned 19 September 2024) Mr K Wesley Mr P Stanyer, Co-Chair of Performance Committee Mrs S Hall, Chair of Trustees and Co-Chair of Performance Committee Mr T Collis Mrs S Forsyth Mr N Moore (appointed 21 August 2024)
Company registered number	07698914
Company name	QEGSMAT
Principal and registered office	QEGSMAT The Green Road Ashbourne Derbyshire DE6 1EP

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Company secretary	Mrs L Key
Chief executive officer	Mrs A Martin
Executive leadership team	Mrs A Martin, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mrs L Key, Chief Operating Officer (COO) Mr D Hudson, Secondary Director of Education Mrs V Hall, Secondary Director of Education Mrs C Peat, Primary Director of Education
Independent external auditors	PKF Smith Cooper Audit Limited Prospect House 1 Prospect Place Millennium Way Derby DE24 8HG
Bankers	Lloyds Compton Ashbourne Derbyshire DE1 1BX
Solicitors	Knights Solicitors 26 Orient Way Pride Park Derby Derbyshire DE24 8BY

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TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and Auditors' 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 under company law.

The Charitable Company was incorporated on 8 July 2011 and commenced trade as a single academy trust and academy sponsor, Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School Ashbourne Academy (known as Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School), on 1 August 2011. On 1 April 2017 Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School converted from a single academy trust to a multi academy trust, QEGSMAT (the Academy Trust) together with Waterhouses CE Primary Academy. Since then, the Academy Trust has grown steadily with the following schools joining:

School	Date joined
Springfield Junior School	1st June 2017
City of Derby Academy	1st September 2017
Castle View Primary School	1st February 2018
St John's CE Primary School	1st January 2021
Chellaston Academy	1st June 2021

There were over 4,700 pupils on roll across the Academy Trust during the year.

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

The Academy Trust is a Charitable 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 QEGSMAT are also the Directors of the Charitable company for the purposes of company law. The Charitable company operates as QEGSMAT.

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.

b. 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.

c. Trustees' indemnities

Subject to the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 and the Academy Trust's articles of association, every Trustee shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Academy Trust against any liability incurred by them in that capacity in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgment is given in favour or in which they are acquitted or in connection with any application in which relief is granted to them by the court from liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the affairs of the Academy Trust.

The Academy Trust's schools are members of the Government's Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA), an alternative to commercial insurance.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Structure, governance and management (continued)

d. Methods of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

The Academy Trust recruits and appoints Trustees in accordance with its Articles of Association which state:

- a) Up to 7 shall be appointed by the Members;
- b) No less than 1 shall be appointed by the Derby Diocesan Board of Education;
- c) No less than 1 shall be appointed by the Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education; and
- d) Up to 2 shall be appointed by the Old Trust.

The total number of Trustees appointed by the Derby and Lichfield Diocesan Boards of Education shall not exceed 25% of the total number of Trustees, and the CEO shall be a Trustee, being the only employee of the Academy Trust who may be a Trustee.

The term of office for any Trustee shall be 4 years, save this time limit shall not apply to the CEO who shall serve for as long as they hold office.

Trustees are recruited following a rigorous process, which includes an initial introductory discussion, an informal CV review and an interview with Trustees, including the Chair of the Board. Appointments are made based on skills and experience, and for the Trust Board to operate effectively, the following blend of skills has been identified: education, safeguarding, health and safety, finance, commercial, human resources, information technology, estate and facilities management, marketing and public relations. In line with safer recruitment practices, the Trust carries out Enhanced DBS checks and right to work in the UK checks prior to appointing Trustees.

The Trust Board carries out an annual skills audit to identify strengths and skills gaps. The skills audit helps inform the recruitment of Trustees and the appointment of Trustees to the Board's sub-committees. Training and development programmes are geared towards plugging any identified skills gaps.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Structure, governance and management (continued)

e. Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

The induction and training provided to Trustees is tailored to their needs and is dependent on their skills and experience.

New Trustees attend an informal induction meeting as soon as practicable after their appointment where they learn about the Academy Trust's vision, values and goals. They are also provided with:

- The Academy Trust's strategic and operational plans;
- Its organisational structure and information about the other Trustees;
- The Board's Terms of Reference and the Terms of Reference of its sub-committees;
- The Academy Trust's Scheme of Delegation;
- The Articles of Association;
- The Academy Trust Handbook and any recent correspondence from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA);
- The calendar of Trustee meetings;
- Minutes of the two most recent Trust Board meetings;
- The most recent performance reports;
- The Academy Trust's Code of Conduct; and
- A list of policies and where to find them.

Trustees are invited to attend a range of training courses, developed in-house by the Executive Leadership Team. These courses cover a wide range of topics including Welcome to Governance, Safeguarding, Pupil Premium, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), Budget and Financial Management and Understanding Data. Trustees are also required to complete Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE), Child Protection, Cyber Security and GDPR training and are encouraged to visit as many of the Academy Trust's schools as is practicable, to meet pupils, students, staff and Local Governors. The same training courses are also offered to Local Governors.

Reviews are undertaken regularly to ensure effective governance and there is an on-going commitment to training and development. An external review of governance was undertaken during the period under review.

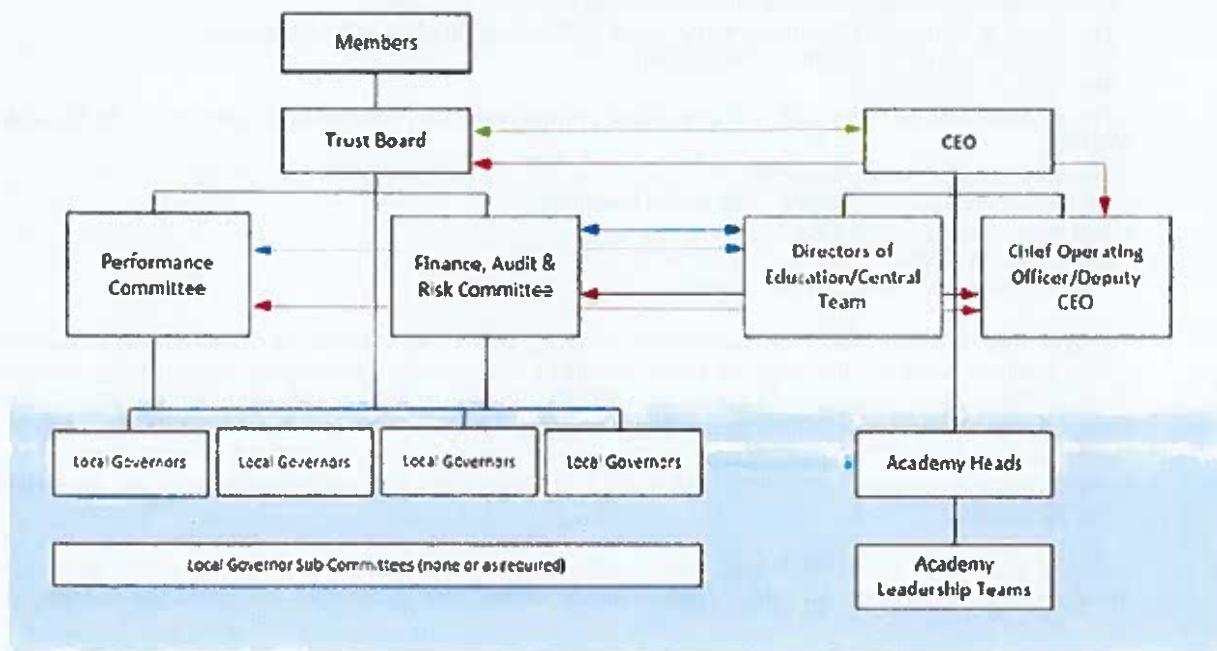
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Structure, governance and management (continued)

f. Organisational structure

The Academy Trust operates seven schools for pupils aged 2 to 18 in three local authority areas, Derbyshire, Derby City and Staffordshire. This does not come without complexities, and the organisational structure (shown below) is designed to ensure Trustees and Executive Leaders maintain a sharp focus on the strategic needs of the organisation as a whole, and on the needs of each school, to support the delivery of rapid and sustained school improvement.



The Board of Trustees has appointed two sub-committees to ensure robust oversight of the Academy Trust is maintained:

- The Performance Committee, which is responsible for overseeing the quality of education provided by the Academy Trust and its schools.
- The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, which is responsible for overseeing the Academy Trust's financial performance, and for ensuring resources are used efficiently and effectively to maximise outcomes for pupils and students. The committee also provides assurance to the Board on the adequacy of the internal financial control framework including financial and non-financial controls and risk management, along with responsibility for overseeing data protection within the Trust.

The scope of each committee's work is set out in clear, written terms of reference which are reviewed at least annually. The sub-committees provide rigorous scrutiny of the educational and financial performance of the Trust and its schools.

Additionally, each school has its own Local Governing Body, responsible for the quality of teaching and learning and the achievement and standards in their school. They ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction, providing support and challenge on educational performance.

The CEO is responsible for leading the Academy Trust's Executive Team, which works to ensure the Academy Trust and its schools are sustainably successful over time. As a system leader, the CEO represents the Academy Trust with a wide range of stakeholders and partners. They are also the Accounting Officer for the

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Structure, governance and management (continued)

Academy Trust, responsible for ensuring it meets its statutory and legal requirements.

Executive Leaders provide high level strategic leadership and management across all aspects of the Academy Trust, and ensure resources and people are used efficiently and effectively to provide high quality education to all pupils and students and keep the Academy Trust's cash and other assets safe and secure.

A governance and leadership framework is in place, with clear lines of accountability and communication at all levels, and a written Scheme of Delegation sets out the decision making responsibilities.

g. Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Academy Trust's key management personnel are its Members, Trustees, Executive Leaders and Headteachers.

The Members and Trustees receive no pay or remuneration for their work and discharge their responsibilities wholly voluntarily.

Whilst the CEO is remunerated, this is for their work as an employee of the Academy Trust and in accordance with their contract of employment. It is not for their role as a Trustee.

The Trust Board reviews the pay and remuneration of all employees, including the Executive Leaders and Headteachers annually. It does so in accordance with the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions document, the Academy Trust's Pay Policy, and the employment contracts of employees.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Structure, governance and management (continued)

h. Trade Union Facility Time

The Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017 came into force on 1 April 2017. Under the provisions of those regulations the Academy Trust provides the following information for the period under review:

Relevant Union Officials

Number of employees who were relevant trade union officials during the period	Full time equivalent number of employees
10.0	9.60

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	3.00
1-50%	7.00
51-99%	0.00
100%	0.00

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time	£6,722.36
Total pay bill	£24,758,557.00
Percentage of total pay bill spent on facilities time	0.03%

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	0.00%
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Structure, governance and management (continued)

I. Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

In the period under review, there was only one related party transaction. The Academy Trust paid £1,637 to the Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education (LDBE) for the provision of Christian distinctiveness support at both Waterhouses and St John's. However, it is worth noting that, whilst the LDBE has the right to appoint a Trustee to the Board, the position was vacant for the entire period under review.

The Academy Trust continues to benefit from strong partnerships with other organisations for the benefit of its pupils and students.

The CEO, a Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching, continued to work as a National Leader of Education (NLE) and Link Advisor for Derbyshire Local Authority, providing system leadership and school to school support to a number of schools outside the Academy Trust. They also continued to be part of the network of National Coaches for Women Leading in Education. Other Executive Leaders continued to network with other Trusts.

The Academy Trust continued to have flourishing relationships with a wide range of partners including the Department for Education (DfE), the ESFA, the University of Derby, the Spencer Teaching Schools Hub, Ambition Leadership, Djanogly Learning Trust and the Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education, to support the delivery of its education priorities and improve outcomes for children and young people. Similarly, the Trust's schools maintained their involvement with a wide range of partners including the Derbyshire Headteachers Group, the Derby City Collaboration of Schools, the Leek Education Partnership, the Swadlincote School Improvement Partnership, the Highfields Cluster of Schools and St Wilfrid's English Hub. The Academy Trust also worked alongside Delta Academies Trust to drive further fast-paced school improvement at Castle View.

During the period under review, the Academy Trust worked hard to provide its children and young people with a wide range of enrichment opportunities and maintained its excellent relationships with its Friends, Parent and Teacher Associations, the Old Trust (The Trustees and Assistants of Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School), the Woodroffe Benton Foundation and the Old Ashburnian Society.

J. Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

The Academy Trust actively engages with its employees. Employees are encouraged to have a voice concerning the Academy Trust, its performance and management, via a variety of methods including staff voice surveys and consultations. Trustees and Executive Leaders listen to the opinions of employees and take appropriate action to ensure the Academy Trust is a rewarding and stimulating place to work and a place where staff, children and young people thrive.

The Academy Trust continues to offer vacancies to all, making sure that if an individual has a disability, they are appropriately supported and reasonable adjustments are made, to ensure they can fulfil their role and responsibilities safely and effectively.

In accordance with the Equality and Equal Opportunities in Employment Policies, the Academy Trust has established fair employment practices in the recruitment, selection, training, support and retention of disabled staff.

K. Engagement with suppliers, customers and others in a business relationship with the Academy Trust

The Academy Trust works hard to foster effective business relationships with others. Positive, polite and professional communication is critical to this, alongside timely payment of supplier invoices.

The Academy Trust selects its suppliers with care, having regard to their ability to provide the highest value for money and uphold the Academy Trust's ethos and reputation.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Structure, governance and management (continued)

Objectives and activities

a. Objects and aims

The Academy Trust aims to provide high quality education and care to every young person so they can reach their potential. It recognises the importance of high-quality teaching and learning and operates a robust school improvement system with the aim of doing something exceptional for the young people in its schools. Its purpose is to ensure the best possible educational outcomes for all pupils and students in a safe, vibrant environment in which they can thrive and develop.

The actions to **Question, Explore, Give and Succeed** drive the provision of consistent world-class education and care. The Academy Trust's vision is to enable every young person to enjoy learning and reach their full potential.

b. Objectives, strategies and activities

To achieve its purpose and vision, the Academy Trust's goals are to:

- Offer a broad, balanced, ambitious and creative curriculum, which enables all our young people to achieve the very best outcomes and leave education well prepared for the next steps in their lives;
- Deliver high quality teaching, learning and assessment and effective leadership at all levels;
- Develop the culture and individuality of our schools and Trust, building a strong community in and around us;
- Offer a rewarding and stimulating workplace for staff; and
- Provide a strong, safe and financially sustainable environment.

In developing the Academy Trust's purpose, vision and goals, the Board of Trustees carefully considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

The Academy Trust's schools share these goals and strive to achieve them in a way relevant to their own context and as set out in their individual Academy Improvement Plans.

c. Public benefit

The Academy Trust's schools are non-selective and non-fee paying, and as such operate entirely for the public benefit. In addition to striving for and achieving the highest educational standards and attainment for all pupils and students, the Academy Trust engages in partnership working with others, particularly in Derbyshire, Derby City and Staffordshire.

The Academy Trust also has links with many local and national businesses that provide support for a wide range of enrichment and careers activities and opportunities for the benefit of its pupils and students. There are also links with the local churches in Ashbourne, and with the Derby and Lichfield Diocesan Boards of Education.

The Academy Trust works for the benefit of the communities it serves and hires out its facilities, including halls, sports halls, sports pitches and swimming pool to local community groups.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

No new schools joined the Academy Trust in the period under review. As at 31 August 2024, 642 people (746 posts) were employed in both teaching and non-teaching roles, including 134 relief staff. There were approximately 4,800 pupils and students on roll aged between 2 and 18.

The Academy Trust implemented a curriculum led approach to financial planning to ensure each school continued to provide a broad, balanced, ambitious and creative curriculum, designed to promote academic excellence and develop individual talents and interests through enrichment and extra-curricular activities and opportunities, and reflect national and local priorities.

During this period, Ofsted carried out graded inspections under Section 5 of the Education Act in four of the Academy Trust's schools and recognised improvements, as set out below:

	Chellaston Academy	St John's	Springfield	City of Derby Academy
Date of inspection	Sep-23	Nov-23	Mar-24	Mar-24
Overall effectiveness	Good	Good	Good	Requires improvement
Quality of education	Good	Good	Good	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good	Good	Good	Good
Personal development	Good	Good	Good	Good
Leadership and management	Good	Good	Good	Good
Sixth form provision	Good	-	-	-
Early years provision	-	Outstanding	-	-
Previous inspection grade	Inadequate	Good	Requires improvement	Requires improvement

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

a. Key performance indicators

The performance of the Academy Trust will always be determined by the achievements of its pupils.

Key Stage 5

Pupils in year 13 at both Queen Elizabeth's and Chellaston Academy achieved very well in their Summer 2024 exams, and consequently were able to access their chosen pathway. This has indeed been the case for many years now. In terms of attainment and the average point score (APS) per A Level, both schools improved on their strong 2023 results and performed better than 2024 national averages, though at the time of writing these remain unvalidated. As a comparative in the tables that follow, 2023's national averages have been used since these are validated.

A summary of the results is set out below:

	Student Entries	A Level APS	A Level Average Grade	A Level A*-A (%)	A Level A*-C (%)	A Level A*-E (%)
Queen Elizabeth's	136	37.3	B-	28.6	80.5	99.3
Chellaston Academy	142	36.8	B-	28.6	81.3	99.0
QEGSMAT	178	37.0	B-	28.6	80.9	99.1
National		34.1	C+	27.6	76.0	97.1

In terms of Applied General qualifications, both schools were significantly above the national average for points per qualification, with the Trust average grade being 1 grade higher per entry than the national average (see below):

	Applied General APS	Applied General Average Grade
Queen Elizabeth's	38.2	Distinction+
Chellaston Academy	36.8	Distinction+
QEGSMAT	37.8	Distinction+
National	29.5	Merit+

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Key Stage 4

The table below shows the headlines from the Summer 2024 results:

	Student entries	English and Maths 9-4	English and Maths 9-5	Attainment 8
Chellaston	298	73.7%	53.2%	48.2
City of Derby Academy	167	43.0%	21.0%	32.3
Queen Elizabeth's	250	63.2%	43.6%	46.2
QEGSMAT	714	61.8%	41.9%	43.8
Early National*	225,430	67.1%	47.5%	47.2
Early East Midlands*	NA	65.9%	45.6%	46.1

*awaiting validated national statistics from the DfE

In summary:

- Chellaston's results were above national averages and Queen Elizabeth's were in line with national averages.
- Whilst City of Derby Academy's results were below national averages, all attainment measures improved on 2023; a significant achievement when considering the context of the school. It serves one of the most deprived wards in the country, has a large proportion of mobile students, a larger than average population of students with special educational needs and a high proportion of disadvantaged students.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

Strategic report (continued)

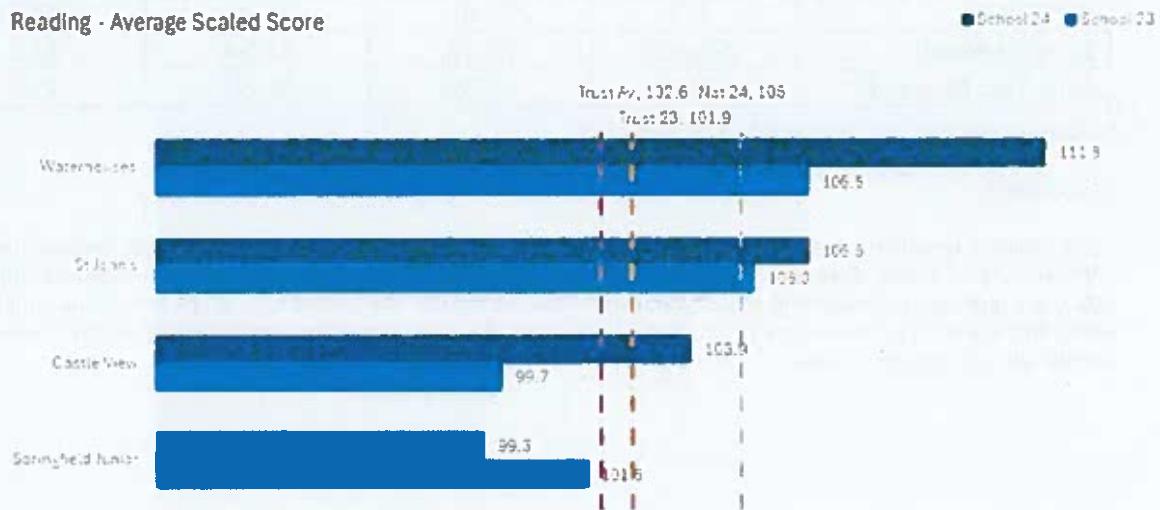
Achievements and performance (continued)

Key Stage 2

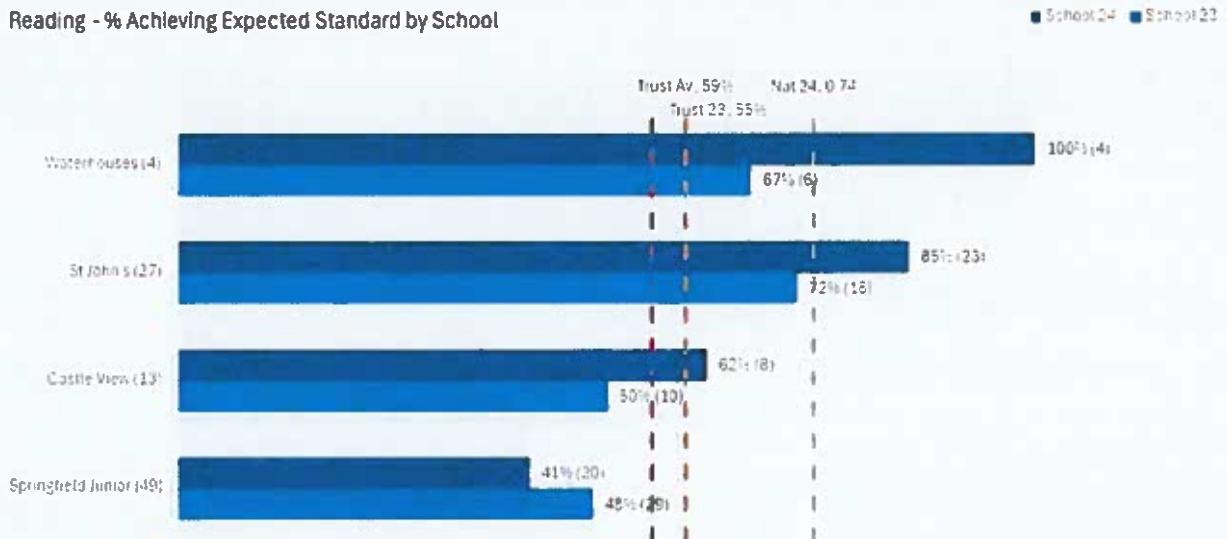
Results showed a significant improvement from 2023, with trust wide improvements being made in all published measures, namely Reading, Maths, Writing and Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS), both in terms of scaled scores and the proportion of pupils meeting the expected standards in each area.

Reading

The graphs below show the average scaled score in Reading for each primary school, 75% of which saw an improvement on last year. The trust wide average scaled score has increased and is moving closer to the national average.



75% of the schools also saw an increase in the proportion of pupils achieving the expected standard, and 100% saw an increase in the proportion of pupils achieving greater depth standard for Reading, as shown below:



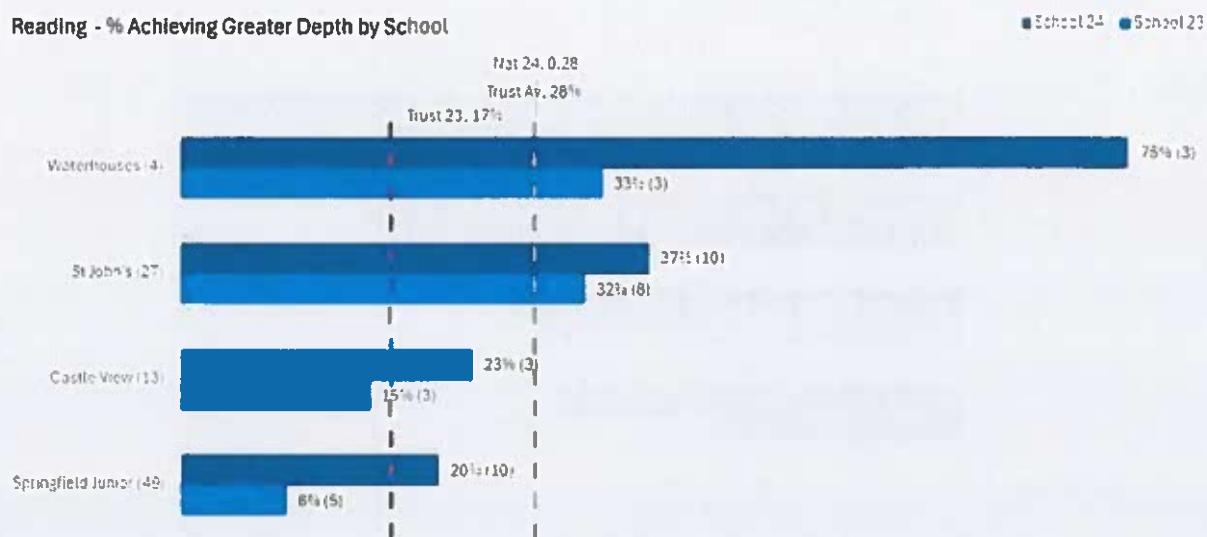
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Reading - % Achieving Greater Depth by School



Maths

The three graphs below show that all of the Academy Trust's primary schools saw an increase in their average scaled score for Maths, moving the trust wide average score closer to the national figure. All schools had an increase in the proportion of pupils achieving the expected standard in Maths, half of which saw more than a 20% increase. The trust wide average for the proportion of pupils achieving the greater depth standard for Maths doubled from 11% to 22%.

Maths - Average Scaled Score



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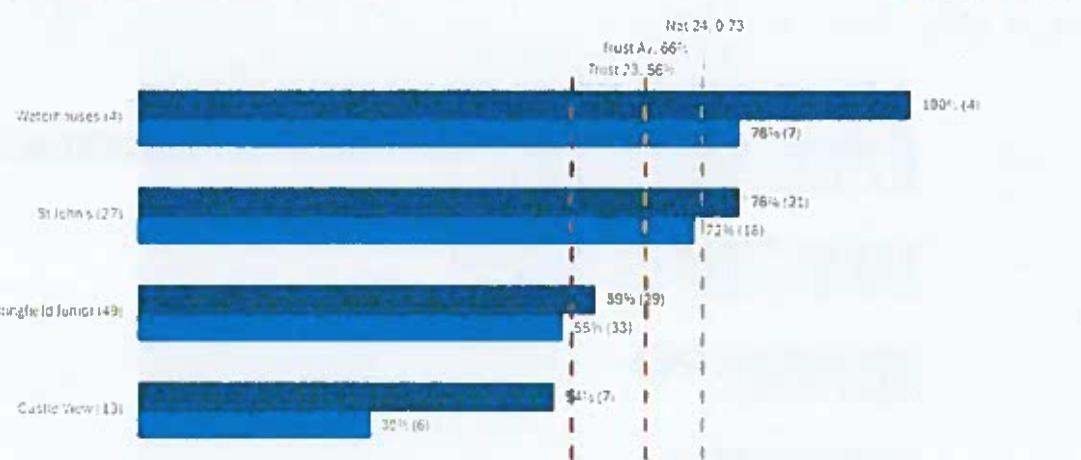
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

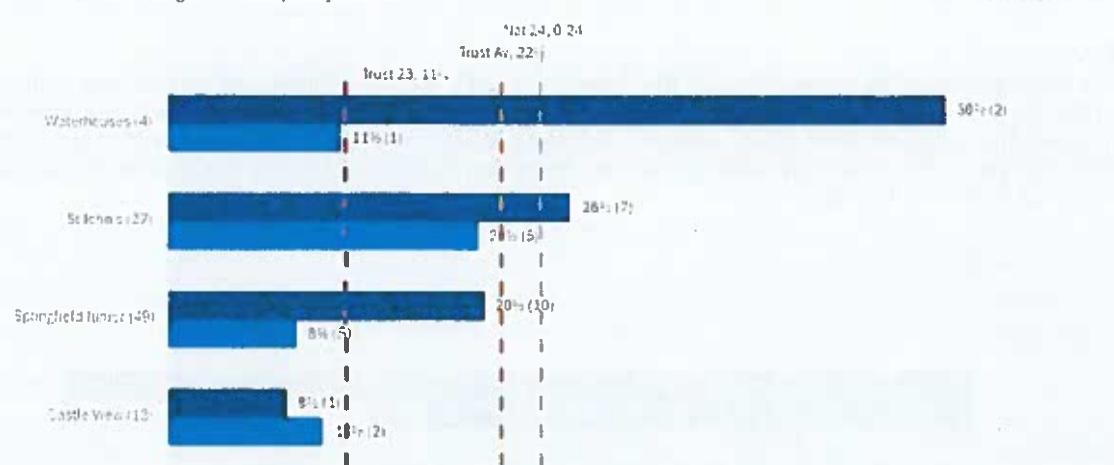
Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Maths - % Achieving Expected Standard by School



Maths - % Achieving Greater Depth by School



TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

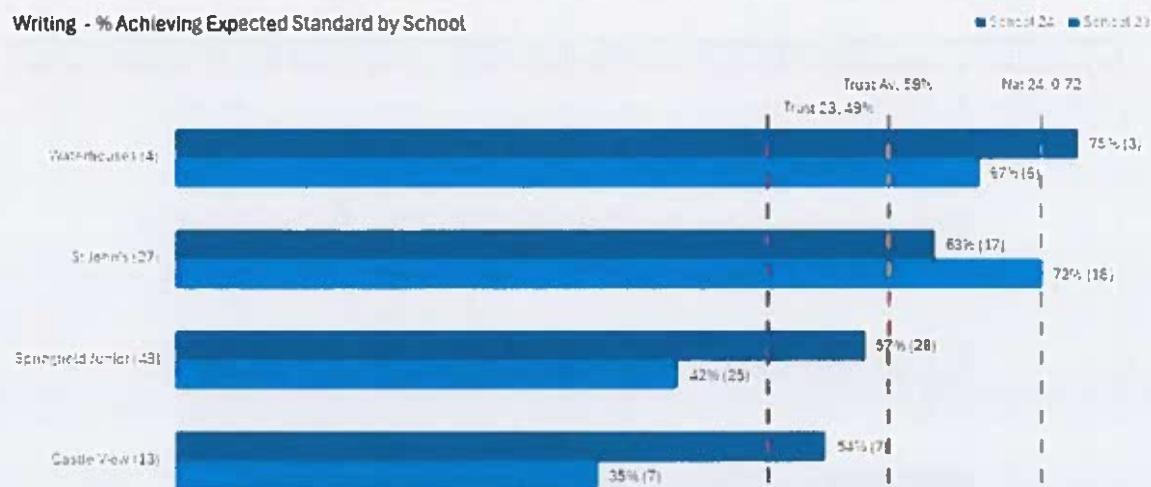
Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Writing

The graph below shows that 75% of the Academy Trust's primary schools saw an increase in the proportion of pupils meeting the expected standard in the teacher assessed Writing element, increasing the trust wide proportion.

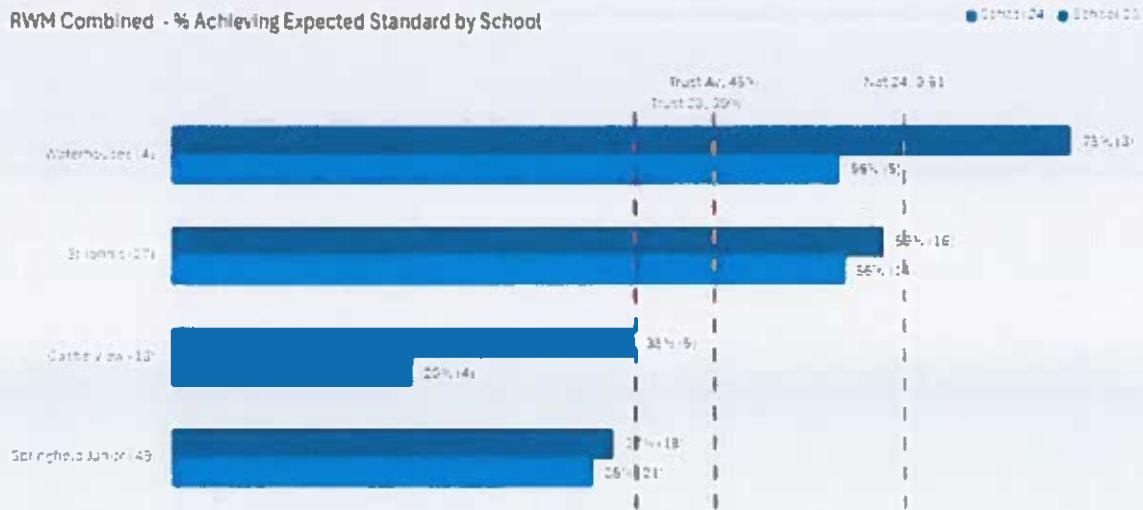
Writing - % Achieving Expected Standard by School



Reading, Writing and Maths Combined

All schools have improved in achieving the expected standard across Reading, Writing and Maths, and while the cohorts' profiles mean that it will always be difficult to achieve national averages, it is fantastic to note this achievement, particularly this year, at Castle View.

RWM Combined - % Achieving Expected Standard by School



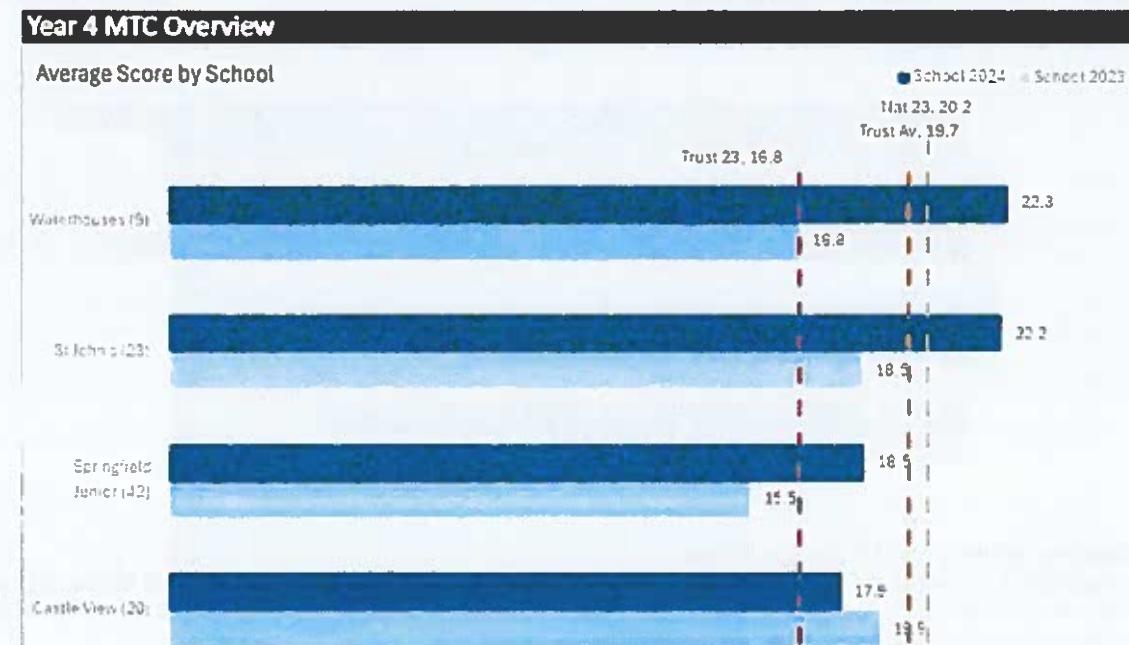
**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Key Stage 2 Year 4 Multiplication Check

Results from the year 4 multiplication check showed a positive shift in performance, from 2023 being below the national average to 2024 being broadly in line. 75% of the Academy Trust's primary schools have increased their average score, clear evidence to suggest that the schools are now tailoring their curriculum implementation to reflect the importance of children learning their times tables (see below).



TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

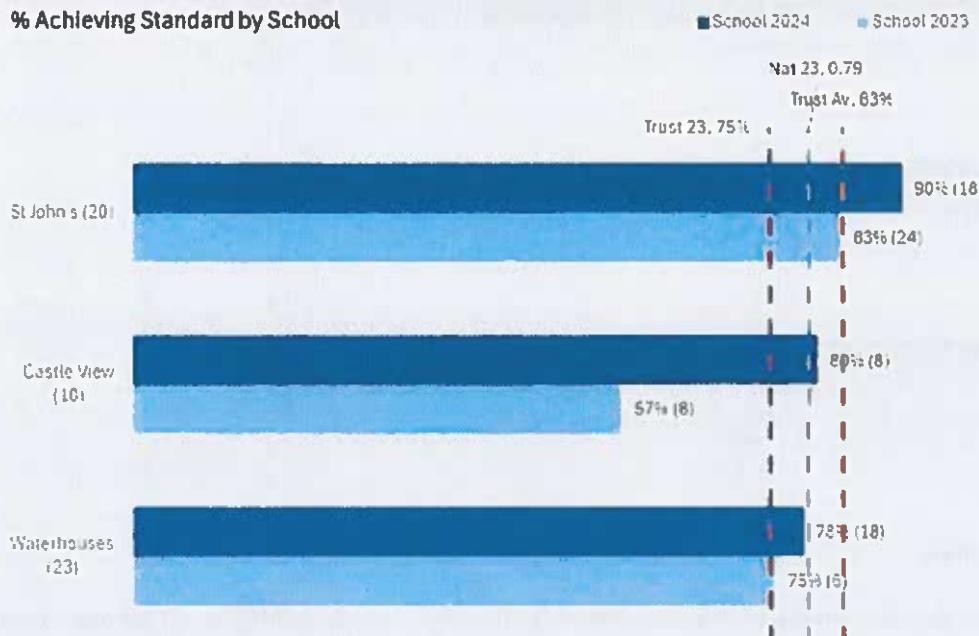
Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Key Stage 1 Year 1 Phonics Check

The tables below show that all schools increased the proportion of children meeting the expected standard of phonics at the end of year 1. Trust averages for both the proportion of pupils and the average score achieved are now above national averages.

Year 1 Phonics Overview



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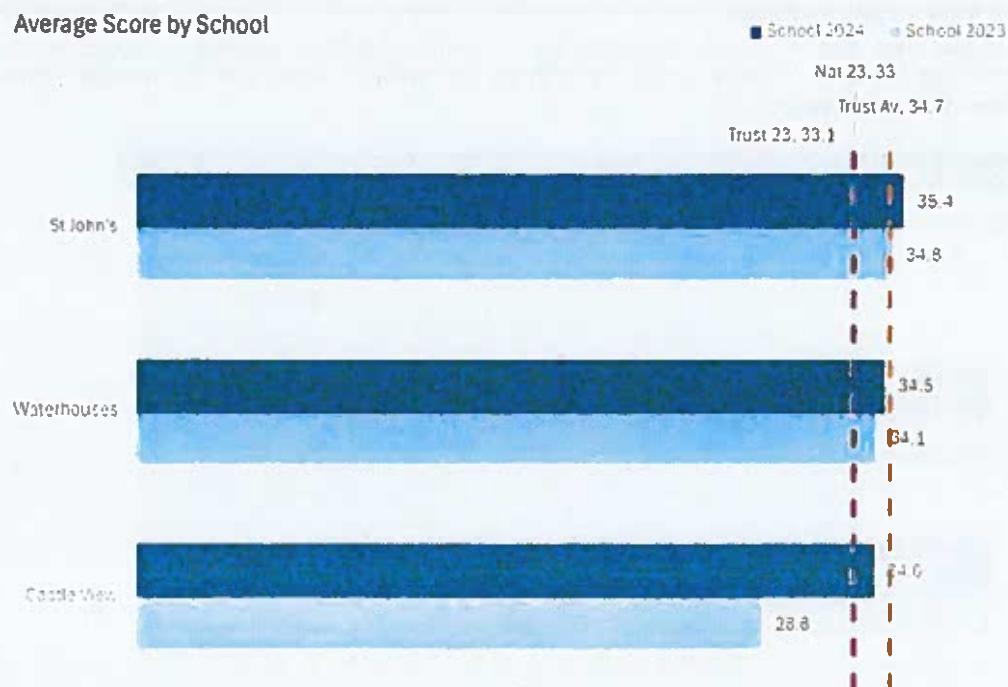
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Average Score by School



b. Going concern

An application has been made to the Department for Education for QEGSMAT and Djanogly Learning Trust (DLT) to merge. This will be considered by the East Midlands Advisory Committee in due course, and subject to their approval, the two Trusts will aim to merge on 1 September 2025. At the date of signing, there has been no decision regarding which Trust will transfer to the other, therefore it is possible that the assets and liabilities of QEGSMAT may transfer to DLT. In this event, QEGSMAT would cease to continue in operational existence and as such Trustees have determined there is a material uncertainty with regards to going concern.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

c. Promoting the success of the company

The Trustees promote the success of the Academy Trust and have regard to the:

- Likely long-term consequences of their decisions;
- Interests of the Academy Trust's employees;
- Need to foster the Academy Trust's business relationships with suppliers, customers and others;
- Impact of the Academy Trust's operations on the community and the environment;
- The Academy Trust's reputation for high standards of business conduct; and
- Need to act fairly.

Trustees are diligent in their scrutiny of information and the performance of the Academy Trust. They undertake school visits as often as possible, and meet with leaders, other staff, pupils, students and Local Governors to gain a wider comprehension of each school's culture and ethos, and the needs of the communities they serve. This equips them to understand the impact of their decisions.

Trustees appreciate the importance of recruiting and retaining the very best employees, and work hard to provide a safe, stimulating and rewarding work environment. Periodic staff surveys are undertaken, and consultations with employees and their professional associations take place. Trustees act upon the feedback they receive.

The Trustees and employees of the Academy Trust strive to maintain the highest standards of conduct at all times to safeguard the reputation of the Academy Trust.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Financial review

a. Current year review

Incoming resources totalled £37,793,000, made up:

	£000
DfE / ESFA grants	31,713
Capital grants	3,761
Local Authority income	1,213
Income from educational operations	670
Donations	28
Other trading activities	297
Investment income	111

The Academy Trust receives most of its funding from the ESFA. Its main source of income is the General Annual Grant (GAG) of which £28,073,000 was received in the period. This revenue grant is determined largely by the number of pupils on roll in each school. Other significant revenue grants received from the ESFA in the period were the:

- Pupil Premium of £1,641,000 to improve educational outcomes for disadvantaged pupils (defined as those who have been eligible for free school meals at any point in the last six years).
- Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG) of £883,000.
- Teachers' pay and pensions grants of £837,000, provided to help schools offset higher than expected pay increases and rising pension costs.

Capital grants received during the year were made up of:

- S106 agreement monies - £2,399,000 was received from Derby City Council to enable the completion of major construction works at Chellaston Academy.
- The School Condition Allocation (SCA) - £1,134,000 was received to maintain and improve the condition of school buildings to ensure children can learn in a safe and effective environment.
- Connect the Classroom Funding - £121,000 was received from the Government to enable works to improve internet speeds and upgrade wi-fi points and network switches in four of the Academy Trust's schools, Chellaston, City of Derby Academy, Castle View and Springfield.
- Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) – a total of £107,000 was received and spent mostly on delivering the Academy Trust's IT Strategy.

Derbyshire County Council, Staffordshire County Council and Derby City Council provided funding of £1,213,000 to support those children with special educational needs and disabilities and for the children in the Academy Trust's three nurseries. Income from general sales and the hiring out of the Academy Trust's facilities totalled £297,000.

No new schools joined the Academy Trust in the period under review, so there were no transfers from Local Authorities or other Trusts.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Resources expended in the period totalled £36,446,000 as follows:

	£000
Staffing costs	26,804
Premises costs	5,095
Other operational costs	4,547
Total	36,446

In addition to the Academy Trust's usual running costs, capital expenditure was incurred on:

- Completing major construction works at Chellaston Academy;
- Maintaining and improving the condition of school buildings and grounds;
- Replacing aged ICT equipment; and
- Improving the ICT infrastructure and on improving internet speeds and wi-fi upgrades.

Cash balances rose by £696,000 to £7,914,000 during the period, inclusive of £1,970,000 restricted funds (funds given to the Academy Trust for a specific purpose such as the capital grants). The cash balance as at 31 August 2024 also included August 2024's payroll bill of £1,200,000 since, due to a processing error by the Academy Trust's payroll provider, this was paid from their bank account and recharged to the Trust in September 2024.

Net current assets totalled £5,296,000; a decrease of £791,000.

b. Reserves policy

The reserve levels of the Academy Trust are kept under review by the Board of Trustees and its Finance, Audit and Risk Committee. It is the Academy Trust's policy to carry forward a prudent level of funding (a minimum of 5% and a maximum of 10% of the GAG) to ensure long term cyclical needs can be met, assets can be renewed and unforeseen circumstances such as emergency building repairs can be managed efficiently and effectively.

Unrestricted fund reserves as at 31 August 2024 were £602,000, made up largely of lettings income generated since August 2011, when the Academy Trust first began operating, and income for the before and after school clubs. This figure is not 'profit' since not all the associated costs were attributed to the unrestricted fund. These reserves will be used solely for the purpose of the Academy Trust's charitable objects and to efficiently improve educational outcomes for all pupils and students.

Restricted income funds as at 31 August 2024 were £2,956,000, derived mostly from grants from the DfE.

The pension reserve deficit as at 31 August 2024 reflects the present value of the defined benefit liability determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The liability therefore only becomes due over the lifetime of the pension scheme. Parliament has agreed to a guarantee to meet these outstanding liabilities in the event of the Academy Trust closure. Many of the assumptions on which the valuation is based relate to factors outside of the Academy Trust's control, and these factors have contributed to a decrease in the deficit of £1,356,000 in the year under review to £657,000.

c. Investment policy

In accordance with the Academy Trust's Investment Policy, investments can only be made when approved by the Board of Trustees and only low risk investments will be approved. In the year under review £2,500,000 was held in fixed rate deposit accounts with Lloyds Bank, the Academy Trust's bankers, for an improved return on cash balances.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

d. Principal risks and uncertainties

The Academy Trust maintains a register of the risks to which it is exposed and has established internal control systems and procedures to mitigate these. The risk register and control arrangements are reviewed by the Board of Trustees at least annually.

The Academy Trust's principal financial risks and uncertainties are:

- Levels of funding – the Academy Trust is reliant on grants from the DfE, and these can be affected by changes in Government and Government policy. Levels of funding can therefore be uncertain making financial planning with any confidence difficult. This risk is mitigated in the following ways:
 - The Academy Trust maintains cash in reserve.
 - Cash flow is carefully managed and cash balances are tightly controlled.
 - Since Government funding is determined largely by the number of pupils and students on roll, the Academy Trust works hard to recruit and retain pupils and students. It strives to maintain a reputation for strong education performance, and to provide all pupils and students with high quality teaching and learning and great opportunities. Quality assurance processes are rigorous and pupil and student progress is routinely monitored. Where required, interventions are swift and effective in ensuring all pupils and students make progress and achieve.
- Cost pressures – there is always a risk that costs will rise faster than core funding. Typically, the Government has provided grants to help offset pay, pension and national insurance increases though these are never guaranteed, and at present, the Academy Trust has cash in reserve. To mitigate this risk:
 - Trustees and leaders maintain robust financial oversight.
 - Financial plans, based on realistic assumptions, are prepared and monitored, and budget variances are identified and acted upon as appropriate.
 - The Academy Trust takes a curriculum-led approach to financial planning to ensure the funding it has available is used efficiently, effectively and economically to provide the best curriculum for its pupils and students and deliver its educational priorities.
 - The Academy Trust manages its cash position robustly and maintains very effective systems of internal financial control.
 - Trustees and leaders ensure spending decisions represent value for money.

Fundraising

The Academy Trust does not use any external fundraisers. All fundraising undertaken during the year was monitored by the Trustees.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Streamlined energy and carbon reporting

UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period	1 st September 2023 to 31 st August 2024	1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	4,848,096 kWh	4,010,433 kWh
Energy consumption break down (kWh) (optional)		
Gas (and oil/biomass)	2,775,592 kWh	2,079,401 kWh
Electricity	2,072,504 kWh	1,906,720 kWh
Transport fuel	27,557.25 kWh	24,312.00 kWh
Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO ₂ e		
Gas (and oil/biomass) consumption	506.70	379.57
Owned/Leased transport – mini-buses	6.45	5.99
Total scope 1	513.15	385.56
Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO ₂ e		
Purchased electricity	429.15	368.75
Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO ₂ e		
Business travel in employee owned vehicles	6.28	6.22
Total emissions in metric tonnes CO ₂ e	948.59	759.77
Intensity ratio		
Tonnes CO ₂ e per pupil	0.20	0.16
Quantification and Reporting Methodology:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">We have followed the 2019 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. We have also used the GHG Reporting Protocol – Corporate Standard and have used the 2024 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company Reporting.	
Intensity measurement	The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO ₂ e per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.	
Measures taken to improve energy efficiency	We have continued to roll out LED lights at Trust sites. City of Derby Academy has had high level lighting replaced with LED lights, and there is an ongoing programme to replace the remaining lights this academic year. We have also had a series of boilers replaced at Chellaston Academy, Castle View and Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School. These were all older model boilers that have been replaced with much more energy efficient replacements.	

The Academy Trust's energy consumption per pupil increased, mostly due to the fact the gas central heating systems were on for longer because of cold weather. The major construction works at Chellaston Academy also saw more energy consumed.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

Plans for future periods

The Academy Trust's core purpose remains to provide the best possible educational outcomes for children and young people, regardless of their starting point and for all children and young people to develop and thrive in a supportive environment.

Through the actions of Question, Explore, Give and Succeed, the Academy Trust is driven to improve the life chances of all children and young people and to provide high quality education and care to enable them to develop the knowledge and skills they need to become successful and responsible citizens in modern Britain.

To achieve its purpose and vision, the Academy Trust will again focus on its five key goals and will continue to work in collaboration with others to drive improvements across its schools. The Academy Trust's priorities are to drive forward consistent curriculum implementation in its schools, ensure high quality teaching, fully implement quality assurance, ensure all pupils and students attend school and are well prepared for examinations and can successfully progress to the next stage of their lives, regardless of their starting point, and embed the wider curriculum offer and extra-curricular provision.

The Academy Trust's emphasis will be building on the many strengths in its schools and addressing the areas for development, with the support of external partners where needed. The Academy Trust will focus on providing high quality teaching, learning and leadership at all levels, including governance, whilst ensuring well-being remains at the heart of the provision. Cross school collaboration and networking will continue to flourish.

The curriculum is the most important element of provision, and the Academy Trust will work tirelessly to ensure all children and young people are in school to benefit from teaching, learning, social, emotional, spiritual and mental health and well-being in all settings. A remaining priority is to continue to have a strong focus on improving attendance in all settings. External validation is important and improving schools to be Ofsted 'good or better' will underline the achievements and improvements above.

Investing in the professional development of the workforce and planning for succession remain priorities, particularly in the current educational climate with challenges in recruitment and retention. We will continue to support colleagues who wish to undertake National Professional qualifications. Whole Trust, cross- trust and in-school professional learning will also be driven by Trust leadership teams.

There has been and will continue to be some investment in improving the condition of our school buildings over the coming years. The Academy Trust continues to deliver on the capital spending programme outlined in its Estates Strategy. The improvements will be funded from a capital grant of circa £1m from the Government known as the School Condition Allocation.

The Academy Trust's work with Derby City and Inclusion, and the network of organisations involved, will continue. The Academy Trust will also continue to work with a range of Educational Improvement Consultants to provide external quality assurance where appropriate. The Academy Trust is committed to improving pupil and student outcomes, not only in its schools but much wider.

The Academy Trust is seeking to grow and develop, particularly following a successful year of Ofsted outcomes and improved educational outcomes in the Summer 2024 and with the event of the retirement of the CEO in December 2024. The Academy Trust is exploring a merger with another local Trust, namely Djanogly Learning Trust. This process is based on the sound rationale of shared values, philosophy and beliefs in education. To support this strategy, the CEO of Djanogly Learning Trust will be appointed as Interim CEO for QEGSMAT and will be in place from 1 January 2025. The Academy Trust's growth will be measured, and capacity driven, so that the quality of its school improvement and resource management work is not compromised. The Academy Trust aims to be a centre for high quality continued professional learning for staff, and to be consistent in providing innovative and research-based leadership, learning, teaching and wider curriculum opportunities for the communities it serves. We aim to offer the best education, curriculum, opportunities, and facilities with the resources available.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Funds held as custodian on behalf of others

In the period under review, neither the Academy Trust nor its Trustees were acting as custodian Trustees, and no funds were held on behalf of others, other than the post-16 bursary grants as detailed in note 33.

Disclosure of information to auditors

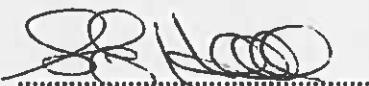
Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

- 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.

Auditors

PKF Smith Cooper, Prospect House, 1 Prospect Place, Pride Park, Derby, DE24 8HG have been re-appointed as external auditors for the financial year 2024/2025 and BHP, 2 Rutland Park, Broomhall, Sheffield, S10 2PD have been appointed as internal auditors.

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on *16th December 2024* and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs S Hall
Chair of Trustees



Mrs A Martin
Trustee

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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Scope of responsibility

As Trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring QEGSMAT 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.

As Trustees, we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in the DfE's Academy Trust Governance Guide and competency framework for governors.

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the CEO, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform to 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 QEGSMAT and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 6 times during the year.

Attendance during the year at these meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mrs S Hall, Chair	6	6
Mr H Tresidder, Vice Chair, and Chair of Finance, Audit and Risk Committee	6	6
Mr K Wesley	4	6
Mr P Stanyer, Chair of Performance Committee	6	6
Mr S Smith	4	6
Mr T Collis	4	6
Mrs S Forsyth	5	6
Mrs A Martin, Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer	6	6
Mrs L Key	6	6

All meetings were quorate. Trustees provided support and robust challenge to ensure improved outcomes for all pupils, and the efficient use of resources. Mr S Garrity, Mrs S Stone, Mrs A Wilton and Mrs R Linton attended as Headteachers of Queen Elizabeth's, St John's, Castle View and Waterhouses respectively to present the school's strengths and progress towards achieving their key organisational goals.

Mr S Hardy (Head of HR) attended to advise the board on HR matters.

Mr M Feldman (an independent reviewer) attended to observe the meeting as part of an external review of governance at the request of the Board.

The Board considered high quality management from Executive Leaders at their meetings. This information enabled the Board to maintain effective oversight of all aspects of the Academy Trust's performance, including its financial performance, and provided them with an understanding of the strengths and areas for improvement. During the period under review, Trustees made regular visits to each school to experience first-hand the matters reported and to talk to pupils, staff and Local Governors.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance (continued)

During the period under review there were key changes to the composition of the Board.

Mr N Moore was appointed as a trustee by the Members on the 21 August 2024.

The term of office of Mrs S Hall came to an end on the 23 March 2024, and she was re-appointed by the Members for a further four years.

As aforementioned, the Board of Trustees has appointed two sub-committees to ensure robust oversight of the Academy Trust. The committees provide rigorous scrutiny of the educational and financial performance of the Academy Trust and its schools.

The Academy Trust is diligent in its approach to managing potential conflicts of interest and always ensures compliance with the Academy Trust Handbook in relation to related party transactions. An up-to-date register of interests is maintained and published on the website. The register captures the relevant business and pecuniary interests of Members, Trustees, Local Governors and senior employees, and material interest from close family relationships. In addition to the register, Members, Trustees, Local Governors and senior employees are required to declare any conflicts of interest at the start of all meetings and withdraw from that part of the meeting to ensure impartial decision making.

An external review of governance was commissioned and carried out on 25th September 2024 by an expert from Optimus Education. The process involved interviews and discussions with key members of the Executive Leadership Team, Members, Trustees and Local Governors; scrutiny of Trustee agendas, minutes, Terms of Reference and the Scheme of Delegation, as well as an audit of the QEGSMAT website.

A report was drafted, communicated and actions were agreed. During the following few weeks an action plan was produced and shared with the DfE, following the QEGSMAT DfE Strategic conversation in February 2024. Actions included: recruitment of Trustees with a range of skills and expertise to add education and business depth to the Board, following recent resignations; to continue to develop the role of a Trustee in providing challenge and support to leaders; to develop the knowledge and current educational expertise, of Trustees, in responding to national change and to headline data, equally, at every school.

Normally an external review of governance would be commissioned every two/three years and the outcomes and progress shared with the DfE. The next external review, will therefore, form part of the school improvement cycle as QEGSMAT potentially merges. As a guide it is likely to be 2026-2027.

The Finance, Audit and Risk the committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. The committee met five times during the period, to keep the financial performance of the Academy Trust under review. Financial sustainability and effective financial management were a focus, whilst ensuring the highest value for money and the efficient use of resources to improve education.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustees and key management	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr H Tresidder, Chair	5	5
Mrs A Martin	5	5
Mr T Collis	5	5
Mr P Stanyer	5	5
Mr S Smith	4	5
Mrs S Hall	4	5
Mrs L Key	5	5
Mr J Harrison	5	5
Mr R Tuck	1	1
Mr S Hardy	3	3
Mrs V Bostock	1	1

All meetings were entirely quorate with the exception of the meeting on 17 June 2024, which was not quorate for

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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance (continued)

the first half hour. No decisions were made by the committee until the meeting became quorate.

Associate leaders from the Academy Trust's central services team attended meetings to provide updates on their areas of responsibility.

The Academy Trust's auditors were in attendance at the December 2023 meeting, where the annual audited accounts for the period ending 31 August 2023 were presented for consideration and recommendation to the Trust Board for approval.

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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance (continued)

The Performance Committee is also a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. This committee met three times during the year to oversee the educational performance of the Academy Trust and its schools.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustees and key management	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr P Stanyer, Chair	3	3
Mrs S Hall	3	3
Mrs S Forsyth	2	3
Mr K Wesley	2	3
Mr H Tresidder	2	3
Mrs A Martin	3	3
Mrs L Key	1	3
Mrs V Hall	2	2
Mr D Hudson	3	3

Mrs S Hall resigned as co-chair of the Performance Committee on 8 September 2023, with Mr P Stanyer agreeing to become sole Chair.

The Headteacher of Springfield attended the meeting on 4 March to discuss the school's performance and Academy Improvement Plan.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Review of value for money

As Accounting Officer, the CEO 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 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 the 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:

Targeting its Resources Effectively

The Academy Trust took a curriculum-led approach to financial planning to ensure its available funding was used efficiently, effectively, and economically to provide the best curriculum for its pupils and deliver its educational priorities. Staffing levels were kept under review, workflows were streamlined, and the job roles of some staff were sharpened to improve efficiency and effectiveness. The Pupil Premium, and funding received to support those pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), was also targeted at delivering a broad and balanced curriculum.

There was a continuous drive to improve the quality of teaching and learning through quality assurance, coaching, mentoring, and training and development. The Academy Trust utilised the apprenticeship levy to upskill employees and fund accredited training courses including national professional qualifications. Capital investment was largely targeted at improving the condition of the Academy Trust's buildings, building compliance, energy efficiency, health and safety issues and in ICT equipment.

Purchasing Reviews

The Academy Trust has stringent purchasing procedures in place, and these were consistently implemented throughout the year. The approved supplier list was kept under review and regular market tests (and tenders where appropriate) were conducted to ensure the highest value for money from suppliers. QEGSMAT continued to use its multi academy trust status to its advantage by combining the commercial requirements of its schools into trust wide contracts to benefit from economies of scale, where possible.

During the period under review, a competitive tender process was carried out for a single catering provider to work across the Academy Trust. To support with the process an external facilities management consultancy, Invictus Partnership, was engaged. A number of tenders were received and evaluated, resulting in the appointment of ABM Catering for a period of five years from August 2024.

Works continued during the period to address the Trust's short, medium and long-term building condition priorities that had been identified through building condition surveys.

The Academy Trust spent considerable sums on ICT equipment during the year and chose its suppliers largely through the Everything ICT Framework, a fully compliant public sector procurement framework approved by the DfE. The Academy Trust's pupils and staff benefitted from some significant investment in desktop computers, Chromebooks, laptops, server replacements, Wi-Fi cabling and interactive whiteboards to support teaching and learning.

The Academy Trust also made use of the Crown Commercial Service and the Government's 'Get Help Buying for Schools' service where possible, although in some cases, the Academy Trust was successful in negotiating better deals independently, particularly in relation to agency staff.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Review of value for money (continued)

Reviewing Financial Controls

The Academy Trust continued to operate a rigorous and robust internal financial control framework, tested by independent auditors three times per annum. Its financial operations and internal financial control framework were kept under review to ensure its cash and other assets were kept safe and secure.

Robust governance, and oversight and scrutiny of the Academy Trust's finances was a focus. Trustees receive and review comprehensive reports on the Academy Trust's financial performance, and the Board of Trustees remain responsible for all significant financial decisions.

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 address the risks to the achievement of the Academy Trust's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively, and economically. During the period under review, and up to the date of approval of the Annual Report and Financial Statements, the Academy Trust's system of internal financial control remained strong.

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 on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period from 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

The risk and control framework

The Academy Trust's system of internal 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 the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee of reports which analyse budget variances 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; and
- Identification and management of risks.

The Board of Trustees has decided to buy-in an internal audit service from Barber, Harrison and Platt Limited

The Academy Trust chose BHP to deliver its internal scrutiny function due to them being independent, objective, suitably qualified and experienced. A programme of audit testing is agreed with the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee prior to the start of the period, and reports, with recommendations where appropriate, were provided.

The reviewer's role includes giving advice on financial and other matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy Trust's financial systems. In particular, the checks carried out in the current period included:

- Testing of payroll systems;
- Testing of purchasing systems;
- Testing of control account/bank reconciliations;
- Testing of controls around other areas such as fixed assets, expense claims, credit card transactions, petty cash income, related party transactions and other compliance matters.

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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

The risk and control framework (continued)

On a semi-annual basis, the reviewer reports to the Board of Trustees through the Finance, Audit and Risk committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities. On an annual basis the reviewer prepares a summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

The Academy Trust's internal auditor has delivered its schedule of work for the 2023/2024 academic year as planned and has raised no material issues as a result of its work.

Review of effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, the CEO 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 internal auditors;
- The financial management and governance self-assessment process;
- The work of the executive managers within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework;
- The work of the external auditors; and
- Correspondence from the ESFA.

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Finance, Audit and Risk committee, and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Conclusion

Based on the advice of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee and the Accounting Officer, the Board of Trustees is of the opinion that the Academy Trust has an adequate and effective framework for governance, risk management and control.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 16th October 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Mrs S Hall
Chair of Trustees



Mrs A Martin
Accounting Officer

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STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As Accounting Officer of QEGSMAT, I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust Board of Trustees and the ESFA of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management received by the Academy Trust, 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 Academy Trust Handbook 2023, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

I confirm that I and the Academy Trust Board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all 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 Academy Trust Handbook 2023.

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.



Mrs A Martin
Accounting Officer
Date: 16.12.24

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**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 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 financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements 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 financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024;
- 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 financial statements 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 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 financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on
16th December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs S Hall
Chair of Trustees

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
QEGSMAT**

Opinion

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

- 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; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

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 Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements 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 financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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.

Material uncertainty related to going concern

We draw attention to note 1.2 in the financial statements, which indicates that there are proposed plans to merge with another Academy Trust. As set out in note 1.2 the potential consequences of the proposed merger indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

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. Our evaluation of the Trustees' assessment of the Academy Trust's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting included a review of the trust's financial position, forecasts and relevant subsequent events.

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

QEGSMAT
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
QEGSMAT (CONTINUED)**

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements 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 financial statements 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 financial statements 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.

Opinion 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 including the Strategic report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' report and the Strategic report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our 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 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 financial statements 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 (who are also the directors of the Academy Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements 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 financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, 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 Academy Trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

QEGSMAT

(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
QEGSMAT (CONTINUED)**

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditors' 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 financial statements.

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:

Based on our understanding of the academy trust and industry, key laws and regulations that we identified included the Companies Act, Charities SORP and guidance included within the Academy Trust Handbook and Academies Accounts Direction.

We identified that the principal risk of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations related to:

- management bias in respect of accounting estimates and judgements made;
- management override of control;
- posting of unusual journals or transactions;
- non-compliance with the Academy Trust Handbook and Academies Accounts Direction.

We focussed on those areas that could give rise to a material misstatement in the Academy Trust financial statements. Our procedures included, but were not limited to:

- enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims, including instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud;
- reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance where available;
- reviewing legal expenditure in the year to identify instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud;
- reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias. In particular, a review of assumptions used in the valuation of defined benefit pension liabilities;
- a separate limited scope regularity review has been undertaken in respect of compliance with the Academy Trust Handbook and out report in respect of this is contained within these financial statements.

It is the primary responsibility of management, with the oversight of those charged with governance, to ensure that the entity's operations are conducted in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations and for the prevention and detection of fraud.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors' report.

QEGSMAT
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
QEGSMAT (CONTINUED)**

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 Auditors' 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 its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

PKF Smith Cooper Audit Limited

James Delve (Senior statutory auditor)
for and on behalf of
PKF Smith Cooper Audit Limited
Statutory Auditors
Prospect House
1 Prospect Place
Millennium Way
Derby
DE24 8HG

Date: 17 December 2024

QEGSMAT
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO QEGSMAT
AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY**

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 6 September 2024 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 QEGSMAT during the year 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 QEGSMAT and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to QEGSMAT 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 QEGSMAT and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of QEGSMAT's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of QEGSMAT's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 29 July 2011 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 year 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 our conclusion includes:

- Planned our assurance procedures including identifying key risks;
- Carried out a program of substantive testing, including review of the program of work and findings in relation to internal scrutiny;
- Undertook controls testing where considered appropriate;
- Concluded on the procedures undertaken.

QEGSMAT
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO QEGSMAT
AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)**

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggest in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 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.

PKF Smith Cooper Audit Limited

Reporting Accountant
PKF Smith Cooper Audit Limited

Statutory Auditors

Prospect House
1 Prospect Place
Millennium Way
Derby
DE24 8HG

Date: 17 December 2024

QEGSMAT

(A company limited by guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £000	Restricted funds 2024 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2023 £000
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	-	28	3,761	3,789	3,902
Other trading activities	5	297	-	-	297	260
Investments	6	111	-	-	111	35
Charitable activities		-	33,596	-	33,596	31,757
Total Income		408	33,624	3,761	37,793	35,954
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities :						
Academy Trust						
Educational Operations	8	248	33,914	2,284	36,446	34,413
Total expenditure		248	33,914	2,284	36,446	34,413
Net income/(expenditure)		160	(290)	1,477	1,347	1,541
Transfers between funds	21	-	329	(329)	-	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		160	39	1,148	1,347	1,541
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	29	-	1,280	-	1,280	1,853
Pension surplus not recognised	29	-	(142)	-	(142)	(225)
Net movement in funds		160	1,177	1,148	2,485	3,169

QEGSMAT
(A company limited by guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
 (CONTINUED)**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £000	Restricted funds 2024 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2023 £000
Note					
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	21	442	1,122	99,212	96,043
Net movement in funds	21	160	1,177	1,148	2,485
Total funds carried forward		602	2,299	98,796	101,697
		=====	=====	=====	=====

The Statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 48 to 80 form part of these financial statements.

QEGSMAT

(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 07698914

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Note	2024 £000	2023 £000
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	16	97,060	95,145
		97,060	95,145
Current assets			
Stocks	17	4	4
Debtors	18	939	2,187
Cash at bank and in hand		7,914	7,218
		8,857	9,409
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19	(3,561)	(3,322)
Net current assets		5,296	6,087
Total assets less current liabilities		102,356	101,232
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	20	(2)	(7)
Net assets excluding pension liability		102,354	101,225
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	29	(657)	(2,013)
Total net assets		101,697	99,212

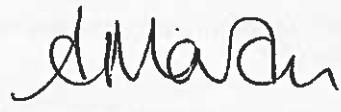
QEGSMAT
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 07698914

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Note	2024 £000	2023 £000
Funds of the Academy Trust			
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	21	98,796	97,648
Restricted income funds	21	2,956	3,135
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Restricted funds excluding pension asset	21	101,752	100,783
Pension reserve	21	(657)	(2,013)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total restricted funds	21	101,095	98,770
Unrestricted income funds	21	602	442
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funds		101,697	99,212
		<hr/>	<hr/>

The financial statements on pages 43 to 80 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on
16th October 2024
and are signed on their behalf, by:


Mrs S Hall
Chair of Trustees


Mrs A Martin
Accounting Officer

The notes on pages 48 to 80 form part of these financial statements.

QEGSMAT
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Note	2024 £000	2023 £000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	23	1,030	253
Cash flows from investing activities	25	(329)	150
Cash flows from financing activities	24	(5)	(5)
		—————	—————
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		696	398
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		7,218	6,820
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	26, 27	7,914	7,218
		—————	—————

The notes on pages 48 to 80 form part of these financial statements

QEGSMAT
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1. Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements of the Academy Trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historic 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.

QEGSMAT meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in Sterling which is the functional currency of the Academy Trust and rounded to the nearest £'000.

1.2 Going concern

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Academy Trust 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 financial statements and have concluded that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

However, as noted in the Trustees report, subsequent to the year end an application has been made to the Department for Education for QEGSMAT and Djanogly Learning Trust (DLT) to merge. This will be considered by the East Midlands Advisory Committee in due course, and subject to their approval, the two Trusts will aim to merge on 1st September 2025.

At the date of signing, there has been no decision regarding which Trust will transfer to the other, therefore it is possible that the assets and liabilities of QEGSMAT may transfer to DLT. In this event, QEGSMAT would cease to continue in operational existence and as such Trustees have determined there is a material uncertainty with regards to going concern. It has not been considered necessary to make any adjustments to the value of assets or liabilities as a result of this assessment.

QEGSMAT
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1. Accounting policies (continued)

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 year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the year 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 year it is receivable and to the extent the Academy Trust has provided the goods or services.

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 allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

• 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.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

QEGSMAT
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.5 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 Part 11, chapter 3 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.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Assets costing £2,500 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 requiring 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 and assets under construction, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

QEGSMAT
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.6 Tangible fixed assets (continued)

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings	- Over the useful economic life
Leasehold property	- Over the useful economic life or the remaining length of the lease, whichever is shorter. - 10% Straight Line
Improvement to freehold and leasehold property	- 20% Straight Line
Furniture and equipment	- 10% Straight Line
Plant and equipment	- 33% Straight Line
Computer equipment	- 25% Straight Line
Motor vehicles	- No depreciation charge until the project is completed
Asset under construction	

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use and reclassified to freehold, leasehold land and buildings or improvements to properties depending on the class of asset.

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.

Certain land occupied and used by Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School belongs to the Old Trust, and as such is not included on the balance sheet of the Academy Trust. No charge is made in the Statement of Financial Activities to reflect the use of this land and it has an infinite life, therefore would not be depreciated. The Old Trust have confirmed that the land will be available for the use of the school for as long as required.

Additional land occupied by Waterhouses CE Primary Academy and St John's CofE Primary are under a church settlement agreement. Under these agreements the land and buildings are not included on the balance sheet of the Academy Trust. No charge is made in the Statement of Financial Activities to reflect the use of this land as the rent is at a peppercorn rate.

1.7 Stocks

Unsold uniforms are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks.

1.8 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1.9 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

The Academy Trust also utilises deposit accounts for surplus funds, these vary from 3 to 12 months fixed term.

QEGSMAT
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.10 Liabilities and provisions

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.

1.11 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 bases are as follows:

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 18. 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 as detailed in notes 19 and 20. 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.

1.12 Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of financial activities on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

QEGSMAT
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.13 Pensions

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.

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. 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 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 operating surplus 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.

As a result of the assumptions applied by the actuary, the actuarial valuation at the year end has resulted in a surplus position for one of the schemes within the Trust. The recognition of a surplus under FRS102 should only be made to the extent that an employer can expect to secure economic benefit from it, either by paying a reduced rate of contributions or taking a refund. It is not anticipated that the next actuarial valuation will result in a reduction to contributions and the Trust has no option to take a refund. The surpluses for the affected schemes have therefore been removed and are shown as a breakeven position at the year-end. The derecognition adjustment is shown as other recognised gains/losses. No offsetting has been applied against the other scheme's LGPS liability present at the year end.

1.14 Agency arrangements

The academy trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for ESFA.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.15 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 the 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.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of Judgment

Estimates and judgments 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 29, 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.

As a result of the current market conditions factored into the assumptions applied by the LGPS scheme actuary, the actuarial valuation at the year-end has resulted in a surplus position for one of the schemes within the Trust. The recognition of a surplus under FRS102 should only be made to the extent that an employer can expect to secure economic benefit from it, either by paying a reduced rate of contributions or taking a refund. Management have assessed both considerations and concluded the following:

- Based on historic practices and updates on future expectations from the administering authority, management do not anticipate that the next actuarial valuation will result in a reduction to contributions due to current market conditions.
- The availability of any potential cash refund once all liabilities have been paid is based on several unpredictable future outcomes set out in the scheme rules that cannot be reasonably assumed at this stage. As a result, management consider there to be a very low possibility of a cash refund.

From the above conclusion, the surplus balance has therefore been restricted to a value of "nil" at the year-end. The derecognition adjustment is shown as other recognised gains/losses in the Statement of Financial Activities. No offsetting has been applied against the other scheme's LGPS liability present at the year-end.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

3. Income from donations and capital grants

	Restricted funds 2024 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2023 £000
Donations	28	-	28	328
Capital Grants	-	2,627	2,627	2,433
School condition funding	-	1,134	1,134	1,141
Total 2024	28	3,761	3,789	3,902
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>3,868</i>	<i>3,902</i>	

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

4. Funding for Academy Trust's Educational Operations

	Restricted funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2023 £000
Educational operations			
DfE/ESFA grants			
General Annual Grant	28,073	28,073	26,665
Other DfE/ESFA grants			
Pupil premium	1,641	1,641	1,519
Teachers' pay grant	455	455	1
Rates reclaim	116	116	140
PE sports grant	69	69	69
UIFSM	56	56	69
Teachers' pension grant	382	382	110
Supplementary grant	5	5	1,040
Mainstream school additional funding	883	883	368
Other	4	4	76
	31,684	31,684	30,057
Other Government grants			
Local authority grants	1,213	1,213	1,098
Other income from the Academy Trust's educational operations	670	670	575
COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)			
Other COVID funding	29	29	27
Total 2024	33,596	33,596	31,757
Total 2023	31,757	31,757	

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

5. Other Trading Activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2023 £000
General sales	183	183	162
Hire of facilities	114	114	98
Total 2024	297	297	260
Total 2023	260	260	

6. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2023 £000
Investment received on short term deposits	111	111	35
Total 2024	111	111	35
Total 2023	35	35	

7. Expenditure

	Staff Costs 2024 £000	Premises 2024 £000	Other 2024 £000	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
Academy's educational operations:					
Direct costs	20,543	2,284	1,735	24,562	23,395
Support costs	6,261	2,811	2,812	11,884	11,019
Total 2024	26,804	5,095	4,547	36,446	34,414
Total 2023	24,927	5,065	4,422	34,414	

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

8. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £000	Restricted funds 2024 £000	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
Educational operations	248	36,198	36,446	34,413
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>226</i>	<i>34,187</i>	<i>34,413</i>	

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2024 £000	Support costs 2024 £000	Total funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2023 £000
Educational Activities	24,562	11,884	36,446	34,414
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>23,395</i>	<i>11,019</i>	<i>34,414</i>	

Analysis of direct costs

	Total funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2023 £000
Staff costs	19,537	17,818
Depreciation	2,284	2,060
Educational supplies	441	517
Examination fees	414	512
Staff development	87	127
Property impairment	-	543
Other direct costs	1,106	1,205
Other project costs	600	509
Recruitment	93	104
	24,562	23,395

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2023 £000
Staff costs	6,280	6,105
Repairs and maintenance	782	570
Cleaning	738	546
Rates	279	308
Heat and light	985	986
Catering	748	588
Legal and professional	301	269
Security	27	57
Insurance	129	118
Transport	142	140
Other support costs	831	691
Technology	629	609
Governance costs	33	32
	11,884	11,019

10. Analysis of specific expenses

There were no individual transactions exceeding £5,000 within the above categories.

11. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Operating lease rentals	68	70
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	2,284	2,060
Impairment of tangible fixed assets	-	543
Fees paid to auditors for:		
Statutory external audit	23	23
Other services paid to external auditor	2	2
Governance internal audit costs	8	7

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

12. Staff

a. Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Wages and salaries	19,327	17,810
Social security costs	2,035	1,842
Pension costs	4,436	4,271
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	25,798	23,923
Agency staff costs	1,006	1,004
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	26,804	24,927
	<hr/>	<hr/>

b. Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed by the Academy Trust during the year was as follows:

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Teachers	283	292
Administration and Support	284	289
Management	46	40
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	613	621
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

12. Staff (continued)

c. Higher paid staff

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

	2024 No.	2023 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	15	7
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	5	5
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	1	2
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	2	-
In the band £100,001 - £110,000	1	1
In the band £110,001 - £120,000	-	1
In the band £120,001 - £130,000	1	-
In the band £130,001 - £140,000	-	1
In the band £140,001 - £150,000	1	-

The above employees participated in either the TPS or LGPS. During the year ended 31 August 2024, pension contributions for these staff members amounted to £475,868 (2023: £274,207).

d. 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 benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £4,164,694 (2023 - £ 3,560,957).

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

13. Central services

The Academy Trust has provided the following central services to its academies during the year:

- Financial Services
- Education Improvement
- Human Resources
- IT
- Assets and Estates

The Academy Trust charges for these services on the following basis:

The charge is based on a flat percentage, charged at 5% of GAG for all academies.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School	381	373
Springfield Junior School	58	58
Waterhouses CE Primary School	29	27
City of Derby Academy	350	325
Castleview Primary School	37	33
Chellaston Academy	509	476
St John's CofE Primary School	41	40
Total	1,405	1,332

14. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more 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. The value of Trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Mrs A Martin, Executive Headteacher / Chief Executive and Accounting Officer	Remuneration 145 - 150	130 - 135
	Pension contributions paid 10 - 15	10 - 15

During the year, retirement benefits were accruing to 1 Trustees (2023 - 1) in respect of defined benefit pension schemes.

During the year ended 31 August 2024, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2023 - £NIL).

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

15. 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 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 membership.

16. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £000	Leasehold property £000	Freehold improvements £000	Leasehold improvements £000
Cost or valuation				
At 1 September 2023	75,577	24,692	1,250	1,200
Additions	-	-	667	609
Disposals	-	-	-	(46)
Transfers between classes	-	-	3,387	120
At 31 August 2024	75,577	24,692	5,304	1,883
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2023	4,450	4,864	191	258
Charge for the year	1,097	465	216	133
On disposals	-	-	-	(46)
At 31 August 2024	5,547	5,329	407	345
Net book value				
At 31 August 2024	70,030	19,363	4,897	1,538
At 31 August 2023	71,127	19,828	1,059	942

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Assets under construction £000	Furniture and equipment £000	Plant and equipment and computer equipment £000	Total £000
1,307	225	1,231	105,482
2,468	115	342	4,201
-	-	(304)	(350)
(3,507)	-	-	-
268	340	1,269	109,333
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
-	54	520	10,337
-	54	318	2,283
-	-	(302)	(348)
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
-	108	536	12,272
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
268	232	733	97,061
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
1,307	171	711	95,145
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

16. Tangible fixed assets (continued)

The assets under construction represent ongoing capital projects that were incomplete at the yearend.

Land

Certain land occupied and used by Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School belongs to the Old Trust, and as such is not included on the balance sheet of the Academy Trust. No charge is made in the Statement of Financial Activities to reflect the use of this land and it has an infinite life, therefore would not be depreciated. The Old Trust have confirmed that the land will be available for the use of the school for as long as required.

Additional land occupied by Waterhouses CE Primary Academy and St John's CofE Primary are under a church settlement agreement. Under these agreements the land and buildings are not included on the balance sheet of the Academy Trust. No charge is made in the Statement of Financial Activities to reflect the use of this land as the rent is at a peppercorn rate.

Included in the net book value of property displayed above are the following amounts ascribable to land:

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Freehold land	24,540	24,540
Long-term leasehold land	4,773	4,976
	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
	29,313	29,516

17. Stocks

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Uniforms	4	4
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

18. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	7	450
Other debtors	104	521
Prepayments and accrued income	828	1,216
	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
	939	2,187

An impairment against trade debtors of £8,872 has been recognised during the year (2023: £240).

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

19. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Other loans	5	5
Trade creditors	1,770	1,534
Other taxation and social security	435	429
Other creditors	543	462
Accruals and deferred income	808	892
	<hr/> 3,561	<hr/> 3,322
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Deferred income at 1 September 2023	356	544
Resources deferred during the year	38	155
Amounts released from previous periods	(240)	(343)
	<hr/> 154	<hr/> 356
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

At the balance sheet date the Academy Trust was holding funds of £36,167 in relation to rates adjustments, £49,673 in relation to school led tuition funding, and £68,462 made up of immaterial deferrals.

20. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Other loans	2	7
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Included within the above are amounts falling due as follows:

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Between one and two years	2	5
Other loans	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Between two and five years	-	2
Other loans	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The loan is unsecured and was entered into before conversion to an Academy and is an interest free loan entered into with Salix Finance Ltd as part of the energy loans programme. Repayments are made twice a year over an 8 year period.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

21. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers In/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 August 2024 £000
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds - all funds	442	408	(248)	-	-	602
Restricted general funds						
Restricted Funds						
- other	3,135	479	(987)	329	-	2,956
GAG	-	28,073	(28,073)	-	-	-
Pupil premium	-	1,641	(1,641)	-	-	-
Teachers pay grant	-	455	(455)	-	-	-
Rates reclaim	-	116	(116)	-	-	-
PE sports grant	-	69	(69)	-	-	-
UNIFSM	-	56	(56)	-	-	-
Teachers pension grant	-	382	(382)	-	-	-
Other ESFA	-	893	(893)	-	-	-
Local authority grants	-	1,213	(1,213)	-	-	-
Other COVID funding	-	29	(29)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(2,013)	218	-	-	1,138	(657)
	1,122	33,624	(33,914)	329	1,138	2,299
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Restricted fixed asset funds -						
other	95,097	-	(2,284)	4,248	-	97,061
S106 Capital Grant	-	2,399	-	(2,399)	-	-
DfE Group Capital Grants	2,551	1,362	-	(2,178)	-	1,735
	97,648	3,761	(2,284)	(329)	-	98,796

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

21. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers In/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 August 2024 £000
Total Restricted funds	98,770	37,385	(36,198)	-	1,138	101,095
Total funds	99,212	37,793	(36,446)	-	1,138	101,697

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

Unrestricted income funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objectives of the Academy at the discretion of the Trustees.

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

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received and include grants from the Department of Education and only be used for the purpose that the grants were intended. The main grant received within these funds is the GAG.

The transfer from restricted fixed asset funds to restricted funds represent the Academy Trust's contribution from GAG and other restricted reserves to capital projects.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG it could carry forward at 31 August 2024.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

21. Statement of funds (continued)

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

	<i>Balance at 1 September 2022 £000</i>	<i>Income £000</i>	<i>Expenditure £000</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £000</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses) £000</i>	<i>Balance at 31 August 2023 £000</i>
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds - all funds	483	295	(226)	(110)	-	442
Restricted general funds						
Restricted Funds - other	2,996	609	(168)	(302)	-	3,135
GAG	-	26,665	(26,665)	-	-	-
Pupil premium	-	1,519	(1,519)	-	-	-
Teachers pay grant	-	1	(1)	-	-	-
Rates reclaim	-	140	(140)	-	-	-
PE sports grant	-	69	(69)	-	-	-
UNIFSM	-	69	(69)	-	-	-
Teachers pension grant	-	110	(110)	-	-	-
Supplementary grant	-	1,040	(1,040)	-	-	-
Mainstream school additional funding	-	368	(368)	-	-	-
Other ESFA	-	76	(76)	-	-	-
Local authority grants	-	1,098	(1,098)	-	-	-
Other COVID funding	-	27	(27)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(3,406)	-	(235)	-	1,628	(2,013)
	(410)	31,791	(31,585)	(302)	1,628	1,122
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Restricted fixed asset funds - other	93,939	-	(2,602)	3,760	-	95,097
S106 Capital Grant	527	1,956	-	(2,483)	-	-

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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21. Statement of funds (continued)

	<i>Balance at 1 September 2022 £000</i>	<i>Income £000</i>	<i>Expenditure £000</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £000</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses) £000</i>	<i>Balance at 31 August 2023 £000</i>
DfE Group						
Capital Grants	1,322	1,912	-	(683)	-	2,551
CIF Projects	182	-	-	(182)	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	95,970	3,868	(2,602)	412	-	97,648
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Restricted funds	95,560	35,659	(34,187)	110	1,628	98,770
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funds	96,043	35,954	(34,413)	-	1,628	99,212
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

21. Statement of funds (continued)

Total funds analysis by Academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2024 were allocated as follows:

	2024 £000	2023 £000
QEGLMAT	3,558	3,577
Restricted fixed asset fund	98,796	97,648
Pension reserve	(657)	(2,013)
Total	101,697	99,212

Total cost analysis by academy

Expenditure incurred by each academy during the year was as follows:

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £000	Other support staff costs £000	Educational supplies £000	Other costs excluding depreciation £000	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
Waterhouses						
CE Primary Academy	409	81	51	212	753	706
Springfield Junior School	1,133	154	87	340	1,714	1,631
Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School	6,056	551	514	1,611	8,732	8,662
QEGLMAT	939	294	98	545	1,876	1,381
City of Derby Academy	615	117	91	222	1,045	1,089
Castle View Primary School	5,198	439	607	1,563	7,807	7,383
Chellaston Academy	7,978	656	648	1,823	11,105	10,375
St John's CofE Primary School	775	75	62	218	1,130	1,126
Academy Trust	23,103	2,367	2,158	6,534	34,162	32,353

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

22. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current period

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £000	Restricted funds 2024 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2024 £000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	97,060	97,060
Current assets	602	6,519	1,736	8,857
Creditors due within one year	-	(3,561)	-	(3,561)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(2)	-	(2)
Pension scheme liability	-	(657)	-	(657)
Total	602	2,299	98,796	101,697

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £000	Restricted funds 2023 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2023 £000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	95,145	95,145
Current assets	442	6,464	2,503	9,409
Creditors due within one year	-	(3,322)	-	(3,322)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(7)	-	(7)
Pension scheme liability	-	(2,013)	-	(2,013)
Total	442	1,122	97,648	99,212

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

23. Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Net income for the period (as per Statement of financial activities)	1,347	1,541
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation and amortisation charges	2,284	2,060
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(3,761)	(3,811)
Interest receivable	(111)	(35)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	(304)	88
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	86	147
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	1,249	(902)
Increase in creditors	240	622
Property impairment	-	543
Net cash provided by operating activities	1,030	253

24. Cash flows from financing activities

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Repayments of borrowing	(5)	(5)

25. Cash flows from investing activities

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Interest receivable	111	35
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(4,201)	(3,753)
Capital grants from DfE	2,399	2,872
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	1,362	996
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities	(329)	150

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

26. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Cash in hand and at bank	5,414	4,790
Short term deposit accounts	2,500	2,428
Total cash and cash equivalents	7,914	7,218

27. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2023 £000	Cash flows £000	At 31 August 2024 £000
Cash at bank and in hand	7,218	696	7,914
Debt due within 1 year	(5)	-	(5)
Debt due after 1 year	(7)	5	(2)
	7,206	701	7,907

28. Capital commitments

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Contracted for but not provided in these financial statements		
Acquisition of tangible fixed assets	308	348
	308	348

29. Pension commitments

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 Derbyshire County Council and Staffordshire County Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2020 and of the LGPS 31 March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £542,857 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2024 (2023 - £461,554) and are included within creditors.

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29. Pension commitments (continued)

Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for full-time teachers in academies. 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:

- Employer contribution rates set at 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy). This is an increase of 5% in employer contributions and the cost control result is such that no change in member benefits is needed.
- 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 result of this valuation will be 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 TPS in the year amounted to £3,487,410 (2023 - £2,995,779).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website (<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2019/04/teachers-pensions-valuation-report.aspx>).

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.

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29. Pension commitments (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2024 was £1,467,000 (2023 - £1,295,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £1,172,000 (2023 - £1,037,000) and employees' contributions totalled £295,000 (2023 - £258,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 21.6 per cent for employers and 5.5-12.5 per cent for employees.

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](#).

As at 31 August 2024, the actuarial valuation for the Trust includes a surplus totalling £367,000. This surplus has not been recognised within the financial statements.

As a result of the current market conditions factored into the assumptions applied by the LGPS scheme actuary, the actuarial valuation at the year-end has resulted in a surplus position for one of the schemes within the Trust. The recognition of a surplus under FRS102 should only be made to the extent that an employer can expect to secure economic benefit from it, either by paying a reduced rate of contributions or taking a refund. Management have assessed both considerations and concluded the following:

- Based on historic practices and updates on future expectations from the administering authority, management do not anticipate that the next actuarial valuation will result in a reduction to contributions due to current market conditions.
- The availability of any potential cash refund once all liabilities have been paid is based on several unpredictable future outcomes set out in the scheme rules that cannot be reasonably assumed at this stage. As a result, management consider there to be a very low possibility of a cash refund.

From the above conclusion, the surplus balance has therefore been restricted to a value of "nil" at the year-end. The derecognition adjustment is shown as other recognised gains/losses in the Statement of Financial Activities. No offsetting has been applied against the other scheme's LGPS liability present at the year-end.

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2024	2023
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.15 - 3.65	3.45 - 4
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.65	2.95 - 3
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5	5.2

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

29. Pension commitments (continued)

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
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males Derbyshire & Staffordshire	20.8 & 20.7	20.8 & 20.7
Females Derbyshire & Staffordshire	23.8 & 24.4	23.8 & 24.4
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males Derbyshire & Staffordshire	21.5 & 21.6	21.6 & 21.7
Females Derbyshire & Staffordshire	25.3 & 25.8	25.3 & 25.6

Sensitivity analysis

Derbyshire pension fund:

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Discount rate +0.1%	434	405
Discount rate -0.1%	(434)	(405)
Mortality assumption 1 year increase	(752)	(690)
Mortality assumption 1 year decrease	752	690
Salary rate +0.1%	(16)	(44)
Salary rate -0.1%	16	44
Pension increase CPI rate +0.1%	(426)	(368)
Pension increase CPI rate -0.1%	426	368

Staffordshire pension fund:

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Discount rate +0.1%	31	27
Discount rate -0.1%	(31)	(27)
Mortality assumption 1 year increase	(45)	(40)
Mortality assumption 1 year decrease	45	40
Salary rate +0.1%	(2)	(4)
Salary rate -0.1%	2	4
Pension increase CPI rate +0.1%	(30)	(23)
Pension increase CPI rate -0.1%	30	23

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

29. Pension commitments (continued)

Share of scheme assets

The Academy Trust's share of the assets in the scheme was:

	At 31 August 2024 £000	At 31 August 2023 £000
Equities	12,344	10,866
Bonds	4,844	3,578
Property	1,350	1,297
Cash	749	477
Total market value of assets	19,287	16,218

The actual return on scheme assets was £2,287,000 (2023 - £782,000).

The amounts recognised in the Statement of financial activities are as follows:

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Current service cost	(868)	(1,125)
Past service cost	-	1
Interest income	885	645
Interest cost	(971)	(792)
Total amount recognised in the Statement of financial activities	(954)	(1,271)

Changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligations were as follows:

	2024 £000	2023 £000
At 1 September	18,231	18,078
Current service costs	868	1,125
Interest cost	971	792
Employee contributions	295	258
Actuarial gains	(141)	(1,790)
Benefits paid	(280)	(232)
At 31 August	19,944	18,231

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

29. Pension commitments (continued)

Changes in the fair value of the Academy Trust's share of scheme assets were as follows:

	2024 £000	2023 £000
At 1 September	16,218	14,671
Interest income	885	645
Actuarial gains	1,139	63
Employer contributions	1,172	1,038
Employee contributions	295	258
Benefits paid	(280)	(232)
Derecognition of LGPS surplus	(142)	(225)
 At 31 August	 19,287	 16,218

30. Operating lease commitments

At 31 August 2024 the Academy Trust had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Not later than 1 year	53	46
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	11	34
 64	 80	

31. 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/she is a member, or within one year after he/she ceases to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £NIL for the debts and liabilities contracted before he/she ceases to be a member.

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32. Related party transactions

Apart from certain trustees' remuneration and expenses disclosed in note 14, the following related party transactions took place during the year.

During the year costs totalling £1,637 (2023: £935) were incurred from Lichfield Diocese, whose member, Reverent Alan Beahan, is a governor at Waterhouses. There were no balances outstanding at the balance sheet date (2023: £NIL).

During the year costs totalling £NIL (2023: £550) were incurred from Abacus Education Consultants Limited, whose employee, Louise Davies, is a governor at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School. There were no balances outstanding at the balance sheet date (2023: £NIL).

Owing to the nature of the Academy Trust and the composition of the Board of Trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trustees have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, including notifying the ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the Academy Trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions.

33. Agency arrangements

The academy trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for ESFA. In accounting period ending 31 August 2024 the academy trust received £42,473 (2023: £41,376) and distributed £31,539. £30,311 was written forward from the previous year, leaving £41,245 being written forward.