

Value for Money Statement

Academy trust name: Chenderit School Academy Trust

Academy trust company number: 7900254

Year ended 31 August 2014

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

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

Chenderit School is committed to providing its pupils with the highest possible educational experience enabling each and every individual pupil to achieve their full potential.

The school, fully supported by the Governing Body and Trustees, has a comprehensive improvement plan which details ambitious whole school pupil targets in the key areas.

Encompassed with this are detailed teaching, learning, leaderships and lifelong skills targets which ensures impact upon the whole school community and which have been monitored regularly by the Governing Body. The Learning section included targets which ensured the curriculum has remained efficient and effective to meet the needs of all our students.

Staffing structures have been regularly reviewed in line with curriculum demands with high priority given to appointing best available, subject specialist, quality teachers, irrespective of cost. All vacancies have been advertised externally (via the website) with Chenderit being committed to complying with all aspects of the Equality Act and associated policies.

Our loyal support staff complement has remained lean and has been regularly reviewed to ensure appropriate and fully trained to meet increasing demands including the appointment of a new Data Manager who has implemented new improved systems for data collection and analysis. Our policy has been to ensure that funding for pupils remains a priority.

Chenderit has taken great pride to ensure that each pupil has been given the maximum opportunity to develop with Learning Support and Gifted and Talented programmes being fully inclusive and targeted at the individual's specific needs with an additional teacher appointed to our SEN team. Our pupil premium allocation has been specifically targeted at improving the provision in core subject areas for eligible students with twilight revision classes, weekend and school holiday sessions. The results show a reduction in the gap of 3% in 5* A-C English and Maths with the number of pupil premium students entered for EBACC increasing in 2014 by 14%. The Gifted and Talented programme is currently being implemented.

At A Level the vast majority of students attained or exceed their target grades with 29% of students achieving A* or A grades; 59% achieving A*- B grades and 99% achieving an overall pass. Similarly at GCSE many of our year 11 students met or exceed their expected target grades.

Chenderit works closely with its cluster primaries and organises training for the mutual benefit of staff and pupils with regular sporting and academic visits from our primary schools. Primary/Secondary pupil transition is given high priority with a four day all-encompassing pupil transition building upon the many events held throughout the year with

pupils benefiting considerably from being confident in their surroundings when they commence at Chenderit.

In October 2013 Chenderit received an Ofsted good grading with many outstanding areas and those few areas mentioned for development have and continue to receive attention.

Chenderit has built on its financial success during its first 18 months as an academy increasing its surplus by £233k before depreciation whilst still ensuring all delegated funding is correctly targeted. Despite ageing premises student provision has been improved with upgrading of Science, Design & Technology and IT receiving significant investment. In looking to the future the school has sought architect proposal for improving its classroom facilities which we hope will come to fruition in the coming year.

All areas of expenditure are closely monitored with a number of savings being achieved by negotiation of 3 year contracts giving both financial and operational benefits, e.g. insurance, software provision and service contracts. Additional investments in new technology for administration and parent interaction have been implemented e.g. Swordfish and Sims Gateway improvements.

The school, encouraged by its pupils, has made considerable progress in energy saving and generation schemes with several SALIX funded projects enabling the school to win a Local Authority Carbon reduction award. These, coupled with a photo-voltaic energy generation scheme, continue to producing financial rewards benefiting the whole school.

External auditors have complimented the school on its procedures and governance and presented an unqualified set of annual accounts to 31st August 2014 for submission to the EFA. The full Governing Body, supported by a Strategic Resources and Audit Committee are provided with regular detailed information and a recent review of internal controls and risk management has confirmed that financial procedures are fit for purpose, providing governors with the appropriate level of involvement, whilst not being overly cumbersome

or impractical for school leadership. The addition of a new risk register has assisted governors with monitoring. The introduction of monthly management accounts has improved all aspects of control and governance.

Signed: 

Name: J. CARRIWRIGHT

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 16.12.14