

Company registration number 07729766 (England and Wales)

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

CONTENTS

	Page
Reference and administrative details	1 - 2
Trustees' report	3 - 14
Governance statement	15 - 18
Statement of regularity, propriety and compliance	19
Statement of trustees' responsibilities	20
Independent auditor's report on the financial statements	21 - 23
Independent reporting accountant's report on regularity	24 - 25
Statement of financial activities including income and expenditure account	26 - 27
Balance sheet	28
Statement of cash flows	29
Notes to the financial statements including accounting policies	30 - 49

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

S L Ban
M Pears (Resigned 20 October 2025)
D Murphy
M Potts
N Sheen

Trustees

S L Ban (Chair)
M A Brain
A G Hewison
V McLeod
M Crabtree (Vice Chair)
M L Pears (Resigned 20 October 2025)
K Berry
F I Turnbull (Accounting Officer)
A R Brown
L C Simpson
M Lambert
Q Xu
S Pendleton
T A Lake
S Berry (Appointed 25 November 2024)

Senior management team

- Headteacher
- Senior Deputy Head Teacher
- Deputy Head Teacher
- Deputy Head Teacher
- Assistant Head Teacher
- Assistant Head Teacher
- Assistant Head Teacher
- Assistant Head Teacher
- Associate Assistant Head Teacher
- Associate Assistant Head Teacher
- Director of Finance and Operations
- Chief Financial Officer

F Turnbull
P Wheatley
S Maher
L Wood
S Tumelty
D Crosland
M Phillipson
L Gainford
K Orwin
K Spoor
S Haigh
A Tinning

Company secretary

S J Haigh

Company registration number

07729766 (England and Wales)

Registered office

Burnthouse Lane
Whickham
Newcastle Upon Tyne
Tyne And Wear
NE16 5AR
United Kingdom

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Independent auditor	Azets Audit Services Wynyard Park House Wynyard Avenue Wynyard TS22 5TB United Kingdom
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Bankers	Lloyds Bank plc 5th Floor 102 Grey Street Newcastle Upon Tyne Tyne And Wear NE1 6AG United Kingdom
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Solicitors	Ward Hadaway LLP Sandgate House 102 Quayside Newcastle Upon Tyne Tyne And Wear NE1 3DX United Kingdom
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WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

The academy trust operates an academy for pupils aged 11 to 19 years old serving a catchment area in Whickham. It is an increasingly popular and oversubscribed school. It has a pupil admission number of 266 and had a roll of 1706 in the school census on 2 October 2025.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

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

The trustees of Whickham School are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose of company law. The charitable company operates as Whickham School and Sports College (Academy Trust).

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

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

Subject to the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 s236 every trustee or other officer or auditor of the academy trust shall be indemnified out of the assets of the academy trust against liability incurred by him in that capacity in defending any proceedings, whether criminal or civil, in which judgement is given in favour or in which he is acquitted or in connection with any application in which relief is granted to him by the court from liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the affairs of the academy trust.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

- The members may appoint up to 10 trustees
- The members may appoint staff representatives, provided that the number does not exceed one third of the total number of trustees
- The LA may appoint a LA representative
- The Headteacher will be appointed as being an ex-officio trustee
- The parent representatives shall be elected by parents of registered pupils at the academy at the time of election. Any election of parent trustees which is contested will be held by secret ballot
- The number of parent representatives required shall be made up by parent trustee appointed by the trustees in the number of parents standing for election is less than the number of vacancies
- In appointing a parent representative, the trustees shall appoint a person who is the parent of a registered pupil at the academy; or where it is not reasonably practical to do so, a person who is the parent of a child of compulsory school age

Co-opted trustees

The trustees may appoint up to one co-opted trustee. A 'co-opted trustee' means a person who is appointed to be a trustee by being co-opted by trustees who have not themselves been so appointed. The trustees may not co-opt an employee of the academy trust as a co-opted trustee if thereby the number of employees of the academy trust would exceed one third of the total number of trustees (including the Headteacher).

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Appointment of additional trustees

The Secretary of State may give a warning notice to the trustees where they are satisfied:

- That the standards of performance of pupils at the academy are unacceptable low
- That there has been a serious breakdown in the way the academy is managed or governed
- That the safety of pupils or staff of the academy is threatened (whether by a breakdown of discipline or otherwise)

For the purpose of Article 60 a 'warning notice' is a notice in writing by the Secretary of State to the academy trust delivered to the office setting out:

- The matters referred to in Article 19
- The action which the academy is required to take in order to remedy those matters
- The period within which that action is to be taken by the trustees ("the compliance period")

The Secretary of State may appoint such additional trustees as she thinks fit if the Secretary of State has:

- Given the trustees a warning notice in accordance with Article 19; and
- The trustees have failed to comply, or secure compliance, with the notice to the Secretary of State's satisfaction within the compliance period
- The Secretary of State may also appoint such additional trustees following an inspection by the chief inspector in accordance with the Education Act 2005 (an "inspection") the academy trust receives an Ofsted grading (being a grade referred to in the Framework for School Inspection or any modification or replacement of that document for the time being in force) which amounts to a drop, either from one inspection to the next inspection or between any two inspections carried out within a 5-year period, of two Ofsted grades. For the purpose of foregoing the grade received by Whickham School shall be regarded as the grade received by the academy.
- The Secretary of State may appoint such further trustees as they think fit if a special measures termination event (as defined by the funding agreement) occurs in respect of the academy.
- Within five days of the Secretary of State appointing additional or further trustees in accordance with Articles 21, 62A or 22 any trustees appointed holding office immediately preceding the appointment of such trustees, shall resign immediately and the members' powers to appoint trustees under Article 9 shall remain suspended until the Secretary of State removes one or more of the additional trustees

The trustees and Headteacher believe it is essential that all new trustees receive a comprehensive induction package covering a broad range of topics. There is a commitment to ensure that the new trustees are given the necessary information and support to fulfil their role with confidence. The process is seen as an investment, leading to more effective governance and retention of trustees.

Purpose:

- To welcome new trustees to the board and enable them to meet other trustees
- To encourage new trustees to visit the academy to experience its atmosphere and understand its ethos
- To meet the Headteacher, staff and pupils
- To explain the partnership between the Headteacher, academy and board
- To explain the responsibilities of trustees
- To explain how the board and its committee's work
- To enable new trustees to join the committee(s) of their choice
- To give background material on the academy and current issues
- To enable new trustees to ask questions about their role and/or the academy

New trustees will:

- Be welcomed to the board by the chair
- Be invited by the Headteacher to visit the academy
- Have the opportunity to tour the academy and meet the pupils and staff
- Receive an informal briefing on the academy from the Headteacher
- Have an opportunity to meet informally with an existing trustee who then acts as their active mentor
- Be accompanied by their mentor to their first full trustee meeting
- Have an opportunity to review their first meeting with their mentor

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

New trustees will receive from trustee support:

- The new trustee induction pack
- The instrument of government which notes the composition of the governing board
- A Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) application form
- A trustee details form
- An eligibility form
- A membership list for the board
- The code of conduct for the board (if one has been agreed)
- The committee structure, terms of reference and membership for the board
- A trustee support service development directory
- A copy of the most recent trustee support service newsletter

New trustees will receive from the academy:

- The academy prospectus
- Recent academy newsletters
- A calendar of academy events
- The School Improvement Plan (SIP)
- A full list of staff and the staffing structure
- Copies of key policy statements including the academy visits policy
- A full set of papers from the last board meeting
- Details of how to contact other trustees
- Details of how to contact the academy including the email address

Areas the Headteacher will cover include:

- Background to the academy
- Current issues facing the academy
- Visiting the academy
- The relationship between the Headteacher and the board

Areas that the mentor will cover include:

- An overview of the trustee's role
- How the trustees and committee meetings are conducted

Organisational structure

The academy trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee. It has a strategic role in running the academy and is responsible for appointing the trustees.

Subject to provisions of the Companies Act 2006, the Articles and to any directions given by special resolution, the business of the academy trust shall be managed by the trustees who may exercise all the powers of the academy trust. No alteration of the articles and no such direction shall invalidate any prior act of the trustees which would have been valid if that alteration had not been made or that direction had not been given. The powers given by this article shall not be limited by any special power given to the trustees by the articles and a meeting of trustees at which a quorum is present may exercise all the powers exercisable by the trustees.

The Headteacher as accounting officer during the reporting year, has personal responsibility to the trustees for financial and administrative matters including:

- Ensuring regularity and probity
- Prudent and economical administration
- Avoidance of waste and extravagance
- Efficient and effective use of available resources
- Day to day organisation, staffing and management of the academy which has been delegated to the Headteacher

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration are reviewed annually and the pay policy is approved by trustees following appropriate consultation.

The trustees and key management personnel including the Headteacher and Director of Finance and Operations review and challenge the academy staffing structure regularly to ensure it is the best structure to meet the needs of the academy whilst maintaining financial integrity. Senior leaders' pay is tightly correlated to strong educational outcomes and sound financial management.

The academy benchmarks the size of the leadership team annually against similar academies/schools.

The Headteachers remuneration is in a 7-point pay range in accordance with the School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document as well as similar sized single academy trusts (SAT's). The Director of Finance and Operations remuneration is based on benchmarking of other SAT's remuneration both locally and nationally.

There is a robust staff appraisal process, which the trust reviews annually and in turn supports with strong performance management. Pay progression recommendations are reviewed by trustees with the appropriate evidence provided to support decisions.

The trustees, with the exception of the Headteacher and staff representatives, do not receive remuneration.

Trade union facility time

There were no employees that were union officials within the period that required trade union facility time to be reimbursed by the academy.

Engagement with employees

The trust board ensured that employees and their trade unions are given information and consulted on matters that are of concern to them. Views of employees are considered in making decisions which are likely to affect their interests.

There is regular consultation on changes to policies as a result of operational or legislative changes in regard to pay, staffing structures, and policies regarding well-being, health & safety and risk assessments which encourages the involvement of the employees in the company's performance.

In respect of applications for employment from disabled persons, the treatment of employees who become disabled and, the training, career development and promotion of disabled persons, the trust is committed to ensuring equality and opportunity for all. The trust offers necessary adjustments to support both entry to employment within the trust and throughout the course of their employment.

Engagement with suppliers, customers and others in a business relationship with the academy trust

The trust is committed to working with a number of stakeholders including suppliers, customers and charitable organisations. When entering into business relationships we ensure that we comply with the Academies Trust Handbook at all times. The trust will conduct all business relationships with integrity whilst ensuring that all approved policies assist this process.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

"Whickham, a school to be proud of at the heart of the community. Where learning is cherished in a safe, caring and supportive environment. A school where everyone is valued and inspired to be the best they can be."

We achieve this through supporting every child in developing the following qualities:

- Aspiration: Whickham pupils set aspirational goals that are ambitious and without limits
- Respect: Without compromise, Whickham pupils demonstrate respect for themselves, others and their environment
- Resilience: Whickham pupils persevere with challenges, especially when faced with setbacks
- Empathy: Whickham pupils strive to be kind, caring and understanding of each other's feelings and needs

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Objectives, strategies and activities

School performance continues to be strong. This is reflected in a number of key performance indicators. Achievement indicators are detailed later in this report but other indicators including safeguarding, behaviour, attendance, pupil numbers, Ofsted reports and pupil and parental surveys reflect the school's strong performance. Whilst strong and improving, this can always get better and governors and school leaders have identified the following short term priorities.

Quality of Education

- Ensuring the curriculum intent is ambitious, coherent and academically rigorous in all subject areas.
- Support all pupils to develop study habits that enable them to be successful independent learners.
- Development of a culture of wider independent reading at KS4 and KS5.

Leadership

- Developing all staff as confident leaders who demonstrate behaviours that are aligned with school values.

Sixth Form

- Ensure that high quality teaching and learning is a consistent feature of all sixth form subjects.

Attendance

- Pupil attendance continues to improve and any gaps between vulnerable pupils e.g. disadvantaged pupils and other pupils narrows.

Personal Development

- Enhance PSHCE programme to ensure personal development needs are met and all pupils manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way.
- Implement an enhanced CEIAG curriculum
- Increase pupil participation and engagement in extra curricular activities.

Public benefit

The trustees of the academy trust have complied with their duty in that the academy teaches the national curriculum and meets the standards set by Ofsted. In setting our objectives and planning our activities the trustees have carefully considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

During the year, the academy trust engaged in transactions with related parties, which are defined as individuals or entities that have a close association with the trust. All such transactions were conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, ensuring they were carried out at arm's length and in the best interest of the trust.

The trust maintains a rigorous process to identify related parties and ensure that any transactions are compliant with relevant regulations. This process includes obtaining prior approval from the board of trustees and, where required, the Department for Education (DfE), especially for transactions that exceed the de minimis threshold set out in the Academy Trust Handbook.

The transactions with related parties during the reporting period included the following:

Audit One – The husband of S Ban (Chair of trustees) is a senior employee of that entity. The academy trust purchased internal assurance services totalling £6600.00 during the period.

All trustees and senior staff members are required to declare any potential conflicts of interest at the beginning of each financial year and update their declarations as appropriate throughout the year. The trust maintains a comprehensive register of interests, which is reviewed regularly to ensure transparency and compliance.

The trust confirms that, to the best of its knowledge, all related party transactions have been disclosed in accordance with FRS102 and the Charity Commission guidelines. Furthermore, the board of trustees confirms that no material related party transactions occurred during the period that would require disclosure beyond what has been provided.

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Strategic report

Key performance indicators

In the summer of 2025 pupils in Years 11 and 13 sat external examinations.

Results continued to demonstrate the significant improvement in outcomes the school has achieved over the last few years. Performance in key headline measures continues to improve over time. At the end of Key Stage 4 performance in English and mathematics is particularly strong.

Within the Sixth Form pupils made greater than national average progress with over ¼ of all A-level grades awarded as A or A*.

The overall performance of the school is judged to be very good.

Key Stage 4

Results – 2024/25

Key Stage 4

Measure	School results	Gateshead average	England average
Attainment 8 Score	53.0	46.9	45.9
English & Maths 4+ (standard pass)	81%	68%	65%
English & Maths 5+ (strong pass)	60%	50%	45%
English & Maths 7+	20%	not published	not published
Students entering the EBACC	57%	49%	41%
Students achieving EBACC (4+)	43%	36%	26%
EBACC Average points score	4.78	4.22	4.08
Pupils staying in education or employment (after Year 11)	94%	91%	91%

Key Stage 5

Indicator*	18/19	22/23	23/24	24/25	2024 National Average
A-level Average points score	35.09	35.40	34.65	35.90 ▲	35.55
Academic average points score	35.61	35.20	34.12	35.67 ▲	35.69
Applied general average points score	35.86	36.56	37.11	33.40	29.17

Notes:

- Years where results were impacted by changes to the assessment system due to Covid-19 have been omitted.
- Progress measures for Key Stage 4 have been omitted as these will not be published this year. Students did not sit their assessments at the end of primary school due to Covid-19.
- Destinations at the end of Key Stage 4 published in 23/24 refer to those students leaving at the end of 2022. This is the latest available data.

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the board of trustees has a reasonable expectation that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

Protecting the success of the academy trust

The trustees are aware of their role to promote the success of the trust, in doing so they must act fairly, having regard to their decisions on the trust's long-term viability. This must include interests of all stakeholders including staff, business relationships with suppliers and customers, and within the wider community. The trustees take all decisions in the best interests of the trust in order to maintain the good standing that we have in the community.

Financial review

Whickham School will develop an annual budget that can be sustained by enrolment of additional sources of revenue and is in support of pupil academic achievement.

The academy has a well-tested budget process that relies on building a needs-based budget each year. Principles of curriculum led financial planning are used to ensure that we are able to recruit specialist staff to meet the needs of all students in an effective and efficient structure. Departmental requests are combined into a consolidated budget by the Chief Financial Officer, Director of Finance and Operations and Headteacher who ensure that the budget addresses the academy's strategic objectives, and accounts for all reasonably anticipated expenses. The process is reviewed by trustees with accounting expertise to ensure transparency and rigour before the proposed budget is then presented for review to the Resources, Audit and Risk Committee. This committee has delegated responsibility for the approval process. Once approved the budget plan is then shared with the full trust board.

Management accounts, cashflow, balance sheet and year-to-date budget monitoring reports are produced monthly and are presented to the chair of trustees and the Resources, Audit and Risk committee, where significant variances are explained in writing.

The academy demonstrates a history of positive net assets and adequate cash flow to sustain operations and to support the academic programme and consistently operates within budget.

The academy consistently maintained the cash flow necessary to sustain operations and advance the academic programme through the 2024/25 financial year.

The closing balance of reserves, including both restricted and unrestricted funds, is considered to be in a healthy position. As planned, a proportion of these reserves was utilised during the reporting period to support capital projects that have improved on-site safety. Additional reserves have been earmarked for a future IT infrastructure refresh. Furthermore, the academy has been successful in their bid for the School's Rebuilding Programme, and a portion of the reserves will be allocated to support refurbishment works upon the programme's completion.

The following financial key performance indicators are closely monitored to ensure the continued financial health and sustainability of the academy:

- Inflation: Both general inflation and energy related cost increases are tracked and reviewed regularly to assess their potential impact on the academy's budget
- Staff Costs: The academy aims to keep staff costs to as close to 80% of the total income as possible. This is achieved through rigorous financial oversight and strong budgetary controls. The staffing structure is regularly and robustly reviewed to ensure it supports the academy's core objectives. Ongoing monitoring, early intervention, and regular discussion with trustees throughout the year help keep expenditure aligned with expected funding, allowing for timely corrective actions if necessary.
- Pension liability: The academy is committed to demonstrating its ability to meet any increases in pension liabilities through prudent financial planning and management

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The academy made a surplus of £248,070 (2024: £419,664) in the year excluding the impact of depreciation, capital transactions and LGPS adjustments, and the held fund balances at 31 August 2025 of £14,702,062 (2024: £15,302,210) comprising restricted reserves of £14,219,366 (2024: £14,958,021) and unrestricted reserves of £482,696 (2024: £344,189). Excluding fixed assets and pension reserves, restricted reserves are £1,108,570 (2024: £1,279,620).

The total income for the year was £12,705,325 (2024: £11,621,252), the vast majority of which came from ESFA/ DfE grants. As the majority of the grant income is pupil number driven it is imperative that recruitment and retention levels are maintained, or increased.

Reserves policy

The trustees of the academy aim to carry forward a prudent level of reserves which is designed to meet a long-term cyclical need to support capital bid applications and to provide the academy with the security of being able to renew assets and have a contingency for any unforeseen needs.

The reserves policy is reviewed regularly. The reserves policy target is 8% of income which when deducting amounts set aside for specific capital projects the academy is close to at the end of the reporting period. The academy held total fund balances at 31 August 2025 of £14,702,062 (2024: £15,302,210). Restricted and unrestricted reserves are £1,591,266 (2024: £1,623,809).

Trustees have identified the requirement to hold an amount of reserves to dedicate to expenditure associated with moving into a new build once this is complete (School Rebuilding Programme) and for an IT refresh when appropriate. This means that the current level of reserves is at a higher level than would typically be the case.

Investment policy

The trustees have approved a Treasury Policy governing the investment of surplus funds, with the overarching priority being to limit risk rather than maximise return. In line with this principle, the following low-risk financial instruments have been approved by the academy:

- Fixed-term deposits
- Notice-term deposits
- Bank or building society deposit accounts
- Money market funds

No investment will exceed 364 days, and to mitigate counterparty risk, no more than £1 million will be invested with any single approved institution.

To support this strategy, trustees will consider opening a specific bank account for the deposit of surplus funds. Any interest generated will be reinvested into the academy to support its core objectives.

Investment performance is reviewed and reported to the board of trustees on an annual basis, providing transparency and oversight. During the reporting period, low-risk investments aligned with the Treasury Policy have been made, resulting in increased interest income for the academy.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The trustees have undertaken a comprehensive review of the principal risks and uncertainties facing the academy. These are detailed in the Risk Register, which is reviewed regularly and has been formally approved by the Board of Trustees. The Risk Register acts as a key tool in the academy's risk management process, enabling early identification, monitoring, and mitigation of potential threats to financial stability, operational delivery, and educational outcomes.

Key Risks Identified in the Period

- Inflationary Pressures (including Energy Costs):
Nationally agreed pay settlements, particularly those not matched by equivalent increases in formula funding, pose significant budgetary challenges. The academy conducts rigorous budget monitoring and workforce planning to manage this risk, with staffing models regularly reviewed to ensure sustainability.

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

- **Pay Awards Exceeding Funding Increases:**
Nationally agreed pay settlements, particularly those not matched by equivalent increases in formula funding, pose significant budgetary challenges. The academy conducts rigorous budget monitoring and workforce planning to manage this risk, with staffing models regularly reviewed to ensure sustainability.
- **Sixth Form Recruitment and Retention:**
A vibrant and well-subscribed sixth form is central to the academy's long-term success. Demographic changes and increased competition have introduced new recruitment challenges. The academy has launched a revised marketing and recruitment strategy, enhancing the curriculum offer and outreach activities to attract and retain students.
- **School Estate and Capital Investment Needs:**
Parts of the school's physical infrastructure are in need of replacement or significant investment. The academy has been successful in a bid for the School Rebuilding Programme, however, the commencement of this project may still be some time away. In the interim, robust health and safety monitoring and responsive maintenance continue to ensure the estate remains safe and operational.
- **Cybersecurity Threats:**
The increasing reliance on digital systems for learning, communication, and operations presents cybersecurity risks. The academy has strengthened its IT infrastructure, delivered staff training, and implemented multi-layered security protocols to minimise the risk of data breaches or service disruptions.
- **Changes to Government Policy and Funding:**
Uncertainty surrounding future education policy, curriculum reform, and funding allocations presents a strategic risk. Trustees and senior leaders remain alert to policy developments and maintain contingency planning to respond swiftly to changes in the external environment.

Risk Management Framework

The academy's approach to risk management aligns with the Funding Agreement and the Academies Trust Handbook, ensuring that risks are managed proactively and strategically to support the academy's vision, mission, and values.

Trustees' Responsibilities

Trustees hold overall accountability for risk management and maintaining a robust internal control system. This framework supports the achievement of strategic aims while safeguarding public funds and other assets for which they are responsible. Trustees are supported in this role by the Resources, Audit & Risk Committee, which is advised by the Director of Finance and senior leadership team.

Trustees fulfil their responsibilities by:

- Approving and regularly reviewing policies that underpin internal control.
- Setting strategic objectives and allocating resources through the annual budget, School Evaluation Form (SEF), and School Improvement Plan (SIP).
- Reviewing the Risk Register regularly, including analysis of incidents, near misses, and potential opportunities.
- Considering the advice and findings from:
 - Internal assurance reports
 - External auditors
 - The Resources, Audit & Risk Committee
 - Consultants and regulatory inspectors

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Leadership Team Responsibilities

The senior leadership team plays a key role in identifying, managing, and mitigating risks across all areas of the academy. Their responsibilities include:

- Implementing risk management policies approved by trustees.
- Advising the Resources, Audit & Risk Committee on critical risks and mitigation strategies.
- Providing timely reports on the status of key risks and the effectiveness of control measures.
- Assisting in the maintenance and development of the Risk Register.
- Embedding risk management practices across all functions, ensuring a culture of risk awareness and accountability throughout the academy.

Fundraising

The Trust actively engages with students, families, and the wider community through its annual 'Charity Week', a student-led initiative coordinated by the sixth form. Each year, students select a charity to support and organise a range of fundraising events involving pupils, staff, and members of the local community. The week culminates in a celebratory assembly, during which the funds raised are presented to the chosen charity or charities.

Throughout all fundraising activities, the Trust ensures that integrity, transparency, and voluntary participation are upheld. Efforts are made to ensure that no individual feels pressured to contribute, and all donations are received in a respectful and inclusive environment.

The Trust did not engage any professional fundraisers during the reporting period. Oversight and accountability for all funds raised are the responsibility of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and the Board of Trustees, who ensure that all fundraising income is accurately recorded and used appropriately.

In addition to charitable fundraising, the academy actively pursues capital grant funding opportunities to support the refurbishment and renewal of its existing buildings and infrastructure.

All fundraising activities carried out during the year were closely monitored by the trustees to ensure compliance with internal policies and external regulations.

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Plans for future periods

Vision and MAT Development

The academy's long-term vision is to become part of a cross-phase Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). This formal partnership will strengthen existing relationships with other schools, enabling the sharing of expertise, best practices, and resources. The collaboration will support school improvement and deliver greater value for money across all partner schools. The school is currently undertaking due diligence in relation to a merger with a local multi academy trust. Trustees have not yet made a final decision about whether to proceed with this merger but a decision is expected within the next twelve months.

School Improvement Priorities

The academy remains firmly focused on delivering its School Improvement Plan (SIP), which sets out clear priorities to raise standards and outcomes for all pupils. These priorities have been detailed earlier in the report.

Investment in the School Estate

The academy will continue to invest significantly in its estate and infrastructure, ensuring all staff and pupils work in a safe, modern, and purpose-built environment. Further support may be sought through Condition Improvement Funding (CIF); however, access to additional capital remains limited following the successful outcome of the School Rebuilding Programme (SRP) application.

Collaborative Partnerships

The academy is engaged in a number of strategic partnerships with other schools and MATs focused on specific school improvement initiatives. These collaborations are already delivering measurable benefits for pupils and staff at Whickham and across the wider educational community. The school has been commissioned by the DfE to support another trust through the regional improvement for standards and excellence programme (RISE). This programme will last for two years.

Curriculum and Financial Planning

Trustees and leaders continue to review both the curriculum and business plans using a curriculum-led financial planning model. This ensures that risks are considered carefully and that the academy retains the flexibility to adapt to changing demands within the education sector while maintaining financial stability.

Leadership and Succession Planning

The academy regularly reviews its leadership structure to ensure it remains fit for purpose as the academy continues its journey of improvement. Leaders at all levels are now playing a more active and effective role in driving improvement. As the academy expands its partnerships and influence, ongoing succession planning will remain a priority.

Pupil Recruitment and Growth

The academy continues to be a popular choice for families. Based on historical trends and five-year forecasts, it is anticipated that the school will remain oversubscribed at the start of each academic year. Proactive and inclusive marketing efforts will continue to ensure the academy maintains its strong local reputation and high demand for places.

Funds held as Custodian Trustee on behalf of others

Whickham School and Sports College do not hold assets or act as custodian trustee.

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Auditor

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

A resolution proposing that Azets Audit Services be reappointed as auditor of the charitable company will be put to the members.

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 08 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



S L Ban
Chair

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Scope of responsibility

As trustees we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Whickham School and Sports College 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 DfE's Guidance Guide.

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Headteacher as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements of responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Whickham School and Sports College 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 on the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees responsibilities. The board of trustees has formally met four times during the year.

Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees were as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
S L Ban (Chair)	4	4
M A Brain	2	4
A G Hewison	4	4
V McLeod	3	4
M Crabtree (Vice Chair)	4	4
M L Pears (Resigned 20 October 2025)	1	4
K Berry	3	4
F I Turnbull (Accounting Officer)	4	4
A J W Brown	3	4
L C Simpson	4	4
M Lambert	4	4
Q Xu	3	4
S Pendleton	4	4
T A Lake	4	4
S Berry (Appointed 25 November 2024)	4	4

There have been no key changes in the composition of the board or the coverage of its work. However, where trustees have resigned within the reporting period, trustees with the appropriate skills to compliment the board have been appointed. In line with best practice, the academy undertakes an annual review of the effectiveness of the board including a trustee skills audit (as per NGA guidance). Findings concluded that the Whickham School and Sports College governing board has the recommended depth and breadth of skills required. If any skills deficits are identified, the appropriate recruitment is undertaken.

The Resources, Audit & Risk Committee is a sub-committee of the governing board, its purpose is to assist the decision making of the board by enabling more detailed consideration to be given to the best means by fulfilling the board's responsibility to ensure sound management of the academy finances, staffing and resources, including premises, health and safety and safeguarding matters, to ensure that proper planning, monitoring and probity are in place. The Resources, Audit and Risk Committee has delegated responsibility as an audit committee and reports back to the full governing board on all such matters.

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Attendance during the year of the Resources, Audit and Risk Committee meetings was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
S L Ban (Chair)	3	4
M A Brain	1	4
M Crabtree (Vice Chair)	3	4
M L Pears (Resigned 20 October 2025)	0	4
K Berry	2	4
F I Turnbull (Accounting Officer)	4	4
A J W Brown	4	4
L C Simpson	3	4
Q Xu	4	4
S Pendleton	3	4

Conflicts of interest

The trust has policies and procedures in place to identify and manage conflicts of interest by clients, companies and individuals associated with the trust. Our Code of Conduct Policy requires all employees and trustees to identify and disclose any personal associations that may give rise to an actual or perceived conflict of interest.

Review of value for money

As Accounting Officer, the Headteacher 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 educational and wider societal outcomes, as well as estates safety and management achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

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

- Maintaining a staffing structure that is focused on the needs of the pupils
- Curriculum delivery aligns with pupil numbers and demand
- Curriculum effectiveness is evidenced by pupil progress and attainment data
- Effective use of Estates maintenance planning ensuring that preventative maintenance is prioritised over reactive spend
- Procurement processes are compliant with DfE requirements and internal policies ensuring competitive quotes are obtained

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of academy trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place at Whickham School & Sports College for the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

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 risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 and up to the date of the annual report and financial statements. The process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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 Resources, Audit and Risk Committee of reports, which indicate financial performance against forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes
- Setting targets to measure financial and other performance
- Clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines
- Identification and management of risks

The board of trustees has decided to buy-in an internal assurance service from Audit One as internal auditor for the trust. Audit One was chosen as they could offer a wider scope of internal assurance to manage all areas of risk to the trust, not just financial oversight and risk.

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

- Business Continuity
- HR and Payroll Policies and compliance
- Budgetary Control
- Follow up on previous years recommendations

The internal assurance programme of work is reported to trustees through the Resources, Audit and Risk Committee on a termly basis via written reports received from Audit One and presented by the Finance Manager or the Director of Finance and Operations. The full programme has been completed and the findings shared with trustees.

Findings within the reporting period included high, medium and low priority recommendations. A target date to implement all recommendations is agreed between both parties. The recommendations will be reviewed within the determined timescales. All recommendations from the prior year have been acted upon with the trust remaining fully compliant in all areas.

Review of effectiveness

As accounting officer, the headteacher 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 auditor
- 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 auditor
- Correspondence from DfE e.g. financial notice to improve/notice to improve (FNtI/NtI) and 'minded to' letters.

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Resources, Audit and Risk committee and the trustees proactively strive to build on existing good practices to ensure continuous improvements to the accounting systems in place.

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)


FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Conclusion

Based on the advice of the 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 board of trustees on 08 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:


S L Ban
Chair


F I Turnbull
Accounting Officer

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

As accounting officer of Whickham School and Sports College, I confirm that I have had due regard to the framework of authorities governing regularity, propriety and compliance, including the trust's funding agreement with DfE, and the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, including responsibilities for estates safety and management. I have also considered my responsibility to notify the academy board of trustees and DfE of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management.

I confirm that I and the board of trustees are able to identify any material irregularity 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.

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 DfE.



F I Turnbull
Accounting Officer

08 December 2025

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The trustees (who are also the directors of Whickham School and Sports College for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 published by the Department for Education, 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 in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025;
- make judgements 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; and
- 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 that grants received from ESFA/DfE have been applied for the purposes intended.

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 08 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



S L Ban
Chair

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Whickham School and Sports College for the year ended 31 August 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the Department for Education.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's 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.

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the 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 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 charitable company, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above and on the Financial Reporting Council's website, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

- Enquiry of senior leadership, Governors/Trustees and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations including compliance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the Department of Education;
- Performing audit work over the recognition of grant income and the allocation of expenditure to funds;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

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 of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company'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 charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Azets Audit Services

Graham Fitzgerald BA FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Azets Audit Services, Statutory Auditor

Wynyard Park House
Wynyard Avenue
Wynyard
TS22 5TB
United Kingdom

Date: 12/12/2025

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON REGULARITY TO WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 9 October 2025 and further to the requirements of the Department for Education (DfE) as included in the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether anything has come to our attention that would suggest, in all material respects, the expenditure disbursed and income received by Whickham School and Sports College during the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 have not been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to Whickham School and Sports College and the Secretary of State for Education in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Whickham School and Sports College and the Secretary of State for Education 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 Whickham School and Sports College and the Secretary of State for Education, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the accounting officer of Whickham School and Sports College and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Whickham School and Sports College's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 4 April 2017 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2024, 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 extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 have not been applied for the 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 Accountants of Academy Trusts issued by the DfE, which requires a limited assurance engagement as set out 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.

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON REGULARITY TO WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- completion of self assessment questionnaire by Accounting Officer
- discussions with the Accounting Officer and finance team
- review of internal assurance reports
- review of trustee and committee meeting minutes
- review of finance and other relevant policies
- review of purchases, expenses and expense claims on a sample basis including the application of controls and tendering processes where applicable
- review of gifts and hospitality transactions including the application of controls
- review of credit and debit card transactions including the application of controls
- review of payroll transactions on a sample bases including the application of controls
- review of potential special payments to staff
- review of leases and consideration of areas where borrowing may have been incurred
- consideration of transactions with related and connected parties
- review of register of business interests for completeness and compliance with regulations
- enquiries into transactions that may require disclosure under DFE delegated authority rules
- consideration of value for money and appropriateness of transactions

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 has not been applied for the purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Azets Audit Services

Reporting Accountant

Azets Audit Services

Date: 12/12/2025

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General £ Fixed asset £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	21,891	-	33,835	55,726
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	12,009,357	-	12,009,357
Other trading activities	5	600,143	-	-	600,143
Investments	6	48,092	-	-	48,092
Total		670,126	12,009,357	33,835	12,713,318
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7	532,086	7,437	-	539,523
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	8	-	11,790,890	882,053	12,672,943
Total	7	532,086	11,798,327	882,053	13,212,466
Net income/(expenditure)		138,040	211,030	(848,218)	(499,148)
Transfers between funds	16	-	(280,613)	280,613	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	18	-	1,600,000	-	1,600,000
Adjustment for restriction on pension assets			(1,701,000)	-	(1,701,000)
Net movement in funds		138,040	(170,583)	(567,605)	(600,148)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		344,189	1,279,620	13,678,401	15,302,210
Total funds carried forward		482,229	1,109,037	13,110,796	14,702,062

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2024	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total 2024 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	12,016	-	33,993	46,009
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	11,270,742	-	11,270,742
Other trading activities	5	279,297	-	-	279,297
Investments	6	25,204	-	-	25,204
Total		316,517	11,270,742	33,993	11,621,252
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7	336,783	849	-	337,632
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	8	-	10,735,963	979,258	11,715,221
Total	7	336,783	10,736,812	979,258	12,052,853
Net income/(expenditure)		(20,266)	533,930	(945,265)	(431,601)
Transfers between funds	16	-	(212,247)	212,247	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	18	-	263,000	-	263,000
Adjustment for restriction on pension assets		-	(357,000)	-	(357,000)
Net movement in funds		(20,266)	227,683	(733,018)	(525,601)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		364,455	1,051,937	14,411,419	15,827,811
Total funds carried forward		344,189	1,279,620	13,678,401	15,302,210

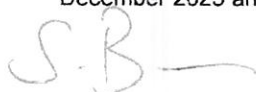
WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		13,110,796		13,678,401
Current assets					
Debtors	13	344,035		358,409	
Cash at bank and in hand		2,117,896		2,329,484	
		2,461,931		2,687,893	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(870,665)		(1,064,084)	
Net current assets			1,591,266		1,623,809
Net assets excluding pension asset			14,702,062		15,302,210
Defined benefit pension scheme asset	18		-		-
Total net assets			14,702,062		15,302,210
Funds of the academy trust:					
Restricted funds	16				
- Fixed asset funds			13,110,796		13,678,401
- Restricted income funds			1,109,037		1,279,620
Total restricted funds			14,219,833		14,958,021
Unrestricted income funds	16		482,229		344,189
Total funds			14,702,062		15,302,210

The financial statements on pages 26 to 49 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 08 December 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:



S L Ban
Chair

Company registration number 07729766 (England and Wales)

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash provided by operating activities	19		20,933		524,125
Cash flows from investing activities					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		48,092		25,204	
Capital grants from DfE Group		33,835		33,993	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(314,448)		(246,240)	
Net cash used in investing activities			(232,521)		(187,043)
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			(211,588)		337,082
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			2,329,484		1,992,402
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year			2,117,896		2,329,484

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements 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 2024 to 2025 issued by the Department for Education, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Income

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

Grants

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

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

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

Sponsorship income

Sponsorship income provided to the academy trust which amounts to a donation is recognised in the statement of financial activities in the period in which it is receivable (where there are no performance-related conditions), where the receipt is probable and it can be measured reliably.

Donations

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

Other income

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

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Donated goods, facilities and services

Goods donated for resale are included at fair value, being the expected proceeds from sale less the expected costs of sale. If it is practical to assess the fair value at receipt, it is recognised in stock and 'Income from other trading activities'. Upon sale, the value of the stock is charged against 'Income from other trading activities' and the proceeds are recognised as 'Income from other trading activities'. Where it is impractical to fair value the items due to the volume of low value items they are not recognised in the financial statements until they are sold. This income is recognised within 'Income from other trading activities'.

Donated fixed assets

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

1.4 Expenditure

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

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

This includes all expenditure incurred by the academy trust to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Charitable activities

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

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets costing £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 that require the continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities and carried forward in the balance sheet. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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

Leasehold land	125 years
Leasehold Buildings	25 years
Computer equipment	5 years
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	5 years
Motor vehicles	5 years

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

New building and associated assets were capitalised based on information provided by the ESFA. The disposal was estimated based on the proportion of the old building demolished after the move to the new building.

1.6 Liabilities

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

1.7 Leased assets

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

1.8 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets

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

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

Financial liabilities

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

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

1.9 Taxation

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

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.10 Pensions benefits

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

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

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

1.11 Fund accounting

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

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

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

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

(Continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme

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 (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 18, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2025. 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. The UK corporate bond yields at 31 August 2025 are at their highest levels for many years resulting in higher accounting discount rates at the year end. This places a significantly lower value on the pension obligations compared to last year and will be one of the main reasons a net asset has been reported. We have ensured that our assumptions are appropriate for the Academy Trust and the valuation has been based on the following estimates:

- There is a minimum funding requirement in relation to LGPS
- There is the ability to recover a surplus through the ability to reduce future contributions (not refund)
- In calculating the surplus, the present value of current and past service costs is offset against the future contributions over the future period
- The present values in the above calculations are calculated using an annuity representing participation into perpetuity.

There is no known intention to exit the LGPS and therefore the economic benefit of a refund would be highly unlikely and on that basis recognition of an asset is considered inappropriate. We have however considered the economic benefit available to the Academy Trust as a future contribution reduction and whether it is appropriate to recognise the net asset in full. Under FRS 102, a net asset restriction may apply as the prevailing view is that a minimum funding requirement for future service exists in the LGPS. We requested our actuaries consider the impact of the minimum funding requirement on the asset ceiling and as a result we have restricted the asset to £nil based upon an asset restriction calculation. We consider this to be appropriate and a more accurate reflection of the pension positions as at 31 August 2025.

Land and buildings

The trust's land and buildings are occupied on a 125 year lease from the local authority. In the view of the trustees, the risks and rewards of occupying the site have been substantially transferred to the trust and therefore the land and buildings have been recognised as a donation on conversion and capitalised within the restricted fixed assets fund. The land and buildings are valued on the basis of valuations provided by the ESFA/local authority, and cost information provided in respect of new buildings.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated as to write off the cost of an asset off over its useful economic life. The accounting policies are disclosed in the accounting policy above.

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Capital grants	-	33,835	33,835	33,993
Other donations	21,891	-	21,891	12,016
	<u>21,891</u>	<u>33,835</u>	<u>55,726</u>	<u>46,009</u>

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

4 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
DfE/ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	8,777,308	8,777,308	8,158,815
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- Pupil premium	-	359,093	359,093	333,406
- Rates	-	55,015	55,015	53,669
- Teachers pension	-	282,280	282,280	156,162
- Teachers pay	-	151,378	151,378	149,737
- Mainstream schools additional grant	-	-	-	290,602
- National Tutor grant	-	-	-	20,914
- Supplementary grant	-	-	-	91,048
- EFSA 16-19 Funding	-	1,659,647	1,659,647	1,794,655
- Core schools budget grant	-	322,604	322,604	-
- Core School budget grant 16-19	-	59,020	59,020	-
- NI grant	-	51,088	51,088	-
- Others	-	22,904	22,904	3,978
	-	11,740,337	11,740,337	11,052,986
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	269,020	269,020	217,756
Total funding	-	12,009,357	12,009,357	11,270,742

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Hire of facilities	115,406	-	115,406	117,466
Music income	33,142	-	33,142	17,883
Trip income	264,657	-	264,657	500
Other income	186,938	-	186,938	143,448
	600,143	-	600,143	279,297

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Short term deposits	48,092	-	48,092	25,204

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Non-pay expenditure Premises £	Other £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Expenditure on raising funds					
- Direct costs	119,431	-	420,092	539,523	337,632
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	7,929,122	-	446,070	8,375,192	7,584,836
- Allocated support costs	1,939,453	1,828,337	529,961	4,297,751	4,130,385
	<u>9,988,006</u>	<u>1,828,337</u>	<u>1,396,123</u>	<u>13,212,466</u>	<u>12,052,853</u>

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2025 £	2024 £
Operating lease rentals	41,857	28,392
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	882,053	979,258
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	13,400	13,400
- Other services	4,400	4,400
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	(110,000)	(96,000)

8 Charitable activities

	2025 £	2024 £
All from restricted funds:		
Direct costs		
Educational operations	8,375,192	7,584,836
Support costs		
Educational operations	4,297,751	4,130,385
	<u>12,672,943</u>	<u>11,715,221</u>

Analysis of support costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Support staff costs	1,939,453	1,785,362
Depreciation	882,053	979,258
Technology costs	267,298	252,938
Premises costs	946,284	965,311
Legal costs	31,229	171
Other support costs	86,824	60,344
Governance costs	144,610	87,001
	<u>4,297,751</u>	<u>4,130,385</u>

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

9 Staff

Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the year were:

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	7,287,287	6,742,482
Social security costs	817,066	606,296
Pension costs	1,669,195	1,511,814
Staff costs - employees	9,773,548	8,860,592
Agency staff costs	199,666	136,074
Staff restructuring costs	14,792	-
	9,988,006	8,996,666
Staff development and other staff costs	33,340	18,510
Total staff expenditure	10,021,346	9,015,176
Staff restructuring costs comprise:		
Redundancy payments	14,792	-

During the year, the academy trust paid non-contractual severance payments totalling £14,792 to an individual (2024: £Nil). These payments were made following the termination of employment under settlement agreements.

The trust obtained legal advice and ensured that all payments were in line with DFE guidance and the trust's own policies. The Board of Trustees approved the settlement.

Staff numbers

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

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Teachers	98	94
Administration and support	110	122
Management	9	11
	217	227

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

9 Staff

(Continued)

Higher paid staff

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

	2025 Number	2024 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	11	8
£70,001 - £80,000	5	4
£80,001 - £90,000	1	1
£90,001 - £100,000	1	-
£110,001 - £120,000	-	1
£120,001 - £130,000	1	-

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £1,343,696 (2024: £1,120,097).

10 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

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

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

F Turnbull (Head Teacher)	
Remuneration	£125,001 - £130,000 (2024: £115,001 - £120,000)
Employer's Pension Contributions	£35,001 - £40,000 (2024: £30,001 - £35,000)
S Berry (Trustee)	
Remuneration	£55,001 - £60,000 (2024: Nil)
Employer's Pension Contributions	£15,001 - £20,000 (2024: Nil)
A Hewison (Trustee)	
Remuneration	£1 - 5,000 (2024: Nil)
Employer's Pension Contributions	£Nil - £Nil (2024: Nil)

During the year, there were no amounts paid to trustees in relation to travel and subsistence.

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 23.

11 Trustees' and officers' insurance

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

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land	Computer equipment	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 September 2024	19,599,954	753,001	1,225,057	128,145	21,706,157
Additions	81,763	68,555	96,896	67,234	314,448
Disposals	-	-	-	(19,766)	(19,766)
At 31 August 2025	19,681,717	821,556	1,321,953	175,613	22,000,839
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2024	6,437,255	539,004	967,393	84,104	8,027,756
On disposals	-	-	-	(19,766)	(19,766)
Charge for the year	634,064	102,427	127,066	18,496	882,053
At 31 August 2025	7,071,319	641,431	1,094,459	82,834	8,890,043
Net book value					
At 31 August 2025	12,610,398	180,125	227,494	92,779	13,110,796
At 31 August 2024	13,162,699	213,997	257,664	44,041	13,678,401

13 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	1,400	289
VAT recoverable	61,493	44,957
Prepayments and accrued income	281,142	313,163
	344,035	358,409

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	178,610	294,003
Other taxation and social security	194,453	170,771
Other creditors	250,615	229,894
Accruals and deferred income	246,987	369,416
	870,665	1,064,084

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

15 Deferred income

	2025 £	2024 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	76,118	202,873
Deferred income at 1 September 2024	202,873	29,404
Released from previous years	(202,873)	(29,404)
Resources deferred in the year	76,118	202,873
Deferred income at 31 August 2025	76,118	202,873

At 31 August 2025, the Academy was holding trip income, rates grant income and other grants for the 2025/26 academic year.

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

16 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2025 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,279,620	8,777,308	(8,667,278)	(280,613)	1,109,037
Pupil premium	-	359,093	(359,093)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	396,596	(396,596)	-	-
Other government grants	-	269,020	(269,020)	-	-
Teachers pension	-	282,280	(282,280)	-	-
Teachers pay grant	-	151,378	(151,378)	-	-
Rates	-	55,015	(55,015)	-	-
ESFA 16-19 funding	-	1,659,647	(1,659,647)	-	-
Core schools budget grant 16 - 19	-	59,020	(59,020)	-	-
Core schools budget grant	-	322,604	(322,604)	-	-
Pension reserve	-	-	101,000	(101,000)	-
	<u>1,279,620</u>	<u>12,009,357</u>	<u>(11,798,327)</u>	<u>(381,613)</u>	<u>1,109,037</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	48,203	-	(48,203)	-	-
DfE group capital grants	149,356	33,835	(40,003)	-	143,188
Capital expenditure from GAG	470,243	-	(38,810)	280,613	712,046
LEA and other donated grants	13,010,599	-	(755,037)	-	12,255,562
	<u>13,678,401</u>	<u>33,835</u>	<u>(882,053)</u>	<u>280,613</u>	<u>13,110,796</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>14,958,021</u>	<u>12,043,192</u>	<u>(12,680,380)</u>	<u>(101,000)</u>	<u>14,219,833</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>344,189</u>	<u>670,126</u>	<u>(532,086)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>482,229</u>
Total funds	<u>15,302,210</u>	<u>12,713,318</u>	<u>(13,212,466)</u>	<u>(101,000)</u>	<u>14,702,062</u>

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

16 Funds

(Continued)

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

General Annual Grant must be used for the normal running costs of the academy. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2025.

Other DfE/ESFA grants are and other grants received from DfE/ESFA that are not included in the detailed analysis.

Other government grants include pupil premium and other grants received from the local authority.

The pension reserve reflects the LGPS transactions. The costs and income associated with the defined benefit pension scheme have been recorded in the restricted fund. Staff costs are paid from this fund, including contributions to the LGPS, and the pension liability has therefore been aligned with these funds.

DfE/ESFA capital grants includes a devolved capital grant of £33,835.

The inherited fixed asset fund reflects the fixed assets acquired on conversion. Depreciation on these assets is charged against this fund.

Some capital expenditure has been funded by GAG or other funds. Transfers between these funds are reflected in the gains, losses and transfers column.

The trust has reviewed the analysis of funds to be carried forward as at 31 August 2025 and transfers here have been made to ensure that all funds are correct as at the year end.

Unrestricted funds can be used for any purpose at the discretion of the academy trust.

The academy's restricted general and unrestricted funds were £1,591,266 at 31 August 2025.

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

16 Funds

(Continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,051,937	8,158,815	(7,718,885)	(212,247)	1,279,620
Pupil premium	-	333,406	(333,406)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	3,978	(3,978)	-	-
Other government grants	-	217,756	(217,756)	-	-
Teachers pension	-	156,162	(156,162)	-	-
Teachers pay grant	-	149,737	(149,737)	-	-
Rates	-	53,669	(53,669)	-	-
National tutoring	-	20,914	(20,914)	-	-
Supplementary grant	-	91,048	(91,048)	-	-
Mainstream grant	-	290,602	(290,602)	-	-
ESFA 16-19 funding	-	1,794,655	(1,794,655)	-	-
Pension reserve	-	-	94,000	(94,000)	-
	<u>1,051,937</u>	<u>11,270,742</u>	<u>(10,736,812)</u>	<u>(306,247)</u>	<u>1,279,620</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	103,041	-	(54,838)	-	48,203
DfE group capital grants	158,451	33,993	(43,088)	-	149,356
Capital expenditure from GAG	301,083	-	(43,087)	212,247	470,243
LEA and other donated grants	13,848,844	-	(838,245)	-	13,010,599
	<u>14,411,419</u>	<u>33,993</u>	<u>(979,258)</u>	<u>212,247</u>	<u>13,678,401</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>15,463,356</u>	<u>11,304,735</u>	<u>(11,716,070)</u>	<u>(94,000)</u>	<u>14,958,021</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>364,455</u>	<u>316,517</u>	<u>(336,783)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>344,189</u>
Total funds	<u>15,827,811</u>	<u>11,621,252</u>	<u>(12,052,853)</u>	<u>(94,000)</u>	<u>15,302,210</u>

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2025 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	13,110,796	13,110,796
Current assets	482,229	1,979,702	-	2,461,931
Current liabilities	-	(870,665)	-	(870,665)
Total net assets	482,229	1,109,037	13,110,796	14,702,062
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	13,678,401	13,678,401
Current assets	344,189	2,343,704	-	2,687,893
Current liabilities	-	(1,064,084)	-	(1,064,084)
Total net assets	344,189	1,279,620	13,678,401	15,302,210

18 Pension and similar obligations

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

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

Contributions amounting to £200,150 (2024: £186,563) were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2025 and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

18 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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 was implemented on 1 April 2024. The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2027.

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £1,424,161 (2024: £1,174,837).

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

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 16.8% for employers and 5.5 - 12.5% 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.

Total contributions made	2025 £	2024 £
Employer's contributions	331,000	329,000
Employees' contributions	122,000	117,000
Total contributions	453,000	446,000

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

18 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions	2025 %	2024 %
Rate of increase in salaries	4.0	4.0
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.5	2.5
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	6.0	4.9
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.5	2.5

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

	2025 Years	2024 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	21.2	20.8
- Females	24.2	24.0
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	22.1	21.7
- Females	25.3	25.1

Sensitivity analysis

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

The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme	2025 Fair value £	2024 Fair value £
Equities	5,037,000	4,820,000
Government bonds	104,000	115,000
Corporate bonds	1,888,000	1,790,000
Cash	125,000	77,000
Property	1,158,000	1,001,000
Other assets	2,117,000	1,819,000
Total market value of assets	10,429,000	9,622,000
Restriction on scheme assets	(3,780,000)	(2,079,000)
Net assets recognised	6,649,000	7,543,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £616,000 (2024: £878,000).

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

18 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities	2025 £	2024 £
Current service cost	340,000	320,000
Past service cost	-	11,000
Interest income	(476,000)	(441,000)
Interest cost	366,000	345,000
Total amount recognised	230,000	235,000
Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations	2025 £	2024 £
At 1 September 2024	7,543,000	6,838,000
Current service cost	340,000	320,000
Interest cost	366,000	345,000
Employee contributions	122,000	117,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(1,460,000)	174,000
Benefits paid	(262,000)	(262,000)
Past service cost	-	11,000
At 31 August 2025	6,649,000	7,543,000
Changes in the fair value of the academy trust's share of scheme assets	2025 £	2024 £
At 1 September 2024	9,622,000	8,560,000
Interest income	476,000	441,000
Actuarial gain	140,000	437,000
Employer contributions	331,000	329,000
Employee contributions	122,000	117,000
Benefits paid	(262,000)	(262,000)
At 31 August 2025	10,429,000	9,622,000
Restriction on scheme assets	(3,780,000)	(2,079,000)
Net assets recognised	6,649,000	7,543,000

Restriction of pension scheme assets

The net gain recognised on scheme assets has been restricted because the full pension surplus is not expected to be recovered through refunds or reduced contributions in the future.

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

19 Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		(499,148)	(431,601)
Adjusted for:			
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(33,835)	(33,993)
Investment income receivable	6	(48,092)	(25,204)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	18	9,000	2,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance income	18	(110,000)	(96,000)
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		882,053	979,258
Decrease/(increase) in debtors		14,374	(145,359)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors		(193,419)	275,024
Net cash provided by operating activities		20,933	524,125

20 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2024 £	Cash flows £	31 August 2025 £
Cash	2,329,484	(211,588)	2,117,896

21 Contingent liabilities

During the period of the funding agreement, in the event of the sale or disposal by other means of any asset for which a government capital grant was received, the Academy is required either to reinvest the proceeds or to repay to the relevant Secretary of State the same proportion of the proceeds of the sale or disposal as equates with the proportion of the original cost met by the Secretary of State.

Upon termination of the funding agreement, whether as a result of the Secretary of State or the Academy serving notice, the Academy shall repay to the Secretary of State sums determined by reference to:

- the value at the time of the Academy's site and premises and other assets held for the purpose of the Academy; and
- the extent to which expenditure incurred in providing those assets was met by payments by the Secretary of State under the funding agreement.

WHICKHAM SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

22 Long-term commitments

Operating leases

At 31 August 2025 the total of the academy trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts due within one year	36,543	36,542
Amounts due in two and five years	870	37,558
	<u>37,413</u>	<u>74,100</u>

23 Related party transactions

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 and in accordance with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions.

J Hewison (wife of Trustee, A Hewison) and C Crabtree (wife of Trustee, M Crabtree) have been employed by the academy trust as an invigilator and exams officer respectively. Their appointments were made in open competition and A Hewison and M Crabtree were not involved in the decision-making process regarding their appointments. J Hewison and C Crabtree are paid within the normal pay scales for their roles and they receive no special treatment as a result of their relationships with trustees.

Audit One – The husband of S Ban (trustee) is a senior employee of that entity

- The academy trust purchased internal audit services totalling £6,600 (2024: £9,973) during the period.
- The academy trust made the purchase at arms' length following a competitive tendering exercise in accordance with its financial regulations, which the trustee neither participated in, nor influenced.
- In entering into the transaction, the academy trust has complied with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook.
- The element above £2,500 has been provided 'at no more than cost' and Audit One has provided a statement of assurance confirming this.

24 Members' liability

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

25 Agency arrangements

The academy trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for DFE. In the accounting period ending 31 August 2025 the trust brought forward £23,714 (2024: £14,532) from previous years, received £30,246 (2024: £31,454) and disbursed £22,422 (2024: £22,272) from the fund. An amount of £31,538 (2024: £23,714) is included in other creditors relating to undistributed funds that is repayable to DFE.

