

LEARN@ MAT
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

- I McGregor (resigned 26 April 2022)
- S Bradshaw (resigned 15 May 2022)
- A Raikes, MBE DL High Sheriff of the County of City of Bristol 2022-23
- M Tanner
- M Bisp (resigned 5 October 2022)
- J Atherton (appointed 16 September 2022)
- P Evans (appointed 12 June 2022)

Trustees

- J Baker (resigned 8 August 2022)
- H Bond
- S Bradshaw (resigned 15 May 2022)
- D Brown (resigned 10 December 2021)
- E Flynn
- G Grimshaw, Chair¹
- T Kempster
- A Marshall (resigned 18 August 2022)
- R Moorcroft¹
- L Quattrone (appointed 17 January 2022, resigned 10 August 2022)¹
- J Southall (appointed 1 September 2021, resigned 10 June 2022)
- A Wills (resigned 25 November 2022)
- P Young (resigned 28 February 2022)
- A Loren (appointed 12 December 2022)
- J Blayney (appointed 12 December 2022)
- F Williams (appointed 12 December 2022)

¹ Audit, Finance and Resources Committee

Company registered number 10377760

Company name Learn@ MAT

Principal and registered office Knowle D G E Leaning Centre
Leinster Avenue
Bristol
BS4 1NN

Company secretary L Shepherd

Chief Executive Officer S Bradshaw

Leadership Team

- J Southall, Chief Executive Officer (appointed 1 September 2021) (resigned 12 May 2022)
- R Watkin, Chief Finance and Operations Officer
- R Gibb, Principle Designate, Brook Academy (appointed 1 April 2022)
- K Lee-Wells, Knowle DGE Academy Headteacher
- N Lee-Wells, Lansdown Park Academy Headteacher (resigned 31 December 2021)
- P Todd, Lansdown Park Academy Headteacher (appointed 1 January 2022)
- M Reysenn, Notton House Academy Headteacher
- C Abbs, Soundwell Academy Headteacher
- A Morrison, St Matthias Academy Headteacher
- D Simons, The Sky Academy Headteacher (resigned 31 December 2021)
- B Jones, Central ALP Lead (appointed 1 January 2022)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Independent Auditors	Bishop Fleming LLP Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditors 10 Temple Back Bristol BS1 6FL
Bankers	Lloyds Bank PLC 55 Corn Street Bristol BS1 1JQ
Solicitors	Veale Wasbrough Vizards Narrow Quay Bristol BS1 4QA

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the Charitable Company for the year ended 31 August 2022. The annual report serves the purpose of both a Trustees' report, and a Directors' report under company law.

During the year the Trust operated 4 special academies and 2 alternative provisions in Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset, Somerset, South Gloucestershire and Wiltshire; Knowle DGE Academy, Lansdown Park Academy, Notton House Academy, Soundwell Academy, St Matthias Academy and The Sky Academy. Its academies had a combined pupil capacity of 548 and had a roll of 478 in the school census on 20 January 2022. The Trust opened Brook Academy on 1 September 2022.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The Trust was incorporated on 15 September 2016 and opened as a Trust on 1 September 2017. The 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 Trust.

The Trustees of Learn@ MAT are also the directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law. The Charitable Company operates as Learn@ MAT.

Details of the Trustees who served throughout the year, except as noted, are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on pages 1 to 2.

Members' liability

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

Trustees' Indemnities

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £10 million on any one claim.

TRUSTEES

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

The Trust shall have a minimum of 3 trustees, of which 8 are appointed by the Members as set out in its Articles of Association and funding agreement. The Trust's Articles of Association also allows for trustees to be co-opted. If the Trust disbanded its Academy Councils then there would also be a requirement to have a minimum of 2 parent trustees.

Providing that the Chief Executive Officer agrees so to act, the Members may appoint the Chief Executive Officer as a Trustee. The total number of Trustees who are employees of the Trust shall not exceed one third of the total number of Trustees.

Trustees are appointed for a four-year period, except that this time limit does not apply to any post that is held ex officio. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, any Trustee can be re-appointed or re-elected.

When appointing new Trustees, the Board will consider the skills and experience mix of existing Trustees in order to ensure that the Board has the necessary skills to contribute fully to the Trust's development.

The Board updated their skills audit during the year and identified a number of specific skills and knowledge gaps: educational experience, HR, finance and estates. The Board appointed Nurole to work with Trust to

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

recruit new Trustees to the Board towards the end of the year and the Trustees are currently reviewing applications, before proceeding with interviews.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

The training and induction provided for new Trustees will depend upon their existing experience but would always include a focus on safeguarding training using the Safeguarding Handbook a tour of the Academies within the Trust and a chance to meet head teachers, staff, parents and pupils. All Trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, governance documents and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Trustees. Key documentation such as the Trust Development Plan and annual targets are talked through in an induction meeting with the Executive Team. As there are normally only two or three new Trustees a year, induction tends to be done in part by the Executive Team and in part by an appointed buddy from the existing experienced Trustees and is tailored specifically to the individual. This does include partnering the new Trustee with an experienced Trustee for the first year to meet outside of the formal meetings and be available to answer questions and clarify our working practices to help the new Trustee be as up to date as possible with the Trust and its practices. Advantage is taken of specific courses offered by the National Governance Association, the Local Authority and other bodies.

All new Trustees are subject to a DBS check and where relevant other specific checks as part of the Trust's Safeguarding (Child Protection) Policy and procedures. This Policy is a key aspect of their induction process along with the Code of Conduct, which must be read and understood before any visits to Academies. Trustees are expected to complete a Child Protection Course up to Level 2 and a Safer Recruitment Course.

Organisational Structure

The Board of Trustees normally meets six times a year. The Board establishes an overall framework for the governance of the Trust and determines membership, terms of reference and procedures of Committees and other groups. It receives reports including policies from its Committees for ratification. It monitors the activities of the Committees through the minutes of their meetings. The Board may from time to time establish working groups to perform specific tasks over a limited timescale.

The Board operated three sub-committees during the year:

- Audit, Finance and Resources Committee - this meets at least six times a year and is responsible for monitoring, evaluating and reviewing policy and performance in relation to financial management, premises management, staffing, compliance with reporting and regulatory requirements, receiving Internal Assurance reports and drafting the annual budget including setting staffing levels. It also incorporates the role of an audit committee. The full terms of reference are available on the Learn@ MAT website.
- Quality and Standards Committee – this committee meets at least six times a year and is responsible for monitoring the quality of teaching and learning, pupil progress, pupil outcomes and achievement, behaviour and attendance, the Academies' Development Plans and progress against targets set. The full terms of reference are available on the Learn@ MAT website.
- Strategy and Growth Committee – the Board of Trustees agreed at a meeting on 1 June 2022 to amalgamate this committee with the Board of Trustees. This committee was and still is responsible for guiding and managing the Trust growth plan of both external and internal growth. This committee oversaw all due diligence on prospective expansions and partnership work.

The following decisions are reserved to the Board of Trustees:

- To change the name of the Academies
- To determine the educational character, mission or ethos of the Academies
- To adopt or alter the constitution and terms of reference of any committee of the Board of Trustees
- To amend the Scheme of Governance
- To terminate a supplemental funding agreement for an Academy
- To establish a trading company
- To sell, purchase, mortgage or charge any land in which the Trust has an interest
- To approve the annual estimates of income and expenditure (budgets) and major projects
- To appoint investment advisors

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

- To sign off the annual accounts
- To appoint or dismiss the Director of Finance, the Chief Executive Officer, the Principals, the Company Secretary or the Clerk to the Trustees
- To settle the division of executive responsibilities between the Trustees on the one hand and Chief Executive Officer, the Principals and the Finance Director on the other hand.
- To do any other act which the Funding Agreement expressly reserves to the Board of Trustees or to another body (including for the avoidance of doubt, terminating the Funding Agreement or any part of it).
- To do any other act which the Articles expressly reserve to the Board of Trustees or to another body
- To do any other act which the Board of Trustees determine to be a Reserved Matter from time to time.

The Trustees are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, approving the statutory accounts, monitoring the Trust by budgets and other data, and making major decisions about the direction of the Trust, capital expenditure and staff appointments.

The Trustees and Board of Trustees have devolved responsibility for day to day management of the Trust to the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Finance and Operations Officer, HR Business Manager & Caseworker and the Headteachers. This Leadership Team implement the policies laid down by the Trustees and report back to them on performance.

The Trust comprises four special academies - Knowle DGE Academy, Notton House, Soundwell and The Sky Academy, and two alternative provisions – Lansdown Park Academy and St Matthias Academy. Each Academy has its own Academy Council responsible for day to day operations and management of the Academy's budget. Brook Academy opened on 1 September 2022.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is the Accounting Officer.

Arrangements for Setting Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees and the Leadership Team to comprise the key management personnel of the Trust in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the Trust on a day to day basis. All Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee received remuneration in the year, with the exception of the Chief Executive Officer up until May 2022. From this date the Trustees decided that the role of CEO would not be appointed as a Trustee.

Details of Trustees' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in the notes to the accounts.

The posts of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chief Finance and Operations Officer (CFOO) are paid on a spot salary which will be reviewed annually. Factors that will be taken into consideration for setting and revising the CEO's and CFOO's salary are as follows: comparison with similar organisations, experience of the individuals in those posts and achievements and performance throughout the year. The HR Business Manager & Caseworker is remunerated in line with support staff pay scales and the role is remunerated at an appropriate grade.

The determination of Headteachers' pay is in line with the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document. The Headteachers' pay range at each Academy has seven incremental points and will not exceed the top of the range for the group size of the Academy as set out in the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document except in exceptional circumstances. Headteachers' progression up the leadership pay scale is dependent on performance.

Connected Organisations, including Related Party Relationships

There are no related parties which either control or significantly influence the decisions and operations of Learn@ MAT. There are three Trustees who have close family who are employees of the Trust; more details of these transactions are in note 28. There are no sponsors or formal Parent Teacher Associations associated with the Trust.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

The Trust engages with their employees through many means and methods, including:

- consulting with employees on key matters, such as growth and expansion, including engaging with the relevant union officials
- having two staff representatives on each Academy Council
- providing regular information to all employees on matters of concern to them through regular newsletters, e-mails and consultation meetings
- annual staff audit and questionnaire which covers work-life balance and the mental health and wellbeing of staff
- regular updates to all staff members, via termly updates and newsletters, including covering both financial and non-financial performance
- two annual conference days led by the Trust for all employees focussing on the main areas of development across the Trust
- appointing an HR Business Manager and Caseworker to oversee relationships with all employees, and support all employees in ensuring they receive their rights and entitlements in regard to their roles and responsibilities as set out in current legislation.

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

The Trust communicates with the parents/ carers of the pupils that attend its schools on a regular basis. Each pupil is allocated a key person in the Trust and that key person fosters a relationship with the family. On a wider scale each school issues frequent letters and newsletters to its parents/ carers to keep them up to date with current news at the school. The Trust uses Class DoJo for sharing achievements with parent/ carers and Teachers2Parents to communicate operational issues.

The Trust fosters positive relationships with all of its suppliers.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects and Aims

The principal object of the Trust is to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing academies which are principally concerned with providing full time or part time education for children of compulsory school age who, by reason of illness, exclusion from school or otherwise, may not for any period receive suitable education unless alternative provision is made for them ("the alternative provision Academies") or schools specially organised to make special educational provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs ("the Special Academies").

The Trust's aim is to create a learning environment which recognises that all young people are different but all deserve equal opportunities to achieve to their full potential. The Trust will deliver a highly effective, inclusive, personalised curriculum through a multi-disciplinary approach in order to equip the young people with the skills and experiences needed to embrace life-long learning.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The main objectives, and the strategies for achieving them, of the Trust during the year ended 31 August 2022 are summarised below:

- Reduce staff absenteeism
- Develop school improvement strategy
- Provide a positive learning experience to students and enable them to overcome the barriers they face in life
- A rising number of young people in the Alternative Provisions to return successfully (complete 12 week transition period) to appropriate schooling.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

- All young people to have clear improvements in attendance from their previous school or the previous school year on a person by person basis. The overall attendance target for each Academy to be 90%.
- All young people to achieve a positive post school transition, which includes careers planning, so that no students become Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs)
- To develop the role and positive involvement of Parent/Carers in the governance and directional steer of the Trust at Board and Academy Council levels.
- To develop the Academy sites to enable young people to achieve their full potential through a holistic learning approach using and offering a wide range of outdoor learning opportunities.
- To open and establish Soundwell Academy, on its permanent site for up to 136 pupils in September 2021.
- To ensure the planning and preparation for the new special school for Gloucestershire County Council to open in Brockworth through the presumptive route is on track for opening in September 2022.
- To work with the Headteacher and Academy Council of Knowle DGE in preparing for the completion and opening of its new Sixth Form and Independent Living Houses during the 2021-22 academic year.

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit in exercising their powers or duties. They have referred to this guidance when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities.

The Trust aims to advance for the public benefit, education in Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset, Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire Somerset and Wiltshire and the surrounding area. In particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the forgoing, by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing schools, offering a broad curriculum with a strong emphasis on, but in no way limited to the specialism of supporting young people with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs and Speech, Language and Communication needs.

The Trust provides facilities for recreational and other leisure time occupation for the community at large in the interests of social welfare and with the interest of improving the life of the said community.

As a Trust there is a duty to support other schools. The Trust has a Maths Mastery Regional Lead, based with the Boolean Maths Hub in South West England, who supports a wide range of schools and other Trusts in the region.

The Trust has established food banks or a food parcel provision where the need is evident for the families of young people that attend its schools.

The CEO, CFOO and school leaders sit on a wide range on regional and national bodies representing young people and their needs, ensuring that the Trust contributes to improvements and developments in education at local and national level.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievements and Performance

The Trust is in its fourth year of operation. The total number of students on roll on the January 2022 census was 478.

Young People

Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic

COVID-19 still had a significant impact on all of the Academies. Remote education continued for some young people up until March 2022 and a significant number of staff and pupil's we affected by the virus. However,

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

the Academies have become well versed at being adaptable in different ways which has included distance learning, online courses and home welfare visits as well as supporting families with free school meals. We are proud to say throughout the pandemic we kept in touch with all our families and supported them through this difficult time.

Attendance

Attendance is one of our main key performance indicators going forward.

The average student attendance across the Trust was 69.07% and 70.41% of all young people made an improvement from their baseline. Multi agency support plans are in place for those very complex cases where young people and their families need higher levels of support and a more personalised learning programme.

During the year 5 of the Trusts 6 open Academies were inspected; the judgements and dates are detailed below:

Lansdown Park Academy – February 2022 – Inadequate
Knowle DGE Academy – February 2022 – Requires Improvement
St Matthias Academy – March 2022 – Requires Improvement
The Sky Academy – 4 May 2022 - Inadequate
Notton House Academy – May 2022 - Good

Safeguarding met Ofsted's requirements across all of the inspections.

Brook Academy had a registration Ofsted inspection; and was successfully registered.

Lansdown Park Academy – following the Ofsted grading a comprehensive improvement programme was put in place to address the issues identified. A new Headteacher was appointed and additional senior leaders was appointed. A CIF bid has been completed over summer 2022 which has significantly improved the environment at the Stockwood site. New appointments have been made to the Academy Council. The curriculum offering has improved to better meet the needs of the young people and a number of long term human resources have been resolved. The Academy has not yet had any monitoring visits.

Knowle DGE Academy – leadership and management were graded as Good by Ofsted and therefore the key building blocks for driving improvement are already within the Academy and time to embed good practice is required.

St Matthias Academy – a new School Improvement Partner has been appointed to aid improvement.

The Sky Academy – the Academy had been part of the Trust for only 13 months before being inspected and a new Headteacher was appointed 5 days before the inspection. These two factors presented significant challenges. The two main areas that were identified as particular issues were quality of education and governance. The Academy already had a new senior leadership team in place and they need time to embed new practices. A new Chair of the Academy Council has been appointed and there is an ongoing recruitment campaign for the Academy Council to ensure that it has the breadth and depth of skills and knowledge required. A new school improvement partner has been appointed and visits are taking place on at least a monthly basis.

Notton House Academy – the Academy had a successful Ofsted; was graded Good in all areas. The Academy is now working with a School Improvement Partner to identify improvements.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Parents/ Carers

During the year parents/ carers have been involved with the Trust at all levels of governance ensuring that the voice of parents/ carers is heard and to help guide the direction of the Trust. Parent voice is represented on all our Academy Councils and the Co-ordinator of Gloucestershire Parent Carer Forum is a Trustee.

Regular coffee mornings are held where there is a focus on topics and issues that parents/ carers identify.

Premises

The Trust was awarded 2 CIF bids during the year: a fire safety project at Lansdown Park Academy and replacement of an obsolete heating system at St Matthias Academy, Brentry. These projects were 80% completed at year end.

Building work on the new sixth form building at Knowle DGE Academy concluded during the year and was handed over to the Trust in June 2022. This was a Bristol City Council project.

Further site improvements have taken place at Notton House Academy including creation of additional ensembles to the residential accommodation.

Building work on the permanent site for Soundwell Academy concluded during the year; with the final building being handed over in April 2022. This Academy was also successful in obtaining a grant from the John James Foundation to develop an outside area into an outdoor classroom. This work is going to continue into 2022/23.

The Sky Academy developed some of their internal spaces to create an area to provide education to pupils on very bespoke programmes. In addition, Somerset County Council handed over a new building on the site that will accommodate an additional 40 pupils in due course. In the mean time the additional building and space has enabled the Academy to restructure.

Staffing

Jen Southall started in post as CEO on 1 September 2021 and resigned 12 May 2022. The Trustees appointed Stephen Bradshaw as interim CEO from 13 May 2022.

The Trust has appointed the following Headteachers during the year:

- Robyn Gibb, Brook Academy
- Kate Lee-Wells, Knowle DGE Academy
- Paul Todd, Lansdown Park Academy
- Bex Jones, The Sky Academy

Growth and Development

The Trust decided that due to the delay in obtaining planning permission for the permanent site of North Somerset Free School and being offered a temporary alternative, not to pursue this development.

Soundwell Academy opened on its permanent site in November 2021 and grew from 28 to 88 places.

The Trust opened a KS2 alternative provision attached to Easton Church of England Academy for 16 places.

Key Performance Indicators

Learn@ MAT is funded based on places commissioned by Local Authorities. General Annual Grant funding is based on the number of commissioned places and High Needs Top Up funding is based on the pupils that are on roll. A key performance indicator is the occupancy percentage of the Academies. The occupancy percentage based on the January 2022 census for the Trust was 88%.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Another key financial performance indicator is staffing costs as a percentage of total revenue income (excluding amounts transferred to the restricted fixed asset fund and amounts transferred on conversion). For 2022 this was 72%.

The main financial target that was set for the year was that the Trust would ensure that it had reserves of £1,874,183 at the end of the year. This target was met with the Trust finishing the year with revenue reserves of £2,428,974. The Trust has set a budget with a significant deficit in 2022/23 and therefore these additional reserves will assist with managing this deficit in the short term while a long term plan is put in place to ensure that the Trust is able to achieve balanced budgets going forward.

Going Concern

As described in note 1.2, on 1st June 2023 the Academy Trust expects to transfer its academies, together with all assets and liabilities, to another trust. From that date, the Trust will cease all activities. Accordingly, these accounts are prepared on a basis other than as a going concern.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial Review

The majority of the Trust's income is obtained from the Department for Education (DfE) via the Education and Skills Funding Agency and from Local Authorities in the form of grants linked to commissioned places and the pupils that are on roll. The use of these grants is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE and Local Authorities during the year ended 31 August 2022 and the associated expenditure are shown as Restricted Funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Trust also receives grants for fixed assets from the DfE which are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the Fixed Asset Fund. The Restricted Fixed Asset Fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the useful life of the assets concerned, as defined in the Trust's accounting policies.

During the year ended 31 August 2022, the Academy received total income of £43,723,836 (2021: £25,297,825) and incurred total expenditure of £21,203,751 (2021: £16,043,574). The excess of income over expenditure was £22,520,085 (2021: excess of income over expenditure for the year was £9,254,251). Excluding adjustments in respect of LGPS pension and fixed assets the deficit for the year was £294,366 (2021: surplus £799,919).

At 31 August 2022 the net book value of fixed assets was £78,881,323 (2021: £54,528,703) and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 14 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the young people of the Trust.

Key financial policies adopted or reviewed during the year include the Finance Policy which lays out the framework for financial management, including financial responsibilities of the Board, CEO, CFOO, Headteachers, managers, budget holders and other staff, as well as delegated authority for spending.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Reserves Policy

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

The Trustees have determined that the appropriate level of free reserves should be:

- Revenue reserve approximately equal to one months' worth of expenditure - £1,512,667
- Reserve to match funding CIF projects – each Academy to contribute 1% of GAG - £247,532
- Other premises development - £114,164

Total reserves of the Trust amount to £77,011,867, although £74,582,079 of this is invested in fixed assets or represents non-GAG restricted funds. The remaining £2,429,788 (representing £1,176,447 unrestricted funds and £1,253,342 unspent GAG) is the balance that the Trustees monitor in accordance with the Board's reserves policy.

The defined benefit pension scheme reserve has a negative balance. The effect of the deficit position of the pension scheme is that the Trust is paying higher employers' pension contributions over a period of years. The higher employers' pension contributions will be met from the Trust's budgeted annual income. Whilst the deficit will not be immediately eliminated, there should be no actual cash flow deficit on the fund, nor any direct impact on the free reserves of the Trust.

Investment Policy

Due to the nature and timing of receipt of funding, the Trust may at times hold cash balances surplus to its short term requirements. The Trustees have authorised the opening of additional short term bank investment accounts to take advantage of higher interest rates. No other form of investment is authorised.

Principal Risks And Uncertainties

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the major risks to which the Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks.

The principal risks and uncertainties facing the Trust are as follows:

The Regions Group have informed the Trust that they will rebroking Lansdown Park Academy and The Sky Academy.

The Trust is in discussions with Regions Group about the future of the remaining 5 schools within the Trust.

Financial - the Trust has considerable reliance on the commissioning of places from Local Authorities. Places are commissioned on a year by year basis which results in uncertainties for future years. However, current demand for places is high in Bristol and the surrounding area. However, there are significant challenges around ensuring that the appropriate level of funding is obtained in order to meet the needs of each young person as set out in their EHPC particularly when taking into account that all Local Authorities that the Trust works with have high needs budgets in deficit. The Trust is also reliant on continued Government funding through the ESFA. In the last year in excess of 97% of the Trust's incoming resources were ultimately Government funded and whilst this level is expected to continue, there is no assurance that Government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms.

In addition, the support staff pay award proposed for April 2022 and the teachers pay award proposed for September 2022 and rising energy costs present significant financial challenges. The Government has brought in support for increased energy costs until March 2023 however, the level of support does not cover the full increase in costs that the Trust is exposed to.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Core funding from the ESFA has remained at £10,000 per pupil since the introduction of EHCPs many years ago and for the whole period that Learn@ MAT has been established without any review by DFE or uplift based on inflation, increasing pay and pension contribution costs. This has been raised for successive years with the DFE and ESFA without any practical response. Trustees are aware of the pressure this puts the Trusts specialist provisions under to keep finding the means to meet each young person's needs.

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

Reputational - the continuing success of the Trust is dependent on Local Authorities continuing to want to place young people in the Trust. To mitigate this risk Trustees, ensure that student progress and attendance are closely monitored and reviewed.

Safeguarding and child protection - the Trustees continue to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the areas of selection and monitoring of staff, the operation of child protection policies and procedures, health & safety and discipline. All of the Academies participate in an external audit of their Safeguarding procedures with Bristol City Council.

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

Fraud and mismanagement of funds - The Trust has appointed an external consultant to carry out checks on financial systems and records as required by the Academies Financial Handbook. All finance staff receive training to keep them up to date with financial practice requirements and develop their skills in this area.

The Trust has continued to strengthen its risk management process throughout the year by improving the process and ensuring staff awareness. A risk register is maintained, reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

The Trust has agreed a Risk Management Policy and a Risk Register. These have been discussed by Trustees and include the financial risks to the Trust. The register and plan are regularly reviewed in light of any new information and formally reviewed annually.

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, in particular those relating to its finances, teaching, facilities and other operational areas. The Trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess and minimise those risks, including internal controls described elsewhere. Where significant financial risk still remains, they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover.

Whilst the Trust is close to 100% occupancy rates, risks to revenue funding from a falling roll are small. However, funding arrangements for High Needs and increasing employment and premises costs mean that budgets will be increasingly tight in coming years.

The Trustees examine the financial health formally every term. They review performance against budgets and overall expenditure by means of regular update reports at all Board and Audit, Finance and Resources Committee meetings. The Trustees also regularly review cash flow forecasts and ensure sufficient funds are held to cover all known and anticipated commitments.

At the year end, the Trust had no significant liabilities arising from trade creditors or debtors that would have a significant effect on liquidity.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

The Board of Trustees recognises that the defined benefit pension scheme deficit (Local Government Pension Scheme), which is set out in note 25 to the financial statements, represents a significant potential liability. However, as the Trustees consider that the Trust is able to meet its known annual contribution commitments for the foreseeable future, this risk from this liability is minimised.

STREAMLINED ENERGY AND CARBON REPORTING

UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period	1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022	1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	2,556,408	2,157,270
<u>Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</u>		
Gas consumption	289	240
Owned transport – mini-buses	51	22
<u>Total scope 1</u>		
<u>Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</u>		
Purchased electricity	141	129
<u>Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</u>		
Business travel in employee owned vehicles	8	3
Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e	489	394
<u>Intensity ratio</u>	1.02	1.04
Tonnes CO2e per pupil		

Quantification and Reporting Methodology

We have followed the 2019 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. We have also used the GHG Reporting Protocol – Corporate Standard and have used the 2022 UK Government’s Conversion Factors for Company Reporting.

Intensity measurement

The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.

Measures taken to improve energy efficiency

Use of video conferencing technology has been increased for staff meetings, to reduce the need for travel between sites.

The Trust has one electric vehicle on an operating lease to be used from 1 September 2022.

Two of the schools have had new flat roofs installed which have much better insulation than what was previously in place which should result in a reduction in energy usage. In addition, a new boiler and heating system was installed on 2 of St Matthias Academy’s sites which is more efficient than its predecessor and therefore should result in reduction of energy usage.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

We have been informed by the Regions Group that Lansdown Park Academy and The Sky Academy will be rebrokered into a new Trust during 2022/23. The Trust will work with Cabot Learning Federation to ensure a smooth transition for both of those Academies.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

The Trustees have decided that the Trust will not be financially viable going forward as a group of 5 schools and are in discussions with the Regions Group with regards to the most appropriate Trust for the academies to transfer. The aim is that the transfer take place within the next 12 months and at this point Learn@ MAT will cease to operate.

We are presently in negotiations about the future of the remaining 5 Academies with the Regions Group.

Our key targets while remaining as Learn@ MAT are:

- Attendance 92%
- Reduce staff sickness absences
- Ofsted preparation
- Quality of teaching and learning
- School improvement and sharing of good practice

We have appointed an interim Director of Performance and Improvement, and Director of People to enable the Trust to work towards the above targets.

AUDITORS

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are 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 auditors are aware of that information.

The auditors, Bishop Fleming LLP, have indicated their willingness to continue in office. The designated Members will propose a motion reappointing the auditors at a meeting of the Members.

The Trustees' Report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 12 December 2022 and signed on its behalf, by:

G Grimshaw
(Chair of Trustees)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

The Trustees commissioned a Governance review in September 2022.

The Trust employed a company to undertake an executive search for a new Chair of Trustees and additional Trustees with specific skills and knowledge.

The Trustees have reviewed how issues are communicated between the Academy Councils and the Board of Trustees and had developed a list of 'red flags' that must be brought to the attention of the Board.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive Officer, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Learn@ MAT and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

GOVERNANCE

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 10 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Andrea Wills	9	10
Stephen Bradshaw	5	5
Gus Grimshaw	9	10
Julie Atherton	1	1
Helen Bond	9	10
Desmond Brown	0	1
Eileen Flynn	9	10
Toby Kempster	6	10
Avril Marshall	5	10
Ray Moorcroft	7	10
Lucia Quattrone	1	7
Jen Southall	4	7
Paula Young	2	3

The Board of Trustees has been going through a period of change. There have been a number of resignations during the year due to personal commitments. The Board commissioned Nurole to undertake an executive search to identify potential Trustees and the Board are currently reviewing applications.

The Board's work has focussed on:

- Preparing a strategy for the next 3 years
- Analysing the Ofsted outcomes during the year and self evaluating how the Board can have better oversight of the Academies particularly when it comes to the quality of education
- Appointing an interim CEO
- The Board has faced a number of challenges during the year and has commissioned a Governance Review to assist with identifying the best way of addressing these issues. The key issues identified have been:
 - Process for recruiting a CEO
 - Communication between Academy Councils and Board of Trustees
 - Receiving appropriate data in order to hold Trust leaders to account
 - The Board has reviewed the information that it receives and has requested the following changes:

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

- Weekly reporting of student and staff attendance and occupancy rates
- More streamlined trust monitoring form
- A summarised report from the CFOO to identify the key items that need to be brought to the Board's attention
- Identification of 'red flags' by Headteachers and Academy Councils of key issues that need to be brought to the Board's attention.

The Regions Group commissioned a Governance Review during the year; however this review was not concluded. The Board commissioned their own Governance Review in August 2022 which was concluded in October 2022. The Trustees are going through the process of drawing up an action plan to address the recommendations made.

A key change that the Board made during the year was to not appoint subsequent CEOs as Trustees in order to be able to hold them to account more effectively. In addition, the CEO is no longer a member of Academy Councils; they still attend meetings to provide information but the Board decided that independent members of the Academy Council were in a position to provide more robust challenge.

The Audit, Finance and Resources Committee is a subcommittee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to monitor, evaluate and review policy and performance in relation to financial management, premises management, staffing, compliance with reporting and regularity requirements receiving Internal Assurance reports and drafting the annual budget including setting staffing levels. It also incorporates the role of an audit committee.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Ray Moorcroft	6	6
Helen Bond	5	6
Gus Grimshaw	6	6
Avril Marshall	0	2
Lucia Quattrone	2	4

REVIEW OF VALUE FOR MONEY

As Accounting Officer the Chief Executive Officer has responsibility for ensuring that the Academy Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received. The Accounting Officer considers how the Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the Board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate. The Accounting Officer for the Academy Trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Robust financial governance and budget management. The Trust has built up reserves to get to its target level by close monitoring of budgets and all members of staff being as economical as possible.
- Undertaking a competitive tendering process for procurement of HR Management software.
- There has been an on-going review of financial controls during the year and incremental improvements made.

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 ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks the achievement of Academy Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Learn@ MAT for the period from 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 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 ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that have been in place for the period from 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

THE RISK AND CONTROL FRAMEWORK

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

- Comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Trustees.
- Regular reviews by the Audit, Finance and Resources Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes.
- Setting targets to measure financial and other performance.
- Clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines
- Identification and management of risks.
- The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided: not to appoint an internal audit. However the Trustees have appointed One West to perform checks on internal controls.
- The external consultant's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy Trust's financial systems. In particular the checks carried out in the current period included:
 - Inventory
 - HR and Payroll
 - Anti-Fraud
 - Information Governance
 - Business Continuity

After each visit the external consultant reports to the Board of Trustees, through the Audit, Finance and Resources Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities.

The external consultant delivered their schedule of work as planned. The following recommendations were made: 3 high, 17 medium and 3 low. The 3 high priority recommendations were all in relation to data protection.

REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS

As Accounting Officer the Chief Executive Officer has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

- On discharge of the Board of Trustees financial decisions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress
- The work of the external consultant.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

- The work of external auditors.
- The work of the executive managers within the Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- Insert Examples - (reference example statements document for guidance)

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

Approved by order of the Trustees of the Board of Trustees on 12 December 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

G Grimshaw
Chair of Trustees

S Bradshaw
Accounting Officer

STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As accounting officer of Learn@ MAT I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust's Board of Trustees and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the Academy Trust Handbook, under the funding agreement in place between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022.

I confirm that I and the Academy Trust's Board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the Academy Trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Trust's funding agreement and the Academy Trust Handbook 2022.

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

S Bradshaw
Accounting Officer

Date: 12 December 2022

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022;
- 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;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:

G Grimshaw
Chair of Trustees

Date: 12 December 2022

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF LEARN@ MAT

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of Learn@ MAT (the 'trust') for the year ended 31 August 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Trust's affairs as at 31 August 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

BASIS FOR OPINION

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

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of a basis other than going concern in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

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

EMPHASIS OF MATTER

We draw attention to the Trustees' report and the disclosures made in note 1.2 to the financial statements, which explain that the Academy Trust plans to cease to operate within the next academic year and expects to transfer all of its assets and liabilities to another trust on the 1st June 2023. Accordingly, the accounts have been prepared on a basis other than going concern. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF LEARN@ MAT (CONTINUED)

OTHER INFORMATION

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

OPINION ON OTHER MATTERS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

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

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

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the Trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report including the Strategic Report.

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

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

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the 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 Trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF LEARN@ MAT (CONTINUED)

AUDITORS' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

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

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the Academy sector, control environment and the Trust's performance;
- results of our enquiries of management and the Trustee board, including the committees charged with governance over the Trust's finance and control, about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the Trust's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to: identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance; detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or noncompliance with laws and regulations; and assessment of the impact of schools joining the Trust in relation to these areas;
- how the Trust ensured it met its obligations arising from it being financed by the ESFA and other funders, and as such material compliance with these obligations is required to ensure the Trust will continue to receive its public funding and be authorised to operate, including around ensuring there is no material unauthorised use of funds and expenditure;
- how the Trust ensured it met its obligations to its principal regulator, the Secretary of State for Education; and
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team and involving relevant internal Academy specialists regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud, which included incorrect recognition of revenue, management override of controls using manual journal entries, procurement and payroll. We identified the greatest potential for fraud as incorrect recognition of revenue and management override using manual journal entries.

In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override. We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the Trust operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the Academies Accounts Direction, Academies Trust Handbook 2022, UK Companies Act, Charity Law, Charity SORP and tax legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the Trust's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included safeguarding regulations, data protection regulations, occupational health and safety regulations, education and inspections legislation, building legislation and employment legislation.

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF LEARN@ MAT (CONTINUED)

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess the recognition of revenue;
- enquiring of Trustees and management and those charged with governance concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing procedures to confirm material compliance with the requirements of its regulators;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing internal control reports; and
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; and assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from an error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it.

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

USE OF OUR REPORT

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

David Butler FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of
Reporting Accountant
Bishop Fleming LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
10 Temple Back
Bristol
BS1 6FL

16 December 2022

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO LEARN@ MAT AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 23 October 2020 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Learn@ MAT during the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF LEARN@ MAT'S ACCOUNTING OFFICER AND THE REPORTING ACCOUNTANT

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Learn@ MAT's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 24 August 2017 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2021, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

APPROACH

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

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

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

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

Our work on regularity included a review of the internal controls policies and procedures that have been implemented and an assessment of their design and effectiveness to understand how the academy complied with the framework of authorities. We also reviewed the reports commissioned by the trustees to assess the internal controls throughout the year.

We performed detailed testing based on our assessment of the risk of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance. This work was integrated with our audit on the financial statements where appropriate and included analytical review and detailed substantive testing of transactions. The date of the funding agreement also needs to be entered.

LEARN@ MAT
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

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

CONCLUSION

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggest in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Reporting Accountant
Bishop Fleming LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
10 Temple Back
Bristol
BS1 6FL

Date: 16 December 2022

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	702	-	24,969,682	24,970,384	10,744,734
Other trading activities		56,332	-	-	56,332	2,503
Investments	6	349	-	-	349	164
Charitable activities		670,175	18,026,596	-	18,696,771	14,550,424
Total income		727,558	18,026,596	24,969,682	43,723,836	25,297,825
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities		501,121	19,059,706	1,642,924	21,203,751	16,043,574
Total expenditure		501,121	19,059,706	1,642,924	21,203,751	16,043,574
Net income/(expenditure)		226,437	(1,033,110)	23,326,758	22,520,085	9,254,251
Transfers between funds	17	-	(721,693)	721,693	-	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		226,437	(1,754,803)	24,048,451	22,520,085	9,254,251
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	25	-	9,871,000	-	9,871,000	(1,533,000)
Net movement in funds		226,437	8,116,197	24,048,451	32,391,085	7,721,251
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		950,010	(11,198,364)	54,869,136	44,620,782	36,899,531
Net movement in funds		226,437	8,116,197	24,048,451	32,391,085	7,721,251
Total funds carried forward		1,176,447	(3,082,167)	78,917,587	77,011,867	44,620,782

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 30 to 58 form part of these financial statements.

LEARN@ MAT
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
REGISTERED NUMBER:10377760

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	78,881,323	54,528,703
		<u>78,881,323</u>	<u>54,528,703</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	15	2,216,059	2,162,978
Cash at bank and in hand		3,518,876	2,465,428
		<u>5,734,935</u>	<u>4,628,406</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(3,211,391)	(1,743,327)
Net current assets		2,523,544	2,885,079
Total assets less current liabilities		81,404,867	57,413,782
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	25	(4,393,000)	(12,793,000)
Total net assets		77,011,867	44,620,782
Funds of the Trust			
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	17	78,917,587	54,869,136
Restricted income funds	17	1,310,833	1,594,636
		<u>80,228,420</u>	<u>56,463,772</u>
Restricted funds excluding pension reserve	17	80,228,420	56,463,772
Pension reserve	17	(4,393,000)	(12,793,000)
Total restricted funds	17	75,835,420	43,670,772
Unrestricted income funds	17	1,176,447	950,010
Total funds		77,011,867	44,620,782

The financial statements on pages 27 to 58 were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and are signed on their behalf, by:

G Grimshaw
Chair of Trustees

S Bradshaw
Chief Executive Officer

Date: 12 December 2022

The notes on pages 30 to 58 form part of these financial statements.

LEARN@ MAT
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	19	2,078,962	182,438
Cash flows from investing activities	21	(1,025,514)	78,459
Cash flows from financing activities	20	-	396,540
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		1,053,448	657,437
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		2,465,428	1,807,991
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	22, 23	3,518,876	2,465,428

The notes on pages 30 to 58 form part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

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 OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements of the Trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historic cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

1.2 GOING CONCERN

As described in note 29, all of the assets, liabilities and activities of the Academy Trust are expected to transfer to another trust on the 1st June 2023. At this time the Academy Trust will cease all activities. Accordingly, these accounts are prepared on a basis other than as a going concern. However, given that the academy will be carried on by a new trust, no adjustments to, or reclassifications of, the amounts included in these accounts have been required.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.3 INCOME

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

• **Grants**

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

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the year is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

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

• **Donations**

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

• **Other income**

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

• **Transfer on conversion**

Where assets and liabilities are received by the Trust on conversion to an academy, the transferred assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the Balance Sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the Trust. An equal amount of income is recognised as a transfer on conversion within 'Income from Donations and Capital Grants' to the net assets received.

1.4 EXPENDITURE

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

• **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.5 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost of these assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Leasehold property	- 10 - 50 years or over the life of the lease
Furniture and equipment	- 10% straight line
Computer equipment	- 33% straight line
Motor vehicles	- 20% straight line

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

1.6 OPERATING LEASES

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

1.7 DEBTORS

Trade and other debtors with no stated interest rate and due within one year are recorded at the amount of the cash or other consideration expected to be received. Prepayments are valued at the amount paid.

1.8 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account and cash on deposit that has a notice period of less than 30 days.

1.9 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 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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.10 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Trust only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the Trust and their measurement bases are as follows:

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 15. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 16. 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.

1.11 TAXATION

The 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 Trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Part 11, chapter 3 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

1.12 PENSIONS

Retirement benefits to employees of the Trust are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ("TPS") and the Local Government Pension Scheme ("LGPS"). These are defined benefit schemes.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the 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 on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently, the TPS is treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

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

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.13 AGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

The Trust acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from the ESFA. Payments received from the ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the Statement of Financial Activities as the Academy Trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The Academy Trust can use up to 5% of the allocation towards its own administration costs and this is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities. The funds received, paid and any balances held at period end are disclosed in note 29.

1.14 FUND ACCOUNTING

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

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

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

Transfers are made between restricted funds and restricted fixed asset funds where restricted funds are used to purchase fixed assets.

2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND AREAS OF JUDGEMENT

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 25, 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 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2022. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgement:

The Trust obtains use of fixed assets as a lessee. The classification of such leases as operating or finance lease requires the Trust to determine, based on an evaluation of the terms and conditions of the arrangements, whether it retains or acquires the significant risks and rewards of ownership of these assets and accordingly whether the lease requires an asset and liability to be recognised in the Balance Sheet.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

3. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Transfer on conversion	-	-	-	-	9,971,126
Donations	702	-	24,137,291	24,137,993	241,598
Capital Grants	-	-	832,391	832,391	532,010
	<u>702</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,969,682</u>	<u>24,970,384</u>	<u>10,744,734</u>
TOTAL 2021	<u>404,689</u>	<u>(2,136,779)</u>	<u>12,476,824</u>	<u>10,744,734</u>	

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

4. FUNDING FOR THE TRUST'S CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
EDUCATION				
DFE/ESFA GRANTS				
General Annual Grant	-	5,720,000	5,720,000	4,039,534
OTHER DFE/ESFA GRANTS				
Pupil Premium	-	267,007	267,007	210,601
Universal Infant Free School Meals	-	-	-	1,350
PE and Sport Premium	-	40,280	40,280	36,333
Rates reimbursement	-	6,645	6,645	11,392
Project Development grant	-	44,705	44,705	47,253
Teachers' Pay and Pension grant	-	402,047	402,047	272,608
Start Up grant	-	-	-	25,000
Other DfE grants	-	81,300	81,300	12,000
	-	6,561,984	6,561,984	4,656,071
OTHER GOVERNMENT GRANTS				
High Needs	-	10,740,380	10,740,380	8,956,511
LA Pupil Premium	-	50,535	50,535	27,868
Other Government Grants	7,360	597,979	605,339	453,235
	7,360	11,388,894	11,396,254	9,437,614
COVID-19 ADDITIONAL FUNDING (DFE/ESFA)				
COVID-19 Recovery Premium	-	75,718	75,718	101,325
	-	75,718	75,718	101,325
OTHER FUNDING				
Other Income	408,476	-	408,476	355,414
Boarding Income	200,000	-	200,000	-
External catering income	40,115	-	40,115	-
Internal catering income	8,564	-	8,564	-
Sales to students	5,660	-	5,660	-
	662,815	-	662,815	355,414
	670,175	18,026,596	18,696,771	14,550,424
TOTAL 2021	368,406	14,182,018	14,550,424	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

5. INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Lettings	7,396	7,396	2,503
Catering	48,936	48,936	-
	<u>56,332</u>	<u>56,332</u>	<u>2,503</u>

6. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Bank interest	349	349	164
	<u>349</u>	<u>349</u>	<u>164</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

7. EXPENDITURE

	Staff Costs 2022 £	Premises 2022 £	Other 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
EDUCATION:					
Direct costs	12,760,146	1,642,519	1,937,802	16,340,467	12,337,445
Allocated support costs	2,100,031	1,378,860	1,384,393	4,863,284	3,706,129
	<u>14,860,177</u>	<u>3,021,379</u>	<u>3,322,195</u>	<u>21,203,751</u>	<u>16,043,574</u>
TOTAL 2021	<u>11,785,900</u>	<u>2,286,001</u>	<u>1,971,673</u>	<u>16,043,574</u>	

8. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES

	Activities undertaken directly 2022 £	Support costs 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Education	<u>16,340,467</u>	<u>4,863,284</u>	<u>21,203,751</u>	<u>16,043,574</u>
TOTAL 2021	<u>12,337,445</u>	<u>3,706,129</u>	<u>16,043,574</u>	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

8. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

ANALYSIS OF DIRECT COSTS

	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Pension finance costs	189,600	110,000
Staff costs	12,033,556	9,778,908
Depreciation	1,642,519	1,167,606
Educational supplies	1,330,897	718,797
Examination fees	21,720	14,961
Staff development	146,483	103,558
Other costs	32,779	20,892
Supply staff costs	659,939	260,818
Educational consultancy	282,974	161,905
	16,340,467	12,337,445

ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Pension finance costs	47,400	72,000
Staff costs	2,166,682	1,746,174
Recruitment and support	80,089	72,552
Maintenance of premises and equipment	699,288	427,672
Cleaning	136,247	91,259
Rent and rates	126,650	133,062
Energy costs	221,161	136,808
Insurance	217,676	176,921
Security and transport	195,514	152,673
Catering	282,693	176,463
Technology Costs	381,331	285,083
Office overheads	77,805	36,426
Legal and professional	223,087	193,266
Bank interest and charges	2,455	1,779
Governance costs	5,206	3,991
	4,863,284	3,706,129

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

9. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Operating lease rentals	75,015	73,060
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	1,642,519	1,167,606
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	19,140	17,400
- other services	3,675	1,510
	=====	=====

10. STAFF

a. STAFF COSTS

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	9,815,901	8,045,375
Social security costs	963,018	754,568
Pension costs	3,346,783	2,580,078
	=====	=====
	14,125,702	11,380,021
Agency staff costs	659,939	260,818
Staff restructuring costs	74,536	145,061
	=====	=====
	14,860,177	11,785,900

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Redundancy payments	74,536	107,284
Severance payments	26,886	37,777
	=====	=====
	101,422	145,061

b. SPECIAL STAFF SEVERANCE PAYMENTS

There were 2 non-contractual severance payments made in the year totalling £26,886, individually they were £10,386 and £16,500.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

10. STAFF (CONTINUED)

c. STAFF NUMBERS

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

	2022	2021
	No.	No.
Teachers	75	68
Educational Support	136	108
Care	33	39
Administration and support	71	62
Leadership	29	21
	<hr/> 344 <hr/>	<hr/> 298 <hr/>

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	2022	2021
	No.	No.
Teachers	72	62
Educational support	111	86
Care	30	33
Administration and support	52	43
Leadership	29	21
	<hr/> 294 <hr/>	<hr/> 245 <hr/>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

10. STAFF (CONTINUED)

d. HIGHER PAID STAFF

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

	2022	2021
	No.	No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	6	5
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	2	1
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	1	1
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	1	-
In the band £100,001 - £110,000	-	1
In the band £130,001 - £140,000	-	1
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The above employees participated in the Teachers' Pension Scheme with the exception of one employee who participated in the Local Government Pension Scheme. Annual equivalent pension contributions during the period for these staff members amounted to £161,992 (2021: £137,393).

e. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The key management personnel of the Trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Trust was £850,090 (2021: £700,934).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

11. CENTRAL SERVICES

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

- Educational Psychologist
- Speech and Language Therapy
- School Improvement Partners
- Finance
- Human Resources
- Legal
- Information Technology
- Training and CPD
- Health and Safety
- Payroll
- Mental Health Specialist
- Careers, Education, Information, Advice and Guidance

The Trust charges for these services on the following basis:

7.5% (5% for new converter schools) of General Annual Grant and High Needs funding calculated on budgeted values. If an Academy requires a specific service then this is recharged to them and included in the central fund contribution.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Knowle DGE Academy	599,412	317,246
Lansdown Park Academy	225,825	172,827
Notton House Academy	510,599	263,344
St Matthias Academy	135,468	106,070
Soundwell Academy	331,025	60,209
The Sky Academy	110,160	49,543
TOTAL	1,912,489	969,239

12. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

The previous Chief Executive Officer was the only staff Trustee of the Trust, and received remuneration in respect of services provided in undertaking the role of Chief Executive Officer, and not in respect of their services as a Trustee. The value of Trustees remuneration and expenses was as follows: Remuneration £90,000 - £100,000 (2021: £135,000 - £140,000), Employer's pension contributions £20,000 - 25,000 (2021: £15,000 - 20,000).

During the year ended 31 August 2022, expenses totalling £265 were reimbursed (2021 - £384 to 1 Trustee).

Other related party transactions involving the Trustees are set out in note 28.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

13. TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE

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

14. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Long-term leasehold property £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
COST OR VALUATION					
At 1 September 2021	57,233,995	261,785	605,807	68,220	58,169,807
Additions	25,447,886	249,913	290,657	7,089	25,995,545
Disposals	-	(83)	(6,673)	-	(6,756)
At 31 August 2022	<u>82,681,881</u>	<u>511,615</u>	<u>889,791</u>	<u>75,309</u>	<u>84,158,596</u>
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 September 2021	3,382,663	30,774	189,482	38,185	3,641,104
Charge for the year	1,377,371	36,529	213,853	14,766	1,642,519
On disposals	-	(23)	(6,327)	-	(6,350)
At 31 August 2022	<u>4,760,034</u>	<u>67,280</u>	<u>397,008</u>	<u>52,951</u>	<u>5,277,273</u>
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 August 2022	<u><u>77,921,847</u></u>	<u><u>444,335</u></u>	<u><u>492,783</u></u>	<u><u>22,358</u></u>	<u><u>78,881,323</u></u>
At 31 August 2021	<u><u>53,851,332</u></u>	<u><u>231,011</u></u>	<u><u>416,325</u></u>	<u><u>30,035</u></u>	<u><u>54,528,703</u></u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

15. DEBTORS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade debtors	213,539	258,731
Other debtors	3,417	2,000
Prepayments and accrued income	1,533,966	1,741,555
Tax recoverable	465,137	160,692
	2,216,059	2,162,978

16. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	1,273,867	240,731
Other taxation and social security	243,222	204,342
Other creditors	292,869	349,737
Accruals and deferred income	1,401,433	948,517
	3,211,391	1,743,327
	2022	2021
	£	£
Opening deferred income balance at the start of the period	58,960	6,642
Resources deferred during the year	507,478	58,960
Amounts released from previous periods	(58,960)	(6,642)
	507,478	58,960

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

17. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS						
General Funds	950,010	727,558	(501,121)	-	-	1,176,447
RESTRICTED GENERAL FUNDS						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,491,391	5,720,000	(5,534,795)	(423,254)	-	1,253,342
Pupil Premium	-	267,007	(265,732)	(1,275)	-	-
PE and Sport Premium	11,774	40,280	(52,054)	-	-	-
Rates Relief	-	6,645	(6,645)	-	-	-
Project Development Grant	55,151	44,705	(99,856)	-	-	-
High Needs	-	10,740,380	(10,740,380)	-	-	-
Other ESFA	-	110,302	(110,302)	-	-	-
Other Local Authority grants	8,333	84,060	(83,966)	(7,427)	-	1,000
Transferred on conversion	2,420	-	(507)	-	-	1,913
Teachers' Pay and Pension Grants	-	402,047	(402,047)	-	-	-
COVID-19 Catch Up Premium	-	75,718	(75,718)	-	-	-
COVID Mass Testing	-	27,431	(27,431)	-	-	-
John James Foundation	18,443	45,687	(2,553)	(18,426)	-	43,151
Knowle DGE Academy 6th Form	-	100,000	(26,531)	(73,469)	-	-
Other restricted	7,124	79,415	(73,112)	(2,000)	-	11,427
Post-opening Grant	-	76,500	(76,500)	-	-	-
FFE & ICT Grant	-	206,419	(10,577)	(195,842)	-	-
Pension reserve	(12,793,000)	-	(1,471,000)	-	9,871,000	(4,393,000)
	(11,198,364)	18,026,596	(19,059,706)	(721,693)	9,871,000	(3,082,167)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

17. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
RESTRICTED FIXED ASSET FUNDS						
Fixed assets transferred on conversion	51,627,630	-	(1,011,057)	-	-	50,616,573
Fixed assets purchased from GAG and other restricted	3,241,506	24,969,682	(631,867)	721,693	-	28,301,014
	<u>54,869,136</u>	<u>24,969,682</u>	<u>(1,642,924)</u>	<u>721,693</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>78,917,587</u>
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	<u>43,670,772</u>	<u>42,996,278</u>	<u>(20,702,630)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,871,000</u>	<u>75,835,420</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>44,620,782</u></u>	<u><u>43,723,836</u></u>	<u><u>(21,203,751)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>9,871,000</u></u>	<u><u>77,011,867</u></u>

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

General Annual Grant (GAG) - income from the ESFA which is to be used for the normal running costs of the Trust, including education and support costs.

Pupil Premium - represents funding received from the ESFA for children that qualify for free school meals and who have ceased to be looked after by a local authority in England and Wales because of adoption, a special guardianship order, or child arrangements order to enable the Trust to address the current underlying inequalities.

PE and Sport Premium - funding received from the ESFA and must be used to fund improvements to the provision of PE and sport, for the benefit of primary-aged pupils, so that they develop healthy lifestyles.

Rates Relief - reimbursed rates incurred by the Trust.

Project Development Fund - funding received from the ESFA and Gloucestershire County Council for pre-opening costs of Soundwell Academy and Brook Academy which opened in September 2022.

High Needs - funding received from Local Authorities to fund further support for young people with additional needs.

Other ESFA - This represents other ESFA funding.

Other Local Authority grants - This represents funding from the Local Authority for Looked After Children, funding for a parent and family support worker and funding for an outreach programme.

Transferred on Conversion – unspent grants held by The Sky Academy at the point of conversion. Funds include Devolved Formula Capital, COVID-19 Mass Testing Funding and other restricted funds.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

17. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Teachers' Pay and Teachers' Pension Grant - Government funding received to help cover the increase in teachers' pay and pension costs.

COVID-19 Catch-up Premium – funding from the ESFA to support children and young people to catch up on missed learning caused by COVID-19.

COVID-19 Mass Testing Funding – funding from the ESFA for the additional costs incurred to facilitate the rapid COVID-19 testing of staff and pupils from January 2021.

John James Foundation - This represents funding received from the John James Foundation to create new Design and Technology classrooms, a new outdoor education area and for rewards for young people.

Knowle DGA Academy 6th Form - Funding from Bristol City Council for the purchase of ICT and FFE.

Other restricted - This represents other restricted funds.

Post-opening Grant (POG) – income from the ESFA which is to be used to fund the additional costs in establishing a new publicly-funded school which cannot be met through the GAG. The POG provides funding in two elements as the free school grows: non-staffing resources, paid on a per place basis, and a leadership grant. These titles reflect the basis on which the funding is calculated, but the grant can be spent on any legitimate purpose of the school.

Pension reserve - This represents the Local Government Pension Scheme deficit.

FIXED ASSET FUNDS

Fixed assets transferred on conversion - This represents the building and equipment donated to the Trust on conversion to academy status.

Fixed assets purchased from GAG and other restricted - This represents amounts spent on fixed assets from the GAG funding received from the ESFA and income from other sources specifically for the purchase of fixed assets, including fixed assets donated to the Trust.

OTHER INFORMATION

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 2022

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

17. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2021 £
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS						
General Funds - all funds	394,254	775,762	(220,006)	-	-	950,010
RESTRICTED FUNDS						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,166,258	4,039,534	(3,556,128)	(158,273)	-	1,491,391
Pupil Premium	-	210,601	(204,681)	(5,920)	-	-
PE and Sport Premium	1,312	36,333	(24,374)	(1,497)	-	11,774
Rates Relief	-	11,392	(11,392)	-	-	-
Project Development Grant	132,539	47,253	(123,359)	(1,282)	-	55,151
High Needs	-	8,956,511	(8,956,511)	-	-	-
Other ESFA	-	25,000	(25,000)	-	-	-
Trust Capacity Fund	-	150,000	(74,475)	(75,525)	-	-
Other Local Authority grants	1,880	48,075	(41,622)	-	-	8,333
Transferred on conversion	-	43,221	(32,655)	(8,146)	-	2,420
COVID-19 Catch Up Premium	-	97,200	(95,475)	(1,725)	-	-
COVID Mass Testing	-	143,110	(143,110)	-	-	-
John James Foundation	37,098	5,000	(4,315)	(19,340)	-	18,443
Other restricted	11,386	43,901	(32,616)	(15,547)	-	7,124
Post-opening Grant	-	95,500	(95,500)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(8,118,000)	(2,180,000)	(962,000)	-	(1,533,000)	(12,793,000)
	<u>(6,767,527)</u>	<u>11,772,631</u>	<u>(14,383,213)</u>	<u>(287,255)</u>	<u>(1,533,000)</u>	<u>(11,198,364)</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

17. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

**RESTRICTED
FIXED ASSET
FUNDS**

Fixed assets transferred on conversion	40,779,300	11,727,573	(879,243)	-	-	51,627,630
Fixed assets purchased from GAG and other restricted	2,493,504	749,251	(288,504)	287,255	-	3,241,506
	<u>43,272,804</u>	<u>12,476,824</u>	<u>(1,167,747)</u>	<u>287,255</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>54,869,136</u>
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	<u>36,505,277</u>	<u>24,249,455</u>	<u>(15,550,960)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,533,000)</u>	<u>43,670,772</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>36,899,531</u></u>	<u><u>25,025,217</u></u>	<u><u>(15,770,966)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>(1,533,000)</u></u>	<u><u>44,620,782</u></u>

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2022 were allocated as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Knowle DGE Academy	555,787	678,441
Lansdown Park Academy	254,708	270,589
Notton House Academy	503,535	506,270
St Matthias Academy	270,820	140,503
Soundwell Academy	329,275	73,981
The Sky Academy	220,410	490,130
Central Services	294,439	384,732
	<u>2,428,974</u>	<u>2,544,646</u>
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	2,428,974	2,544,646
Restricted fixed asset fund	78,917,587	54,869,136
Pension reserve	(4,393,000)	(12,793,000)
TOTAL	<u><u>76,953,561</u></u>	<u><u>44,620,782</u></u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

17. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

TOTAL COST ANALYSIS BY ACADEMY

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Knowle DGE Academy	2,315,771	748,463	590,704	680,295	4,335,233	4,418,151
Lansdown Park Academy	963,141	453,132	250,877	404,956	2,072,106	2,303,404
Notton House Academy	1,861,185	609,161	211,819	504,284	3,186,449	3,701,938
St Matthias Academy	806,192	421,288	147,535	267,863	1,642,878	1,440,454
Soundwell Academy	1,295,225	424,284	252,315	356,343	2,328,167	895,947
The Sky Academy	1,050,528	675,536	385,419	377,874	2,489,357	1,106,503
Central Services	297,259	648,958	435,024	2,125,801	3,507,042	1,009,571
TRUST	8,589,301	3,980,822	2,273,693	4,717,416	19,561,232	14,875,968

18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	78,881,323	78,881,323
Current assets	1,176,447	4,522,224	36,264	5,734,935
Creditors due within one year	-	(3,211,391)	-	(3,211,391)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(4,393,000)	-	(4,393,000)
TOTAL	1,176,447	(3,082,167)	78,917,587	77,011,867

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS (CONTINUED)

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	54,528,703	54,528,703
Current assets	1,133,875	3,154,098	340,433	4,628,406
Creditors due within one year	(183,865)	(1,559,462)	-	(1,743,327)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(12,793,000)	-	(12,793,000)
TOTAL	<u>950,010</u>	<u>(11,198,364)</u>	<u>54,869,136</u>	<u>44,620,782</u>

19. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2022 £	2021 £
Net income for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	<u>22,520,085</u>	<u>9,254,251</u>
ADJUSTMENTS FOR:		
Loss on disposal of fixed asset	406	141
Depreciation	1,642,519	1,167,606
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(832,391)	(532,010)
Interest receivable	(349)	(164)
Net assets and liabilities from Local Authority on conversion	-	(9,971,126)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	1,234,000	780,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	237,000	182,000
Donated Fixed Assets	(24,137,291)	-
Increase in debtors	(53,081)	(396,200)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	1,468,064	(302,060)
NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	<u>2,078,962</u>	<u>182,438</u>

20. CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES

	2022 £	2021 £
Net cash received on conversion to an Academy Trust	-	396,540
NET CASH PROVIDED BY FINANCING ACTIVITIES	<u>-</u>	<u>396,540</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

21. CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES

	2022	2021
	£	£
Interest received	349	164
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(1,858,254)	(1,310,520)
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA	832,391	1,388,815
NET CASH (USED IN)/PROVIDED BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES	(1,025,514)	78,459

22. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Cash in hand and at bank	3,518,876	2,465,428
TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	3,518,876	2,465,428

23. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At 1 September 2021	Cash flows	At 31 August 2022
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	2,465,428	1,053,448	3,518,876
	2,465,428	1,053,448	3,518,876

24. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

	2022	2021
	£	£
CONTRACTED FOR BUT NOT PROVIDED IN THESE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS		
Acquisition of tangible fixed assets	196,288	172,479

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

25. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The 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 Learn@ MAT. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016 and of the LGPS 31 March 2019.

Contributions amounting to £243,222 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2022 (2021 - £204,107) and are included within creditors.

TEACHERS' PENSION SCHEME

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

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

VALUATION OF THE TEACHERS' PENSION SCHEME

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2016. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 5 March 2019. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 23.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy)
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £218,100 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £196,100 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £22,000 million
- the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 2.4% above the rate of CPI, assumed real rate of return is 2.4% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.2%. The assumed nominal rate of return including earnings growth is 4.45%.

The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2023.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £925,253 (2021 - £771,835).

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

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The Trust has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The Trust has set out above the information available on the scheme.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

25. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2022 was £1,417,000 (2021 - £1,075,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £1,127,000 (2021 - £833,000) and employees' contributions totalled £ 290,000 (2021 - £242,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 16.6 per cent for employers and 5.5 to 12.5 per cent for employees.

As described in note the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the Trust, who were the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who were eligible to, and did, join the Scheme in the year. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the Trust at the balance sheet date.

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.

PRINCIPAL ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS

	2022	2021
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	4.3	4.3
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.9	2.9
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	4.3	1.7
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.8	2.8

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

	2022	2021
	Years	Years
Retiring today		
Males	23.1	23.3
Females	25.3	25.4
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	24.6	24.8
Females	27.3	27.4

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

25. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

SHARE OF SCHEME ASSETS

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

	At 31 August 2022	At 31 August 2021
	£	£
Equities	3,822,000	3,114,000
Gilts	916,000	707,000
Other bonds	676,000	591,000
Property	676,000	459,000
Cash and other liquid assets	28,000	131,000
Other	3,138,000	2,289,000
TOTAL MARKET VALUE OF ASSETS	9,256,000	7,291,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £(166,000) (2021 - £899,000).

The amounts recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities are as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Current service cost	(2,361,000)	(1,610,000)
Interest income	142,000	99,000
Interest cost	(350,000)	(257,000)
Benefit changes, gain/(loss) on curtailment and gain/(loss) on settlement	(48,000)	(3,000)
Administrative expenses	(29,000)	(24,000)
TOTAL AMOUNT RECOGNISED IN THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	(2,646,000)	(1,795,000)

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

	2022	2021
	£	£
AT 1 SEPTEMBER	20,084,000	12,797,000
Upon conversion	-	2,959,000
Current service cost	2,361,000	1,613,000
Interest cost	350,000	257,000
Employee contributions	290,000	242,000
Actuarial losses/(gains)	(10,179,000)	2,331,000
Benefits paid	743,000	(115,000)
AT 31 AUGUST	13,649,000	20,084,000

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

25. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

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

	2022	2021
	£	£
AT 1 SEPTEMBER	7,291,000	4,679,000
Upon conversion	-	779,000
Interest income	142,000	99,000
Actuarial gains	(308,000)	798,000
Employer contributions	1,127,000	833,000
Employee contributions	290,000	242,000
Benefits paid	743,000	(115,000)
Administration expenses	(29,000)	(24,000)
AT 31 AUGUST	9,256,000	7,291,000

26. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

At 31 August 2022 the Trust had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
AMOUNTS PAYABLE:		
Within 1 year	88,147	67,984
Between 1 and 5 years	165,836	130,383
	253,983	198,367

27. MEMBERS' LIABILITY

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

28. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Owing to the nature of the Trust's operations 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 a trustee has an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the Trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

The only related party transactions which occurred during the year were the reimbursement of expenses incurred by the Trustees, as outlined in note 12.

There are 3 employees of the Trust who are close family members of Trustees. All 3 employees were recruited via an open process and their close family members were not involved in the recruitment process. All of the employees are remunerated in line with the Trust's pay policy and are on normal pay scale for their role. No employees receive special treatment as a result of their relationship with Trustees.

29. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

The trustees' have taken the decision to rebroker all schools within the Trust to other Academy Trusts. Their expectation is that on 1 June 2023 the Academy Trust will transfer its academies, together with all assets and liabilities, to another trust. The Trust will cease all activities.

30. AGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

The Academy Trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for the ESFA. In the accounting period ended 31 August 2022 the Academy Trust received £3,754 (2021: £3,678) and disbursed £961 (2021: £124) from the fund. An amount of £7,777 (2021: £6,772) is included in other creditors related to undistributed funds that is repayable to the ESFA.