

Value for Money Statement

Academy trust name: The Thomas Hardy School

Academy trust company number: 7677838

Year ended 31 August 2014

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

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

Improving Results

Our curriculum ensures that all students have the opportunity to succeed and attain their full potential. This includes collaboration with other providers such as Kingston Maurward and Weymouth College.

Staffing is reviewed in each term, and all subjects are staffed by specialists in that subject. The curriculum is also reviewed to ensure it is fair, and accessible to all students. The AQA baccalaureate has been successfully introduced in the Sixth Form as a cost effective alternative to the International Baccalaureate

Our key indicator of 5 A* to C including Maths and English was 67% which matches last year's results taken from Raiseonline. This has been achieved in the context of a fall in national results of around 7%.

Value added data shows that our students make significantly better progress than expected. The gap between the attainment of Pupil Premium and non Pupil Premium students also continued to narrow.

Raiseonline shows that Pupil Premium students made more progress than expected by a typical student.

The schools results for all students are in the top 11% for progress nationally, and the top 6% for the Progress 8 measure that will become the main success measure next year.

All students are carefully tracked and interventions put into place where necessary. The school has been restructured to give more tailored support to students. Interventions are logged and evaluated for impact.

Pupil premium funding is carefully monitored, with funding ring-fenced and the spending broken down on the schools website as required.

The value added trend in A level results measured by ALPs continues to be outstanding. Last year's results were the best the school has achieved, and were the best in Dorset. This was achieved although the number of lessons was reduced to achieve better value for money.

Outside agencies are employed to give independent advice and guidance. Mental health professionals look after the emotional needs of students and a team of guidance leaders also give one to one support.

New courses are assessed for their suitability. Last year's trial with iGCSE English was a success and has been further developed.

Lecture style lessons have been successfully used in the sixth form so that more students are able to experience the best teaching. This has been extended to Guided Independent Learning

Good practice and CPD opportunities are shared with feeder schools to best achieve value for money.

There were no NEETs in last year's year 11 cohort.

Financial Performance

Financial governance is robust, with suitably qualified governors sitting on the finance sub-committee.


The school budget is broken down into the categories required by the finance committee. All of these budget headings are carefully monitored and corrective action taken where necessary. The amounts allocated to these budgets are reviewed annually.

Management accounts are prepared and issued monthly to the sub-committee, to enable regular scrutiny and ensure value for money.

Budget projections are made to enable short and long term financial plans to be made.

A cash flow forecast is maintained, and surplus balances are invested from time to time in order to generate extra income as opportunity permits.

Tenders/quotes are obtained as appropriate to ensure value for money, for example we are currently in the middle of an EU tender for a new printing and reprographics management system.

Signed: 

Name: Mike Foley

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 18/12/14