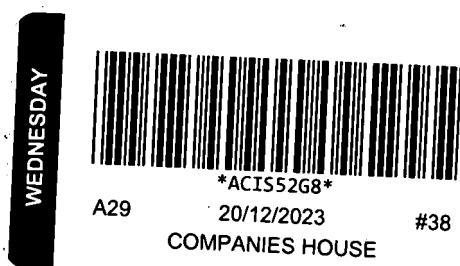


Company Registration Number: 07682819 (England & Wales)

THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023



**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Trustees	J Bakker, Chair ^{1,2,3,4,5} J Birnie (resigned 23 May 2023) ^{2,5} A Aram ^{2,5} Helen Burch (appointed 12 December 2022) C Clifford-Budden (appointed 12 December 2022) S Franklin (appointed 12 December 2022) F George (appointed 12 December 2022) D Mason, Chair of Curriculum ^{2,4,5} G Parmenter, Vice Chair ^{2,4,5} A Remoiville ^{1,2} E Ford (resigned 10 October 2022) M Ibrahimovic (appointed 12 December 2022) G Williams ^{2,5} N Williamson ^{1,5} L Peele ^{3,4,5} T Forsythe, Vice Chair ^{2,4,5} P Hutton ^{3,5} F Leroy ^{3,5} A Tuersley ^{3,5} C Drew, Head Teacher ^{1,3,4} ¹ Finance and Planning committee ² Curriculum committee ³ Personnel and Student Welfare committee ⁴ Chairs' Coordinating Group ⁵ Member
Company registered number	07682819
Company name	The Commonweal School
Principal and registered office	Old Town The Mall Swindon Wiltshire SN1 4JE
Company secretary	C Cox
Chief executive officer	C Drew
Senior management team	C Drew, Headteacher P Battye, Assistant Headteacher M Drew, Assistant Headteacher J Matcham, Assistant Headteacher, Head of Sixth Form C Cox, Business Manager J Woods, Assistant Headteacher A Merk, Deputy Headteacher (student support) N Bartlett, Deputy Headteacher (curriculum)

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

Independent auditors	Bishop Fleming LLP Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditors 10 Temple Back Bristol BS1 6FL
Bankers	Lloyds Bank Plc 5 High Street Swindon SN1 3EN
Solicitors	Veale Wasborough Vizards LLP Narrow Quay House Narrow Quay Bristol BS1 4QA

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the Charitable Company for the year ended 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purpose of both a Trustees' report, and a Directors' report under company law.

The Trust operates an academy for pupils aged 11 to 19 in Swindon. It has a pupil capacity, including the Sixth Form, of 1,394 and had a roll of 1,404 in the school census on 5 October 2023.

The Commonweal School is a genuinely comprehensive 11-19 mixed secondary school in the Old Town Community of Swindon. Students on roll come from a diverse range of backgrounds, both socio-economically and linguistically with over 40 nationalities represented.

Students come from 4 feeder primary schools, although students also come from over 25 other primary schools. The demography of the cohort is further complicated by a specialist resource provision which draw from further afield.

As of September 2022, the school has;

- 10 students in the Physically Impaired Specialist Resource Provision

The school's inclusivity is also reflected by the fact that it has 40 students with an EHCP, 245 students on the SEN register, three visually impaired students, a number of students have a hearing impairment and a number are on the Autistic Spectrum. As of Summer Term 2023 there were at least 200 students receiving some form of intervention.

The school reserves up to 15 places per Year 7 cohort for students able to demonstrate genuine ability in the Performing Arts.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The Charitable Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust. The Trustees of The Commonweal School are also the directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law. The Charitable Company is known as The Commonweal School. Details of the Trustees who served throughout the year are included in the Reference and Administration 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 cease to be a member.

Trustees' Indemnities

Trustees benefit from indemnity insurance purchased at the Academy Trust's expense to cover the liability of the Trustees which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to them in respect of any negligence, default or breach of trust or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the Academy Trust, provided that any such insurance shall not extend to any claim arising from any act or omission which the Trustees knew to be a breach of trust or breach of duty or which was committed by the Trustees in reckless disregard to whether it was a breach of trust or breach of duty or not and provided also that any such insurance shall not extend to the costs of any unsuccessful defence to a criminal prosecution brought against the Trustees in their capacity as Directors of the Academy Trust. The limit of this indemnity is unlimited. In accordance with normal commercial practice the Academy has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy business. The insurance provides unlimited cover on any one claim.

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

On 1 August 2011 the Trustees appointed all those Trustees that served the predecessor school to be Trustees of the newly formed Academy. These Trustees were appointed for a term of office that would end when their original term at the predecessor school would have ended, thus ensuring a staggered re-election or replacement process.

The Academy Trust shall have the following Trustees as set out in its Articles of Association and funding agreement:

- Up to 10 Appointed Trustees who are appointed by members.
- Up to 7 Parent Trustees who are elected by Parents of registered students at the Academy (a minimum of 2 Parent Governors to be in office at any time).
- Up to 4 staff Trustees appointed by the school staff, including the Headteacher, a minimum of one teacher and one support staff member.

Trustees are appointed for a four year period, except that this time limit does not apply to the Headteacher. 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 give consideration to the skills and experience mix of existing Trustees in order to ensure that the Board has the necessary skills to contribute fully to the Academy's development.

Policies and Procedures adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

The Academy has implemented a Trustee Recruitment, Induction and Training policy, available from the Governance Professional (previously Clerk to the Trustees).

The training and induction provided for new Trustees will depend upon their existing experience but would always include a tour of the Academy and a chance to meet staff and pupils. All Trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Trustees. As there are normally only two or three new Trustees a year, induction tends to be done informally and is tailored specifically to the individual. Advantage is taken of specific courses offered by the Local Authority and other bodies.

Organisational Structure

The Board of Trustees normally meets once each term. The Board establishes an overall framework for the governance of the Academy 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.

- **Finance and Planning Committee** - this meets once a term and is responsible for monitoring, evaluating and reviewing policy and performance in relation to financial and premises management, compliance with reporting and regulatory requirements and reporting, receiving reports from Internal Auditor / Finance Governors and drafting the annual budget including setting staffing levels. It also reviews the risk register at every meeting and incorporates the role of an audit committee;
- **Curriculum Committee** - this meets once a term to monitor, evaluate and review Academy policy, practice and performance in relation to curriculum planning, communications, target setting and assessment, examinations and all pastoral issues;
- **Personnel and Welfare of Students Committee** - this meets once a term to monitor, evaluate and review Academy policy, practice and performance in relation to staffing and student welfare, including safeguarding of children; and
- **Chairs' Coordinating Group** – this meets regularly between meetings of the Full Governing Body to coordinate agendas and discuss overarching issues related to school governance and management.

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

The following decisions are reserved to the Board of Trustees; to consider any proposals for changes to the status or constitution of the Academy and its committee structure, to appoint or remove the Chair and/or Vice Chair/s, to appoint the Headteacher and Governance Professional, to approve the Annual Development Plan and budget.

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

The Trustees and Board of Trustees have devolved responsibility for day to day management of the Academy to the Headteacher and Senior Management Team (SMT). The SMT comprises the Headteacher, a Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum), a Deputy Headteacher (Student Support), four Assistant Headteachers and the Business Manager. In addition, there will be two SMT Secondee's for the whole of the 2023-24 academic year. The SMT implement the policies laid down by the Trustees and report back to them on performance.

The Academy has a leadership structure which consists of the Trustees, The Senior Management Team and Team Leaders. The aim of the leadership structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels.

The Headteacher, Business Manager and Finance and Planning Committee are responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets; a summary of this is in the Scheme of Delegation. Some spending control is devolved to Budget Holders which must be authorised in line with the Scheme of Delegation.

The Headteacher is responsible for the appointment of staff, though appointment panels for teaching posts always include a Governor. The Headteacher is the Accounting Officer.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees and the Senior Management Team comprise the key management personnel of the Academy 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.

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

The pay ranges for key management personnel have been established in accordance with the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD). Pay for these personnel is reviewed annually and normally increased in accordance with the STPCD.

THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent employee number
2	2

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	0
1%-50%	2
51%-99%	0
100%	0

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Provide the total cost of facility time	£4,652.90
Provide the total pay bill	£4,032,392
Provide the percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time, calculated as: (total cost of facility time / total pay bill) x 100	0.12%

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours calculated as: (total hours spent on paid trade union activities by relevant union officials during the relevant period / total paid facility time hours) x 100	100%
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Connected Organisations, including Related Party Relationships

The Academy has strong collaborative links with its feeder primary schools and also has an active Parent Teacher Association (PTA). There are no related parties which either control or significantly influence the decisions and operations of The Commonweal School.

Two ex-Headteacher's are trustees of the Charles Adam Prize Fund, a charity with the objective of raising funds, through investments, for the Academy's science facility. Further details on the Charles Adam Prize Fund are disclosed in Note 28 of these financial statements.

The Academy, on occasion, uses the Croft Leisure facilities and has a shared use agreement between the Academy and the Leisure centre..

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects and Aims

The principal object and activity of the Academy is to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing a school, offering a broad range of curriculum for pupils of different abilities, with a strong emphasis on Academic excellence, Global Learning and the Performing Arts.

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

The aims of the Academy during the period ended 31 August 2023 are summarised below:

- To continue to raise the standard of educational attainment and achievement of all students;
- To provide a rich and stimulating school experience;
- To provide a broad and balanced curriculum, including enrichment activities;
- To develop students as more effective learners;
- To promote and develop the school values of responsibility, resilience reflection, cooperation, contribution and compassion;
- To develop the Academy site so that it enables students to achieve their full potential;
- To ensure that every child enjoys the same high-quality education in terms of resourcing, tuition and care;
- To improve the effectiveness of the Academy by keeping the curriculum and organisational structure under continual review;
- To improve pupil outcomes at Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5;
- To provide value for money for the funds expended;
- To develop ever greater coherence, clarity and effectiveness in school systems;
- To comply with all appropriate statutory and curriculum requirements;
- To maintain close links with industry, commerce and higher education;
- To develop the Academy's capacity to manage change;
- To conduct the Academy's business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness; and
- To do all of the above in accordance with the school values.

At the Commonweal School we aim to get the best for, and from, each child. We intend to enable each child to realise his or her full academic, creative and physical potential and to develop positive social and moral values. Our Academy is a community in which students, staff and parents should be part of a happy and caring environment.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

September 2022 – August 2023

Academic performance:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic grades were allocated based on Teacher Assessed Grades and not on examination results in 2021.

Year	Attainment 8 score
2018	46.5
2019	46.3
2020	51.4
2021	49.5
2022	49.3
2023	47.2

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Measure	% of students achieving grade 4+ 2018	% of students achieving grade 4+ 2019	% of students achieving grade 4+ 2020	% of students achieving grade 4+ 2021	% of students achieving grade 4+ 2022	% of students achieving grade 4+ 2023
English	74	70	81	82	71	75
English Literature	67	65	81	75	76	75
Maths	67	73	74	78	71	77
English & Maths	62	62	71	72	64	70
Ebacc	27	32	16	17	28	16

Measure	% of students achieving grade 5+ 2018	% of students achieving grade 5+ 2019	% of students achieving grade 5+ 2020	% of students achieving grade 5+ 2021	% of students achieving grade 5+ 2022	% of students achieving grade 5+ 2023
English	57	54	61	59	58	57
English Literature	50	45	61	58	55	55
Maths	46	41	53	51	49	51
English & Maths	41	32	47	44	64	45
Ebacc	19	20	13	13	21	11

Key Stage 5

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic grades were allocated based on Teacher Assessed Grades and Calculated Grades, not on examination results in 2021.

Key Measures	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
A*-B (A-Level) %	25	45	60	57	48	43
A*-E (A-Level) %	94	99.6	100	100	95	94
AAB in 2 facilitating subjects %	4	6	10	13	7	8
3+ A*-E (A Level)	52	65	56	46	59	50
2+ A*-E (A Level)	85	91.7	83	77	77	79
A Level VA Score	TBC	TBC	TBC	+0.37	N/A	N/A

School Development Plan 2022-23

Priority 1: Improve the implementation and impact of the curriculum

- Review KS4 and KS5 results and set bespoke T&L and curriculum actions for each faculty area;
- Faculty term by term strategic planning system providing clarity and efficiency;
- Teacher coaching system improving practice of all teaching staff;
- Consistency of teacher use of Preferred Pedagogy further embed and developed;
- Consistency of student pedagogy improved;

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

- Literacy gains embedded and further developed;
- Homework used more effectively to increase learning;
- Assessment and feedback used more effectively to increase learning;
- KS3 achievement increased;
- Enrichment offer reviewed and evolved to increase relevance, uptake, and impact;
- Clarity of progress in books/folders increased; and
- KS2-3 curriculum alignment maintained in English, Maths and MFL. Increased in Humanities and Science.

Priority 2: Improve student support systems to better support students

- More effective prevention and response to child-on-child sexual abuse;
- Restructured Faculty of Curriculum Support, providing more efficient oversight of provision;
- National Tutoring Programme more effective at meeting needs of all students;
- Peer education system established that benefits Year 12 students and provides mentoring and tuition for KS3 and KS4;
- Revised safeguarding systems effective and efficient;
- Supervision in place for student support staff;
- More effective interventions to address SEMH and trauma;
- Cost effective and impactful use of Alternative Provision;
- Expansion of triage system to address need more effectively and more quickly;
- Effective attendance monitoring and intervention that increases attendance;
- More consistently effective implementation of tutor programme;
- Behaviour system is more effective for students on S8-12 ;
- Fewer non-uniform items worn to school. Uniform consistently worn correctly by all; and
- KS4 Rewards system that motivates and enthuses students.

Priority 3: Cross-curricular delivery of the Global Learning values, skills, and knowledge

- Consistent and effective delivery of Global Learning values across the curriculum;
- Consistent and effective delivery of Global Learning skills across the curriculum;
- Consistent and effective delivery of Global Learning knowledge across the curriculum; and
- Updated school branding to represent Global Learning dimension.

Priority 4: Successfully navigate the related challenges of student recruitment, staff recruitment, funding, Ofsted, and MATs

- Year 7 2023-24 is full;
- Year 12 2023-24 is full;
- Improved staff recruitment through more effective advertising;
- Ofsted inspection rated good in all categories;
- All MAT options explored, and preferred MAT options agreed;
- A balanced budget;
- Significant improvement the school premises;
- Covid ready so we can react swiftly and effectively if/when required;
- New school routines updated, and their impact increased; and
- Effective CPD for all roles. Including coaching for teachers and bespoke training for support staff.

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

Support functions

Budget:

Tight control maintained throughout the year, with effective and regular monitoring of performance and cash flow. Catch Up funding was received from Central Government to fund specific activities to help student's catch up on missed lessons. Funding had to particularly focus on disadvantaged and vulnerable students. During the 2022/23 school year the school focused on improving the school site for the benefit of students, and used reserves towards this activity.

Premises (room conversions; ESFA application(s); upkeep of premises):

- Refreshing the Humanities and main floor corridor areas was undertaken through painting, furniture replacement, and carpeting, in Year 1 of a school wide classroom refresh programme;
- LED lighting installation in Year 1 of an LED lighting replacement programme;
- Canopies built to provide outdoor cover for breaktimes;
- Demolition of an unused modular building to provide further outdoor space;
- Directional signage throughout the site;
- Window and door replacements through CIF funding;
- Flooring vents and outer waterproofing to prolong the life of temporary modular buildings;
- Site wide tannoy system installation;
- Conversion of 2 rooms to create a gym and spin room through Wiltshire and Swindon Sport funding
- Interactive white boards in all classrooms which did not yet have these in place; and
- PC modernisation to commence an upgrade programme.

Ongoing review of communication & financial systems (e.g. School Gateway & BACS):

Review undertaken of the continuation of SIMS usage, with a migration to Arbor agreed for next school year (January 2024).

Procurement:

Tender process commenced for the catering contract, with the effective date for a new catering provider being January 2024.

Recruitment & retention of staff:

All posts successfully filled with high quality staff throughout the 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 Commissioner's general guidance on public benefit in exercising their powers or duties. They have referred to this guidance when reviewing the Academy's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities.

The Academy aims to advance for the public benefit, education in Swindon and the surrounding area. In particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by estimating, maintaining, managing and development schools, offering a broad curriculum with a strong emphasis on, but in no way limited to the specialism of the Performing Arts. The Academy 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 an Academy we have a duty to support other schools. Our named school upon applying for Academy status was Lethbridge Primary School. We support this school through use of our premises and specialist skills in all relevant areas, as identified through our Partnership Development Plan.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

STRATEGIC REPORT

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The Academy is in its thirteenth year of operation and occupancy is close to the total Planned Admission Number (PAN) of students for 11-16 year olds. Numbers have stabilised in the Sixth Form as it enters its tenth year of operation. The Academy has a waiting list in operation, the Year 7 PAN for September 2024 is 195. The Academy is oversubscribed in a number of year groups and was significantly over subscribes for Year 7 2023-24. The PAN for Year 7 2025-26 is under review and may be increased if capacity can be found.

Numbers in the Sixth Form have stabilised over time, with 145 students starting in September 2019, 156 starting in September 2020, 152 starting in September 2021, 150 starting in September 2022 and 147 on roll in Year 12 in November 2023.

Whole school priorities for the coming year will focus on:

School Development Plan 2023-24

Priority 1: Improve the Wellbeing of Staff

- Effective and consistent application of a new Flexible Working Policy;
- Provide effective supervision all to Student Support staff who want or need it;
- Make high quality gym facilities conveniently available for staff;
- Maintain highest possible levels of staffing to share workload;
- School Calendar planned strategically to balance distribution of workload;
- Use an updated Performance Management timeline to allow for earlier pay progression;
- Implementation of a more pleasant system of timing bells;
- Embedded programme of site refreshment works covering carpets, walls, furniture etc. In classrooms, social spaces and offices;
- Use of proactive HR intervention to help staff manage the various demands on them;
- Review and revise formal assessment so workload is reduced while effectiveness is maintained or improved;
- Devise and implement a Mental Health strategy to support staff and students;
- Reduced Use of Period 6 in the timetable;
- Maintained or reduced teaching staff loadings;
- Effective migration to a better MIS than SIMS to improve efficiency and reduce workload;
- Delivery of a programme of wellbeing activities for staff across the year; and
- Equality and diversity objectives implemented effectively.

Priority 2: Improve the implementation and impact of the curriculum

- Consistent and effective delivery of Global Learning values and skills across the curriculum;
- Further develop literacy teaching to increase progress in writing and improve the quality and depth of written work across the KS3 curriculum;
- Assessment, Feedback (Progress in Work), MEG reviews, Exam processes;
- Curriculum Review KS4, HW KS3 & 4, alignment (Transition KS2 - 3);
- Curriculum Review KS5, HW KS5, alignment (Transition KS4 - 5); and
- Wider community engagement/staff contribution.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

Priority 3: Improve student support systems to better support students

- Implement a mental health strategy;
- Monitor SEMH offer review – post Tamhs traded hours;
- Implement Virtual TG guidance and place on provision map as an intervention;
- Review young carers policy and register;
- Implement attendance procedures;
- Implement new tutor support package;
- Implement Compass project and measure impact;
- Implement new KS4 and KS5 rewards;
- Implement triage process for EAL/SEND;
- Review behaviour outside lessons/duties and review impact;
- Implement provision map across the school;
- Co-ordinate Commonweal voice, students ambassadors and house officials; and
- Review CPOMS analysis.

Priority 4 Successfully navigate the related challenges of effective collaboration, student recruitment, staff recruitment, funding and Ofsted

- Collaborate effectively with other schools, locally and nationally, to gain insights and expertise and to contribute to system leadership;
- Collaborate effectively with other professionals such as LA, DfE and researchers to gain insights and expertise and to contribute to system leadership;
- Full cohort in Year 7;
- Full cohort in Year 12;
- Continue to be fully and appropriately staffed;
- Increase staff expertise in areas where it is currently limited e.g. Science;
- Review and improve the recruitment process to attract and employ the best possible employees;
- Migrate to an alternative MIS that better serves the needs of the school;
- Maintain the school site so that it is safe and effective for students;
- Develop and improve the site so that it better serves the needs of students;
- Maintain a balanced budget – outside of reserves spend on capital and time limited projects; and
- Review admin systems around HR, trips and visits, staff induction, staff absence, staff exit and policy update.

To ensure that standards are continually assessed, the Academy operates an intensive programme of Monitoring and Evaluation, which includes learning walks and lesson observations. All data is recorded in a software programme called SISRA which can analyse the CPD needs for a whole school approach or an individual member of staff.

The changing local context has meant that more students with very challenging behaviour are mobile in the local area. It has also meant that less high-quality Alternative Provision is available locally. The Academy's twin approach of using guidance and controls to address behaviour remains effective. The school upheld its behaviour policy, and suspended when necessary, ensuring that these students were suspended on a short term basis and did not miss education for too long.

Suspensions in 2022-2023 were lower than local levels. There were 92 total days of suspension. Suspension numbers have been consistently low over a significant period, reflecting well on our ethos of inclusion and the support for students provided by the Student Support Team and the restorative work carried out in the Behaviour for Learning Hub. Four students were permanently excluded from Commonweal during the school year. This is a high number by recent Commonweal standards and reflects a growing number of very challenging students.

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

The Academy was inspected by OFSTED in June 2023. This was an ungraded Section 8 inspection. Ofsted found that The Commonweal School continues to be a good school. There is enough evidence of improved performance to suggest that the school could be judged outstanding if we were to carry out a graded (section 5) inspection now.

During the year the Academy continued to renovate and improve the school site for the benefit of students. Using school reserves outdoor canopies were erected, and numerous classrooms refreshed with new carpets, furniture and paintwork, and an improvement of technology including upgraded PCs, interactive whiteboards, and a site-wide tannoy system to replace an existing process/system no longer fit for purpose.

The Academy progressed with the successful 2022-23 CIF bid with the 'Roofing Repairs and Replacement' project completed during the school year.

Continuing professional development for staff has been very successful with staff participating in training programmes, all of which feed into the SDP.

The Academy has continued its close links with King William Street School, Lethbridge School, Robert Le Kyng School and Even Swindon School as part of the Commonweal Cluster. The Academy has also continued its collaboration with Dorcan Academy, Pewsey Vale School and Abbey Park School. The Academy collaborates with local schools more broadly through active membership of Swindon Association of Secondary Headteachers, Swindon Fair Access Panel, Swindon Behaviour and Attendance Leaders, Swindon Sixth Form Network and Swindon Curriculum Deputies.

Key Performance Indicators

The main financial performance indicator is the level of reserves held at the Balance Sheet date, which are assessed against future requirements. Restricted GAG and unrestricted reserves carried forward at the year-end were £869,278 and £330,567 respectively.

As funding is based on pupil numbers this is also a key performance indicator. Pupil numbers for October 2023 were 1,404 an increase of 16 from the October 2022 pupil numbers of 1,388.

Student numbers in the Sixth form are stabilising around 300.

Going Concern

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

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Most of the Academy's income is obtained from the DfE via the ESFA in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the year ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as Restricted Funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Academy 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 Academy's accounting policies.

During the year ended 31 August 2023, total expenditure (excluding restricted fixed asset fund) of £8,777,077 was covered by recurrent grant funding from the DfE, together with other incoming resources of £9,171,825. The excess of income over expenditure for the year (excluding restricted fixed asset funds) was £394,748.

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

At 31 August 2023 the net book value of fixed assets was £18,141,829 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 students of the Academy.

Land and buildings were professionally valued on 31 August 2017 at £23,930,000. Other assets have been included in the financial statements at a best estimate, taking into account purchase price and remaining useful lives.

The Academy deficit on the Local Government Pension Scheme in respect of its support staff is detailed in Note 26 to the financial statements.

Key financial policies adopted or reviewed during the year include the major incident plan, procurement, debt recovery, lettings and health and safety.

Trustees have adopted an Internal Audit policy and appointed James Cowper Kreston to undertake a programme of internal checks on financial controls. James Cowper Kreston completed two internal assurance checks during the 2022-23 school year.

James Cowper Kreston produced reports for each of the three internal assurance checks for the Finance and Planning Committee. The report on governance and regularity was specifically requested by the Finance and Planning Committee, as it had been identified as an area of risk in the trust's risk register.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees review the reserve levels of the Academy 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 Academy, 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 approximately £650,000. The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance. Total reserves of the academy amount to £18,930,592 (excluding the defined benefit pension liability), although £17,730,387 of this is invested in fixed assets or represents non GAG restricted funds. The remaining £1,199,845 (representing £330,567 unrestricted funds and £869,278 unspent GAG) is the balance that the Trustees monitor in accordance with the Board's reserves policy. This represents 1.5 months of normal recurring expenditure.

The Trustees have reviewed the future plans of the Academy and decided to use reserves for staffing in the main school and Sixth Form, replacement of windows in the main school block, some minor capital projects, essential maintenance and the repayment of the Salix Loan.

The defined benefit pension scheme reserve has a negative balance. The effect of the deficit position of the pension scheme is that the Academy Trust is paying higher employers' pension contributions over a period of years. The higher employers' pension contributions will be met from the Academy 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 Academy Trust.

Investment Policy

Due to the nature of funding, the Academy 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.

Trustees are committed to ensuring that all funds under their control are managed in such a way as to maximise return whilst minimising risk. Any cash not required for operating expenses is placed on deposit at the most favourable rate available from providers covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

Day to day management of the surplus funds is delegated to the Headteacher and School Business Manager within strict guidelines approved by the Board of Trustees.

PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the major 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 principal risks and uncertainties facing the Academy are as follows:

Financial – the Academy has considerable reliance on continued Government funding through the ESFA. The Academy is also aware of the risk that employer's staff costs including pension contributions will increase for both LGPS and Teachers' Pension schemes over the next few years. As a result of the issues outlined above a potential drop in reserves is considered to be a risk, making continued sound financial planning and cash flow monitoring a priority. There is no assurance the Government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms.

Failures in governance and/or management - the risk in this area arises from potential failure to effectively manage the Academy'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.

Strategic – competition for students is considered to be a notable risk, especially with the opening of a new Free School in the local area in September 2019. In order to counter this risk the Academy has worked hard to develop its marketing strategy, whilst also continuing to maintain its excellent reputation, and to continue and develop strong links with the local community and feeder schools. In September 2023 the school was oversubscribed in both Year 7 and Year 12.

Operational – changes in key personnel within the Senior Management Team were considered to be a significant risk, but this has been managed through effective recruitment and succession planning.

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 a Safeguarding and Child Protection policies and procedures, health & safety and discipline.

Staffing - the success of the Academy 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 Academy has appointed James Cowper Kreston as their internal auditors to carry out checks on financial systems and records as required by the Academy Financial Handbook. All finance staff receive training to keep them up to date with financial practice requirements and develop their skills in this area.

Estates safety and management- The Trustees are responsible for ensuring the Trust's estate is safe, well maintained and complies with relevant legislation. As such the estate risks are managed by Trust, with the key risks including risk of serious personal accident on school premises, critical incident response not adequately planned or delivered and road traffic accidents.

Although student numbers in the Sixth Form are stable continuing to keep numbers stable poses a risk to the operation of the Key Stage 5 provision; this is continuing to be countered through budget setting and student recruitment efforts.

The Academy has continued to strengthen its risk management process throughout the year by improving the process and ensuring staff awareness. The risk register is maintained, reviewed and updated at every Finance and Planning Committee; the Full Governing Body view the register at every meeting.

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

The Academy has agreed a Risk Management Strategy, a Risk Register and a Risk Management Plan. These have been discussed by Trustees and include the financial risks to the Academy. 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 Academy 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 Academy is over-subscribed in many year groups, there is still a risk to revenue funding from a falling roll. Uncertainty surrounding the Government's overall education budget, changes in funding arrangements for High Needs, the recruitment of pupils into two relatively new schools in the area and increasing employment, premises and environmental costs mean that budgets will continue to 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 Finance and Planning 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 Academy had no significant liabilities arising from trade creditors or debtors that would have a significant effect on liquidity.

The Board of Trustees recognises that the defined benefit pension scheme deficit (Local Government Pension Scheme), which is set out in Note 26 to the financial statements, represents a significant potential liability. However, as the Trustees consider that the Academy is able to meet its known annual contribution commitments for the foreseeable future, this risk from this liability is minimised.

FUNDRAISING

The trustees are legally responsible for fundraising within the Academy. Trustees operate effective control of fundraising by acting in the best interests of the Academy, by managing resources responsibly, including protecting and safeguarding the Academy's reputation and by acting with reasonable care and skill.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

We aim:

- To prepare all our community to enter the modern, global world with the knowledge, skills and qualifications they need to build bright futures for themselves
- To prepare all our community with the values and perspectives they need to contribute to reshaping the world to the benefit of all
- To provide a rich and stimulating school experience for every student. This means the very best experiences both in and out of the classroom
- To always place the students first in everything we do
- To treat all members of the school community, and our wider community with care, decency, and respect

The Academy will continue to work within our cluster and with local partners.

Student numbers in the Sixth Form are now stable. The Academy will continue to support any additional revenue costs associated with the programme in order to ensure that the full range of courses can be offered.

The Academy will continue to work with partner schools to improve the educational opportunities for students in the wider community.

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

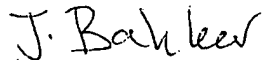
AUDITOR

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

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

The auditors, Bishop Fleming LLP, are willing to continue in office and a resolution to appoint them will be proposed at the annual general meeting.

The Trustees' Report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 12 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Dr Jokie Bakker
Chair of Trustees

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

As Trustees we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that The Commonweal School 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 Headteacher, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring that 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 The Commonweal School and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

GOVERNANCE

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 6 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
J Bakker, Chair	6	6
J Birnie (resigned 22 May 2023)	4	5
C Drew, Headteacher	6	6
D Mason, Chair of Curriculum	6	6
G Parmenter, Vice Chair	5	6
T Forsythe, Vice Chair	4	6
L Peele, Chair of Personnel and Welfare of Students	4	6
A Remoiville, Staff Governor	3	6
N Williamson, Chair of Finance and Planning	6	6
A Tuersley	5	6
F Leroy	3	6
P Hutton	3	6
A Aram	5	6
G Williams	4	6
F George (appointed December 2022)	5	6
S Franklin (appointed December 2022)	4	5
H Buch (appointed December 2022)	5	5
M Ibrahimovic (appointed December 2022)	4	5
C Clifford-Budden (appointed December 2022)	2	5

The Finance and Planning Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to approve, monitor and review the school budget, implement premises maintenance and asset management plans, review the risk register and to ensure that relevant health and safety standards are met in the school. The committee also acts as the Audit Committee.

Issues that have been dealt with over the period included: reviews and updates of the Risk Register, internal reviews of finances, approval of the 2021-22 Trustee Report and Annual Accounts, approval of the 2023-24 budget, oversee CIF application to repair/replace the remaining flat roofs. Numerous projects have been completed: a number classrooms have been updated, as part of an ongoing long term project to update teaching areas, numerous new IT items have been purchased, school signage has been installed, canopies have been installed, tarmac on sport facilities replaced, a roof has been replaced and various health and safety projects have been done.

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Dr Jokie Baker (Chair of Governors)	5	5
Mr Charles Drew (Headteacher)	5	5
Mr Neil Williamson (chair of Finance and Planning)	4	5
Mr Axel Remoiville	4	5
F George (appointed December 2022)	2	3
M Ibrahimovic (appointed December 2022)	2	3
Grev Parmenter (Vice-chair)	5	5

Governance review

The following was identified in Target 4 – Successfully Navigate the Related Threats of Student Recruitment, Funding and Ofsted of the School Development Plan.

Strategy – Ensure High Quality Governance

Success Criteria – Recruitment of additional governors, succession planning to fill roles, on-going training to meet needs, review of Single Academy Trust status and review of governance flat structure.

Actions were identified for each target. All the actions were completed by the end of August 2023.

After a resignation of a governor, governors recruited a new governor-in-waiting with comparable skills. Governors also successfully recruited a non-teacher staff governors with complementary skills to our current governors. Governors-in- waiting are invited to attend all governing body meetings for a period of six months before a decision is made on whether they will join the governing body.

The School Development Plan will be reviewed on a regular basis during 2023-24.

REVIEW OF VALUE FOR MONEY

As Accounting Officer, the Headteacher has responsibility for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer understands that value for money refers to the education and wider societal outcomes, as well as estates safety and management achieved in return for the taxpayer's 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 available. The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Robust financial governance and budget management;
- Value for money purchasing;
- Reviewing controls and managing risk;
- Considering allocation/targeting/use of resources;
- Not allocating time/resources to areas where few improvements can be achieved;
- Making comparisons with similar academies using data provided by the ESFA and the Government;
- Challenging proposals and examining their effectiveness and efficiency;
- Deploying staff effectively;
- Reviewing quality of curriculum provision and quality of teaching; and
- Reviewing quality of children's learning to enable children to achieve nationally expected progress.

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

Specific examples are given below:

- Venting work has been completed within our outdoor modular buildings to ventilate the underflooring area, with additional waterproofing and gutter repairs outside the buildings. These works have taken place to prolong the life of the buildings to avoid needing to replace the buildings in the short to medium term;
- 50% of LED light replacements have started as Year 1 of a 2-year replacement programme, reducing energy costs and the number of light repairs and replacements going forward;
- The school has accessed government funding through Wilshire and Swindon Sport to convert two under-utilised rooms into a high-end gym and spin bike facility. This increases our offering for students, and particularly Physically Impaired students who are able to use the facilities as part of their therapy work. It also created additional facilities useful for STFC student training;
- The school has used the knowledge and experience of the existing site team, and have invested in additional training for them, to use innovative materials for roof repairs. Completing roof repairs using our existing staff has saved the school money in 2023 by reducing our use of contractors for this type of work;
- During August 2023 150 PCs were replaced to facilitate a future upgrade to Windows 11, as due to the age of our existing PCs the school's Windows system is due to be unsupported. This work served to improve response speeds for students within lessons, supporting their experiences within the classroom and improving productivity in lessons. The school also replaced any remaining obsolete projectors and screens with interactive whiteboards, which also improves student experience and the quality of teaching within lessons;
- The school has continued to engage site staff to complete minor repairs and maintenance jobs around the whole school site. This has led to less outside contractors working on site and work completed in a timely manner. This strategy has saved the school both time and money;
- The school has arranged for canopies to be erected in the playground to provide additional outdoor space for students during breaktimes, with metal framed canopies being the most cost effective and long lasting option to provide shelters; and
- Effective use of budget forecast scenarios within the financial online package used by the school. Throughout the year scenarios have been generated based on up-to-date student numbers and projected student numbers, curriculum provision, staff availability, funding streams and the school development plan. These scenarios are built into the financial online package and have been used extensively to achieve best value for money across the entire academy.

THE PURPOSE OF THE SYSTEM OF INTERNAL CONTROL

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Academy Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in The Commonweal School for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

CAPACITY TO HANDLE RISK

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that have been in place for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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 Finance and Planning 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;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties; and
- identification and management of risks.

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and appointed James Cowper Kreston as internal auditor. James Cowper Kreston completed two internal assurance checks during the year 2023.

The internal auditor'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:

- The financial procedures manual, to ensure it is suitable for use;
- The monitoring undertaken by the finance team of the funds carried forward and budgets;
- A sample of purchases, to ensure that the entire quote, order, invoicing, and payment processes are appropriately followed and recorded;
- Management accounts, ensuring they are prepared on a monthly basis with an appropriate level of review;
- A review of the budget and revenue projections, including notifications to the ESFA if applicable;
- Ensuring there are budgets for greater than 1 year, including changes to income and expenditure expected within the sector;
- Budget variations are approved by the finance committee, and full board, with notifications to the ESFA if applicable;
- Reviewing the Finance / Audit Committee minutes to ensure a rigorous scrutiny and challenge by the Trustees;
- The process in place for the census reports, including the segregation of duties in this process;
- The scheme of delegation to ensure it is reviewed annually and updated where necessary;
- Expenditures testing to ensure that they are necessary, appropriate and that value for money has been obtained;
- The process of updating and adding approved suppliers;
- Procedures are followed when suppliers provide changes to their bank details, ensuring the notifications are genuine; and
- Creditor control account reconciliations for a sample of months, to ensure they are appropriately prepared and authorised.

James Cowper Kreston produced reports for each of the two internal assurance checks.

One high and three medium recommendations were identified following the June 2023 assurance check. The trust has welcomed these recommendations, and investigations are taking place into how these recommendations can be implemented.

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS

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

- the work of the internal auditor;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process; and
- the work of the executive managers within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 12 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



**Dr Jokie Bakker
Chair of Trustees**



**Mr Charles Drew
Accounting Officer**

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As Accounting Officer of The Commonweal School I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust Board of Trustees and the Education & Skills Funding Agency of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with ESFA terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management, 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 Academies Trust Handbook including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

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

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.



C Drew
Accounting Officer
Date: 12 December 2023

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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:

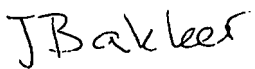
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

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


J Bakker
Chair of Trustees
Date: 12 December 2023

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of The Commonweal School (the 'Academy Trust') for the year ended 31 August 2023 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 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Academy Trust's affairs as at 31 August 2023 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 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

BASIS FOR OPINION

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

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

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

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

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

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

OTHER INFORMATION

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

OPINION ON OTHER MATTERS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

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

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

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

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

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

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

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

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

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Academy Trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
COMMONWEAL SCHOOL (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 Academy Trust's performance;
- results of our enquiries of management and the Trustee board, including the committees charged with governance over the Academy 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 Academy 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;
- how the Academy 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 Academy 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 Academy 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 who also considered 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 Academy 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, Academy Trust Handbook, UK Companies Act 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 Academy 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:

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
COMMONWEAL SCHOOL (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 Academy Trust's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Academy Trust's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Academy Trust and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Richard Newton FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of
Bishop Fleming LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
10 Temple Back
Bristol
BS1 6FL

Date: 15/12/23

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 4 January 2021 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by The Commonweal School during the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 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 The Commonweal School and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to The Commonweal School 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 The Commonweal School and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

**RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL'S ACCOUNTING OFFICER
AND THE REPORTING ACCOUNTANT**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Commonweal School's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 1 August 2011 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2022, 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 2022 to 2023. 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 2022 to 31 August 2023 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

APPROACH

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw our conclusion includes:

An assessment of the risk of material irregularity and impropriety across all of the Trust's activities;

Further testing and review of the areas identified through the risk assessment including enquiry, identification of controls processes and examination of supporting evidence across all areas identified as well as additional verification work where considered necessary; and

Consideration of evidence obtained through the work detailed above and the work completed as part of our audit of the financial statements in order to support the regularity conclusion.

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

In line with the Framework and guide for external auditors and reporting accountants of academy trusts issued April 2023, we have not performed any additional procedures regarding the Trust's compliance with safeguarding, health and safety and estates management.

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 2022 to 31 August 2023 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Bishop Fleming LLP

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

Date: 15/12/23

THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
INCOME FROM:						
Donations and capital grants	4	122,929	20,064	128,619	271,612	379,944
Other trading activities		6,356	-	-	6,356	9,861
Investments	7	8,278	24,000	-	32,278	193
Charitable activities		12,485	8,977,713	-	8,990,198	8,407,339
TOTAL INCOME		150,048	9,021,777	128,619	9,300,444	8,797,337
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Charitable activities		124,716	8,652,361	480,372	9,257,449	8,884,862
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		124,716	8,652,361	480,372	9,257,449	8,884,862
NET INCOME/ (EXPENDITURE)		25,332	369,416	(351,753)	42,995	(87,525)
Transfers between funds	18	-	(744,581)	744,581	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS/(LOSSES)		25,332	(375,165)	392,828	42,995	(87,525)
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	26	-	144,000	-	144,000	4,733,000
Pension surplus not recognised	26	-	(138,000)	-	(138,000)	(588,000)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUND		25,332	(369,165)	392,828	48,995	4,057,475
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:						
Total funds brought forward		305,235	1,250,782	17,325,580	18,881,597	14,824,122
Net movement in funds		25,332	(369,165)	392,828	48,995	4,057,475
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		330,567	881,617	17,718,408	18,930,592	18,881,597

The notes on pages 34 to 61 form part of these financial statements.

THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
REGISTERED NUMBER:07682819

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	14	18,141,829	17,620,899
		<u>18,141,829</u>	<u>17,620,899</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	15	299,901	471,243
Cash at bank and in hand		1,767,059	1,847,558
		<u>2,066,960</u>	<u>2,318,801</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(792,772)	(540,257)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>1,274,188</u>	<u>1,778,544</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>19,416,017</u>	<u>19,399,443</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	17	(485,425)	(517,846)
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u><u>18,930,592</u></u>	<u><u>18,881,597</u></u>
FUNDS OF THE ACADEMY TRUST			
RESTRICTED FUNDS:			
Fixed asset funds	18	17,718,408	17,325,580
Restricted income funds	18	881,617	1,250,782
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	18	<u>18,600,025</u>	<u>18,576,362</u>
UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS	18	<u>330,567</u>	<u>305,235</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u><u>18,930,592</u></u>	<u><u>18,881,597</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 31 to 61 were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and are signed on their behalf, by:

J Bakker

J Bakker
Chair of Trustees
Date: 12 December 2023

The notes on pages 34 to 61 form part of these financial statements.

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Net cash provided by operating activities	20	815,611	629,098
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	22	(864,405)	(133,732)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES	21	(31,705)	(34,990)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS IN THE YEAR		(80,499)	460,376
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,847,558	1,387,182
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR	23, 24	<u>1,767,059</u>	<u>1,847,558</u>

The notes on pages 34 to 61 form part of these financial statements

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The Commonweal School is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Old Town, The Mall, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN1 4JE.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

2.1 BASIS OF PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements of the Academy Trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historic cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

The Commonweal School meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

A former Headteacher and a former member of the Senior Management Team are the Trustees of the Charles Adam Prize Fund, a charity with the objective of holding investments to provide dividend income for the Academy's science facility. The Trustees accept that in substance the Academy may control the Fund but do not consider its exclusion to be material or misleading to the users of the financial statements. At the year the Fund held investments of £92,440 (2022: £82,822) and cash of £Nil (2022: £Nil).

2.2 GOING CONCERN

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

THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

2.3 INCOME

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

- **Grants**

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

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

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

- **Donations**

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

- **Other income**

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

2.4 EXPENDITURE

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

- **Charitable activities**

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

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

2.5 TAXATION

The Academy Trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

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

2.6 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 other than freehold land and assets under construction, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold property	- 50 years straight line
Fixtures and fittings	- 5 years straight line
Computer equipment	- 5 years straight line
Motor vehicles	- 10 years 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.

2.7 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

2.8 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.

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

2.9 LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS

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

2.10 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 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 notes 16 and 17. 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.

2.11 OPERATING LEASES

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

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

2.12 PENSIONS

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Academy Trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary 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 Academy Trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each Balance Sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

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

Under FRS 102 an entity shall only recognise a plan surplus as a defined benefit plan asset only to the extent that it is able to recover the surplus either through reduced contributions in the future or through refunds from the plan. Therefore when a pension scheme is valued at a surplus, it is recognised at a £Nil value.

2.13 AGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

The Academy acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from ESFA. Payments received from ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the Statement of Financial Activities as the Academy does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The Academy 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 30.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

2.14 FUND ACCOUNTING

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

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

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

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

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

3. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND AREAS OF JUDGMENT

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The Academy Trust 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 26, 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 2016 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. 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 judgment:

The Academy obtains use of fixed assets as a lessee. The classification of such leases as operating or finance lease required the Academy 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.

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

4. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Donations	122,929	20,064	-	142,993	98,272
Capital Grants	-	-	128,619	128,619	281,672
	<u>122,929</u>	<u>20,064</u>	<u>128,619</u>	<u>271,612</u>	<u>379,944</u>
Total 2022	<u>32,732</u>	<u>65,540</u>	<u>281,672</u>	<u>379,944</u>	

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

5. FUNDING FOR THE ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
EDUCATION				
DfE/ESFA GRANTS				
General Annual Grant	-	6,491,934	6,491,934	6,150,794
OTHER DfE/ESFA GRANTS				
Pupil premium	-	221,447	221,447	235,208
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	106,072	106,072	52,216
Teacher's pay and pension grants	-	59,103	59,103	81,755
16-19 Funding	-	1,496,686	1,496,686	1,386,008
Rates relief	-	-	-	19,563
	-	8,375,242	8,375,242	7,925,544
OTHER GOVERNMENT GRANTS				
High needs	-	270,341	270,341	319,313
	-	270,341	270,341	319,313
DfE/ESFA COVID 19 FUNDING				
Recovery Premium	-	64,939	64,939	24,774
Schools supplementary grant	-	199,965	199,965	83,213
	-	264,904	264,904	107,987
OTHER FUNDING				
Sales to students	-	-	-	3,779
Other	12,485	67,226	79,711	50,716
	12,485	67,226	79,711	54,495
	12,485	8,977,713	8,990,198	8,407,339
TOTAL 2022	27,437	8,379,902	8,407,339	

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

6. INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Lettings	6,356	6,356	9,861

7. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Bank interest	8,278	-	8,278	193
Pension income	-	24,000	24,000	-
	8,278	24,000	32,278	193
TOTAL 2022	193	-	193	

8. EXPENDITURE

	Staff Costs 2023 £	Premises 2023 £	Other 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
EDUCATION:					
Direct costs	5,948,570	-	762,469	6,711,039	6,633,851
Support costs	968,240	918,405	635,765	2,522,410	2,251,011
	6,916,810	918,405	1,398,234	9,233,449	8,884,862
Total 2021	6,569,844	855,806	1,459,212	8,884,862	

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

9. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES

	Direct costs 2023 £	Support costs 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Education	6,711,039	2,522,410	9,233,449	8,884,862
Total 2021	6,633,851	2,251,011	8,884,862	

ANALYSIS OF DIRECT COSTS

	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Pension finance costs	(19,000)	33,000
Staff costs	5,971,570	5,972,105
Educational supplies (including educational visits)	587,548	457,225
Examination fees	157,602	155,040
Other costs	13,319	16,481
	6,711,039	6,633,851

THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

9. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Pension finance costs	(5,000)	31,000
Staff costs	975,240	1,017,719
Depreciation	480,372	463,320
Staff development	22,745	19,019
Recruitment and support	5,654	19,281
Maintenance of premises and equipment	140,490	63,300
Cleaning	223,433	197,440
Rent and rates	-	19,563
Energy costs	277,059	112,183
Insurance	38,022	33,968
Security and transport	20,484	21,547
Catering	112,627	62,623
Technology costs	63,023	79,827
Office overheads	70,099	69,994
Legal and professional	77,369	20,624
Bank interest and charges	2,898	3,341
Governance	17,895	16,262
	<u>2,522,410</u>	<u>2,251,011</u>

10. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2023 £	2022 £
Operating lease rentals	13,579	7,629
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	480,372	463,320
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	10,200	9,300
- other services	2,000	1,875
	<u>495,751</u>	<u>481,924</u>

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

11. STAFF

a. STAFF COSTS

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	5,149,352	4,919,986
Social security costs	517,782	499,152
Pension costs	1,279,676	1,570,686
	<u>6,946,810</u>	<u>6,989,824</u>

b. STAFF NUMBERS

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

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Teachers	83	89
Teaching assistants	33	32
Administration and other support	40	39
Management	8	8
	<u>164</u>	<u>168</u>

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Teachers	75	74
Teaching assistants	21	19
Administration and other support	30	29
Management	8	8
	<u>134</u>	<u>130</u>

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

11. STAFF (CONTINUED)

c. HIGHER PAID STAFF

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

	2023 No.	2022 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	4	7
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	1	-
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	-	1
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	1	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

d. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £750,125 (2022: £725,763).

12. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

One or more Trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the Academy Trust. The principal and other staff Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff members under their contracts of employment. The value of Trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows: C Drew, Remuneration £90,000 - £95,000 (2022: £80,000 - £85,000) Employer's Pension £20,000 - £25,000 (2022: £15,000-£20,000); A Whetman, Remuneration £Nil (2022: £45,000-£50,000) Employer's Pension £Nil (2022: £5,000-£10,000); N Weaver, Remuneration £Nil (2022: £25,000- £30,000) Employer's Pension £Nil (2022: £5,000 - £10,000); A Remoiville, Remuneration £50,000- £55,000 (2022: £50,000 - £55,000) Employer's Pension £10,000- £15,000 (2022: £10,000- £15,000); W Butcher, Remuneration £Nil (2022: £30,000 - £35,000) Employer's Pension £Nil (2022: £5,000 - £10,000) and C Clifford- Budden, Remuneration £40,000- £45,000 (2022: £Nil), Employer's Pension £5,000- £10,000 (2022: £Nil).

During the year ended 31 August 2023, expenses totalling £176 were reimbursed or paid directly to 3 Trustees (2022 - £199 paid to 2 Trustees).

13. TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the Academy Trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £10,000,000 on any one claim. The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

14. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
COST OR VALUATION					
At 1 September 2022	21,151,632	413,762	413,717	53,353	22,032,464
Additions	674,254	109,350	217,698	-	1,001,302
At 31 August 2023	21,825,886	523,112	631,415	53,353	23,033,766
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 September 2022	3,703,348	362,917	296,984	48,316	4,411,565
Charge for the year	423,153	21,141	33,084	2,994	480,372
At 31 August 2023	4,126,501	384,058	330,068	51,310	4,891,937
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 August 2023	17,699,385	139,054	301,347	2,043	18,141,829
At 31 August 2022	17,448,284	50,845	116,733	5,037	17,620,899

Included in land and buildings is freehold land at valuation of £2,779,529 which is not depreciated.

15. DEBTORS

	2023 £	2022 £
DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		
Trade debtors	3,249	7,560
Other debtors	2,188	1,201
Prepayments and accrued income	189,297	408,490
Tax recoverable	105,167	53,992
	299,901	471,243

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

16. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Loans	86,027	32,421
Trade creditors	357,083	104,647
Other taxation and social security	123,520	118,793
Other creditors	145,104	144,129
Accruals and deferred income	81,038	140,267
	<u>792,772</u>	<u>540,257</u>

Included within loans is £509,248 (2022: £539,520) relating to an amount due to Swindon Borough Council and relates to a building refurbishment project that was completed pre conversion. The loan is unsecured and interest free. £30,272 (2022: £30,272) of the loan is due for repayment in less than one year.

Included within loans is a Salix loan relating to the CIF funding for the heating project. The loan is unsecured and interest free. The balance of the loan at the year end is £9,315 (2022: £10,748), of which £1,433 (2022: £2,149) of the loan is due for repayment in less than one year.

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

17. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Loans	485,425	517,846

Included within the above are amounts falling due as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
BETWEEN ONE AND TWO YEARS		
Other loans	31,705	31,705
BETWEEN TWO AND FIVE YEARS		
Other loans	95,115	95,115
OVER FIVE YEARS		
Other loans	358,605	391,026

The aggregate amount of liabilities payable or repayable wholly or in part more than five years after the reporting date is:

	2023 £	2022 £
Payable or repayable by instalments	360,038	391,741
	360,038	391,741

THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS						
General funds	305,235	150,048	(124,716)	-	-	330,567
RESTRICTED GENERAL FUNDS						
General Annual Grant	1,223,943	6,491,934	(6,169,420)	(677,179)	-	869,278
High needs	-	270,341	(270,341)	-	-	-
Pupil premium	3,470	221,447	(216,599)	-	-	8,318
Other DfE/ESFA grants	23,369	106,072	(104,723)	(20,697)	-	4,021
Teachers pay and pension grants	-	59,103	(59,103)	-	-	-
Donations	-	2,194	(2,194)	-	-	-
Other restricted income	-	85,096	(38,391)	(46,705)	-	-
16-19 funding	-	1,496,686	(1,496,686)	-	-	-
Recovery Premium	-	64,939	(64,939)	-	-	-
School supplementary grant	-	199,965	(199,965)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	-	24,000	(30,000)	-	6,000	-
	1,250,782	9,021,777	(8,652,361)	(744,581)	6,000	881,617
RESTRICTED FIXED ASSET FUNDS						
Fixed assets transferred on conversion	11,059,030	-	(211,062)	-	-	10,847,968
Fixed assets from GAG/ other restricted funds	217,322	-	(49,822)	714,309	-	881,809
Devolved formula capital	74,949	29,394	(54,090)	-	-	50,253
Capital grants	6,513,799	54,423	(163,063)	-	-	6,405,159

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Loan with Local Authority	(539,520)	-	-	30,272	-	(509,248)
Non government Grants	-	44,802	(2,335)	-	-	42,467
	<u>17,325,580</u>	<u>128,619</u>	<u>(480,372)</u>	<u>744,581</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,718,408</u>
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	<u>18,576,362</u>	<u>9,150,396</u>	<u>(9,132,733)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,000</u>	<u>18,600,025</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>18,881,597</u>	<u>9,300,444</u>	<u>(9,257,449)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,000</u>	<u>18,930,592</u>

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

RESTRICTED FUNDS

The General Annual Grant (GAG) represents funding received from the ESFA during the period in order to fund the continuing activities of the school.

High needs funding (SEN) funding is received from the ESFA to cater for pupils with learning difficulties and other disabilities.

Pupil premium funding represents funding received from the ESFA for children that qualify for free school meals to enable the academy to address the current underlying inequalities between those children and their wealthier peers. Schools also receive funding for children who have been looked after continuously for more than six months, and children of service personnel. Pupil premium will also fund a Summer School Programme for disadvantaged pupils to support their transition to secondary schools.

Devolved formula capital grants represent funding from the ESFA to cover the maintenance and purchase of the Academy's assets. Other DfE/ESFA grants consist of funding from the ESFA to support the preparation of financial returns and budgets.

Other restricted income relates to the various other restricted funding received and expensed in the year.

Pension reserve represents the School's share of the assets and liabilities in the Local Government Pension Scheme. This is currently in deficit due to an excess of scheme liabilities over scheme assets which was inherited on conversion to an Academy. The School is following the recommendations of the actuary to reduce the deficit by making additional contributions over a number of years.

FIXED ASSET FUNDS

Fixed assets transferred on conversion represent the building and equipment donated to the school from Swindon Borough Council on conversion to an Academy.

Fixed assets purchased from GAG and other restricted funds represent amounts spent on fixed assets from the GAG funding received from the ESFA and a donation from the Charles Adam Prize Fund.

Capital grants represent CIF funding received to build the Sixth form facility, a new music block, heating replacement and, in the current year, for the refurbishment of school toilets.

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18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

The loan with the Local Authority represents amounts owed to Swindon Borough Council. See note 16.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG it could carry forward at 31 August 2023.

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS						
General funds	272,207	70,223	(37,195)	-	-	305,235
RESTRICTED GENERAL FUNDS						
General Annual Grant	810,121	7,536,802	(6,971,633)	(151,347)	-	1,223,943
High needs	-	319,313	(319,313)	-	-	-
Pupil premium	18,854	235,208	(250,592)	-	-	3,470
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	160,203	(136,834)	-	-	23,369
COVID-Catch up	28,059	-	(28,059)	-	-	-
Teachers pay and pension grants	-	81,755	(81,755)	-	-	-
Rates Relief	-	19,563	(19,563)	-	-	-
Donations	-	65,540	(65,540)	-	-	-
Other restricted income	-	27,058	(27,058)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(3,661,000)	-	(484,000)	-	4,145,000	-
	(2,803,966)	8,445,442	(8,384,347)	(151,347)	4,145,000	1,250,782
RESTRICTED FIXED ASSET FUNDS						
Fixed assets transferred on conversion	11,270,839	-	(211,809)	-	-	11,059,030
Fixed assets from GAG/ other restricted funds	137,004	-	(40,757)	121,075	-	217,322
Devolved formula capital	99,879	28,913	(53,843)	-	-	74,949
Capital grants	6,417,951	252,759	(156,911)	-	-	6,513,799
Loan with Local Authority	(569,792)	-	-	30,272	-	(539,520)

THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
	17,355,881	281,672	(463,320)	151,347	-	17,325,580
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	14,551,915	8,727,114	(8,847,667)	-	4,145,000	18,576,362
TOTAL FUNDS	14,824,122	8,797,337	(8,884,862)	-	4,145,000	18,881,597

19. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	18,141,829	18,141,829
Current assets	330,567	1,641,251	95,142	2,066,960
Creditors due within one year	-	(759,634)	(33,138)	(792,772)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	-	(485,425)	(485,425)
TOTAL	330,567	881,617	17,718,408	18,930,592

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	17,620,899	17,620,899
Current assets	305,235	1,760,767	252,799	2,318,801
Creditors due within one year	-	(509,985)	(30,272)	(540,257)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	-	(517,846)	(517,846)
TOTAL	305,235	1,250,782	17,325,580	18,881,597

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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20. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2023 £	2022 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	42,995	(87,525)
ADJUSTMENTS FOR:		
Depreciation	480,372	463,320
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(128,619)	(281,672)
Interest received	(8,278)	(193)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	30,000	420,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	(24,000)	64,000
Decrease in debtors	171,342	105,508
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	251,799	(54,340)
NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	815,611	629,098

21. CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES

	2023 £	2022 £
Repayments of borrowing	(31,705)	(34,990)
NET CASH USED IN FINANCING ACTIVITIES	(31,705)	(34,990)

22. CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES

	2023 £	2022 £
Interest received	8,278	193
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(1,001,302)	(415,597)
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA	128,619	281,672
NET CASH USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES	(864,405)	(133,732)

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

23. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash in hand and at bank	1,767,059	1,847,558
TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	1,767,059	1,847,558

24. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At 1 September 2022 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,847,558	(80,499)	1,767,059
Debt due within 1 year	(32,421)	(53,606)	(86,027)
Debt due after 1 year	(517,846)	32,421	(485,425)
	1,297,291	(101,684)	1,195,607

25. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

	2023 £	2022 £
CONTRACTED FOR BUT NOT PROVIDED IN THESE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS		
Capital improvements to school premises	-	260,000

26. PENSION COMMITMENTS

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

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2020 and of the LGPS 31 March 2023.

Contributions amounting to £104,730 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 (2022 - £99,656) and are included within creditors.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

26. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

TEACHERS' PENSION SCHEME

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

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

VALUATION OF THE TEACHERS' PENSION SCHEME

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to 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 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 26 October 2023. The key elements of the previous valuation as at 31 March 2016 which was effective for the year ended 31 August 2023 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 2024 and effective until 31 March 2027. The employer contribution rate for this period will be 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy).

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £893,047 (2022 - £859,056).

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>) for 2016 and www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2023/10/valuation-result.aspx for 2020.

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

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26. 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 2023 was £421,000 (2022 - £365,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £339,000 (2022 - £293,000) and employees' contributions totalled £ 82,000 (2022 - £72,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 26% for employers and 5.5 -12.5% for employees.

As described in note the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the Academy 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 Academy 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

	2023 %	2022 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.50	3.45
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	3.00	3.05
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.20	4.25

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

	2023 Years	2022 Years
RETIRING TODAY		
Males	19.0	21.7
Females	21.8	24.2
RETIRING IN 20 YEARS		
Males	24.3	22.6
Females	25.6	26.0

SHARE OF SCHEME ASSETS

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

26. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

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

	At 31 August 2023 £	At 31 August 2022 £
Equities	3,987,000	3,792,000
Debt instruments	2,102,000	2,177,000
Property	1,015,000	1,053,000
Cash	145,000	-
TOTAL MARKET VALUE OF ASSETS	7,249,000	7,022,000

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Current service cost	(369,000)	(713,000)
Interest income	305,000	119,000
Interest cost	(281,000)	(183,000)
TOTAL AMOUNT RECOGNISED IN THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	(345,000)	(777,000)

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

	2023 £	2022 £
AT 1 SEPTEMBER	6,434,000	10,775,000
Current service cost	369,000	713,000
Interest cost	281,000	183,000
Employee contributions	82,000	72,000
Actuarial losses/(gains) and derecognition of pension surplus	(550,000)	(5,149,000)
Benefits paid	(93,000)	(160,000)
AT 31 AUGUST	6,523,000	6,434,000

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

26. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

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

	2023 £	2022 £
AT 1 SEPTEMBER	7,022,000	7,114,000
Interest income	305,000	119,000
Actuarial gains	(406,000)	(416,000)
Employer contributions	339,000	293,000
Employee contributions	82,000	72,000
Benefits paid	(93,000)	(160,000)
AT 31 AUGUST	7,249,000	7,022,000

The Academy Trust has an unrecognised surplus of £726,000 (2022 - £588,000) in respect of its defined benefit pension scheme as it does not expect to recover the plan surplus either through reduced contributions in the future or through refunds from the plan.

27. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

At 31 August 2023 the Academy Trust had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Not later than 1 year	13,280	7,629
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	44,758	504
	58,038	8,133

**THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

28. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

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

The Headteacher, former Headteacher and a member of the Senior Management Team are the Trustees of the Charles Adam Prize Fund, a charity with the objective of holding investments to provide dividend income for the Academy's science facility. During the year the Academy received a donation of £11,167 (2022: £Nil) from the Fund.

Following a resignation in the year, the spouse of the Headteacher was appointed as Assistant Headteacher. The appointment was made following a competitive recruitment process, supported by an external consultant. The Headteacher was not involved in the decision-making process regarding this appointment, and the Assistant Headteacher is paid within normal pay scales for their role.

29. 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.

30. AGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

The Academy distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for ESFA. In the accounting period ended 31 August 2023 the Academy had a carry forward of £3,228, received £11,199 and disbursed £12,007 from the fund. The remaining £2,420 is included within other creditors at the year end.