

# Value for Money Statement

**Organisation name: Kirkby Stephen Grammar School**

**Company number: 7715613**

**Year ended 31 August 2014**

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

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

Improving Education Results:

- The school has joined the South Lakes Federation and collaborates closely with colleagues on initiatives designed to raise student achievement and support staff in providing this.
- Resources for year 7 catch up and pupil premium have been targeted to specific interventions for individual and groups of pupils where it is most needed.
- Training and coaching has been provided to key staff through the South Lakes Federation specifically to target areas identified as requiring improvement.
- In 2014 at KS5 98% of pupils achieved A levels at A\* to E grades.
- The percentage of KS4 high level students achieving 5 or more A\* to C including English and Maths increased by 15%.
- The percentage of KS4 students achieving GCSE English at A\* to C grade increased by 6%.

Finance and governance oversight:

- The school and governors have undertaken a detailed review of all expenditure in the year to allow long term financial planning to ensure sufficient funding is available to meet the education needs of the students now and in the future.
- Auditors have reported a reduced number of items in the Management Report from the previous year.
- The school has set a balanced in-year budget for 2014/15.
- The school works closely with another experienced School Business Manager within the South Lakes Federation to provide additional support to the school.

Better purchasing:

- A number of contracts, including the copier contract have been reviewed to provide savings.
- The maintenance costs for the school have reduced from £154,000 to £119,000 a saving of 22%.
- A dedicated Finance Manager has been appointed to provide sufficient resources to continually review procurement

- Design and Food Technology equipment has been purchased rather than leased to provide cost savings.

Better income generation:

- Lettings net income has increased following a review of hire charges
- The Eden Valley Sports Partnership continues to receive outside funding to financially support the activities and acts as additional Primary Liaison service to attract students to the school and maintaining pupil numbers

Reviewing controls and managing risks:

- The school uses the expertise of auditors to undertake termly responsible officer checks on the school accounting systems.
- The school reports regularly to the governing body through the Finance and Buildings committee on the financial position of the school
- The school reports monthly to the EFA on the financial position of the school in respect of the Financial Notice to Improve. The EFA are supportive of the school and the actions taken to date to resolve the financial position.

**Name:** Mrs Ruth Houston  
**Academy Trust Accounting Officer**

**Date:** 09 Dec 2014