

**Lunesdale Learning Trust**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Annual Report and Financial Statements**  
**Year ended 31 August 2024**

Company Registration Number:  
07438425 (England and Wales)



**QES**udio

# Lunesdale Learning Trust

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## Reference and Administrative Details

### Members

T Power  
R Snow  
P Gregson  
M Cunningham - Appointed 26 September 2023  
R Shepherd - Appointed 26 September 2023

### Trustees

S Elton-Chalcraft  
R Houghton\*  
C O'Neill \*  
F Pearson\* (Chair)  
J Scott \*  
I Skillen  
S Parnaby - Appointed 12 December 2023  
M Crackles - Appointed 12 December 2023 & Resigned 19 September 2024

\* indicates member of the Audit & Finance Committee

### Local Governors

J Bargh  
B Brooks  
M Canwell - Appointed 10 November 2023  
D Collier - Appointed 12 December 2023  
A Douglas  
B John - Appointed 29 January 2024  
D MacKinnon  
S Mills  
D Osliff  
H Rucsatle  
A Wildsmith

### Company Secretary

A Johnson

### Executive Team:

Executive Headteacher & Accounting Officer  
Deputy Head  
Deputy Head  
Chief Operating Officer

C O'Neill  
R Chapman  
C Cardwell  
A Johnson

### Company Name

Lunesdale Learning Trust

### Principal and Registered Office

Kirkby Lonsdale  
Cumbria  
LA6 2HJ

### Company Registration Number

07438425 (England & Wales)

**Reference and Administrative Details (continued)**

Independent Auditor	Saint & Co Chartered Accountants Old Police Station Ambleside Cumbria LA22 0BT
Bankers	HSBC Bank plc, 1 Forest Green Caxton Road Fullwood Preston PR2 9LJ
Solicitors	Schofield Sweeny 76 Wellington Street Springfield House Leeds West Yorkshire LS1 2AY

## TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a director's report and a strategic report under company law.

Lunesdale Learning Trust (the Trust), a Multi Academy Trust, was formed on 16 May 2017 by converting the articles of association of Queen Elizabeth School, a single academy, formed in December 2010 to become a Multi Academy Trust to allow the opening of a new Studio School in September 2017.

Queen Elizabeth School is an academy for pupils aged 11 to 18 in Kirkby Lonsdale. It had a roll of 1178 in the 2023 autumn school census and a roll of 1276 in the 2024 autumn school census.

QEStudio School is a new school for pupils aged 14 to 18 in Kirkby Lonsdale. It had a roll of 338 in the 2023 autumn school census and a roll of 352 in the 2024 autumn school census, with students in years 10, 11, 12 and 13.

### 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 Lunesdale Learning Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as Lunesdale Learning Trust.

Details of the trustees who served during the year, and to the date these accounts are approved are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on pages 1-2.

#### Members' Liability

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

#### Trustees' Indemnities

The Trustees / Directors of the Academy are covered by indemnity insurance paid for by the trust.

#### Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Governors

The trustees are directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 and trustees for the purposes of charity legislation.

The trustees who were in office at 31 August 2024, except where shown and are listed on pages 1-2.

During the year under review the governors held 3 Full Local Governing Body meetings. The full Trust Board met 4 times through the year. In addition the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee met 7 times per year and Governors and Trustees came together for 4 Immersion Mornings throughout the year.

Arrangements to appoint new Trustees are detailed in the Articles of Association. The number of Trustees of the company shall not be less than 3.

The Members may appoint up to 9 Trustees.

The Academy Trust may also co-opt Trustees. The Trust may not co-opt an employee of the Academy Trust if thereby the number of Trustees who are employees of the Academy Trust would exceed one third of the total number of Trustees.

## TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

Parent Local Governors shall be elected or, if the number of parents, or individuals exercising parental responsibility, standing for election is less than the number of vacancies, appointed (in accordance with the terms of reference determined by the Trustees from time to time). The elected (or, if the number of parents or individuals exercising parental responsibility standing for election is less than the number of vacancies, appointed) Parent Local Governors of the Local Governing Body must be a parent, or an individual exercising parental responsibility, of a registered pupil at one or more of the Academies overseen by the Local Governing Body at the time when they are elected or appointed.

The number of Parent Local Governors required shall be made up by Parent Local Governors appointed by the Trustees if the number of parents, or individuals exercising parental responsibility, standing for election is less than the number of vacancies.

The term of office for any Trustee shall be four years, save that this time limit shall not apply to any post which is held ex officio. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, any Trustee may be re-appointed or re-elected at an Annual General Meeting.

### **Policies and Procedures Adopted for Induction and Training of Trustees**

All new Trustees joining the academy trust complete an induction programme, including receipt of company documentation and a meeting with the Chair of Trustees and Accounting Officer.

### **Organisational Structure**

The Multi Academy Trust is owned, initially, by three Members. The Members' role is to ensure that the Trustees run the company in line with its objects. The Board of Trustees retain overall responsibility for probity, finance, resources and standards for the Multi Academy Trust. The Board of Trustees have been selected based on a skills audit ensuring the Board benefits from a comprehensive mix of skills and experience.

The Officers of the Trust are the Accounting Officer, Chief Operating Officer and Company Secretary.

In order to ensure positive communication between the Trust Board and the Trusts' Schools, an Executive Advisory Group has been convened. The Executive Advisory Group comprises the Executive Headteacher (and Accounting Officer), The Deputy Headteacher, an Assistant Headteacher and the Trust's Officers. This group will report to the Board on all regulatory and performance requirements. They will also make recommendations to the Board about policies, delivery of central services, curriculum, pastoral, standards and budget requirements, prioritised development plans and proposals for capital investment and development.

### **Arrangements for setting key personnel pay and remuneration of key management personnel**

The Trustees have formed a Pay Committee that meets annually (through Finance, Audit and Risk) to review all staff salaries, including key management personnel.

### **Trade Union Facility Time**

The Trust buys into the collective trade union facility arrangements, through Cumbria County Council. In the year, the cost was £7,944. Payment was made direct to Cumbria County Council. There were no trade union officials on the Trust staff in the year.

## TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

### Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

The inaugural schools in the Lunesdale Learning Trust are both part of the South Lakes Federation of Schools. The schools were part of the South Lakes Rural Partnership, but this company was dissolved on 27 February 2024.

The South Lakes Federation of Schools consists of 10 secondary schools, one further education college and one university who work collaboratively both strategically and operationally. Together they focus on

- professional development for teachers
- creating subject expertise
- broadening and improving 14 – 19 provision
- broadening and enriching experience for pupils
- improving the experience of specific pupil groups

The Federation has impacted on teachers' professional development and support through such initiatives as: the formation of an enhanced federation CPD group of senior leaders; coordinated CPD programmes; school to school improvement; project based inter-school CPD at department/team level and; a co-ordinated system of school self-evaluation and peer review.

The federation has enhanced links between the schools and the local community through the establishment of strategic partnerships involving education business partnerships, the local business education consortium, the LA, HE and FE institutions and work based providers.

## Objectives and Activities

### Objects and Aims

The principal object and activity of the charitable company is the operation of Lunesdale Learning Trust to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing schools offering a broad and balanced curriculum and high quality pastoral care. In doing so it meets the requirements of the Funding Agreement signed by the Secretary of State for Education.

To this end, the aims of the trust are to:

- develop a Trust context in which schools feel safe, supported, encouraged and appreciated
- develop schools which believe in an education founded on values, the development of the whole person, the worth of all types of learning, respect for all individuals, the importance of strong communities and the power of mutual support
- aspire to an excellence which is not constrained by national accountability strictures
- develop an ethos in which schools work together to support one another – collaboration to highest standards
- offer excellent value for money for business and financial services and to direct as much resource as possible to achieving educational outcomes
- build structures and systems which promote excellent education support, quality professional development and appropriate curriculum opportunities
- employ staff who are experts, committed, motivated, caring and able to meet the school curriculum requirements
- provide resources that match the needs of the children and the school as fully as possible and communications with parents and carers which are open, effective and timely

## TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

### Objectives, Strategies and Activities

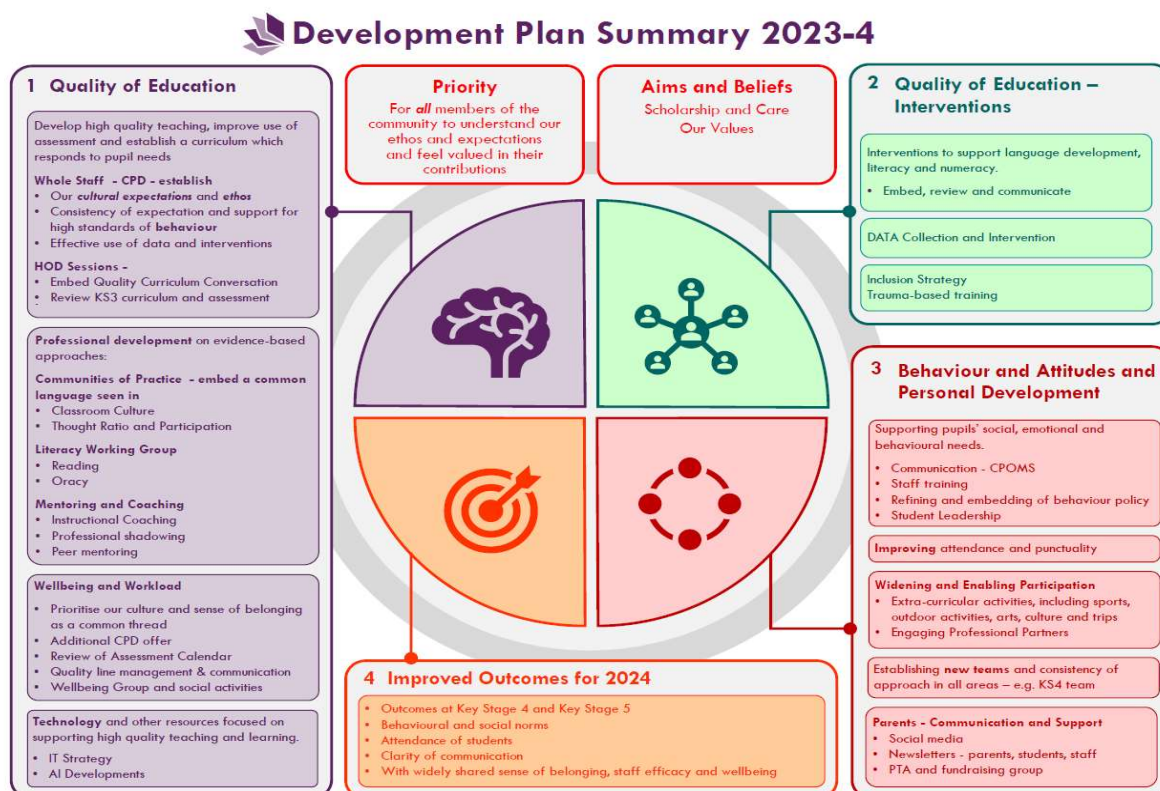
QES and QEStudio are founded on 'scholarship and care' – an expression of our educational philosophy as relevant to us today as it was in 1591. Our schools share an underlying philosophy based on this partnering, seen most clearly in our belief in a Values-led education with our **10 Core Values** at our heart.

*Our aim is to develop young people who understand the importance of these Values in their everyday lives so that when they leave our schools they are independently minded critical thinkers with an ability to use their intellect, their skills and their compassion in making decisions in the wider world.*

*We believe in a truly comprehensive system in which we celebrate the diverse talents and skills of young people. This is evidenced by the quality pastoral support, the breadth of our curriculum and extra-curricular offer, our uncompromising ambition for pupils to be the best people they can be, and our pride in the range of their destinations beyond our school gates.*

*Co-located with shared staffing including a Leadership Team across the Trust, we share a celebration of diversity in all its forms, a parity of esteem for the technical, vocational, creative, practical and academic, a commitment to our locality, and, above all, a shared sense of the moral purpose of education.*

2023-24 – key objectives for the Academic Year:



See also Full Self Evaluation plan for 2023-4 and full narratives

### Public Benefit

In setting objectives and planning activities the governors have given consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The public benefit is providing education in accordance with the Principal Activities detailed above, and additionally in providing access to school facilities to local community groups and adult education



**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)****Strategic Report****Achievements and Performance and Key Performance Indicators**

Queen Elizabeth School has completed its twelfth year of operation as an Academy, and continues to achieve the forecast numbers of students. Total students in the period ended 31st August 2024 numbered 1178 in Queen Elizabeth School and 338 in QEstudio. Queen Elizabeth School has a full complement in year groups 7-11. QEstudio School has a full complement of students in years 10 to 11. There remains capacity in Year 12 and 13 to grow this area of both schools.

Examination results for 2024 were positive Progress 8 for QES (0.45). QEstudio is exempt from P8 measures but there have been significant improvements in the Core subjects and these continue to be moving in a positive direction.

Reserves management produced investment return of £6,091

Our continued participation in system leadership and collaborative activities offset the cost of skilled operational staff, generating a total contribution of £102,169

The Trust managed to exceed its original budgets this year, generating a small GAG surplus.

**Going Concern**

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Multi 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****Financial Report for the Period**

Most of the School's income is obtained from the DfE in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the period ended 31 August 2024 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities.

During the period ended 31 August 2024, total restricted general expenditure of £10,800,993 was less than the grant funding from the DfE together with other restricted incoming resources totaling £10,899,592. The excess of restricted general income over expenditures for the year was transferred as a contribution towards catering costs for the year, leaving restricted general funds, (excluding the pension deficit) of £120,836.

At 31 August 2024 the net book value of fixed assets was £17,090,585 and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 18 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the Trust.

**Financial Position**

The academy's current level of unrestricted reserves (total funds less the amount held in fixed assets and restricted funds) is £418,218. Included in these reserves there are designated School Funds of £89,575 leaving £328,643 of general unrestricted reserves.

Restricted reserves include fixed assets funds of £17,274,545 and a restricted general funds deficit of £22,164. This deficit is a result of the Local Government Pension Scheme liability acquired on conversion to an Academy of £1,264,000 and together with movements since conversion amounting to £-1,121,000 the total pension provision of £143,000 has been offset against the restricted General Annual Grant.

TRUSTEES’ ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

Reserves Policy

The Board requires that the Trust works towards a reserve of 5% annual turnover (excluding catering income). Trustees, via the work of their Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, regularly monitor on-going and projected levels of reserve, ensuring these are adequate for the continued operation of the academy. This monitoring process takes into account shifts in local and national funding policies and developments as well as material expenditure requirements.

The free reserves held are £418,218 being the unrestricted funds. These are made up of the COIF investments of £56,889, various school funds totaling £32,686 and general funds of £328,643. The fund in deficit is the LGPS pension scheme, details of which are given in note 30. The total funds at 31st August 2024 are £17,670,598. Tangible fixed assets of £17,090,585 are held for use by the academy and can only be realised by the disposal of these assets.

Investment Policy

Governors maintain a policy of judicious investment, assessing all available opportunities to maximise return on public assets, whilst minimising exposure to risk. Funds are placed in ethical investments wherever possible.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

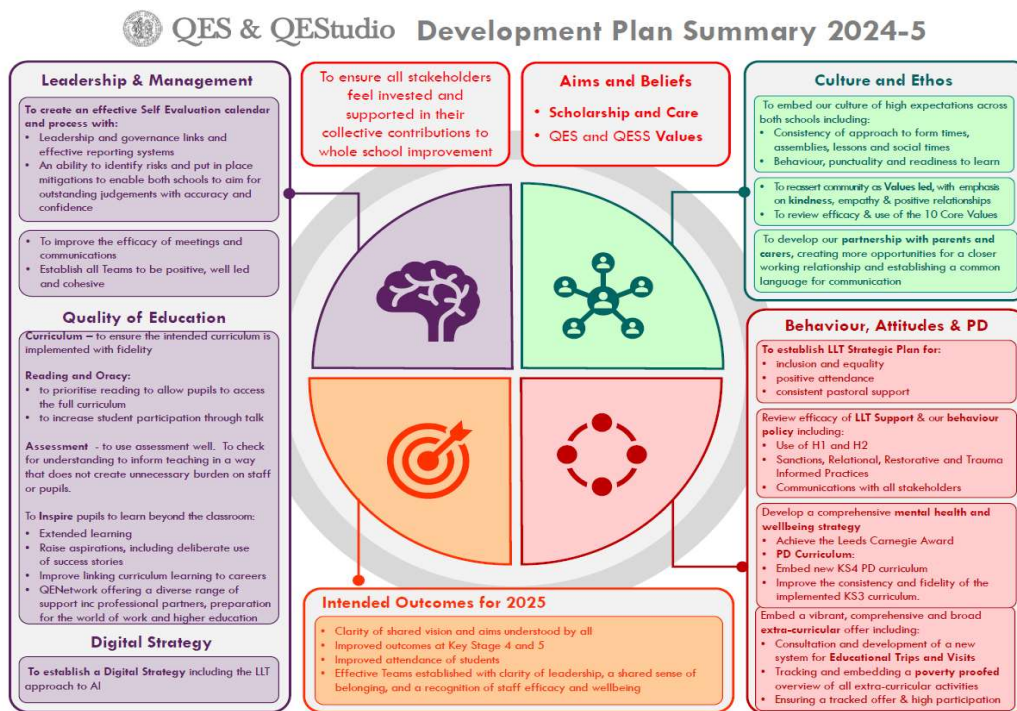
The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Academy is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific teaching, provision of facilities and other operational areas of the Academy, and its finances. The governors have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the school faces, especially in the operational areas (eg in relation to teaching, health and safety, bullying and school trips) and in relation to the control of finance. They have introduced systems, including operational procedures (eg vetting of new staff and visitors, supervision of school grounds) and internal financial controls in order to minimise risk. Estate management is in line with Good Estate Management for Schools (GEMS) and highest level risks are being addressed through CIF bids, working with expert bid writers. Where significant financial risk still remains they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover. The Academy has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the Governance Statement with ESFA guidance. Details of restricted funds are shown in note 22 of the accounts.

Fundraising

Any substantive fundraising activities are reported to the Trustees Finance, Audit and Risk Committee. The academy trust does not use any external fundraisers. All fundraising undertaken during the year was monitored by the Trustees.

Plans for Future Periods

The Academy will continue to strive to improve the provision of ‘quality experiences’ to all members of the school community and at all levels.



**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)**

1) Governance Development and Strategic Planning

We want to build on the strengths of the extended Governance Structure preparing for the next phase in the development of the Trust including:

- a) Succession planning at all levels
- b) Recruitment and re-consideration of the associate governor process
- c) Immersion morning
- d) Linked governors
- e) Training and self-evaluation and review
- f) Peer support between schools in the SLF
- g) Development of communication approaches between different committees and clarification of roles
- h) Risk Register approach
- i) Reviewing schemes of delegation

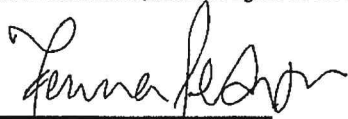
**Auditor**

Insofar 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.

Saint and Co have been appointed as auditors and they are willing to continue in office and a resolution to appoint them will be proposed at the next meeting.

The trustees report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 18.12.24 and signed on the boards its behalf by:



Mr Fenner Pearson (Chair)

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

### Scope of Responsibility

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

As trustees, we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in DfE’s Governance Handbook and competency framework for governance.

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Executive Headteacher as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Lunesdale Learning Trust 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 4 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
F Pearson (Chair)	4	4
M Crackles (Appointed 12.12.23 & Resigned 19.09.24)	2	3
S Elton-Chalcraft	3	4
R Houghton	3	4
C O'Neill	4	4
S Parnaby (Appointed 12.12.23)	3	3
J Scott	3	4
I Skillen	4	4

### Conflicts of interest

Lunesdale Learning Trust are keenly aware of the need to manage conflicts of interest. We maintain an up to-date and complete register of business interests. This register is formally updated annually but every Governors and Trustee meeting begins with asking those present to disclose any new interests. Should any conflicts arise these would be appropriately managed. New Governors and Trustees are asked to complete their register of business interests upon appointment.

### Meetings

The Trust Board ensures effective oversight of funds by adopting and following a strict Financial Scheme of Delegation, the implementation of which is monitored by internal audit, internal scrutiny and the external audit processes. The Trust Board have a Finance Audit and Risk committee who closely monitor the budget and monthly expenditure. In addition, the MAT Exec review financial statements monthly, along with the Chair of Finance Audit and Risk and Vice Chair of Trustees.

### Governance Reviews

Annual assessment through skills audit updates and questionnaires takes place. Both the Governing Body and Trust Board secured new members during 2023/24 and an end of year review will take place to monitor impact and effectiveness.

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (continued)**

The Finance, Audit & Risk Committee was a sub-committee of the Board of Trustees. Its purpose was to review the Schools' financial statements, closely monitor budget performance and ensure the effectiveness of internal finance and control systems. This met 7 times during the year.

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
C O'Neill	7	7
R Houghton	7	7
F Pearson	4	7
J Scott	7	7

**Review of Value for Money**

As accounting officer the Executive Headteacher has responsibility for ensuring that the Multi Academy Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes, as well as estates safety and management, achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The Accounting Officer considers how the Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year, and reports to the Board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data or by using a framework where appropriate. The Accounting Officer for the Academy Trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Seeking continuous improvement in standards, progress and outcomes within the confines of existing budgets. This has been achieved through punctilious monitoring and management of pupils, staff and data by the Executive team.
- Active pursuit of Best Value. Ensuring that all procurement and service provision is aligned at every level to our stated aims and strategies.
- Estate- The Energy Formula capital secured in 2022/23 was invested in solar panels and replacing inefficient lighting with LEDs, which will have a combined reduction in overall energy usage across the estate. A significant number of facilities contracts have been renegotiated through year. Specialist contractors are secured to help manage legionella risk and asbestos on site. The highest risk estate issues are hopefully being addressed through CIF bids in 2023/24.

**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 Lunesdale learning Trust for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 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 has been in place for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 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)****The Risk and Control Framework**

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of trustees
- regular reviews by the finance and general purposes committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines
- identification and management of risks

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal scrutiny and has appointed the Chief Financial Officer of South Westmorland Multi Academy Trust to provide a comprehensive peer review, bi annually on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities and annually prepares an annual summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress. These reviews were supported by a full review of internal financial controls performed by the Trustees appointed reviewers, Stables Thompson & Brisco. In particular the checks carried out in the period included:

- testing of payroll systems
- testing of purchase systems
- testing of control account / bank reconciliations

In addition to the above the Chair of Finance, Audit and Risk Committee reviews the detailed working of accounts, forecast and budget preparation on a monthly basis.

**The Risk and Control Framework (continued)**

The committee'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 include:

- A thorough review of the collation of budget information for the Multi Academy Trust and the composition of forecast information. This detailed analysis has led to an improved schedule for adoption of annual budgets by the governing body.
- A review of systems and procedures for provision of financial management information to internal budget holders. This has resulted in a more stringent monitoring schedule and improved definition of internal recharges.
- A detailed analysis of the segregation of funds for governor's management accounting purposes. This has resulted in revised and improved reporting papers.

The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee reports to the Board of Trustees via the Chair of Finance, Audit and Risk Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities.

No significant issues arose from the internal scrutiny process. An action plan has been prepared to implement recommendations and further enhance internal control. This action plan will be monitored on a monthly basis by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, supported by a termly progress assessment by the peer reviewer.

To ensure professional practice, knowledge and approaches continue to be optimised in relation to peer review, a workgroup has been convened across schools of the South Lakes Federation. This workgroup will inform, support, enhance and quality control the approach to peer review engaged with by the Trust, ensuring it retains independence.

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (continued)**

**Review of Effectiveness**

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

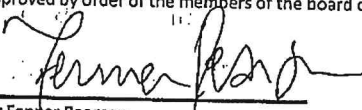
- the work of the Finance Committee
- the work of the external auditor
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process
- the work of the Chief Operating Officer of the Lunesdale Learning Trust

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

**Conclusion**

Based on the advice of the audit and risk committee and the accounting officer, the board of trustees is of the opinion that the academy trust has an adequate and effective framework for governance, risk management and control.

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 18.12.24 and signed on its behalf by:

  
Mr Fenner Pearson  
Chair of Trustees

  
Miss Catherine O'Neill  
Accounting Officer

**STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE**

As accounting officer of Lunesdale Learning Trust, I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust board of trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, Impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement between the academy trust, and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2023, 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 2023.

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. O'Neill  
Miss Catherine O'Neill  
Accounting Officer

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024



## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

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:

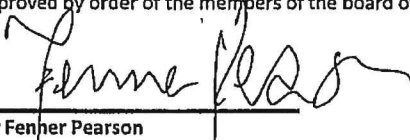
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023/24;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

The trustees are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the charitable company applies financial and other controls, which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring grants received from the 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 the financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 17/12/2024 and signed on its behalf by:

  
Mr Fenner Pearson  
Chair of Trustees

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF LUNESDALE LEARNING TRUST

### OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of Lunesdale Learning Trust for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account), statement of financial position, statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and Academies Accounts Direction 2023/24.

### BASIS FOR OPINION

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

### CONCLUSION 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 charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

### OTHER INFORMATION

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. It includes the Reference and Administrative Details, the Report of the Directors and Strategic Report and the Governance Statement. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF LUNESDALE LEARNING TRUST (CONTINUED)

### OPINIONS ON OTHER MATTERS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

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

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

### MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

In light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the Trustees.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters 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 the returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

### RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees Responsibilities (set out on page 15), the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company 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 charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### OUR RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, 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:

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with trustees and other management;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charity;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF  
LUNESDALE LEARNING TRUST (CONTINUED)**

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:
  - performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
  - tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
  - assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in the accounting policies were indicative of potential bias; and
  - investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with relevant regulators including the Charities Commission, ESFA and the company's legal advisors.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

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](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

**USE OF OUR REPORT**

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

  
**Mr Ian Thompson (Senior Statutory Auditor)**

For and on behalf of  
Saint & Co  
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors  
The Old Police Station, Church Street, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 0BT

Date: 19 December 2024

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO LUNESDALE LEARNING TRUST AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY**

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 21 November 2023 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2023/24, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Lunesdale Learning Trust during the period 01 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

**RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF LUNESDALE LEARNING TRUST'S ACCOUNTING OFFICER AND THE REPORTING ACCOUNTANT**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Lunesdale Learning Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 31 March 2011 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 01 September 2023, 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 2023/24. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 01 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 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.

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY  
TO LUNESDALE LEARNING TRUST AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY  
(continued)**

The work undertaken to draw our conclusion includes:

- having a general awareness of regularity and propriety whilst conducting the statutory audit function;
- reviewing if extra-contractual payments for staff have been made in accordance with the Handbook;
- reviewing if borrowing agreements, including leases to ensure they have been made in accordance with the Handbook;
- reviewing the minutes of the meeting of the main committees during the year;
- reviewing expenditure to check that it was not ultra vires to the charitable objectives;
- obtaining trustee / governor's declaration of interests.

**CONCLUSION**

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 01 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

**USE OF OUR REPORT**

This report is made solely to the Lunesdale Learning Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Lunesdale Learning Trust 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 Lunesdale Learning Trust and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.



**Mr Ian Thompson (Reporting Accountant)**

For and on behalf of  
Saint & Co  
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors  
The Old Police Station, Church Street, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 0BT

Date: 19 December 2024

**Statement of Financial Activities  
for the year ended 31 August 2024  
(including Income and Expenditure Account)**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	3	28,324	37,573	35,540	<b>101,437</b>	188,479
Charitable activities:						
Funding for the academy trust's educational operations	4	330,699	10,862,019	-	<b>11,192,718</b>	10,390,639
Other trading activities	5	179,105	-	-	<b>179,105</b>	162,111
Investments	6	6,749	-	-	<b>6,749</b>	5,535
Other income	7	-	-	163,200	<b>163,200</b>	-
<b>Total income</b>		<b>544,877</b>	<b>10,899,592</b>	<b>198,740</b>	<b>11,643,209</b>	<b>10,746,764</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising funds	8,9	(125,299)	-	-	<b>(125,299)</b>	(116,482)
Charitable activities:						
Academy trust educational operations	8,10	(421,126)	(10,604,992)	(581,919)	<b>(11,608,037)</b>	(10,947,686)
Other	11	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>(546,425)</b>	<b>(10,604,992)</b>	<b>(581,919)</b>	<b>(11,733,336)</b>	<b>(11,064,168)</b>
Unrealised gains on investments	12	4,448			<b>4,448</b>	185
<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>		<b>2,900</b>	<b>294,600</b>	<b>(383,179)</b>	<b>(85,679)</b>	<b>(317,219)</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	14	48,813	(48,813)	-	-	-
<b>Other recognised gains / (losses):</b>						
Actuarial (losses) / gains on defined benefit pension schemes	30	-	111,000	-	<b>111,000</b>	1,524,000
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>51,713</b>	<b>356,787</b>	<b>(383,179)</b>	<b>25,321</b>	<b>1,206,781</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
Total funds brought forward		366,504	(378,949)	17,657,722	<b>17,645,277</b>	16,438,496
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>418,217</b>	<b>(22,162)</b>	<b>17,274,543</b>	<b>17,670,598</b>	<b>17,645,277</b>

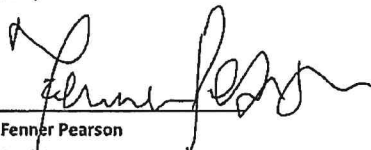
The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.  
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

**Statement of Financial Position  
as at 31 August 2024**

Company Number 07438425

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	18		17,090,585		17,643,247
Investments	19		56,889		51,783
			<u>17,147,474</u>		<u>17,695,030</u>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stock	20	6,568		6,034	
Debtors	21	274,893		329,995	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>1,166,583</u>		<u>859,430</u>	
		1,448,044		1,195,459	
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	22	<u>(781,920)</u>		<u>(795,212)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>666,124</u>		<u>400,247</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<b>17,813,598</b>		<b>18,095,277</b>
<b>Net assets excluding pension asset/liability</b>			<b>17,813,598</b>		<b>18,095,277</b>
Defined benefit pension scheme asset/(liability)	30	<u>(143,000)</u>		<u>(450,000)</u>	
<b>Total net assets</b>			<b>17,670,598</b>		<b>17,645,277</b>
<b>Funds of the academy trust:</b>					
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Fixed asset fund	23	17,274,543		17,657,722	
Restricted income fund	23	120,838		71,051	
Pension reserve	23	<u>(143,000)</u>		<u>(450,000)</u>	
<b>Total restricted funds</b>			<b>17,252,381</b>		<b>17,278,773</b>
Unrestricted income funds	23		<u>418,217</u>		<u>366,504</u>
<b>Total funds</b>			<b>17,670,598</b>		<b>17,645,277</b>

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 18.12.24 and are signed on behalf of the board by:

  
Mr Fenner Pearson  
Chair of Trustees

  
Ms Cathy O'Neill  
Accounting Officer



## Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(85,679)	(317,219)
Adjusted for:		
Income from investments	(813)	(541)
Interest receivable	(5,936)	(4,993)
Unrealised gain on investment	(4,448)	(185)
Depreciation charges	550,862	570,569
Gain on disposal of fixed assets	(163,200)	-
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	-
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(35,540)	(103,597)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	(221,000)	(123,000)
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	10,000	75,000
Defined benefit pension scheme administration expenses	15,000	14,000
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	(534)	966
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	55,102	(55,511)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(13,292)	38,172
<b>Net cash provided by / (used in) Operating Activities</b>	<b>100,522</b>	<b>93,661</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	6,091	5,136
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	-	(101,459)
Sale of fixed assets	165,000	-
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA	35,540	103,597
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	-	-
<b>Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities</b>	<b>206,631</b>	<b>7,274</b>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>	<b>307,153</b>	<b>100,935</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2023</b>	<b>859,430</b>	<b>758,495</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the 31 August 2024</b>	<b>1,166,583</b>	<b>859,430</b>
<b>Analysis cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>At 31 August</b>	<b>At 31 August</b>
	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
Cash in hand and at bank	1,166,583	859,430
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>1,166,583</b>	<b>859,430</b>

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the period ended 31 August 2024****1 Statement of Accounting Policies**

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

**General Information**

The academy trust is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales and is an exempt charity. The address of the registered office is Lunesdale Learning Trust, Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria, LA6 2HJ, United Kingdom.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

**Basis of Preparation / Statement of Compliance**

The financial statements of the Academy Trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102), 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 (FRS102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2023/24 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

**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 company to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

**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 Statement of Financial Position. 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 period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

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

The academy trust has benefited from the ESFA's Free School Programme. The funding for the programme is not recognised as a capital grant until there is unconditional entitlement.

**● Donations**

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

**● Other Income**

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

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

### Income (continued)

- **Donated goods, facilities and services**

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

- **Donated fixed assets**

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

### 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.

- **Expenditure on Raising Funds**

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

- **Charitable Activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT

### 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. If items are individually less than £250 they are expensed in the year of purchase.

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 Statement of Financial Position 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 Statement of Financial Position. 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:

- Freehold Buildings – straight line over economic life (ranging from 6 to 56 years)
- Furniture and Equipment – 10% straight line
- Plant and Machinery – straight line over economic life (ranging from 4 to 27 years)
- Information communications and technology equipment – 25% straight line

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)****Tangible Fixed Assets (continued)**

The total depreciation charge is allocated to teaching costs and administration and support costs pro-rata to the number of employees

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use and reclassified to freehold or leasehold land and buildings.

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

**Investment assets and Income**

Investment income is accounted for in the period in which the charity is entitled to receipt.

Investments are stated at market value. Income from investment is recognised on an accruals basis. Unrealised gains and losses are recognised in the statement of financial activities as they arise.

**Stock**

Catering stock and stationery stock are measured at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell.

**Liabilities**

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Statement of Financial Position 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 of services it must provide.

**Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when the academy trust has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event which it is probable will result in the transfer of economic benefits and the obligation can be estimated reliably.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

**Leased Assets**

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

**Financial Instruments**

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 20. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 21. 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.

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)****Agency Arrangements**

The academy trust 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 trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The academy trust can use up to 5% of the allocation towards its own administration costs and this is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

The funds received and paid and any balances held are disclosed in the agency arrangements note. The unused funds at the period end are included as a liability in the Statement of Financial Position in other creditors.

**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.

**Pensions Benefits**

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

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 Statement of Financial Position date. The amounts charged to net income/(expenditure) are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

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

**Fund Accounting**

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

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

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

The Local Government Pension Scheme deficit is recognised against restricted general funds in order to match it against the GAG, in accordance with ESFA guidance.

## **Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)**

### **Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement**

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

#### *Critical accounting estimates, assumptions and judgements*

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 29, will impact the carrying amount of the pensions liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2019. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

The annual depreciation charge is sensitive to the estimated useful economic lives of property. The useful economic lives of property, plant and equipment is initially based on the professional valuer's report using their judgement and experience. The useful economic lives are assessed annually and changed when necessary to reflect current thinking on their remaining lives.

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

## 2 General Annual Grant (GAG)

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State the academy trust was subject to limits at 31 August 2024 on the amount of GAG that could be carried forward from one year to the next. An amount equal to 12% of GAG could be carried forward, of which up to 2% could be used for general recurrent purposes, with any balance being available for premises/capital purposes.

The academy trust has not exceeded these limits during the year ended 31 August 2024.

## 3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Capital grants	-	35,540	35,540	103,597
Miscellaneous donations	28,324	37,573	65,897	84,882
	<u>28,324</u>	<u>73,113</u>	<u>101,437</u>	<u>188,479</u>

The income from donations and capital grants was £101,437 (2023: £188,479) of which £28,324 was unrestricted (2023: £78,092), £37,573 was restricted (2023: £6,790) and £35,540 was restricted fixed assets (2023: £103,597).

## 4 Funding for the Academy Trust's Educational Operations

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
<b>DfE / ESFA grants</b>				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	7,985,244	7,985,244	7,595,799
Programme Funding		1,328,653	1,328,653	1,332,344
High Value Courses Premium		42,000	42,000	52,800
Pupil Premium	-	148,077	148,077	127,591
Teachers Pension Grant	-	133,975	133,975	55,614
Teachers Pay Grant		127,235	127,235	453
Schools supplementary grant	-	-	-	211,493
Mainstream schools additional grant	-	249,612	249,612	104,005
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	51,463	51,463	48,700
	<u>-</u>	<u>10,066,259</u>	<u>10,066,259</u>	<u>9,528,799</u>
<b>Other Government grants</b>				
Pupil Premium	-	24,867	24,867	36,443
Local authority grants	-	244,819	244,819	192,470
Special Educational Projects	-	37,197	37,197	20,828
<b>Covid-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)</b>				
Catch-up premium	-	-	-	-
National tutoring programme	-	7,493	7,493	7,939
Recovery premium grant	-	30,567	30,567	28,876
Other DfE/ESFA Covid-19 funding	-	-	-	-
<b>Covid-19 additional funding (non DfE/ESFA)</b>				
Mass testing and vaccination fund	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>344,943</u>	<u>344,943</u>	<u>286,556</u>
<b>Trip income</b>	-	418,246	418,246	221,149
<b>Catering income</b>	303,155	-	303,155	270,005
<b>Other income</b>	-	28,769	28,769	64,160
<b>School fund</b>	27,544	3,802	31,346	19,970
	<u>330,699</u>	<u>10,862,019</u>	<u>11,192,718</u>	<u>10,390,639</u>

The income from funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations was £11,192,718 (2023: £10,390,639) of which £330,699 was unrestricted (2023: £289,975) and £10,862,019 was restricted (2023: £10,100,664).

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

## 5 Other Trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Hire of facilities	12,922	-	12,922	3,845
Sports lettings	64,014	-	64,014	63,531
Consultancy	102,169	-	102,169	94,735
	<u>179,105</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>179,105</u>	<u>162,111</u>

The income from other trading activities was £179,105 (2023: £162,111) of which all £179,105 was unrestricted (2023: £162,497).

## 6 Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Bank interest	5,936	-	5,936	4,994
COIF Revaluation	658	-	658	399
COIF Interest	155	-	155	142
	<u>6,749</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,749</u>	<u>5,535</u>

The income from investments was £6,749 (2023: £5,535) of which all £6,749 was unrestricted (2023: £5,535).

## 7 Other income

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Gain on disposal of fixed assets	-	163,200	163,200	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>163,200</u>	<u>163,200</u>	<u>-</u>

Other income was £163,200 (2023: £nil) of which all £163,200 relates to restricted fixed assets.



## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

## 8 Expenditure

	Staff Costs	Non Pay Expenditure		Total	Total
		Premises	Other	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure on raising funds					
Direct costs	121,789	-	3,510	125,299	116,482
Academy's educational operations:					
Direct costs	7,020,863	324,170	491,951	7,836,984	7,665,738
Trips and productions	22,528	-	405,139	427,667	229,885
Catering	146,476	-	220,846	367,322	375,871
Allocated support costs	1,639,195	816,636	520,233	2,976,064	2,676,192
	<b>8,950,851</b>	<b>1,140,806</b>	<b>1,641,679</b>	<b>11,733,336</b>	<b>11,064,168</b>

Net income/(expenditure) for the period includes:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Depreciation	550,862	570,568
(Gain)/Loss on disposal of fixed assets	(163,200)	-
Operating lease rentals	88,188	13,608
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- audit of the financial statements	9,500	9,450
- assurance services	2,080	1,975
- accountancy & other services	5,305	5,475

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

## 9 Costs of other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Hire &amp; Lettings</b>				
Support staff costs	23,130	-	<b>23,130</b>	21,747
	<b>23,130</b>	-	<b>23,130</b>	21,747
<b>Consultancy</b>				
Support staff costs	98,659	-	<b>98,659</b>	91,585
Professional services	3,510	-	<b>3,510</b>	3,150
	<b>102,169</b>	-	<b>102,169</b>	94,735
	<b>125,299</b>	-	<b>125,299</b>	116,482

Costs of other trading activities was £125,299 (2023: £116,482) of which all £125,299 was unrestricted (2023: £116,482).

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

## 10 Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
<b>Direct costs – educational operations</b>				
Teaching and educational support staff costs	-	7,020,863	<b>7,020,863</b>	6,836,888
Depreciation	-	324,170	<b>324,170</b>	371,888
Educational supplies	-	165,166	<b>165,166</b>	134,002
Examination fees	-	176,470	<b>176,470</b>	181,749
Staff development	-	11,747	<b>11,747</b>	13,227
Educational consultancy	-	15,625	<b>15,625</b>	17,582
External course costs	-	67,667	<b>67,667</b>	55,229
Other direct costs	-	55,276	<b>55,276</b>	55,173
	-	<b>7,836,984</b>	<b>7,836,984</b>	<b>7,665,738</b>
<b>Trips and productions – educational operations</b>				
Support staff costs	-	22,528	<b>22,528</b>	15,311
Transport and accommodation costs	-	325,000	<b>325,000</b>	185,126
Admission costs	-	53,485	<b>53,485</b>	8,938
Other costs	-	26,654	<b>26,654</b>	20,510
	-	<b>427,667</b>	<b>427,667</b>	<b>229,885</b>
<b>Catering – educational operations</b>				
Support staff costs	146,476	-	<b>146,476</b>	163,052
Produce	196,127	-	<b>196,127</b>	194,127
Maintenance of equipment	24,719	-	<b>24,719</b>	18,692
	<b>367,322</b>	-	<b>367,322</b>	<b>375,871</b>
<b>Support costs – educational operations</b>				
Support staff costs	-	1,639,195	<b>1,639,195</b>	1,406,474
Rates and water	-	90,533	<b>90,533</b>	83,523
Heat and light	-	289,042	<b>289,042</b>	296,740
Maintenance of premises and equipment	-	161,154	<b>161,154</b>	126,911
Insurance	-	49,215	<b>49,215</b>	44,543
Telephone	-	13,572	<b>13,572</b>	13,655
Computer costs	-	181,727	<b>181,727</b>	161,850
Depreciation	-	226,692	<b>226,692</b>	198,680
South Lakes Federation charges	-	13,830	<b>13,830</b>	13,985
Transport	-	22,536	<b>22,536</b>	25,940
Advertising	-	3,801	<b>3,801</b>	3,756
Admin photocopying and stationery	-	59,512	<b>59,512</b>	69,716
School fund expenditure	53,640	13,942	<b>67,582</b>	53,053
School fund gifts & donations	164	-	<b>164</b>	150
Catering	-	17,906	<b>17,906</b>	16,019
Bad debts written off	-	-	<b>-</b>	-
Other support costs	-	32,513	<b>32,513</b>	21,435
Governance costs - accountancy & assurance fees	-	6,935	<b>6,935</b>	7,450
Governance costs - audit fees	-	9,950	<b>9,950</b>	9,450
Legal and professional fees	-	65,205	<b>65,205</b>	33,862
Net finance costs in respect of defined benefit pension scheme	-	25,000	<b>25,000</b>	89,000
	<b>53,804</b>	<b>2,922,260</b>	<b>2,976,064</b>	<b>2,676,192</b>
<b>Total direct and support costs</b>	<b>421,126</b>	<b>11,186,911</b>	<b>11,608,037</b>	<b>10,947,686</b>

Costs of charitable activities was £11,608,037 (2023: £10,947,686) of which £421,126 was unrestricted (2023: £429,074), £10,604,992 was restricted (2023: £9,948,044) and £581,919 was restricted fixed assets (2023: £570,568).

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

## 11 Other Expenditure

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Costs of other expenditure was £nil (2023: £nil).

## 12 Net gains on investments

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Gains/(losses) on other investment assets	4,448	-	4,448	185
	<u>4,448</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,448</u>	<u>185</u>

Net gains on investments was £4,448 (2023: £185) of which all £4,448 (2023: £185) was unrestricted.

## 13 Central Services

No central services were provided by the trust to its academies during the period and no central charges arose.

**Lunesdale Learning Trust**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2024**  
**(continued)**

**14 Fund transfers**

	<b>Total 2024 £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>		
Catering (to)/from GAG to cover overheads	<b>64,167</b>	105,866
Contribution to GAG from general unrestricted funds	<b>(15,354)</b>	(32,289)
Contribution (to)/from School funds	-	-
	<b>48,813</b>	<b>73,577</b>
<b>Restricted general funds</b>		
Catering to GAG to cover overheads	<b>(64,167)</b>	(105,866)
Contribution to GAG from general unrestricted funds	<b>15,354</b>	32,289
Contributions to/(from) GAG	<b>(35,793)</b>	(7,664)
Contribution to Trips	<b>9,421</b>	8,737
Contribution to/(from) School funds restricted funds	<b>31,002</b>	(3,537)
Transfer from 6th form bus passes and bursary	<b>(4,630)</b>	(1,073)
Fixed Asset Purchases from GAG	<b>(48,813)</b>	<b>(77,114)</b>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>		
Contribution to/(from) School funds	-	3,537
Purchases from GAG	-	-
Transfers to fixed asset fund from formula grant	-	-
	<b>-</b>	<b>3,537</b>

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2024  
(continued)**

**15 Staff**

**a. Staff costs and employee benefits**

Staff costs during the period were:

	<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>
	£	£
Wages and salaries	6,650,668	6,397,269
Social security costs	670,419	632,881
Other pension costs	1,488,293	1,459,310
Apprenticeship levy	18,351	17,094
Other employee benefits	-	-
	<b>8,827,731</b>	<b>8,506,554</b>
Agency staff costs	33,120	3,503
Staff restructuring costs	90,000	25,000
	<b>8,950,851</b>	<b>8,535,057</b>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Redundancy payments	34,961	-
Severance payments	39,184	25,000
Payment in lieu of notice	15,855	-
	<b>90,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>

**b. Severance payments**

The academy trust paid 3 (2023: 1) severance payments in the year, disclosed in the following bands:

£0 - £25,000	3
--------------	---

**c. Special staff severance payments**

Included in staff restructuring costs are special severance payments totalling 39,184 (2023: £25,000). Individually, the payments were: £22,400, £12,639, and £4,145 (2023: £25,000).

**d. Staff numbers**

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

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	No.	No.
Teachers	108	102
Administration and support	112	111
Management	11	11
	<b>231</b>	<b>224</b>

**Tangible Fixed Assets (continued)****15 Staff (continued)****e. Higher paid staff**

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

	<b>2024</b>	2023
	<b>No.</b>	No.
£60,001 - £70,000	-	8
£70,001 - £80,000	<b>4</b>	1
£80,001 - £90,000	<b>1</b>	-
£100,000 - £110,000	<b>1</b>	-
£110,000 - £120,000	<b>1</b>	-
£120,001 - £130,000	-	1
£130,000 - £140,000	<b>1</b>	-

**f. Key management personnel**

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £461,125 (2023: £419,873).

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)****16 Related Party Transactions - 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 O'Neill (Trustee)

Remuneration £130,000 - £134,999 (2023: £120,000 - £124,999)

Employer's pension contributions paid £30,000 - £34,999 (2023: £25,000 - £29,999)

During the year ended 31 August 2024, and the previous year there were no expenses reimbursed or paid directly to trustees.

**17 Trustees' and Officers' Insurance**

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 cover up to £10,000,000 (2023: £10,000,000) on any one claim. The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost and cannot be separately identifiable.



## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

## 18 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold Land and Buildings	Plant & Machinery	Furniture & Equipment	Computer Equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Cost</b>					
At 1 September 2023	20,325,325	2,762,185	152,648	622,614	23,862,772
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	(1,800)	-	-	-	(1,800)
At 31 August 2024	<u>20,323,525</u>	<u>2,762,185</u>	<u>152,648</u>	<u>622,614</u>	<u>23,860,972</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 September 2023	3,716,004	1,781,267	122,912	599,342	6,219,525
Charged in year	392,601	131,967	8,525	17,769	550,862
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2024	<u>4,108,605</u>	<u>1,913,234</u>	<u>131,437</u>	<u>617,111</u>	<u>6,770,387</u>
<b>Net book values</b>					
At 31 August 2023	16,609,321	980,918	29,736	23,272	17,643,247
At 31 August 2024	<u>16,214,920</u>	<u>848,951</u>	<u>21,211</u>	<u>5,503</u>	<u>17,090,585</u>

The Freehold Land & Buildings and the Plant & Machinery integral to the buildings include valuations of £11,431,130 and £2,609,929 respectively made in 2010 by AT Snape, RICS Registered Valuer, who was independent of the charitable company. The basis of valuation for the assets was Existing Use Value using a Depreciated Replacement Cost approach in accordance with FRS 102 section 17 Property, Plant & Equipment.

There is a fixed charge, dated 6th December 2019, over the Freehold Land and Buildings in which QE Studio Scool operates in favour of The Secretary of State for Education.

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

	2024
<b>19 Investments</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cost or Valuation</b>	
At 1 September 2023	51,783
Additions	658
Fair value movements	4,448
	<u>56,889</u>
<b>Impairment</b>	
At 1 September 2023 and 31 August 2024	<u>-</u>
<b>Carrying amount</b>	
<b>At 31 August 2024</b>	<u>56,889</u>
At 31 August 2023	<u>51,783</u>

All investments shown above are held at valuation

**Financial assets held at fair value**

Valuations are prepared by CCLA Investment Management Ltd. Valuations are generally prepared on the basis of the mid-market price at the close of business on the valuation date.

	2024	2023
	£	£
Catering	2,500	2,500
Stationery	2,448	1,914
Chas Jacob Painting	1,620	1,620
	<u>6,568</u>	<u>6,034</u>

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	73,101	106,441
VAT recoverable	25,202	26,570
Other debtors	61,809	90,170
Prepayments and accrued income	114,781	106,814
	<u>274,893</u>	<u>329,995</u>

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

### 22 Creditors: Amounts Falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	260,304	248,846
Other taxation and social security	148,642	146,522
ESFA creditor	36,361	25,719
CCC Creditor	4,856	17,359
Other creditors	185,758	162,561
Deferred income	54,675	41,760
Accruals	91,324	152,445
	<b>781,920</b>	<b>795,212</b>

<b>Deferred income</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
Deferred income at 1 September 2023	41,760	84,108
Released from previous years	(41,760)	(84,108)
Resources deferred in the year	54,675	41,760
Deferred Income at 31 August 2024	<b>54,675</b>	<b>41,760</b>

<b>Deferred income comprises:</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
Local Authority funded grant statements for the period September to March	-	2,507
Payroll services	36,567	33,237
Trips	18,108	6,016
	<b>54,675</b>	<b>41,760</b>

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

## 23 Analysis of charitable funds

	Balance at 1 September 2023	Income	Expenditure	Gains, losses and transfers	Balance at 31 August 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
<b>ESFA Grants</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	49,921	7,985,244	(7,894,947)	(21,521)	<b>118,697</b>
Programme Funding	-	1,328,653	(1,328,653)	-	-
High Value Courses Premium	-	42,000	(42,000)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	148,077	(148,077)	-	-
Teachers Pension Grant	-	133,975	(133,975)	-	-
Teachers Pay Grant	-	127,235	(127,235)	-	-
Mainstream schools additional grant	-	249,612	(249,612)	-	-
Rates	-	44,666	(44,666)	-	-
Recovery premium grant	-	30,567	(30,567)	-	-
Other ESFA Grants	-	14,289	(14,289)	-	-
<b>Other government grants</b>					
Pupil Premium	-	24,867	(24,867)	-	-
LA funded statements	-	244,819	(244,819)	-	-
Other government grants	5,716	-	(5,716)	-	-
Special Educational Projects	1,250	420	109	(1,081)	<b>698</b>
<b>Pension reserve</b>	<b>(450,000)</b>		<b>196,000</b>	<b>111,000</b>	<b>(143,000)</b>
<b>Trips</b>	-	<b>418,247</b>	<b>(427,668)</b>	<b>9,421</b>	-
<b>Restricted School Funds</b>	<b>7,729</b>	<b>34,974</b>	<b>(13,943)</b>	<b>(31,002)</b>	<b>(2,242)</b>
<b>Charity Team</b>	<b>6,435</b>	<b>6,401</b>	<b>(9,152)</b>	-	<b>3,684</b>
<b>Other educational income</b>	-	<b>28,769</b>	<b>(28,769)</b>	-	-
<b>6th form bus passes</b>	-	<b>34,195</b>	<b>(32,147)</b>	<b>(2,048)</b>	-
<b>16-19 Bursaries</b>	-	<b>2,582</b>	-	<b>(2,582)</b>	-
	<b>(378,949)</b>	<b>10,899,592</b>	<b>(10,604,993)</b>	<b>62,187</b>	<b>(22,163)</b>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
DfE/ESFA formula capital	14,475	35,540	(31,057)	-	<b>18,958</b>
Footpath fund	-	-	-	165,000	<b>165,000</b>
Fixed Assets used for charitable purposes	17,643,248	163,200	(550,863)	(165,000)	<b>17,090,585</b>
	<b>17,657,723</b>	<b>198,740</b>	<b>(581,920)</b>	-	<b>17,274,543</b>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>17,278,774</b>	<b>11,098,332</b>	<b>(11,186,913)</b>	<b>62,187</b>	<b>17,252,380</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Designated catering	-	303,155	(367,322)	64,167	-
Designated School Funds	45,819	56,024	(53,803)	(15,354)	<b>32,686</b>
Designated COIF investments	51,783	658	-	4,448	<b>56,889</b>
Lettings	-	76,935	(23,130)	(53,805)	-
Consultancy	-	102,169	(102,169)	-	-
General Funds	268,902	5,936	-	53,805	<b>328,643</b>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>366,504</b>	<b>544,877</b>	<b>(546,424)</b>	<b>53,261</b>	<b>418,218</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>17,645,278</b>	<b>11,643,209</b>	<b>(11,733,337)</b>	<b>115,448</b>	<b>17,670,598</b>

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

## Analysis of charitable funds - Previous year

	Balance at 1 September 2022	Income	Expenditure	Gains, losses and transfers	Balance at 31 August 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
<b>ESFA Grants</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	7,596,252	(7,465,090)	(81,241)	<b>49,921</b>
Programme Funding	-	1,332,344	(1,332,344)	-	-
High Value Courses Premium	-	52,800	(52,800)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	127,591	(127,591)	-	-
Teachers Pension Grant	-	55,614	(55,614)	-	-
Schools supplementary grant	-	211,493	(211,493)	-	-
Mainstream schools additional grant	-	104,005	(104,005)	-	-
Rates	-	41,219	(41,219)	-	-
Other ESFA Grants	-	7,481	(7,481)	-	-
Recovery premium grant	-	28,876	(28,876)	-	-
<b>Other government grants</b>					
Pupil Premium	-	36,443	(36,443)	-	-
LA funded statements	-	167,753	(167,753)	-	-
National tutoring programme	-	7,939	(7,939)	-	-
Other government grants	7,693	24,717	(26,694)	-	<b>5,716</b>
Special Educational Projects	6,011	(783)	(441)	(3,537)	<b>1,250</b>
<b>Pension reserve</b>	(2,008,000)		34,000	1,524,000	<b>(450,000)</b>
<b>Trips</b>	-	221,149	(229,886)	8,737	-
<b>Restricted School Funds</b>	7,729	-	-	-	<b>7,729</b>
<b>Charity Team</b>	1,319	6,790	(1,674)	-	<b>6,435</b>
<b>Other educational income</b>	-	64,160	(64,160)	-	-
<b>6th form bus passes</b>	-	20,538	(20,538)	-	-
<b>16-19 Bursaries</b>	-	1,073	-	(1,073)	-
	<b>(1,985,248)</b>	<b>10,107,454</b>	<b>(9,948,041)</b>	<b>1,446,886</b>	<b>(378,949)</b>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
DfE/ESFA formula capital	8,800	103,597	-	(97,922)	<b>14,475</b>
Fixed Assets used for charitable purposes	18,112,357	-	(570,568)	101,459	<b>17,643,248</b>
	<b>18,121,157</b>	<b>103,597</b>	<b>(570,568)</b>	<b>3,537</b>	<b>17,657,723</b>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>16,135,909</b>	<b>10,211,051</b>	<b>(10,518,609)</b>	<b>1,450,423</b>	<b>17,278,774</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Designated catering	-	270,005	(375,871)	105,866	-
Designated School Funds	33,927	97,384	(53,203)	(32,289)	<b>45,819</b>
Designated COIF investments	51,200	398	-	185	<b>51,783</b>
Lettings	-	67,376	(21,747)	(45,629)	-
Consultancy	-	94,735	(94,735)	-	-
General Funds	217,460	5,813	-	45,629	<b>268,902</b>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>302,587</b>	<b>535,711</b>	<b>(545,556)</b>	<b>73,762</b>	<b>366,504</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>16,438,496</b>	<b>10,746,762</b>	<b>(11,064,165)</b>	<b>1,524,185</b>	<b>17,645,278</b>

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

**General Annual Grant (GAG) fund:** this represents the core funding for the educational activities of the school that has been provided to the academy via the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

**Pupil premium fund:** this represents funding paid by the DfE to support disadvantaged students in their teaching and learning, with the aim of improving their attainment and closing the gap with more advantaged students.

**Teachers Pension Grant:** this represents funding paid by the ESFA to support schools with the cost of the increase in employer contributions to the teachers' pension scheme.

**Teachers Pay Grant:** this represents funding paid by the ESFA to support teachers' pay awards that came into effect in September 2018 and September 2019.

**Defined benefit pension scheme deficit fund:** this represents the deficit on the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) at the year end.

**Local authority funded statements:** this represents funding from the Local Authority to pay for Learning Support Assistants who support the "statemented" special needs students.

**Designated catering:** this fund is in respect of the provision of meals that are charged to diners in Queen Elizabeth School and Queen Elizabeth Studio School, Kirkby Lonsdale.

**Schools supplementary grant:** this is intended to support schools to meet the costs of the Health and Social Care Levy and for secondary school age provision, wider costs.

**Mainstream schools additional grant:** this is additional monies to assist with increased costs - not ringfenced for any specific form of expenditure.

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

## 24 Analysis of academies by fund balance

Fund balances at 31 August 2024 were allocated as follows:

	<b>Total 2024</b>	Total 2023
Queen Elizabeth Academy	<b>420,511</b>	329,412
Queen Elizabeth Studio School Academy	<b>118,544</b>	108,143
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	<b>539,055</b>	437,555
Restricted fixed asset fund	<b>17,274,543</b>	17,657,722
Pension reserve	<b>(143,000)</b>	(450,000)
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,670,598</b>	17,645,277

## Total cost analysis by academy

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

	<b>Teaching and Educational Support Staff Costs</b>	<b>Other Support Staff Costs</b>	<b>Educational Supplies</b>	<b>Other Costs (excluding Depreciation)</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>	Total 2023
Queen Elizabeth Academy	5,091,936	1,574,808	182,593	1,473,428	<b>8,322,765</b>	7,748,035
Queen Elizabeth Studio School Academy	1,928,928	576,180	65,865	453,681	<b>3,024,653</b>	2,745,565
<b>Academy Trust</b>	<b>7,020,863</b>	<b>2,150,988</b>	<b>248,458</b>	<b>1,927,109</b>	<b>11,347,418</b>	10,493,600

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

## 25 Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted General Funds	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	17,090,585	17,090,585
Investments	56,889	-	-	56,889
Current assets	361,328	902,758	183,958	1,448,044
Current liabilities	-	(781,920)	-	(781,920)
Pension scheme liability	-	(143,000)	-	(143,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>418,217</b>	<b>(22,162)</b>	<b>17,274,543</b>	<b>17,670,598</b>

## Analysis of Net Assets between Funds - Previous year

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted General Funds	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	17,643,247	17,643,247
Investments	51,783	-	-	51,783
Current assets	314,721	866,263	14,475	1,195,459
Current liabilities	-	(795,212)	-	(795,212)
Pension scheme liability	-	(450,000)	-	(450,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>366,504</b>	<b>(378,949)</b>	<b>17,657,722</b>	<b>17,645,277</b>

## 26 Capital Commitments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Contracted for, but not provided for in the financial statements	-	-

## 27 Commitments under operating leases

## Operating Leases

At 31 August 2024 the total of the Academy's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Amounts due within one year	78,650	82,799
Amounts due between one and five years	41,587	117,094
	<b>120,237</b>	<b>199,893</b>

## 28 Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2023	Cash flows	At 31 August 2024
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	859,430	307,153	1,166,583

## 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.



**Lunesdale Learning Trust**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2024**  
**(continued)**

**30 Pension and Similar Obligations**

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

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

Contributions payable to the schemes at 31 August and included in creditors were as follows:

	<b>2024</b>	2023
	£	£
Teachers' Pension Scheme	<b>142,883</b>	123,713
Local Government Pension Scheme	<b>49,630</b>	34,804
Additional Voluntary Contributions	<b>1,227</b>	1,332
	<b>193,740</b>	159,849

The total pension costs to the academy during the year ended 31 August and included in staff costs were as follows:

	<b>2024</b>	2023
	£	£
Teachers' Pension Scheme	<b>1,201,114</b>	1,081,521
Local Government Pension Scheme	<b>345,996</b>	327,856
Local Government Pension Scheme deficit recovery	<b>162,183</b>	172,933
LGPS current service cost/contributions adjustment	<b>(221,000)</b>	(123,000)
	<b>1,488,293</b>	1,459,310

In addition the academy incurred net interest costs and administration costs included in support costs as follows:

	<b>2024</b>	2023
	£	£
LGPS net interest costs	<b>10,000</b>	75,000
Administration costs	<b>15,000</b>	14,000
	<b>25,000</b>	89,000

**Teachers' Pension Scheme**

**Introduction**

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for teachers in 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.

# Lunesdale Learning Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2024

### (continued)

#### Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to ensure scheme costs are recognised appropriately and the review specifies the level of 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 27 October 2023, with the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, applying a notional investment return based on 1.7% above the rate of CPI. The key elements of the valuation outcome are:

- Employer contribution rates set at 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy). This is an increase of 5% in employer contributions and the cost control result is such that no change in member benefits is needed.
- Total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262,000 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222,200 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £39,800 million.

The result of this valuation will be implemented from 1 April 2024. The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2028.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £1,201,114 (2023: £1,081,521)

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

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

# Lunesdale Learning Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2024

(continued)

### 30 Pension and Similar Obligations (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 were as follows:

	<b>2024</b>	2023
	£	£
Employer's contributions	<b>345,996</b>	327,856
Employees' contributions	<b>105,972</b>	103,121
Total contributions	<b>451,968</b>	430,977

Contributions to the scheme are determined by a qualified actuary on the basis of triennial valuations using the projected unit method.

The agreed contribution rates for future years are 19.1% for employers and a contribution rate ranging between 5.5% and 12.5% per cent for employees.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of academy closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013 and on 21 July 2022, the Department for Education reaffirmed its commitment to the guarantee, with a parliamentary minute published on GOV.UK.

At the Statement of Financial Position date the scheme is in deficit. The Academy has previously entered into an agreement effective from 1 April 2014 to make additional contributions in addition to normal funding levels. It is anticipated that the payments will be made over 19 years from 1 April 2014, including £160,100 in the year ended 31 March 2024, £166,100 in 2024-25 and £170,200 in 2025-26.

#### Principal Actuarial Assumptions

	<b>At 31 August</b>	At 31 August
	<b>2024</b>	2023
Rate of increase in salaries	<b>4.10%</b>	4.30%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	<b>2.70%</b>	2.90%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	<b>5.00%</b>	5.30%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	<b>2.60%</b>	2.80%

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2024  
(continued)**

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

	<b>At 31 August 2024</b>	At 31 August 2023
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	<b>21.4</b>	21.4
Females	<b>23.9</b>	23.8
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	<b>22.7</b>	22.7
Females	<b>25.6</b>	25.6

**Sensitivity analysis - increase/(decrease) in deficit**

	<b>At 31 August 2024</b>	At 31 August 2023
	£	£
Discount rate +0.1%	<b>(174,000)</b>	<b>(156,000)</b>
Discount rate -0.1%	<b>177,000</b>	<b>159,000</b>
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	<b>177,000</b>	<b>154,000</b>
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	<b>(173,000)</b>	<b>(151,000)</b>
CPI rate +0.1%	<b>177,000</b>	<b>159,000</b>
CPI rate -0.1%	<b>(173,000)</b>	<b>(156,000)</b>

The academy's share of the assets in the scheme were:

	<b>Fair value at 31 August 2024</b>	Fair value at 31 August 2023
	£	£
Equities	<b>3,140,000</b>	2,845,000
Government bonds	<b>1,265,000</b>	951,000
Other bonds	-	-
Property	<b>671,000</b>	591,000
Cash/liquidity	<b>189,000</b>	165,000
Other	<b>3,338,000</b>	2,935,000
<b>Total market value of assets</b>	<b>8,603,000</b>	<b>7,487,000</b>

The actual return on scheme assets was £645,000 (2023: £302,000).

None of the fair values of the assets shown above include any of the academy's own financial instruments or any property occupied by, or other assets used by, the academy.

The expected rate of return is the assumed return the assets of the fund will achieve over the entire life of the related obligation based on market expectations at the beginning of the period. This assumption is used to determine the expected return on assets for the pension expense.

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

### Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Current service cost (net of employee contributions)	(288,000)	(379,000)
Net interest cost	(10,000)	(75,000)
Administration expenses	(15,000)	(14,000)
Total operating charge	<u>(313,000)</u>	<u>(468,000)</u>

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

	2024	2023
	£	£
<b>At 1 September</b>	<b>7,937,000</b>	8,220,000
Current service cost	288,000	379,000
Interest cost	420,000	354,000
Employee contributions	106,000	104,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss	125,000	(1,051,000)
Benefits paid	(130,000)	(69,000)
<b>At 31 August</b>	<b><u>8,746,000</u></b>	<u>7,937,000</u>

### Changes in the fair value of academy's share of scheme assets:

	2024	2023
	£	£
<b>At 1 September</b>	<b>7,487,000</b>	6,212,000
Interest income	410,000	279,000
Actuarial gain/(loss)	236,000	473,000
Administration expenses	(15,000)	(14,000)
Employer contributions	509,000	502,000
Employee contributions	106,000	104,000
Benefits paid	(130,000)	(69,000)
<b>At 31 August</b>	<b><u>8,603,000</u></b>	<u>7,487,000</u>

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2024  
(continued)****31 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 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 following related party transactions took place in the financial period.

Expenditure Related Party Transactions

Mr P Rushton, spouse of Miss C O'Neill, the Head Teacher of Queen Elizabeth School and Queen Elizabeth Studio School, is employed by the academy trust as a teacher. Mr P Rushton's appointment was made in open competition and Miss C O'Neill was not involved in the decision making process regarding appointment. Mr P Rushton is paid within the normal pay scale for his role and receives no special treatment as a result of his relationship to the Head Teacher.

Miss C O'Neill, Head Teacher and trustee, is also a member of the South Lakes Federation. During the year sales totalling £nil (2023: £nil) and purchases totalling £13,830 (2023: £14,132) were made with the South Lakes Federation. Included within creditors at the year end was £nil (2023: £375).

**32 Agency arrangements**

The academy trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for ESFA. In the accounting period ending 31 August 2024 the academy trust received £40,267 and disbursed £29,625 from the fund. As at 31 August 2024, the cumulative unspent 16-19 bursary fund is £36,361, of which £9,017 relates to undistributed funding that is repayable to ESFA. Comparatives for the accounting period ending 31 August 2023 are £35,356 received, £33,086 disbursed, total cumulative unspent fund of £25,719 of which £nil was repayable to ESFA.