



Headteacher: **Niall Smith M.A. (Cantab), N.P.Q.H.**

Deputy Headteachers: **Brian Burns B.A. (Hons), N.P.Q.H.** — **Craig Wicking B.Sc. (Hons), N.P.Q.H.**

**To: EDUCATION FUNDING AGENCY**

**Sue Baldwin**  
**Director, Academies & Maintained Schools Group**

**VALUE FOR MONEY STATEMENT**

**Academy: Southborough High School:**

**Academy Trust Company no. : 07776910**

**Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013**

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

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

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In its first full year as an academy Southborough's two main priorities were to improve educational outcomes and to make significant and sustainable improvements to the premises and grounds in support of the curriculum. The academy still occupies the original 1950's buildings and with a comparative lack of investment over previous decades we see it as an essential part of our current development strategy to upgrade the décor, infrastructure and facilities.

We were fortunate enough to begin the financial year with an accumulated surplus of £167k brought forward from the first 6 months of academy status. Some of this money was used to begin a rolling programme of redecoration and re-flooring of corridors and communal areas. We also funded the installation of an impressive astro- turf multi- games pitch in place of a neglected area of crumbling tarmac and this has radically improved the resources of the PE Department. We also added two new cricket nets, assisted by a grant from Surrey County Club. We carefully followed the financial regulations in going out to tender and selecting contractors with proven expertise and reliability in their respective fields.

We were pleased to be awarded two capital grants by the EFA . The first was for renewal of the electrical mains and sub main distribution and amounted to £352,206. We were able to renew the lighting in over 30 teaching spaces and in 20 of these the lights were installed in new recessed ceilings significantly improving the acoustics and verbal communication in classes. The other grant, amounting to £128,635, was for the first phase replacement of the original crittall windows which were warped, let in draughts and therefore energy inefficient.

Of course the principal cost for any school is on staffing and we have established a term by term review of the staffing structure, both in terms of its budget and its appropriateness to our curriculum goals. Teaching staff, including Leadership Team, and support staff are all included in the review. We feel that our staffing resources have the requisite experience, expertise and enthusiasm to deliver our curriculum goals and this is evidenced in the 2013 examination results.

The school had its best ever GCSE and A Level results in 2013 and was also confirmed by OFSTED as being effective in December 2013. Additionally there was a significant narrowing of the gap between pupil premium categories of pupils and between all pupils. We had our best ever A Level results at A\*- B and A\*- C grades. The Pupil Premium grant has been used to improve attainment and, as a result, the gap between pupil premium and non - pupil premium pupils has been narrowed. This is seen particularly in KS4 attainment and in progress measures commented upon by OFSTED in December 2013. Record attainment figures were achieved by our most able pupils at KS4 and KS5. The number of A\* and A grades at GCSE increased and there was a 22% increase in A\*/A grades at A Level.

We had a very low level of exclusion when compared to the national average, while the attendance rate of all pupils is significantly above the national average.

Southborough has worked closely with the local authority's 'Education Kingston' project, utilising and sharing resources and support networks to drive up standards for all. We have invested in the Accelerated Reader programme to give added momentum to our whole-school reading initiative. We also launched the 'Bring Your Own Device' initiative to encourage staff to purchase and utilise smart technologies to help enhance the IT aspects of their teaching. The school has leased the equipment and the participating staff

members repay the lease over two years by a 'salary sacrifice' arrangement. This scheme has reduced the school's own need to purchase IT hardware.

With academy status we have improved and clarified our budget structure and accounting and purchasing controls which has led to greater transparency in our budget monitoring and financial decision taking. We intend to address those areas of the school's operation where efficiency gains may be possible such as cleaning, catering and premises maintenance. We have sought very good professional advice in our bidding for ACMF capital grants and in the current bidding round we are seeking the complete renewal of our heating systems. Our governors are fully informed as to the choice of projects and they review and ratify any major spending decisions.

We feel that the undoubted progress being achieved at Southborough High School would be underpinned and enhanced by a planned expansion of the school and discussions are currently in progress with the local authority regarding a possible progression to co-educational status and an extension of the intake to the Primary age range.



SIGNED.....

Niall Smith – Headteacher

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> January 2014