

Company registration number 07711928 (England and Wales)

**HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

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HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	C. Goodchild R. Livingstone T. Goodwin S. Lavin P. Rottier
Trustees	N. Bielby (Executive Headteacher) C. Burgess (Community Governor) K. Comb (Community Governor) T. Goodwin (Chair of Governors and Community Governor) A. Middleton (Staff Governor) (Resigned 1 November 2024) C. Morgan (Staff Governor) P. Redford (Staff Governor) (Resigned 27 September 2024) P. Knox (Community Governor) J. Hampshire (Parent Governor) R. Cowell (Parent Governor) J. Darlington (Parent Governor) A. Nowotny (Parent Governor) M. Woods (Parent Governor) D. Andrews (Community Governor) (Appointed 21 October 2024) K. McDermott (Staff Governor) (Appointed 6 January 2025)
Senior management team	
- Executive Headteacher	N. Bielby
- Deputy Head	M. Lowe
- Deputy Head	T. Munro
- Director of Business Services	A. Halsall
Company secretary	A. Halsall
Company registration number	07711928 (England and Wales)
Registered office	Selkirk Drive Holmes Chapel Crewe Cheshire CW4 7DX
Independent auditor	JS. Audit Limited James House Stonecross Business Park Yew Tree Way Warrington Cheshire WA3 3JD
Bankers	Lloyds Bank plc Citymark 150 Fountainbridge Edinburgh EH3 9PE

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Solicitors

Mills & Reeve LLP
78-84 Colmore Row
Birmingham
B3 2AB

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The Trustees present their annual report together with the accounts and independent auditor's reports of the Charitable Company for the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025.

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School and Sixth Form College provides educational services for pupils aged 11 to 19 serving a catchment area in Holmes Chapel and the surrounding area. It had a roll of 1,323 in the January 2025 school census.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & Sixth Form College (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 Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & Sixth Form College are also the Directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law. 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.

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 amount as may be required, not exceeding £10, for the debts and liabilities contracted before they ceased to be a member.

Trustees' indemnities

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Academy Trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising due to negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring on school business.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

Appointment of Trustees

The composition of the Governing Board (GB) of the Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & Sixth Form College (HCCS) is established under the terms of the articles of association and in compliance with the academy's funding agreement. The composition has not officially changed since the GB set its initial Instrument of Government from September 2011. In October 2024, following the decision not to pursue the development of a Multi Academy Trust, the Governing Board considered and agreed a proposal to reset the composition of the board. These proposals were accepted and ratified at a meeting of the Members.

The Governing Board of the Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & Sixth Form College will have up to thirteen Trustees, made up from: five Trustees will be elected from within the parent body of the school (the minimum is 3), one Trustee is the Headteacher, two Trustees will be elected from within the staff of the academy, five Trustees will be recruited from within the school's general community.

Parent Trustees

Nominations are invited from parents for election to the Board of Trustees. Nominations are invited via the school newsletter for parents of children attending the school.

Each nomination must be supported by a proposer and seconder, who may be the partner of the candidate. All nominations are acknowledged. A parent may not propose or second more than one candidate. The term of office is 4 years. Elections are overseen by the clerk to the Board of Trustees who acts as Returning Officer. If insufficient parents stand for election, the Board of Trustees may appoint a parent of a registered student at the school.

Staff Trustees

Nominations are invited for staff employed by the school. Elections are by secret ballot. At least one Staff Trustee must be a teacher and at least one must be a member of the HCCS Support Staff.

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Community Trustees

A maximum of five Trustees may be appointed from within the school community in order to ensure that the Board of Trustees has the range of skills and experience needed to maintain the highest standards of governance. Community Trustees are appointed by the Board of Trustees for a period of 4 years. The Academy Trust advertises vacancies for Trustees and are able to ask for specific skills or experience that they identify as being required. Trustees in this constituency can be people who live or work in the community served by the Academy, or people who do not work or live close to the Academy but are committed to the good governance and success of the Academy.

Governance structure

The Full Board of Trustees meets each calendar month, except August. A Chair is elected from within the current Board of Trustees. During the year in review, and following a full review of the effectiveness of the governance structure, the Board of Trustees has undertaken its work in a more focused and direct manner. The current structure ensures that all Trustees have a broader understanding and role in overseeing all aspects of the Academy Trust's performance.

The Board of Trustees has established 2 committees to support its work:

Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk Committee is made up of at least 3 Trustees, none of whom may be employees of the Academy. The role of the committee is to give a considered overview of the effectiveness of the management and control systems of the Academy. The committee manages the annual programme of internal and external audits that are provided by independent providers. They commission audits to assist them to gain assurance on which they advise the board. The committee ensures that an effective risk register is in place that demonstrates action to mitigate the key risks of the Academy. The committee normally meets once per school term and is chaired by a trustee who is not the Chair or Vice Chair of the Governing Board.

Remuneration Committee

The Remuneration Committee which consists of 3 Trustees, including the Chair, who meet at least annually, review the performance of the Executive Headteacher. They are assisted in this area by an external 'expert'. They also consider the academy's pay policy, outcomes of the Teachers Performance Management system and the pay uplifts recommended by the national negotiation frameworks covering all staff work groups.

Financial delegation

The Board of Trustees has approved a scheme of financial delegation detailed within a comprehensive Financial Procedures Manual, that allows budgetary responsibility to be delegated, through the Executive Headteacher, to the lowest level of decision making. The Board of Trustees are responsible for setting general policy, approving the strategic plan, adopting and approving the annual plan and budget and making major decisions about the direction of the Academy including capital expenditure and key staff appointments.

Declarations of interest

All Trustees, Members and Senior Managers are required to complete a declaration of interest questionnaire on an annual basis. During the year in review, the following Trustees made declarations:

Rebecca Cowell - Deputy Headteacher and Governor, Goostrey Community Primary School

Jody Darlington - Chair of Governors at Wimboldsley Community Primary School and Governor at CWAC Council Scrutiny Committee for Education

Tracey Goodwin - Co-opted Governor at Goostrey Community Primary School

Andrew Middleton - Governor at the Oaks, Crewe

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Board effectiveness review

During the year, the Board of Trustees continued to strengthen the arrangements agreed the previous year. A system of link governors has been implemented to build a deeper understanding of key areas of the curriculum. The Board of Trustees meet in full once per month with the exception of August. The governance structure, which has been in place for the year ending 31 August 2025, includes a dedicated Audit and Risk Committee.

The Board of Trustees reviews its performance at the end of each full meeting. During the year, an action log has been maintained and monitored to ensure that all actions and decisions of the Board are implemented and reported on.

All new Trustees undertake an induction programme that helps them to get a broad understanding of the school and the current strategic challenges. All Trustees have access to training opportunities both in house and via the wider Cheshire and National networks.

Members & Governors who served during the year (for the period 1st September 2024 - 31st August 2025):

Members

Mrs Tracey Goodwin	1st September 2022 (Chair of Governors)
Mrs Caroline Goodchild	From 1st April 2019
Mrs Sophie Lavin	From 1st March 2023
Mrs Ruth Livingstone	From 1st April 2019
Mr Peter Rottier	From 1st April 2019

Trustees

Parent Trustees

Mrs Rebecca Cowell	Appointed October 2023 - October 2027
Mrs Jody Darlington	Appointed October 2023 - October 2027
Mr James Hampshire	Appointed March 2022 – March 2026
Mrs Anh Nowotny	Appointed October 2023 - October 2027
Mr Michael Woods	Appointed October 2023 - October 2027

Executive Headteacher Trustee

Mr Nigel Bielby	Appointed September 2020
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Staff Trustees

Dr Andrew Middleton	Appointed November 2020 - November 2024
Mrs Caroline Morgan	Appointed November 2023 - November 2027
Mr Phil Redford	Appointed October 2020 - September 2024
Mrs Kate McDermott	Appointed January 2025 - January 2029

Community Trustees

Mrs Christina Burgess	Appointed September 2022 – September 2026
Mrs Kerry Comb	Appointed September 2023 - September 2027
Mrs Tracey Goodwin (Chair)	Appointed October 2018 - October 2026
Dr Paul Knox	Appointed October 2024 - October 2028
Mr David Andrews	Appointed October 2024 - October 2028

Resignations

Dr Andrew Middleton	End of term of office November 2024
Mr Phil Redford	End of term of office September 2024

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period 3

Full-time equivalent employee number 2.80

Percentage of time spent on facility time

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

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time -

Total pay bill 8,080,480

Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time -

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours -

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

Everybody Leisure Trust

The Academy Trust is the sole owner of the 3G sports facility and playing fields. A joint use agreement is in place with the Leisure Trust that covers community use of the Academy's 3G pitch and the division of income that is achieved through community use.

A separate agreement is assumed in place between the Academy, the Leisure Trust and Cheshire East LA that covers the school's use of the internal sports facilities which include the sports hall and gym. The agreement also includes the division of costs for standard utilities and heating.

Cheshire East School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT)

The Academy continues to be the centre of Initial Teacher Training for Cheshire East (SCITT). During 2025, the academy took over the management of the initial teacher training activity formerly undertaken by St Joseph's College, Stoke. The management and financial performance of the SCITT is fully integrated into the management arrangements and accounts of the Academy Trust.

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Objectives and activities

The Academy Trust's object is specifically restricted to advancing, for the public benefit, education in the United Kingdom. It aims to carry this out by delivering a broad and balanced curriculum for the benefit of all students.

School Development Plan

The Board of Trustees has agreed and published a School Development Plan which sets out the key areas of focus which are the highest level of priority for our school's continued improvement that delivers:

- the highest quality of education through a knowledge rich curriculum and exceptional teaching
- the best possible outcomes for all students
- a sustainable model to address the changing nature of post 16 provision
- continue to attract a sufficient cohort of students to sustain and develop the number of students in year groups 7 to 11
- provide high quality educational opportunities to children with social, emotional and mental health needs in our Resource Provision

The Board of Trustees has been provided with regular information on the progress being made against the objectives set out in the School Development Plan.

Public benefit

The Academy recognises its legal requirement to be able to clearly demonstrate that its aims are for public benefit. In this case, specifically, the school has, as its main charitable purpose, the advancement of education. The Academy offers a rich and broad curriculum to pupils of all abilities aged from 11-19 who come from varied socio-economic backgrounds in a semi-rural catchment area.

Furthermore, The Governing Board pays due regard to Charity Commission guidance on public benefit beyond the provision of secondary education. It conducts its business with a strong policy of working jointly with others to promote public use of the buildings and land onsite for sport, and tuition to the benefit of the wider community.

Report of Ofsted

Ofsted, the education regulator undertook a full inspection visit of the academy in January 2025 and rated the academy as GOOD in all aspects. The inspectors commented:

"The school is ambitious for all pupils. Staff are determined that all pupils, including those who are disadvantaged and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), gain the knowledge and skills that they need to thrive in their future lives. Overall, pupils in key stage 4 and in the sixth form achieve well in public examinations."

A full copy of the report can be found here: <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50270924>

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

Key performance indicators* - Summer 2025

*There were no national progress measures published in 2025

Key Stage 4

KS 4 Key Performance Indicator (KPI) tracker

Cohort Size	Total 2025 = 231			
A8 Summary	HCCS	%	CE	SISRA
KS2 Prior Attainment				
Attainment 8 Grade	4.84		4.65	4.63
Basics 9-5	HCCS	%	CE	SISRA
%9-5 in English and Maths	101	43.7	44.5	45.7
%9-5 in English	148	64.1	61.3	64.1
%9-5 in Maths	121	52.4	51.7	51.8
Basics 9-4	HCCS	%	CE	SISRA
%9-4 in English and Maths	161	69.7	65.9	65.7
%9-4 in English	182	78.8	75.5	76.1
%9-4 in Maths	173	74.9	71.3	70.9
KS4 Results	HCCS	%	CE	SISRA
5 Standard Passes inc EM	148	64.1		60.7
5 Strong Passes inc EM	93	40.3		42
EBacc Total Measure	HCCS	%	CE	SISRA
% Entered For the EBacc	36	15.6	38.5	39.8
% EBacc (Standard Pass)	28	12.1	23.8	24.1
% EBacc (Strong Pass)	20	8.7		16.7

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

End of Key Stage 5 Summer Exams 2025 - KPI's

Year 13	Total	Boys	Girls	KS4 prior	APS/entry	CollegeVA
Cohort profile 2023	98	45	53	2021 CAGs	33.69	-0.42
Cohort profile 2024	74	35	39	6.13	32.34	-0.34
Cohort profile 2025	64	33	31	5.06	28.76	0.00

End of KS5 performance		2025 FFT20	August 2025
Sixth Form	Overall average grade	B-	C=
	Overall average APS per entry	35 to 40	28.76
A level	A Level VA score	0.05 to 0.1	-0.12
	A Level average grade	B-	C=
	A Level average APS per entry	35 to 40	28.53
VTQ	VTQ average VA score	+0.2	+0.44
	VTQ average grade	Distinction -	Merit+
	VTQ average APS per entry	33	29.35

Headline Measure - Tracker	2025 Exams
L3 Overall Average Points per Pupil	88.74
BTEC Average Grade	Merit+
BTEC APS	47.54
BTEC VA	0.44
A Level Average Grade	C=
A Level APS	74.68
A Level VA	-0.12

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries the Board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason the Board of Trustees continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the accounts. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the statement of accounting policies.

Financial review

Most of the Academy's recurrent 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 year ended 31 August 2025 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

During the year ended 31 August 2025, the Academy received recurrent income of £9,320,909 in respect of General Annual Grant, other DfE funding and local authority funding. Expenditure for the year amounted to £9,296,492.

Unrestricted income totalled £562,887 for the year. Against this, resources expended totalled £375,285 resulting in a net increase in unrestricted funds of £187,602 before transfers. We transferred £361,933 of our unrestricted funds to our fixed asset fund and £14,383 to our general fund.

The Academy also received grants for fixed assets from the DfE. In accordance with the SORP, such grants are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation.

On 31 August 2025 the net assets were £22,969,946. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the school.

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Reserves policy

The Trustees review the level of reserves of the Academy on a regular basis. The cash reserves are reported to the Board of Trustees on a monthly basis as part of the cash flow report. The 'available' reserves are those remaining after excluding restricted and designated funds. These reserves can therefore be spent on any of the Academy's charitable objectives. The Trustees consider these available reserves and set a level based on the risks of the Academy needing to spend in an emergency situation for example, to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants or for example emergency repairs. The Academy's free reserves as at 31 August 2025 are £267,337.

School Development strategy

During the period in review, the Academy fully opened the new teaching containing 10 additional classrooms. Taking a risk based approach, the academy took out of use the oldest mobile classrooms, returned to site all off site storage of confidential archives and significantly reduced the number of students using the third story block. The leadership offices were relocated to enable all SEND facilities to be co-located on the ground floor adjacent to the specialist Resource Provision.

In 2023 and 2024, the Academy submitted two successful bids for Condition Improvement Funding (CIF) to replace a significant amount of the electrical infrastructure of the buildings that are around 60 years old. Both projects were completed within the financial year 2024/25 at a cost of circa £800,000. In addition, a further successful, risk based bid to remove and replace the cladding on the two gable ends of the three-storey teaching block, was successful. The main body of the work has been carried out in the summer of 2025 and will be completed in term one 2025/26. The successful grant is for £444,000.

Investment policy

The Board of Trustees approved a new investment strategy as part of the Financial Procedures Manual. As part of this strategy, the Academy has managed cash reserves through a cash management platform (IN SIGNIS) thus maximising the potential interest earning potential of cash reserves.

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Board of Trustees understand and accept their responsibility and role in managing the key strategic risks of the Academy. They have 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.

They recognise however that those risks will always exist and that in managing these principal risks there is an understanding that there needs to be a balance between investment in mitigation and the potential benefit that this would deliver. In order to do this the Board of Trustees has put in place arrangements to better understand the risks in terms of the likelihood of them occurring and the potential impact if they did. The Board of Trustees holds the operational managers to account for the delivery of agreed actions via the Executive Headteacher and reviews the principal risks associated with agenda items at every meeting.

The principal risks for Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & Sixth Form College in 2024/25 include:

- Managing the major capital projects
- Managing the variation in student numbers
- Managing income and expenditure plan including pay costs.
- Improving the general infrastructure in terms of Health and Safety and Fire
- Implementation of a new payroll system and provider.

Managing risks

The Board of Trustees has overall responsibility for maintaining the key strategic risks of the Academy and they will delegate the management of those risks to the school's leadership team via the Executive Headteacher. Please see the organisational list below which shows how risks are delegated throughout the school:

Board of Trustees

Executive Head Teacher

Core Leadership Team

Senior Leadership Team

Faculties

Support Teams

Corporate risk register

The Academy Trust maintains a corporate risk register that brings together a summary of the identified risks and the plans in place to mitigate those risks where appropriate. This register is a living document and the scores (Likelihood x Impact) are reviewed on a regular basis. The Board of Trustees review the main risks associated with the agenda items at each meeting and has a schedule throughout the year that ensures all principal risks are presented for review on a regular basis. The residual risk scores are recorded within the overall risk register and a snapshot representing the current position presented at the end of each academic term. Actions taken to monitor the key risks include:

- Close monitoring of interim reports across all key stages
- Internal audit programme
- Creation of the Audit and Risk Committee
- Monthly meetings of the Board of Trustees

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Financial risk

The Academy Trust operates a system of internal financial controls and these are reviewed by the External Auditors, the Internal Audit arrangements and the Department for Education. The Trustees acknowledge their role as per the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities.

The Academy's system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures including as far as possible, the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability. It includes:

- a monthly financial performance report available to all Trustees;
- a comprehensive Financial Procedures Manual approved by the Board of Trustees
- a financial risk register
- a system of internal audit by an external provider and independent of external audit.

A full system of internal control has been established and the Trustees continually review the financial procedures and controls contained within the Financial Procedures Manual as necessary. This includes levels of designated authority. A full program of Internal Audit is in place and reports are presented to the Board of Trustees via the Audit and Risk Committee along with suggested actions to strengthen existing controls.

Fundraising

The Academy Trust complies fully with section 13 of the Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016. This includes the organisation's GDPR policy that complies fully with marketing regulations and does not target individuals. Any fundraising done by the school is fully monitored by the Trustees.

Plans for future periods

The academy has undertaken a major review of the broad based curriculum following the Ofsted inspection visit carried out on 28 and 29 January 2025. The revised curriculum will be implemented and evaluated in 2025/26. The headteacher's report, management of key risks and report on progress to deliver all aspects of the school development plan will be combined to form a single performance measurement tool.

Auditor

As far as the Trustees are aware there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and the Board of Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as company directors, on 08 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



T. Goodwin (Chair of Governors and Community Governor)

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Scope of responsibility

The Trustees acknowledge that we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & Sixth Form College has in place an effective and appropriate system of control, financial and otherwise. We also acknowledge that the system is designed to manage and mitigate risks wherever possible rather than eliminate all risks of failure to achieve business objectives. They can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the 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 Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & Sixth Form College Academy 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 10 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
N. Bielby (Executive Headteacher)	10	10
C. Burgess (Community Governor)	8	10
K. Comb (Community Governor)	10	10
T. Goodwin (Chair of Governors and Community Governor)	8	10
A. Middleton (Staff Governor) (Resigned 1 November 2024)	1	1
C. Morgan (Staff Governor)	7	10
P. Redford (Staff Governor) (Resigned 27 September 2024)	0	1
P. Knox (Community Governor)	9	10
J. Hampshire (Parent Governor)	7	10
R. Cowell (Parent Governor)	9	10
J. Darlington (Parent Governor)	4	10
A. Nowottny (Parent Governor)	5	10
M. Woods (Parent Governor)	6	10
D. Andrews (Community Governor) (Appointed 21 October 2024)	4	10
K. McDermott (Staff Governor) (Appointed 6 January 2025)	6	6

Conflicts of interest

All Trustees, Members and Senior Managers are required to complete a declaration of interest questionnaire on an annual basis. During the year in review, the following Trustees made declarations:

Rebecca Cowell - Deputy Headteacher and Governor, Goostrey Community Primary School

Jody Darlington - Chair of Governors at Wimboldsley Community Primary School and Governor at CWAC Council Scrutiny Committee for Education

Tracey Goodwin - Co-opted Governor at Goostrey Community Primary School

Andrew Middleton - Governor at the Oaks, Crewe

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Governance reviews

During the year, the Board of Trustees continued to strengthen the arrangements agreed the previous year. A system of link governors has been implemented to build a deeper understanding of key areas of the curriculum. The Board of Trustees meet in full once per month with the exception of August. The governance structure, which has been in place for the year ending 31 August 2025, includes a dedicated Audit and Risk Committee.

The Board of Trustees reviews its performance at the end of each full meeting. During the year, an action log has been maintained and monitored to ensure that all actions and decisions of the Board are implemented and reported on.

All new Trustees undertake an induction program that helps them to get a broad understanding of the school and the current strategic challenges. All Trustees have access to training opportunities both in house and via the wider Cheshire and National networks.

The audit committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to advise on, and investigate any activity within its terms of reference, and to seek any information it requires from staff. To maintain and oversee the Academy's risk register, review the board's internal and external financial audit statements and reports so as to ensure that they reflect best practice.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
K. Comb (Community Governor)	2	2
T. Goodwin (Chair of Governors and Community Governor)	2	2
P. Knox (Community Governor)	2	2
M. Woods (Parent Governor)	2	2

Review of value for money

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

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

- Ensuring that a full programme of Internal Audit is in place
- Reviewing the effectiveness and capacity of staff employed by the Academy
- Providing regular reports to committees on performance and comparisons with peer schools
- Reviewing contracts in terms of quality, service and price
- Developing and maintaining the corporate risk register
- Reviewing and implementing the Financial Procedures Manual
- Managing the transition between financial years and the key income risks
- Managing the delivery of the major capital project, on time and within budget
- Reporting to the Board of Trustees monthly financial performance

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control has been in place in Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & Sixth Form College for the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts.

The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the key risks that may prevent the Academy Trust from achieving its principal objectives and responsibilities. The system is established to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised, the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

The Board of Trustees recognise that the system is designed to manage and reduce risks 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.

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 ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that have been in place for the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

The risk and control framework

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

- Comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and monthly financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Trustees.
- Regular reviews by the Board of Trustees of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes.
- A comprehensive Financial Procedures Manual, agreed by the Board of Trustees, setting out the key control policies and delegated authority levels.
- Commissioning of an Internal Audit of the Financial Procedures Manual in relation to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2023/24.
- Identification and management of key risks.
- Implementing changes to the governance structure of the Board of Trustees including the development of an Audit and Risk Committee.

During 2024/2025, the Internal Audit programme has been delivered by an independent company with no links to the external auditors.

All internal reports were reported to the Audit and Risk Committee and actions taken where recommendations have been made. There were no significant risks identified within the internal audits carried out by the independent internal auditors during this period. The internal auditor has delivered their schedule of work as planned and no significant control issues have been identified. Recommendations for improvement were made and have been actioned.

The financial procedures, controls, budget plan and reporting schedule have been approved by the Board of Trustees. Together, these set out both the financial plans of the academy and the system of financial delegation and controls that are expected to be in place. These plans and controls are reviewed in light of any changes identified within the Academies Financial Handbook, as a result of any internal or external audit findings or as a result of unexpected variation in performance. The reviewer's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy Trust's financial systems.

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED) **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

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

Conclusion

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of the reviews of the system of internal control by the Audit and Risk Committee and The Board of Trustees. A plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place. Based on the information available, 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 Board of Trustees on 08 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



N. Bielby (Executive Headteacher)

T. Goodwin (Chair of Governors and Community Governor)

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

As accounting officer of Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & Sixth Form College, I confirm that I have had due regard to the framework of authorities governing regularity, propriety and compliance, including the trust's funding agreement with the Department for Education (DfE), and the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, including responsibilities for estates safety and management. I have also considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust Board of Trustees and DfE of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management.

I confirm that I and the 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 framework of authorities.

I confirm that no instances of material irregularity, impropriety or 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 DfE.



N. Bielby (Executive Headteacher)
Accounting Officer

08 December 2025

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The trustees (who are also the directors of Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & Sixth Form College for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 published by the Department for Education, 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 2024 to 2025;
- make judgements 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 that grants received from the DfE have been applied for the purposes intended.

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 08 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



T. Goodwin (Chair of Governors and Community Governor)

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & Sixth Form College for the year ended 31 August 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the Department for Education.

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 2025 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; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025.

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 accounts' section of our report. We are independent of the Academy Trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the 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.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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 Trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's 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.

Based on our understanding of the academy and sector, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to, but were not limited to, the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, employment, pension, health and safety and safeguarding legislation, the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025, The Academy Trust Handbook 2024 and the academy's funding agreement with the Department for Education and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006, the Charities' Statement of Recommended Practice, the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 and the Academy Trust Handbook 2024.

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were related to management bias in accounting estimates and judgements and risk of fraudulent revenue recognition.

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management about actual and potential litigation and claims, their policies and procedures to prevent and detect fraud as well as whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing regulatory correspondence with the Secretary of State for Education;
- obtaining an understanding of provisions; and
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls: testing the appropriateness of journal entries; assessing whether the accounting estimates, judgements and decisions made by management are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

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 directors 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.

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://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.

JS. Audit Limited

Peter Atkinson F.C.A. (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of JS. Audit Limited, Statutory Auditor

Chartered Accountants

James House

Stonecross Business Park

Yew Tree Way

Warrington

Cheshire

WA3 3JD

09/12/2025

Date:

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON REGULARITY TO HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter and further to the requirements of the Department for Education (DfE) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & Sixth Form College during the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & Sixth Form College and DfE in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & Sixth Form College and DfE 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 Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & Sixth Form College and DfE, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the accounting officer of Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & Sixth Form College and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & Sixth Form College's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2024, 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 extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts. 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 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 have not been applied for the 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 the DfE, which requires a limited assurance engagement as set out in our engagement letter.

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw our conclusion included:

- An assessment of the risk of material irregularity across the academy trust's activities;
- Further testing and review of the areas identified through the risk assessment including enquiry, identification of control processes and examination of supporting evidence across all areas identified as well as additional verification work where considered necessary
- Consideration of evidence obtained through the work detailed above and the work completed as part of our financial statements audit in order to support the regularity conclusion

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON REGULARITY TO HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

JS. Audit Limited

Reporting Accountant

JS. Audit Limited

09/12/2025
Date:

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	-	200	471,440	471,640	851,514
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	9,320,909	-	9,320,909	8,729,944
- Teaching schools	4	342,096	-	-	342,096	332,656
Other trading activities	5	199,672	-	-	199,672	207,373
Investments	6	21,119	-	-	21,119	13,733
Total		562,887	9,321,109	471,440	10,355,436	10,135,220
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	7	58,691	-	-	58,691	62,904
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	8	-	9,296,492	535,601	9,832,093	9,523,169
- Teaching schools	8	316,594	-	-	316,594	304,911
Total	7	375,285	9,296,492	535,601	10,207,378	9,890,984
Net income/(expenditure)		187,602	24,617	(64,161)	148,058	244,236
Transfers between funds	15	(376,316)	14,383	361,933	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	17	-	1,309,000	-	1,309,000	182,000
Adjustment for restriction on pension assets	17	-	(1,348,000)	-	(1,348,000)	(197,000)
Net movement in funds		(188,714)	-	297,772	109,058	229,236
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		456,051	-	22,404,837	22,860,888	22,631,652
Total funds carried forward		267,337	-	22,702,609	22,969,946	22,860,888

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2024	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds:		Total 2024
			General	Fixed asset	
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	-	807	850,707	851,514
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	8,729,944	-	8,729,944
- Teaching schools	4	332,656	-	-	332,656
Other trading activities	5	207,373	-	-	207,373
Investments	6	13,733	-	-	13,733
Total		<u>553,762</u>	<u>8,730,751</u>	<u>850,707</u>	<u>10,135,220</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7	62,904	-	-	62,904
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	8	-	8,994,730	528,439	9,523,169
- Teaching schools	8	304,911	-	-	304,911
Total	<u>7</u>	<u>367,815</u>	<u>8,994,730</u>	<u>528,439</u>	<u>9,890,984</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		185,947	(263,979)	322,268	244,236
Transfers between funds	15	(311,771)	52,054	259,717	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	17	-	182,000	-	182,000
Adjustment for restriction on pension assets	17	-	(197,000)	-	(197,000)
Net movement in funds		<u>(125,824)</u>	<u>(226,925)</u>	<u>581,985</u>	<u>229,236</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>581,875</u>	<u>226,925</u>	<u>21,822,852</u>	<u>22,631,652</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>456,051</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,404,837</u>	<u>22,860,888</u>

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes	2025	2024
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	22,092,814	21,539,654
Current assets			
Debtors	13	833,122	648,974
Cash at bank and in hand		662,710	1,352,688
		1,495,832	2,001,662
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(618,700)	(680,428)
Net current assets		877,132	1,321,234
Net assets excluding pension asset		22,969,946	22,860,888
Defined benefit pension scheme asset	17	-	-
Total net assets		22,969,946	22,860,888
Funds of the Academy Trust:			
Restricted funds	15		
- Fixed asset funds		22,702,609	22,404,837
Total restricted funds		22,702,609	22,404,837
Unrestricted income funds	15	267,337	456,051
Total funds		22,969,946	22,860,888

The financial statements on pages 25 to 45 were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 08 December 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:



T. Goodwin (Chair of Governors and Community Governor)

Company registration number 07711928 (England and Wales)

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	18	350,734	926,970
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		21,119	13,733
Capital grants from DfE Group		26,930	850,707
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(1,088,761)	(2,118,037)
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(1,040,712)</u>	<u>(1,253,597)</u>
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		<u>(689,978)</u>	<u>(326,627)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year		<u>1,352,688</u>	<u>1,679,315</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year		<u>662,710</u>	<u>1,352,688</u>

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 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.

1.1 Basis of preparation

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 (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the Department for Education, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

1.2 Going concern

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate, ie whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charitable 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.

1.3 Income

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

Grants

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

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the period 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 an unconditional entitlement to the grant. Unspent amounts of capital grants are reflected in the balance sheet in the restricted fixed asset fund. Capital grants are recognised when there is entitlement and are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended.

Donations

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

Other income

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

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are 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.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the balance sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. The related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities and carried forward in the balance sheet. Depreciation on such assets is charged to the restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities so as to reduce the fund over the useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the Academy Trust's depreciation policy.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

Freehold land and buildings	2% - 8% per annum straight line basis
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	10% - 25% per annum straight line basis
Motor vehicles	33% per annum straight line basis

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of any fixed asset may not be recoverable. Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts are recognised as impairments. Impairment losses are recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.6 Liabilities

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

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.7 Leased assets

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

1.8 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. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial liabilities

Trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost. 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.

1.9 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 chapter 3 part 11 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.

1.10 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 and the assets are held separately from those of the Academy Trust.

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 projected unit method. The 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 are recognised in the period to which they relate.

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the Academy Trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the statement of financial activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

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

1.11 Fund accounting

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

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

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received and include grants from the Department for Education.

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Accounting 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 and assumptions

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 or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 17, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2025. 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.

Depreciation charge is calculated based on estimates and assumptions on asset useful economic lives and expected residual value.

Critical areas of judgement

The governors consider there are no other areas considered critical to the academy's financial statements.

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Capital grants	-	471,440	471,440	850,707
Other donations	-	200	200	807
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	471,640	471,640	851,514
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

4 Funding for the Academy Trust's charitable activities

Educational operations	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
DfE grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	7,862,703	7,862,703	7,504,012
Other DfE grants:				
- Pupil premium	-	177,755	177,755	157,142
- Others	-	652,409	652,409	472,101
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	8,692,867	8,692,867	8,133,255
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	628,042	628,042	596,689
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funding for educational operations	-	9,320,909	9,320,909	8,729,944
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Teaching schools income	342,096	-	342,096	332,656
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funding	342,096	9,320,909	9,663,005	9,062,600
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Hire of facilities	85,508	-	85,508	85,992
Catering income	38,000	-	38,000	38,000
Provision of training and courses	21,874	-	21,874	33,359
Other income	54,290	-	54,290	50,022
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	199,672	-	199,672	207,373
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Other investment income	21,119	-	21,119	13,733

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Non-pay expenditure Premises £	Non-pay expenditure Other £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Expenditure on raising funds					
- Direct costs	-	-	58,691	58,691	62,904
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	6,428,751	-	438,870	6,867,621	6,644,752
- Allocated support costs	1,610,556	998,251	355,665	2,964,472	2,878,417
Teaching schools					
- Direct costs	156,570	-	160,024	316,594	304,911
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	8,195,877	998,251	1,013,250	10,207,378	9,890,984

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:	2025 £	2024 £
Operating lease rentals	81,490	87,254
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	535,601	517,039
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	11,400
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	8,350	7,940
- Other services	5,780	5,510
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	(16,000)	(6,000)

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

8 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Direct costs				
Educational operations	-	6,867,621	6,867,621	6,644,752
Teaching schools	316,594	-	316,594	304,911
Support costs				
Educational operations	-	2,964,472	2,964,472	2,878,417
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	316,594	9,832,093	10,148,687	9,828,080
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Teaching schools £	Educational operations £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Analysis of support costs				
Support staff costs	-	1,610,556	1,610,556	1,533,964
Depreciation	-	535,601	535,601	528,439
Technology costs	-	145,153	145,153	127,969
Premises costs	-	462,650	462,650	490,135
Legal costs	-	18,030	18,030	1,450
Other support costs	-	173,363	173,363	178,316
Governance costs	-	19,119	19,119	18,144
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	2,964,472	2,964,472	2,878,417
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

9 Staff

Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the year were:

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	5,966,844	5,869,239
Social security costs	661,925	568,569
Pension costs	1,451,711	1,365,546
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Staff costs - employees	8,080,480	7,803,354
Agency staff costs	115,397	136,681
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Staff development and other staff costs	8,195,877	7,940,035
	19,093	14,663
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total staff expenditure	8,214,970	7,954,698
	<hr/>	<hr/>

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

9 Staff

(Continued)

Staff numbers

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

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Teachers	79	79
Administration and support	129	115
Management	10	10
	218	204
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Higher paid staff

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

	2025 Number	2024 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	5	6
£70,001 - £80,000	2	-
£80,001 - £90,000	1	1
£100,001 - £110,000	-	1
£110,001 - £120,000	1	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and national insurance costs) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £483,210 (2024: £345,479).

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

10 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more of the Trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the Academy Trust. The Executive Headteacher and other staff Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of Executive Headteacher and staff members under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their services as Trustees.

The value of Trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

C Morgan

Remuneration: £15,001 - £20,000 (2024: £25,001 - £30,000)

Pension: £0 - £5,000 (2024: £5,001 - £10,000)

P Redford

Remuneration: £5,001 - £10,000 (2024: £65,001 - £70,000)

Pension: £0 - £5,000 (2024: £15,001 - £20,000)

N Bielby

Remuneration: £110,001 - £115,000 (2024: £105,001 - £110,000)

Pension: £30,001 - £35,000 (2024: £25,001 - £35,000)

A Middleton

Remuneration: £10,001 - £15,000 (2024: £50,001 - £55,000)

Pension: £0 - £5,000 (2024: £10,001 - £15,000)

K. McDermott

Remuneration: £40,001 - £45,000 (2024: £N/A)

Pension: £10,001 - £15,000 (2024: £N/A)

During the period ended 31 August 2025, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £Nil were reimbursed or paid directly to the governors (2024: £Nil).

11 Trustees' and officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the Academy Trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy Trust business. The insurance provides unlimited cover on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2025 was deducted from the funding from the DfE.

The cost of this insurance was £32,950 for the year.

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 September 2024	25,155,481	2,389,211	65,490	27,610,182
Additions	1,002,500	86,261	-	1,088,761
At 31 August 2025	26,157,981	2,475,472	65,490	28,698,943
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2024	3,842,419	2,162,619	65,490	6,070,528
Charge for the year	431,219	104,382	-	535,601
At 31 August 2025	4,273,638	2,267,001	65,490	6,606,129
Net book value				
At 31 August 2025	21,884,343	208,471	-	22,092,814
At 31 August 2024	21,313,062	226,592	-	21,539,654

Included within freehold land and buildings in an amount of £5,400,000 attributable to land which is not depreciated.

13 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	8,714	44,613
VAT recoverable	84,145	54,169
Other debtors	1,337	7,007
Prepayments and accrued income	738,926	543,185
	833,122	648,974

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	212,028	192,223
Other taxation and social security	148,596	127,072
Other creditors	191,527	233,010
Accruals and deferred income	66,549	128,123
	618,700	680,428

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

15 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2024	Income	Expenditure	Gains, losses and transfers	Balance at 31 August 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	7,862,703	(7,877,086)	14,383	-
Pupil premium	-	177,755	(177,755)	-	-
Other DfE grants	-	652,409	(652,409)	-	-
Other government grants	-	628,042	(628,042)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	200	(200)	-	-
Pension reserve	-	-	39,000	(39,000)	-
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
	-	9,321,109	(9,296,492)	(24,617)	-
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE group capital grants	19,933,202	471,440	(535,601)	361,933	20,230,974
Capital expenditure from GAG	654,406	-	-	-	654,406
Unrestricted funds	1,817,229	-	-	-	1,817,229
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
	22,404,837	471,440	(535,601)	361,933	22,702,609
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total restricted funds	22,404,837	9,792,549	(9,832,093)	337,316	22,702,609
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	341,859	220,791	(58,691)	(376,316)	127,643
Teaching schools	114,192	342,096	(316,594)	-	139,694
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
	456,051	562,887	(375,285)	(376,316)	267,337
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total funds	22,860,888	10,355,436	(10,207,378)	(39,000)	22,969,946
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

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

The General Annual Grant (GAG) must be used for the normal running costs of the Academy.

Other DfE grants include Pupil Premium and Post 16 Bursary, all relating to funding to assist pupils within the Academy.

Other government grants relate to SEN funding for particular pupils and Devolved Formula Capital for the maintenance of the Academy.

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

15 Funds

(Continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2023	Income	Expenditure	Gains, losses and transfers	Balance at 31 August 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	224,705	7,504,012	(7,780,771)	52,054	-
Pupil premium	-	157,142	(157,142)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	472,101	(472,101)	-	-
Other government grants	-	596,689	(596,689)	-	-
Other restricted funds	2,220	807	(3,027)	-	-
Pension reserve	-	-	15,000	(15,000)	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	226,925	8,730,751	(8,994,730)	37,054	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE group capital grants	19,358,368	850,707	(528,439)	252,566	19,933,202
Capital expenditure from GAG	647,255	-	-	7,151	654,406
Unrestricted funds	1,817,229	-	-	-	1,817,229
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	21,822,852	850,707	(528,439)	259,717	22,404,837
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total restricted funds	22,049,777	9,581,458	(9,523,169)	296,771	22,404,837
Unrestricted funds	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
General funds	495,428	221,106	(62,904)	(311,771)	341,859
Teaching schools	86,447	332,656	(304,911)	-	114,192
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	581,875	553,762	(367,815)	(311,771)	456,051
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funds	22,631,652	10,135,220	(9,890,984)	(15,000)	22,860,888
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted funds: General	Restricted funds: Fixed asset	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 August 2025 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	22,092,814	22,092,814
Current assets	854,287	31,750	609,795	1,495,832
Current liabilities	(586,950)	(31,750)	-	(618,700)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total net assets	267,337	-	22,702,609	22,969,946
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

(Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Restricted funds: Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	21,539,654	21,539,654
Current assets	1,136,479	-	865,183	2,001,662
Current liabilities	(680,428)	-	-	(680,428)
Total net assets	456,051	-	22,404,837	22,860,888

17 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 Cheshire West and Chester Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016, and that of the LGPS related to the period ended 31 March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £159,893 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2025 (2024: £162,295) and are included within creditors.

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 academy trusts. All teachers have the option to opt out of the TPS following enrolment.

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to ensure scheme costs are recognised and managed appropriately and the review specifies the level of future contributions.

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

17 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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 29% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy). This is an increase of 7% 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 the TPS in the period amounted to £1,139,193 (2024: £1,035,807).

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.

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 29% for employers and 7% 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.

Total contributions made	2025	2024
Employer's contributions	355,000	352,000
Employees' contributions	110,000	108,000
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total contributions	465,000	460,000
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Principal actuarial assumptions	2025	2024
Rate of increase in salaries	3.40	3.35
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.70	2.65
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	6.10	5.00
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HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

17 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

	2025 Years	2024 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	21.4	21.1
- Females	24.3	24.2
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	21.8	21.6
- Females	25.7	25.7

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

	2025 Fair value £	2024 Fair value £
Equities	3,568,320	3,122,760
Bonds	2,114,560	1,944,360
Property	859,040	765,960
Other assets	66,080	58,920
Asset ceiling restriction	(1,656,000)	(308,000)
 Total market value of assets	 4,952,000	 5,584,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £317,000 (2024: £485,000).

Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Current service cost	332,000	343,000
Interest income	(304,000)	(271,000)
Interest cost	288,000	265,000
 Total operating charge	 316,000	 337,000

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations

	2025 £	2024 £
At 1 September 2024	5,584,000	4,909,000
Current service cost	332,000	343,000
Interest cost	288,000	265,000
Employee contributions	110,000	108,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(1,296,000)	32,000
Benefits paid	(66,000)	(73,000)
 At 31 August 2025	 4,952,000	 5,584,000

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

17 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Changes in the fair value of the Academy Trust's share of scheme assets

	2025	2024
	£	£
At 1 September 2024	5,584,000	4,909,000
Interest income	304,000	271,000
Actuarial (loss)/gain	13,000	214,000
Employer contributions	355,000	352,000
Employee contributions	110,000	108,000
Benefits paid	(66,000)	(73,000)
Asset ceiling restriction	(1,348,000)	(197,000)
At 31 August 2025	<u>4,952,000</u>	<u>5,584,000</u>

The pension asset has been restricted by £1,656,000 (2024: £308,000) as it is not likely that the contributions will be refunded or reduced in the future.

18 Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

	Notes	2025	2024
		£	£
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		148,058	244,236
Adjusted for:			
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(471,440)	(850,707)
Investment income receivable	6	(21,119)	(13,733)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	17	(23,000)	(9,000)
Defined benefit pension scheme finance income	17	(16,000)	(6,000)
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		535,601	517,039
Loss on disposal of fixed assets		-	11,400
Decrease in debtors		260,362	1,093,485
(Decrease) in creditors		(61,728)	(59,750)
Net cash provided by operating activities		<u>350,734</u>	<u>926,970</u>

19 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2024	Cash flows	31 August 2025
	£	£	£
Cash	1,352,688	(689,978)	662,710

HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

20 Long-term commitments

Operating leases

At 31 August 2025 the total of the Academy Trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Amounts due within one year	400	220
Amounts due in two and five years	1,633	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,033	220
	<hr/>	<hr/>

21 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 or she is a member, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10 for the debts and liabilities contracted before he or she ceases to be a member.