

*The*  
**Sir John Brunner**  
*Foundation*

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**Annual Report and Financial Statements**

**For the year ended 31 August 2024**

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## Reference and Administrative Details

### Members

Mr A Redley  
 Mr D Shingler  
 Dr J Staley  
 Miss J Brandreth  
 Miss K Kirkwood (appointed 01 September 2023)

### Trustees

Mr A Redley (Chair)  
 Mrs E Bromley (resigned 10 July 2024)  
 Mr R Donovan  
 Mr M Snelson (Accounting Officer)  
 Mrs N Kirsten (resigned 31 March 2024)  
 Mr C Lee  
 Mr K Neary (resigned 08 October 2023)  
 Mr C Penter  
 Mrs J Hyslop  
 Mr Scott Mulholland (appointed 18 October 2023)  
 Ms C Gapare (appointed 27 March 2024)  
 Mr L Nisbet (appointed 27 March 2024)  
 Mrs V Parkes (appointed 27 March 2024)  
 Dr L Shorney (appointed 27 March 2024)

### Clerk to the Trustees

Mrs S Armstrong

### Senior Leadership Team

Mrs K McBurnie (Chief Financial Officer)  
 Mr M Snelson (Chief Executive Officer)  
 Mr C Atherton (Principal Sir John Deane’s Sixth Form College)  
 Mr R Warburton (Headteacher The County High School, Leftwich)  
 Ms L Naylor (Headteacher Middlewich High School – appointed 01 September 2023)  
 Mr M Galvin (Headteacher The Macclesfield Academy)

### Company name

The Sir John Brunner Foundation

### Principal and Registered Office

Monarch Drive  
 Northwich  
 Cheshire  
 CW9 8AF

### Company Registration Number

11227336 (England and Wales)

### Independent Auditor

Murray Smith LLP  
 Darland House  
 44 Winnington Hill  
 Northwich  
 Cheshire  
 CW8 1AU

The Sir John Brunner Foundation – Company Number 11227336

**Bankers**

NatWest Bank  
The Bull Ring  
Northwich  
Cheshire  
CW9 5BN

**Solicitors**

Eversheds Sutherland  
70 Great Bridgewater Street  
Manchester  
M1 5ES

# *The* **Sir John Brunner** Foundation

*Every child's life is enhanced and advanced through the highest quality of education*



*The*  
**COUNTY**  
**HIGH SCHOOL**  
*Leftwich*

**THE MACCLESFIELD**  
ACADEMY



**MIDDLEWICH**  
**HIGH SCHOOL**



**SIR JOHN DEANE'S**  
**SIXTH FORM COLLEGE**  
**1557**



## Trustees' Report

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year to 31 August 2024. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report and a directors' report under company law.

During the year the Foundation operated four academies; Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College, a 16-19 academy, The County High School, Leftwich an 11-16 academy, Middlewich High School an 11-16 academy and The Macclesfield Academy an 11-16 academy, which joined the Foundation on 01 December 2023. Both Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College and The County High School, Leftwich are located in Northwich, Cheshire West, whilst Middlewich High School and The Macclesfield Academy are located in Cheshire East.

The County High School, Leftwich had a published admission number of 1,050. It had 1,036 students on roll in the school census in October 2023. Middlewich High School has a published capacity of 700. It had 712 students on roll in the school census in October 2023. The school also has two resource provisions agreed within its funding agreement with DfE for a total of 20 places. The Macclesfield Academy has a published capacity of 600. Prior to joining the Foundation, the school had 631 students on roll in the school census in October 2023. The school also has a resource provision agreed within its funding agreement with DfE for 14 places.

Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College had 1,854 students on roll at the six-week October 2023 census point. The College has accommodated additional students during the year with effective use of existing space, however will increase its physical capacity to accommodate September 2024 admissions.

## Structure, Governance and Management

### Constitution

The Foundation 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 Foundation. The trustees of The Sir John Brunner Foundation are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as The Sir John Brunner Foundation, trading as Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College, The County High School, Leftwich, Middlewich High School and The Macclesfield Academy.

Details of the trustees who served during the period, and to the date these accounts are approved are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

### **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 Foundation has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Foundation business. The insurance provides cover up to £5,000,000 on any one claim. The cost of this insurance is not separately identifiable as it forms part of a combined commercial insurance policy the cost of which is included in the total insurance cost.

### **Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees**

The Foundation's Articles of Association state that there should be a minimum of three trustees with no maximum. Up to eight of these trustees may be appointed by the Foundation's Members.

The Articles also state that provided the Chief Executive agrees to act, then the Members may also by ordinary resolution appoint the Chief Executive as a trustee. This has been done.

The Foundation has not appointed parent trustees to the Board of Trustees. Instead, parents are elected to serve on the local governing bodies of Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College, The County High School, Leftwich, Middlewich High School and The Macclesfield Academy. As additional schools join the Foundation it is intended that the same approach will be adopted.

The Board of Trustees has established a separate Search Committee in November 2023. In line with the Foundation's Articles, up to eight Trustees may be appointed by the Members. The Trustees may also appoint Co-opted Trustees who do not require the approval of Members but must be appointed by Trustees who are not themselves Co-opted Trustees.

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

The Board of Trustees has approved the contents of an initial induction pack to be made available to all new trustees. This includes information about the Articles of Association, the duties and responsibilities of Company Directors and Charity Trustees, the funding agreements in place with the Department for Education and the Scheme of Delegation. Trustees are also provided with a guide prepared by the Sixth Form Colleges Association that gives a practical

overview of the requirements and responsibilities of trustees. Trustees also have access to resources available on the National Governance Association website.

New trustees have a series of induction meetings with the Clerk to the Foundation, the Chair, the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial and Operations Officer.

Ongoing training is identified from mandatory requirements and requests and is provided either by accessing appropriate external courses and workshops or through internally delivered training on specific aspects of the Foundation's operations (e.g. the safeguarding policy and procedures).

### **Organisational Structure**

The Board of Trustees has approved a scheme of delegation that sets out the decisions that must be reserved for the Board of Trustees and those that can be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, the Audit and Compliance Committee and the Quality and Culture Committee of the Foundation or the Governing Bodies and Principal/Headteachers of the individual academies.

Key decisions that must be made by the Board of Trustees include:

- the approval of the annual budget and financial forecast for the Foundation
- agreeing the scheme of delegation
- approving the annual report and accounts of the Foundation
- determining and approving Foundation wide policies
- agreeing the risk assurance framework
- appointing the Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Financial and Operations Officer and Clerk to the Foundation
- appointing the Head Teacher/Principal of academies within the Foundation.

The Chief Executive Officer is also the Foundation's Accounting Officer and is responsible to Parliament for the use made of public funds provided for the education of students of the Foundation.

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

Salaries for key management personnel are determined by the Foundation Board via the Remuneration Committee and have regard to the outcome of performance management reviews, available benchmarking data and pay awards agreed nationally for teachers and support staff.



### Trade Union Facility Time

The Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017 require the Foundation to publish information on facility time arrangements for trade union officials at the Foundation. The figures below relate to the period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 for Sir John Deane’s Sixth Form College, The County High School, Leftwich, Middlewich High School and for the period 1 December 2023 to 31 March 2024 for The Macclesfield Academy, since it joined the Foundation.

#### Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent employee number
5	4.8

#### Percentage of time on facilities time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	0
1-50%	5
51-99%	0
100%	0

#### Percentage of pay bill spent of facilities time

Metric	Figures
Total cost of facilities time (hourly cost x time on facilities time)	£1,116.23
Total pay bill	£18,232,399
Provide the percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time, calculated as: (total cost of facility time ÷ total pay bill) x 100	0.006%

#### Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours calculated as: (total hours spent on paid trade union activities by relevant union officials during	0 / 23 hrs x 100 = 0%
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<p>the relevant period ÷ total paid facility time hours) x 100</p>	
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**Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations**

As a multi-academy trust, The Sir John Brunner Foundation has no structural or commercial affiliation to any other organisations. All pecuniary interests for relevant staff, trustees and governors are recorded and reviewed annually.

**Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)**

Trustees are committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for all who work in The Sir John Brunner Foundation. The Foundation celebrates, respects and values positively diversity and is committed to advancing equality of opportunity, regardless of: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation. We do this by being inclusive in our leadership, our behaviours and through our values. The Equality Act 2010 provides a framework to support the Foundation’s commitment to valuing diversity, tackling discrimination, promoting equality and fostering good relationships between people.

The Foundation’s Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy sets out its approach to the treatment of applicants and/or employees with protected characteristics such that no one is discriminated against when it comes to employment, promotion or professional development opportunities. The Foundation is accredited with Disability Confident Committed status.

Our academies use a variety of methods to communicate key information and messages to employees, including regular staff briefings, bulletins, all staff e-mails and whole staff meetings. Information on key policies and procedures is also available digitally to staff via shared computer drives or intranet platforms.

The Foundation has an active and established Staff Consultative Association which represents all staff groups and acts as a conduit in the communication, consultation and discussion regarding Foundation policies, current issues and future developments. The SCA discuss general issues regarding working conditions, training and welfare of all employees. All academies within the Foundation have signed up to the Department for Education’s Wellbeing Charter.

The Foundation has adopted and applies the national pay scales for all teaching and support staff.

Academies have regular CPD sessions throughout the academic year, where colleagues are given various opportunities to maintain and enhance their professional development and

skillsets. All academies have local procedures in relation to staff appraisals. The performance of colleagues significantly contributes to the success and outcomes of students and the appraisal process encourages all colleagues to reach their full potential. CPD, appraisals and regular staff briefings all aim to give colleagues a clear understanding of their contributions to the success of the Academy and the wider Foundation.

### **Engagement with suppliers, customers and others in a business relationship with the trust**

The Foundation's core customers are the students who attend our academies and their families. All academies engage extensively with these groups, using a variety of communication methods including:

- parents/carers' evenings and other formal and ad hoc meetings with parents/carers
- information posted on the academies' websites
- social media
- e-mails and texts
- telephone calls
- dedicated parent/carer portals
- open events for prospective parents/carers and students.

The intent is to enable every child to feel happy and safe and to have the necessary information to fulfil their potential.

The Foundation seeks to support its local communities by using local suppliers where possible, whilst remaining mindful of the need to demonstrate that it has obtained value for the public purse. The Foundation's procurement policy outlines how everyone involved in the procurement process will manage constructive supplier relationships, in order to meet the Foundation's strategic priorities whilst fulfilling the general needs of its community.

In line with other multi academy trusts the Foundation has many other stakeholders, which include:

- Education sector funding bodies
- Regions Group
- Local authorities
- Staff
- Other regional schools and colleges
- The local community
- Professional bodies

The Foundation recognises the importance of these relationships and engages in regular communication with all of these groups.

## Objectives and Activities

### Objects and Aims

The Foundation's objects as set out in the Articles of Association are as follows:

- a. to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing schools offering a broad and balanced curriculum ("**the mainstream Academies**") or educational institutions which are principally concerned with providing full-time or part-time education for children of compulsory school age who, by reason of illness, exclusion from school or otherwise, may not for any period receive suitable education unless alternative provision is made for them ("the **alternative provision Academies**") or 16 to 19 Academies offering a curriculum appropriate to the needs of its students ("the **16 to 19 Academies**") or schools specially organised to make special educational provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs ("the **Special Academies**") and
- b. to promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of the area served by the Academies the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have the need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants.

### Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The Sir John Brunner Foundation seeks to ensure that every child's life is enhanced and advanced through the highest quality of education.

Students and professionals are encouraged and supported to 'live' our values throughout our Foundation. These values are front and centre when making decisions throughout the Foundation.

**Excellence** in:

- Student care, experience and progress
- Impactful innovation, including leadership development and progression
- Consistently and persistently focusing on helping students meet expectations

A strong sense of **Belonging**, with:

- Happy, safe and successful students and professionals at the heart of what we do
- Students and professionals cared for, known and valued
- Academies maintaining a strong sense of inclusivity, identity, place and purpose

A **Partnership** of:

- Professionals contributing to our vision, through innovation and impactful collaboration
- Students and professionals contributing to their community and the world around them
- Professionals embracing learning from and support of each other

The Foundation has been working towards its' **Strategic Priorities** to enable it to further advance and enhance children's lives. The Strategic Priorities are:

Continual improvement and enhancement of **quality**

- Students embracing high quality educational provision
- Professionals supported and challenged to provide the best student experience possible
- Students making exceptional progress

Maximise use of resources ensuring a **sustainable** learning organisation

- Recruiting, developing and retaining exceptional professionals
- Utilising and managing resources effectively and efficiently including finance and digital
- Managing estates and environment with sustainability at the heart

Considered, targeted and carefully managed **growth**

- Supporting even more students to make exceptional progress
- Providing even more professionals with the opportunity to work in a forward-thinking trust
- Discovering fresh thinking and ideas and influencing local and national decision making

Professional curiosity and **innovation**

- Research informed, utilising great intellect and judgement to embrace the freshest and innovative ideas
- Innovative curriculum design and teaching and learning
- Continually improving business support practices and effective and efficient systems

The Foundation measures its success in meeting these strategic priorities and more detail around performance and KPIs is provided in the Strategic Report.

**Public Benefit**

In setting and reviewing the Foundation’s strategic priorities, the trustees have had due regard for the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit and particularly upon its supplementary guidance on the advancement of education. The guidance sets out the requirement that all organisations wishing to be recognised as charities must demonstrate, explicitly, that their aims are for the public benefit.

In delivering its strategic objectives, the Foundation provides the following identifiable public benefits through the advancement of education, including:

- **High-Quality Teaching:** Committed to employing skilled educators and providing ongoing professional development to ensure the highest standards of teaching across all subjects.
- **Exceptional Student Experience:** Focused on creating an engaging and supportive environment that fosters student well-being, participation, and personal development.
- **Outstanding Student Outcomes:** Achieving impressive academic results at both Key Stage 4 (KS4) and Key Stage 5 (KS5), ensuring that students are well-prepared for further education or employment.
- **Excellent Progression Opportunities:** Facilitating pathways for students to transition smoothly to the next phase of their education or employment, thereby enhancing their future prospects.

**Strategic Report**

**Achievements and Performance**

The academic achievements of the Year 11 and Year 13 leavers in 2024 are summarised below. Previous years data is shown for comparison. The data for 2024 is the unvalidated data received in November 2024.

	2022	2023	2024
CHSL DfE Progress 8	+0.54	+0.32	<b>+0.60</b>
MHS DfE Progress 8	-0.34	-0.54	<b>-0.13</b>
TMA DfE Progress 8	-0.59	-0.57	<b>+0.19</b>

The County High School, Leftwich, has achieved a Progress 8 score indicating that, on average, students have performed over half a grade higher compared to their peers with similar starting points nationally.

This result aligns with the Academy's historical track record of maintaining very high educational standards.

The 2024 Progress 8 score for Middlewich High School shows that, on average, students have made slightly lower progress compared to students with similar starting points nationally. However, this score marks a significant improvement from the previous years', representing the best Progress 8 score the school has ever achieved.

The Macclesfield Academy has also reported a notable Progress 8 score, indicating that its students have performed better than those with similar starting points nationally. This 2024 score is the highest the Academy has ever recorded and increased significantly from the previous years' progress.

The progress of disadvantaged students is a priority for all three 11-16 academies.

The results for Sir John Deane’s Sixth Form College are summarised below:

A Level Cumulative Grade	SJD 2024	National Averages 2024	Difference
A*	<b>19.8%</b>	9.3 %	+ 10.5 %
A* - A	<b>50.3 %</b>	27.6 %	+ 22.7%
A* - B	<b>80.6 %</b>	53.6 %	+ 27.0 %
Pass rate	<b>99.7 %</b>	97.1 %	+ 2.6 %

SJD A level	2023	2024		SJD BTEC	2023	2024
ALPs	2	<b>1</b>		ALPs	2	<b>2</b>
Level 3 VA	+0.53 (SFCA)	<b>+0.55</b> (SFCA)		Level 3 VA	+ 0.38 (SFCA)	<b>+ 0.52</b> (SFCA)

Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College has once again achieved outstanding results, reinforcing its position as one of the top-performing sixth form colleges in the country. These impressive outcomes are reflected in both attainment levels and Value Added metrics, as demonstrated by the ALPS score of 1 that the College has achieved.

In the 2023/24 academic year Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College received funding for 1,831 students aged 16-19 compared with 1,729 for 2022/23. These students generated annual funding of £8,998,375 on a lagged basis with receipt in 2023/24, compared with a funding allocation for the academic year 2022/23 of £8,066,236.

The County High School had 1,045 students on roll at the October 2022 census point. The pupils on roll at the October 2022 census point generated annual funding of £6,054,198 on a lagged basis with receipt in 2023/24, compared with 1,009 funded students and £5,575,003 for the 2022/23 academic year.

Middlewich High School had 711 students on roll at the October 2022 census point. This generated annual funding of £4,460,519 on a lagged basis with receipt in 2023/24, compared with 705 funded students and £4,201,849 for the academic year 2022/23.

The Macclesfield Academy had 583 students on roll at the October 2022 census point. This generated annual funding of £2,810,287 on a lagged basis with receipt in 2023/24. The academy joined the Foundation on 01 December 2023 and therefore only 9 months of activity are reported in the Statement of Financial Activities.

### **Key Performance Indicators**

The County High School, Leftwich was judged to be Outstanding in all areas following its Ofsted inspection in April 2022. In December 2022, Middlewich High School was judged as a Good school overall, receiving Good ratings for Quality of Education, Personal Development, and Leadership and Management. Its Behaviour and Attitudes were rated as Requires Improvement. Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College achieved an Outstanding rating across all categories in its Ofsted inspection in October 2022. The Macclesfield Academy is currently classified as "a school awaiting its first inspection" due to its recent transition into the trust, having previously been rated as Requires Improvement in its last inspection.

Along with Student Outcomes and Ofsted judgements, The Foundation set the Academies Key Performance Indicators for Student Attendance and Student Recruitment.



Indicator	Target	The County High School Leftwich (CHSL)	Middlewich High School (MHS)	Sir John Deane’s Sixth Form College (SJD)	The Macclesfield Academy (TMA)
Student Attendance	Aspirational Target <b>95%</b>  Minimum Target <b>Above national (91.5%)</b>	93%  Minimum Target Achieved	92%  Minimum Target Achieved	94%  Minimum Target Achieved	92%  Minimum Target Achieved
Student Recruitment	CHSL Target Year 7 2024 applicants (as of 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2023) – <b>210</b>  MHS Target Year 7 2024 applicants (as of 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2023) – <b>140</b>  SJD <b>1,830</b> funded students  TMA Target Year 7 2024 applicants (as of 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2023)- <b>120</b>	Target Not Achieved	Target Achieved	Target Achieved	Target Achieved

The Foundation has also set the KPIs below to monitor financial performance.

Indicator	Target	Actual Performance	Assessment
Current ratio	> 2 : 5	3.2 : 1	Target exceeded
Cash at bank	> £3.1 million	£7,219,222	Target exceeded
Cash days	> 60 days	85	Target exceeded
External debt to annual income	< 10%	5.2%	Target exceeded
Borrowing costs as % of annual income	< 4%	0.9%	Target exceeded
EBITDA as % of income	> 1.5%	2.5%	Target exceeded
Staff costs as % of income	< 77%	74%	Target exceeded

## **Going Concern**

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

## **Promoting the success of the Foundation**

The Foundation is committed to enhancing and advancing every child's life through the highest quality in education, as well as improving the condition of life of the inhabitants of the area served by our academies, in line with our Articles of Association.

The Central Education Team has further refined the Academy Improvement Model to equip leaders and teachers in our academies with essential tools for performance analysis and the design and implementation of effective systems and interventions. The Academy Improvement Partner dashboard plays a crucial role in systematically reviewing key aspects of each academy's operations. Additionally, this dashboard and other vital improvement resources are accessible via SharePoint, allowing colleagues to engage with and utilise them effectively. Our website is increasingly serving as a platform to showcase the Foundation's work.

Moreover, the Central Leadership Team actively collaborates with key stakeholders outside the Foundation to share and develop best practices in leadership, education, student support, and business support, fostering a culture of continuous improvement and innovation.

## **Financial Review**

In the financial year, on 1 December 2023, The Macclesfield Academy joined the Foundation. The information in these accounts for the year includes 9 months of The Macclesfield Academy operating within the Foundation in the Statement of Financial Activities and the transfer to the Foundation of the school's assets and liabilities with a net value of £9,295,065. The table in note 31 to the accounts sets out in detail the assets and liabilities that were transferred and their values. The reporting for the current financial year 2023/24 includes a full 12 months of operations for Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College, the County High School Leftwich and Middlewich High School.

In the year ended 31 August 2024 the Foundation generated an in-year deficit of £210,326. This is calculated as the movement between the total of the restricted general reserves (excluding the pension reserve) and the unrestricted reserve as shown below.

	<b>Restricted General Reserves £</b>	<b>Unrestricted Reserves £</b>	<b>Total 2024 £</b>	<b>2023 £</b>
At 1 September	4,618,098	2,500,597	7,118,695	6,571,421
Transfer from The Macclesfield Academy	264,783	312,783	577,566	0
In year surplus/ (deficit)	(1,157,712)	369,820	(787,892)	547,274
At 31 August	3,725,169	3,183,200	6,908,369	7,118,695

At 31 August the total of the Foundation’s restricted general reserves and unrestricted reserves stood at £6,908,369 excluding the pension reserve. When the pension reserve of £-858,000 is considered the total decreases to £6,050,369.

The pension reserve relates to the Foundation’s share of the net deficit in the Cheshire Pension Fund Local Government Pension Scheme. Non-teaching staff at all academies are able to join the Fund which is a defined benefit scheme. The Pension Fund’s actuaries produce an annual report that sets out each academy’s share of the Fund’s assets and liabilities. The calculation is made using a number of assumptions as set out in note 28.

The pension surplus/deficit for each academy at 31 August 2024 and movement during the year is as follows:

	<b>At 31 August 2024 £000</b>	<b>At 1 September 2023 £000</b>	<b>Movement £000</b>
The County High School	0	118	(118)
Sir John Deane’s	0	1,736	(1,736)
Middlewich High School	0	201	(201)
The Macclesfield Academy	(858)	0	(858)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(858)</b>	<b>2,055</b>	<b>(2,913)</b>

The overall pension deficit calculated for accounting purposes does not have a direct impact on cash expenditure. The Foundation took the view to follow the asset ceiling restriction report and reduce three academy surpluses to £nil. The employer contribution rates are calculated every three years in a separate funding valuation exercise that uses different assumptions. The

employer contribution rates remained unchanged at the recent valuation exercise, with effect from April 2023 and applies for three years. The rate for The County High School stands at 21.0%, the rate for Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College stands at 19.6%, the rate for Middlewich High School stands at 27.6% and the rate for The Macclesfield Academy stands at 28.8%.

The net income figure in the Statement of Financial Activities includes non-cash pension adjustments of £184,000 and £74,000 in interest income.

The balance sheet position for the current and prior years were based on the results of the 2022 funding valuation.

The Foundation receives the majority of its income from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grants for the provision of education to 16-19 year-old students at Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College and 11-16 students at The County High School Leftwich, Middlewich High School and The Macclesfield Academy. Other material sources of income during the year included:

- Non-recurrent funding grants including Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG) and additional grant income towards teachers pay and pension rises in year.
- Income from parents contributing to the cost of transport to Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College. The College arranges transport from surrounding areas for which parents pay a monthly contribution.
- Grant funding from Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester Local Authorities to support pupils with high needs.

During the year the Foundation had an operating cash outflow of £1,376,410 but cash balances remained strong. Cash at bank at 31 August 2024 totalled £7,219,222.

The Foundation expended £3,488,692 on tangible fixed assets, including £1,982,288 on the expansion scheme at the County High School Leftwich, which was partly funded by the Cheshire West and Chester Local Authority. The Foundation's capitalisation threshold of £2,000 per individual item means that expenditure on laptops and desk top PCs is usually treated as revenue expenditure.

At the year-end the Foundation had a strong balance sheet with net current assets of £6,797,516 and a current ratio of 3.2.

The operational surplus in year, before actuarial gains/losses of £11,401,620 includes £9,295,065 with regards to the transfer of The Macclesfield Academy into the Foundation. The adjusted operational surplus in the year, excluding The Macclesfield Academy transfer, of £2,106,555 is an improvement against the previous year (£193,387), largely due to additional

DfE funding received via the General Annual Grant and teachers pay and pension grants, with careful management of inflationary increases across all of the Foundation's cost base.

The Foundation has carefully managed its financial performance in order to support its strategic objectives of sustainability and growth. In line with these objectives, going forward, the Foundation has planned to invest its reserves to support growth in student numbers at Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College and in estate management and improvements at all of the academies.

### **Reserves Policy**

The Foundation has a Reserves Policy that is approved by the Board of Trustees and is reviewed every two years to ensure that it remains appropriate. The Board of Trustees approved a Reserves Policy in July 2023, which is intended to ensure the financial stability of the Foundation and its individual academies' operations. The Reserves Policy provides protection against temporary financial difficulties as well as allowing the Foundation to take advantage of new opportunities as they arise. Significant maintenance and renewal work carried out with the aid of Condition Improvement Grants and expansion/growth projects at our academies are an example of such opportunities arising where funding from reserves is required to fund the academy's financial contribution to the project.

Having access to healthy financial reserves has also given the Senior Leadership Team and Trustees confidence that any temporary failure to recruit sufficient student numbers or greater than planned staff pay awards, can be absorbed without threatening the long-term viability of the Foundation or impacting adversely on the outcomes for students.

The Foundation considers a number of aspects to determine the appropriate level of reserves, including:

- Sufficient working capital reserves to provide stability against unplanned expenditure or loss of income, whilst ensuring compliance with any loan covenants;
- Planned maintenance reserves to address the identified future accommodation needs that the Foundation will consider as part of a longer-term property strategy; and
- Capital investment reserves to fund specific projects to expand or improve the Foundation's facilities.

At 31 August 2024 the Foundation held a total of £7,219,222 in cash that is immediately accessible or within 3 months. This balance meets the objectives of the Reserves Policy to provide financial stability over the longer term and facilitate over £3m of planned future investment.

The total reserves, including pension reserves, at 31 August 2024 of £60,994,894 include a restricted fixed assets funds total of £54,944,525 whilst unrestricted funds total £3,183,200. The Foundation's restricted general reserves are £2,867,169 including the pension deficit of £858,000.

### **Investment Policy**

The Foundation adopts a risk averse approach to investment that is set out in the Financial Regulations approved by the Board of Trustees. During the year funds not immediately required for the day to day operation of the Foundation were placed in an interest-bearing Business Reserve account with the NatWest Bank. An automatic sweep moves money between the current account and the Business Reserve account on a daily basis to leave a balance of £10,000 in the current account.

Funds that are unlikely to be required in the short term are currently invested with Lloyds bank in a fixed deposit account that pays a higher rate of interest in return for holding the money for 3-months. This investment has met the objective of generating a greater guaranteed rate of return, whilst balancing available funds to support the Foundation's reserves policy.

The Foundation does not invest in equities or other financial instruments where there is a greater risk to the original capital sum invested.

### **Principal Risks and Uncertainties**

The Board of Trustees has approved a risk management policy that is regularly reviewed and sets out the processes by which trustees will receive information about the principal risks and uncertainties that the Foundation faces and the control measures that have been put in place to mitigate the likelihood of risks materialising or to minimise the impact on the Foundation if they were to occur. This includes consideration of trustees' responsibilities to ensure the estate is safe, well maintained and complies with relevant regulations.

The principal risks currently identified include the following:

- Changes in government priorities following the change in the UK Government. There is a degree of uncertainty affecting laws, policies and regulations in operation for the sector and the impact of the Curriculum and Assessment Review, which will publish recommendations in 2025. The Foundation's executive team continues to work closely with trustees to refine the strategic priorities in the light of significant changes.
- Cyber security remains a continued concern. There is evidence of cyber criminals increasingly targeting education establishments. At the same time, we become ever more reliant on technology to be able to deliver lessons and support our students effectively. The Foundation employs skilled staff and/or third-party providers to ensure

that adequate protocols are in place, with effective systems back up and restoration. The Trust also has cyber insurance in place to provide effective support in the event of an incident.

- The Foundation recognises the importance of providing a safe, sustainable and high quality environment to support our learners and staff. Estates risks including, but not limited to, RAAC and asbestos have been raised in profile. The Foundation manages these risks with a clear asset management framework and Health and Safety Policy Statement, with each of our academies signing up to an academy H&S Statement of Intent.
- Maintaining a high level of quality of education across all of our academies is an increased risk as our Foundation grows in size. All of our academies follow a quality assurance calendar which is aligned with the principles in the Foundation policy. Colleagues from all academies engage in teacher development programmes including NPQSL, NPQLT and the ECT programme.

### **Fundraising**

The majority of the Foundation's charitable income is received from the Education Skills Funding Agency under the terms of a master funding agreement between the Secretary of State for Education and the Trustees of The Sir John Brunner Foundation. Supplemental agreements are in place relating to the funding for Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College, The County High School, Leftwich, Middlewich High School and The Macclesfield Academy.

### Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting

<b>UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period</b>	<b>1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024</b>	<b>1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023</b>
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	5,215,455	3,957,871
<u>Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e</u>		
Gas consumption	591.66	440.49
Owned transport – mini-buses	9.01	0.73
<u>Total scope 1</u>	600.66	441.22
<u>Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e</u>		
Purchased electricity	398.37	318.83
<u>Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e</u>		
Business travel in employee owned vehicles	5.28	1.82
Purchased electricity	18.46	0
Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	1,022.78	761.87
<u>Intensity ratio</u>		
Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> per pupil	0.25	0.21

#### **Quantification and Reporting Methodology: -**

We have followed the 2019 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. We have also used the GHG Reporting Protocol – Corporate Standard and have used the 2024 UK Government’s Conversion Factors for Company Reporting. It is important to note that the data reported in 2023-24 includes 9 months of activity with the Foundation for The Macclesfield Academy.

#### **Intensity measurement**

The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.



## **Measures taken to improve energy efficiency**

The Foundation has been developing a Climate Action Plan across the Trust.

All of our Academies have now signed up to Energy Sparks, an online platform that allows us to monitor more closely our energy data and take positive action to reduce our consumption.

Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College has installed new pumps within the Energy Centre which operate much more efficiently and reduce energy consumption. Work on the Building Management System has also been undertaken across the College in relation to operating times, reducing plant and equipment being operational when areas are not in use.

The County High School Leftwich has continued to replace old projectors with energy efficient screens throughout the classrooms. New girls and boys toilets have been installed on the ground floor of the school with new half-flush WCs. The existing urinals have also been replaced with WCs, both of these measures are now contributing to the schools reduction in water consumption.

Middlewich High School has commenced a Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) life safety scheme, part of which is replacing internal and external doors with new doors, which is providing better insulation and reducing heat loss throughout the school. The school has also continued to replace old projectors with new energy efficient screens in the classrooms.

The Macclesfield Academy is undertaking a Heat Decarbonisation Plan to align with our other Academies. The school is also planning to replace their Astroturf lighting with LED lighting to reduce electrical consumption.

## **Plans for Future Periods**

The Trustees plan to maintain their focus on delivering excellent outcomes for all our students. The Foundation is planning an investment of resources, with significant reserves allocated to a fire safety scheme at Middlewich High School, improvements to our IT infrastructure that will facilitate greater collaboration and also supporting a growth project at Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College. The Foundation is also working closely with the Department of Education to implement RAAC remediation measures in one of our academies.

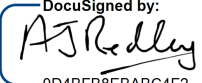
In line with the strategic priority for sustainability, the Foundation is implementing a project to centralise a number of its business support functions, which is taking effect during the 2024-25 financial period.

## **Auditor**

Insofar as trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware
- The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

**The Trustee's report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 12 December 2024 and signed on the Board's behalf by:**

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**Alan Redley**  
**Chair**

## Governance Statement

### Scope of Responsibility

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

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive Officer, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and are in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to the Foundation in the funding agreement between The Sir John Brunner Foundation and the Secretary of State for Education. The Chief Executive Officer is 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 seven times during the year, four of which were annually scheduled meetings and three of which were additional meetings. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Meetings Attended</b>	<b>Out of a possible</b>
Alan Redley (Chair)	7	7
Liz Bromley	6	7
Richard Donovan	7	7
M Snelson (Chief Executive & Accounting Officer)	7	7
Natasha Kirsten	3	6
Carl Lee	7	7
Christopher Penter	5	7
Kevin Neary	0	0
Scott Mulholland	6	6
Joanne Hyslop	2	7
Codilia Gapare	1	2
Lachlan Nisbet	2	2

Virginia Parkes	1	2
Louise Shorney	2	2

The scheme of delegation sets out the detailed responsibilities of the Board of Trustees, which includes the safeguarding of the Foundation's assets, ensuring adequate financial planning is in place, the efficient, economical and effective management of resources, the appointment of local governors and setting the framework for the pay and conditions of all staff. The scheme of delegation outlines clearly the responsibilities of the Members and Board of Trustees and where responsibilities have been delegated to committees of the board, the Chief Executive Officer, local governing bodies and academy headteachers/principals.

The full Trust Board and its committees complete a self-assessment to review effectiveness on a cyclical basis and have concluded that they are effective. The Board recognises that recruitment continues to be a challenge and has established a Search Committee during 2023-24 to assist in trustee recruitment.

The Foundation has a comprehensive process in place to manage conflicts of interest. This includes maintaining an up to date and complete register of interests, which is formally updated annually. In addition, declaration of interests is a standard item at every board, committee and governing body meeting. The Foundation has in place a Conflicts of Interest policy, which ensures that trustees comply with their legal duties, protects the integrity of the Foundation's decision-making process and protects the integrity and reputation of the Foundation and its trustees and senior staff. The policy sets out the requirement to disclose interests and the process for the management of conflicts of interest. The Foundation's Financial Regulations also clearly set out expectations and guidance with respect to conflicts of interest.

The Academy Trust Handbook 2023 also states that management accounts must be shared with the Chair of Trustees each month and with the other Trustees six times a year. The Foundation produces management accounts that include a detailed commentary on a monthly basis but shares these with all Trustees each month. Trustees are invited to raise any questions they may have with the Chief Financial and Operations Officer. In this way the Trustees consider that they are able to maintain effective financial oversight.

The Audit and Compliance Committee meet at least three times a year and formally consider the Foundation's latest financial performance against budget at those meetings.

All scheduled Board meetings were able to take place as planned. All the meetings were conducted in part on Teams and in part in person, where possible.

### **Audit and Compliance Committee**

The Audit and Compliance Committee has responsibility to provide independent advice to the Foundation on the adequacy and effectiveness of its systems of internal control and its arrangements for risk management, control and governance processes. All Committee

meetings were able to take place as planned. The meetings were conducted in part on Teams and in part in person, where possible. There were three scheduled meetings during the year.

Attendance during the year at meetings of the Audit and Compliance Committee was as follows:

<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Meetings Attended</b>	<b>Out of a possible</b>
Kevin Neary (previous Chair)	0	0
Carl Lee (Chair)	3	3
Liz Bromley	1	3
Richard Donovan	2	3
Scott Mulholland	0	3
Lachlan Nisbet	1	1
Virginia Parkes	1	1

The Audit and Compliance Committee oversees the financial performance of the Foundation as well as agreeing an annual programme of internal audit review. The programme of reviews is developed in discussion with the independent auditors, RSM, and with due consideration of the Foundation's risk register. The Committee considers the reports arising from the individual audit assignments and any recommendations made by the auditors for improvements in the design or implementation of controls. The Committee also receives reports on progress towards the implementation of previously agreed actions arising from audit recommendations.

The agreed internal audit programme for 2023/24 included reviews of the following areas:

- Staff recruitment and retention
- Student recruitment and marketing
- Budget setting and monitoring
- Follow up of actions agreed from reviews conducted in the previous year

Further detail regarding these reviews is included in the later section on the Risk and Control Framework.

The Committee also receives a report from the Statutory and Regularity Auditors, Murray Smith. Where relevant the auditor's management letter includes details of control weaknesses that have been identified during the audit and includes recommendations for improvements. No weaknesses have been identified during the audit of these accounts.

Committee members meet annually with both the internal and statutory auditors without management being present. This is an opportunity for committee members to gain additional

assurance by having candid and confidential discussions about the Foundation's financial and risk control environment.

### **Review of Value for Money**

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

The accounting officer considers how the Foundation'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 benchmark data where appropriate.

A Value for Money report was presented to the Audit and Compliance Committee in November 2024. The report summarised where procurement savings had been achieved for the Foundation and future actions.

The accounting officer for the Foundation has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

All academies make use of pre-tendered purchasing frameworks and purchasing consortia where appropriate, to ensure value for money is obtained in an efficient manner. Where specialist input is required, such as when tendering for significant building works, effective use is made of independent expertise. A procurement action plan is also in place to ensure continued improvement in gaining value for money.

The Foundation has run a tender exercise to engage a main contractor for fire safety works at Middlewich High School. A competitive tender process was followed and issued to five tenderers, based on a JCT Intermediate Building Contract 2016 Edition. Value for money principles were adopted throughout the process, which has culminated in the successful tenderer having been appointed and securing well maintained fire safety measures at the school.

The Foundation has similarly run a tender exercise to engage a main contractor to redevelop the campus at Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College, to support the growth at the academy. A competitive tender process was followed and issued to six tenderers, based on a JCT Intermediate Building Contract 2016 Edition. This process has culminated in the successful tenderer having been appointed to secure additional high quality teaching spaces at the College.

## **The Purpose of the System of Internal Control**

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Foundation policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in The Sir John Brunner Foundation for the period from 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

## **Capacity to Handle Risk**

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Foundation is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Foundation's significant risks that has been in place for the period from 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

## **The Risk and Control Framework**

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

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

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided to appoint RSM as internal auditor. The Foundation has considered the suitability of

an internal auditor based on its size, complexity, specialist/sector knowledge and value for money. On this basis, the Foundation has chosen to appoint RSM.

The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial and other matters and performing a range of checks on the Foundation's financial and other systems.

The areas reviewed during the course of the academic year were:

- Budget setting and monitoring– the audit report concluded that substantial assurance could be taken.
- Student recruitment and marketing - the audit report concluded that substantial assurance could be taken.
- Staff recruitment and retention- the audit report concluded that reasonable assurance could be taken.
- Follow up of actions agreed from reviews conducted in the previous year – the audit report concluded that the Foundation had demonstrated good progress, with all agreed management actions implemented.

On a termly basis, RSM reports to the board of trustees, through the Audit and Compliance Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities.

RSM provides an annual summary report to the Audit and Compliance Committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress. The annual report includes an opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the risk management, governance and internal control processes based upon the work undertaken during the year. For 2023/24 the report concludes that The Sir John Brunner Foundation had an adequate and effective framework for risk management, governance and internal control.

The Board of Trustees has agreed a programme of internal audit assignments for the academic year 2024/25.

### **Review of Effectiveness**

As accounting officer, the Chief Executive Officer 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



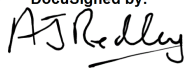
- the work of the external auditor
- the school resource management self-assessment tool
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Audit and Compliance Committee and a plan to ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

## Conclusion

Based on the advice of the Audit and Compliance Committee and the accounting officer, the Board of Trustees is of the opinion that the Foundation has an adequate and effective framework for governance, risk management and control.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 12 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

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**Alan Redley**  
**Chair of Trustees**

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**Matthew Snelson**  
**Accounting Officer**

## **Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance**

As accounting officer of The Sir John Brunner Foundation I have considered my responsibility to notify the Foundation Board of Trustees and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2023, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

I confirm that I and the Foundation Board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the Foundation, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Foundation's funding agreement and the Academy Trust Handbook 2023.

I confirm that no instances of material irregularity, impropriety or funding non-compliance have been discovered to date. If any instances are identified after the date of this statement, these will be notified to the Board of Trustees and the ESFA.

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**Matthew Snelson**  
**Accounting Officer**  
**12 December 2024**

## **Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

The trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 published by the Education & Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

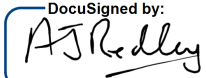
The trustees are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the charitable company applies financial and other controls, which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring grants received from the ESFA/DfE have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

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom

The Sir John Brunner Foundation – Company Number 11227336

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 12 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

DocuSigned by:  
  
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**Alan Redley**  
**Chair of Trustees**

## **Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of The Sir John Brunner Foundation**

### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The Sir John Brunner Foundation for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, 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), and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Foundation's affairs as at 31 August 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the period 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 Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024.

### **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Foundation 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 Trust's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of 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 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 Governing Body with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### **Other information**

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Report, but does not include the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

### **Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

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

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

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

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

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

- proper accounting records have not been kept;

- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns;  
or
- all the information and explanations required for the audit were not received.

### **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities set out in the trustee's annual report, 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 Board of Trustees determines 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 Board of Trustees is responsible for assessing the Foundation'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 Board of Trustees either intends to liquidate the Foundation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors 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:

The audit procedures designed to identify irregularities included:

- enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims
- enquiry of Academy staff with responsibilities for compliance matters to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations
- reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations

- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, intentional misrepresentations or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

### **Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the 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 Members, as a body, those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Foundation and the Members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

DocuSigned by:  
*Michael Benson*  
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Michael Benson (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
For and on behalf of Murray Smith LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditors  
Darland House  
44 Winnington Hill  
Northwich  
Cheshire  
CW8 1AU

**Date: - 12 December 2024**



## **Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to The Sir John Brunner Foundation and the Education and Skills Funding Agency**

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 23 March 2018 and further to the requirements of the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by The Sir John Brunner Foundation during the period from 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to The Sir John Brunner Foundation and the ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to The Sir John Brunner Foundation and the ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than The Sir John Brunner Foundation and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

### **Respective responsibilities of The Sir John Brunner Foundation's accounting officer and the reporting accountant**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Sir John Brunner Foundation's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 26 March 2018 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2023, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024. 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 2023 to 31 August 2024 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

### **Approach**

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- review of arrangements in place over financial management; and
- review of the Foundation's expenditure during the year.

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

DocuSigned by:  
  
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**Murray Smith LLP**

**12 December 2024**

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors  
Darland House  
44 Winnington Hill  
Northwich  
Cheshire CW8 1AU

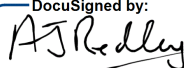
**Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2024**


	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total 2023/24 £	Total 2022/23 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	2	0	766,166	3,278,615	4,044,781	488,084
Transfer from The Macclesfield Academy	31	312,783	(691,217)	9,673,499	9,295,065	0
Charitable activities:						
Funding for the Foundation's educational activities	3	101,454	27,149,572	0	27,251,026	20,844,229
Other trading activities	4	1,163,353	0	0	1,163,353	1,008,320
Investments	5	192,086	0	0	192,086	98,127
<b>Total income</b>		<b>1,769,676</b>	<b>27,224,521</b>	<b>12,952,114</b>	<b>41,946,311</b>	<b>22,438,760</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising funds	6	50,820	0	0	50,820	50,760
Charitable activities:						
Foundation educational operations	7	1,036,253	28,074,768	1,382,850	30,493,871	22,581,387
Other		0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>1,087,073</b>	<b>28,074,768</b>	<b>1,382,850</b>	<b>30,544,691</b>	<b>22,632,147</b>
<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>		<b>682,603</b>	<b>(850,247)</b>	<b>11,569,264</b>	<b>11,401,620</b>	<b>(193,387)</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	18	<b>0</b>	<b>(740,682)</b>	<b>740,682</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Other recognised gains / (losses):</b>						
Actuarial gains / (losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	28	0	(2,215,000)	0	(2,215,000)	1,038,000
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>682,603</b>	<b>(3,805,929)</b>	<b>12,309,946</b>	<b>9,186,620</b>	<b>844,613</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
Total funds brought forward		2,500,597	6,673,098	42,634,579	51,808,274	50,963,661
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>3,183,200</b>	<b>2,867,169</b>	<b>54,944,525</b>	<b>60,994,894</b>	<b>51,808,274</b>

**Balance sheet as at 31 August 2024**

	<b>Notes</b>	<b>31 August 2024 £</b>	<b>31 August 2023 £</b>
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible fixed assets	12	<b>56,381,757</b>	<b>45,188,499</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	13	2,612,748	784,091
Investments	14	0	872,086
Cash at bank and in hand		7,219,222	6,681,826
		<b>9,831,970</b>	<b>8,338,003</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(3,034,454)	(2,274,281)
		<b>6,797,516</b>	<b>6,063,722</b>
<b>Net current assets</b>			
		<b>63,179,273</b>	<b>51,252,221</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			
Creditors – amounts falling due after more than one year	16 / 17	(1,326,379)	(1,498,947)
		<b>61,852,894</b>	<b>49,753,274</b>
<b>Net assets excluding pension asset/(liability)</b>			
Defined benefit pension scheme asset/(liability)	28	(858,000)	2,055,000
		<b>60,994,894</b>	<b>51,808,274</b>
<b>Total net assets</b>			
<b>Funds of the Foundation:</b>			
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Fixed asset fund	18	54,944,525	42,634,579
Restricted income fund	18	3,725,169	4,618,098
Pension reserve	18	(858,000)	2,055,000
		<b>57,811,694</b>	<b>49,307,677</b>
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>			
	18	3,183,200	2,500,597
		<b>60,994,894</b>	<b>51,808,274</b>

The financial statements on pages 41 to 75 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 12 December 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:

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 0D4BFB8EBABC4F2...  
**Alan Redley**  
**Chair**

DocuSigned by:  
  
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**Matthew Snelson**  
**Accounting Officer**

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

	<b>Note</b>	<b>Year ended 31 August 2024 £</b>	<b>Year ended 31 August 2023 £</b>
<b>Cash flow from operating activities</b>			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	22	(1,376,410)	1,196,472
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
	24	1,339,084	400,391
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
	23	(202,771)	(270,309)
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>		<b>(240,097)</b>	<b>1,326,554</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2023</b>		<b>6,681,826</b>	<b>5,355,272</b>
Cash transferred from The Macclesfield Academy on conversion	31	777,493	0
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2024</b>		<b>7,219,222</b>	<b>6,681,826</b>

## Notes to the accounts

### 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.

#### **Basis of Preparation**

The financial statements of the Foundation, 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 accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by the Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

#### **Going Concern**

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

#### **Transfer of an existing Academy into the Foundation**

The transfer of The Macclesfield Academy to the Foundation, involved the transfer of identifiable assets and liabilities and the operation of the school for £nil consideration. The substance of the transfer is that of a gift and it has been accounted for on that basis as set out below.

The assets and liabilities transferred from The Macclesfield Academy to the Foundation have been valued at their fair value. The fair value has been derived based on that of equivalent items. The amounts have been recognised under the appropriate balance sheet categories, with a corresponding amount recognised in Donations – transfer on conversion in the Statement of Financial Activities and analysed under unrestricted funds, restricted general funds and restricted fixed asset funds. Further details of the transaction are set out in note 31.

**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 (GAG) 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.

**Sponsorship Income**

Sponsorship income provided to the Foundation which amounts to a donation is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which it is receivable (where there are no performance-related conditions), where the receipt is probable and it can be measured reliably.

**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.

**Investment Income**

All income from short term deposit accounts is credited to the Statement of Financial Activity in the period in which it is earned on a receivable basis.

**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.

**Donated goods, facilities and services**

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

**Transfer of existing academies into the academy trust**

Where assets and liabilities are received on the transfer of an existing academy into the academy trust, the transferred net assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the balance sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the academy trust. An equal amount of income is recognised for the transfer of an existing academy into the academy trust within donations and capital grant income to the net assets acquired.

**Donated fixed assets (excluding Transfers on conversion/into the Foundation)**

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

**Expenditure**

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

**Expenditure on Raising Funds**

This includes all expenditure incurred by the Foundation 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 Foundation'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, where applicable.

**Tangible Fixed Assets**

Assets costing £2,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the Balance Sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. Where there are specific conditions attached to the funding requiring the continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities and carried forward in the Balance Sheet. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold and long leasehold land (where the Academy is able to continue using the land indefinitely at no cost) and assets under construction, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

Long leasehold buildings – 50 years

Furniture and fixtures – 3 – 10 years

Plant and equipment – 3 – 10 years

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

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

*Subsequent expenditure on existing fixed assets*

Where significant expenditure is incurred on tangible fixed assets after initial purchase it is charged to the statement of financial activities in the period it is incurred unless it increases

the future benefits to the Foundation, in which case it is capitalised and depreciated on the relevant basis.

### **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.

### **Provisions**

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

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

### **Leased Assets**

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

### **Financial Instruments**

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

*Financial assets* – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 13. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

*Financial liabilities* – trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes 15 and 16. 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.

**Taxation**

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

**Pensions Benefits**

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Foundation in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently, the TPS is treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

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

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

**Fund Accounting**

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

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

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received with restrictions imposed by the funder/donor and include grants from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

**Agency Arrangements**

The Foundation acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from the ESFA. Payments received from the ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the statement of financial activities as the Foundation does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The Foundation can use up to 5% of the allocation towards its own administration costs and this is recognised in the statement of financial activities. The funds received and paid and any balances held are disclosed in note 30.

**Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement**

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

*Critical accounting estimates and assumptions*

The Foundation 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 asset / liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 28, 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 2024. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

### *Critical areas of judgement*

Tangible fixed assets are depreciated over their useful lives taking into account residual values, where appropriate. The actual lives of the assets and residual values are assessed annually and may vary depending on a number of factors. In re-assessing asset lives, factors such as technological innovation and maintenance programmes are taken into account. Residual value assessments consider issues such as future market conditions, the remaining life of the asset and projected disposal values.

An asset ceiling report has been sought from the LGPS actuaries to determine whether any surplus should be restricted to some level or in total. FRS102 section 28.22 states a plan surplus can be recognised only to the extent an entity is able to recover the surplus, either through reduced contributions in the future, or through refunds from the scheme. Upon assessment of the reports the Foundation have taken a view to restrict any academy surpluses in line with the asset ceiling reports which results in a complete restriction for three academies this year.

### **Short term employment benefits**

Short term employment benefits such as salaries and compensated absences (holiday pay) are recognised as an expense in the year in which the employees render service to the Foundation. Any unused benefits are accrued and measured as the additional amount the Foundation expects to pay as a result of the unused entitlement.

### **Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash includes cash in hand, deposits repayable on demand and overdrafts. Deposits are repayable on demand if they are in practice available within 24 hours without penalty.

Cash equivalents are short term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value. An investment qualifies as a cash equivalent when it has a maturity of less than 3 months from the date of acquisition.

## 2. Donations and capital grants

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2024 Total</b>	<b>2023 Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Capital grants	0	2,230,741	2,230,741	465,789
Donated fixed assets	0	1,801,018	1,801,018	0
Other donations	0	13,022	13,022	22,295
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,044,781</b>	<b>4,044,781</b>	<b>488,084</b>

## 3. Funding for the Foundation's educational operations

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2024 Total</b>	<b>2023 Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>DfE / ESFA grants</b>				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	0	13,661,596	13,661,596	9,936,852
Other DfE/ESFA grants				
16-19 core education funding	0	8,998,375	8,998,375	8,066,236
Pupil Premium	0	572,706	572,706	355,519
Teachers pension	0	598,832	598,832	338,040
Teachers Pay	0	239,099	239,099	0
Supplementary	0	0	0	504,536
High value course premium	0	307,800	307,800	321,000
Mainstream Additional Schools Grant	0	462,355	462,355	0
Others	0	364,891	364,891	270,852
Other DfE Group grants	0	18,410	18,410	9,326
<b>Other Government grants</b>				
Local authority grants	0	1,429,315	1,429,315	637,050
Salix grants	0	0	0	18,601
<b>Other income from the foundation's educational operations</b>	101,454	496,193	597,647	386,217
	<b>101,454</b>	<b>27,149,572</b>	<b>27,251,026</b>	<b>20,844,229</b>

**4. Other trading activities**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>2024 Total £</b>	<b>2023 Total £</b>
Hire of facilities	63,567	0	63,567	36,201
Income from other charitable activities	0	0	0	0
Income from ancillary trading activities	1,099,786	0	1,099,786	972,119
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,163,353</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,163,353</b>	<b>1,008,320</b>

**5. Investment income**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>2024 Total £</b>	<b>2023 Total £</b>
Short term deposits - interest	192,086	0	192,086	98,127
<b>Total</b>	<b>192,086</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>192,086</b>	<b>98,127</b>

**6. Expenditure**

	<b>Staff Costs £</b>	<b>Premises £</b>	<b>Other £</b>	<b>2024 Total £</b>	<b>2023 Total £</b>
<i>Expenditure on raising funds:</i>					
Direct costs	42,375	7,788	657	<b>50,820</b>	<b>50,760</b>
Allocated support costs	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<i>Foundation's educational operations:</i>					
Direct costs	15,572,513	0	2,238,229	<b>17,810,742</b>	<b>13,332,388</b>
Allocated support costs	5,386,783	3,468,957	3,827,389	<b>12,683,129</b>	<b>9,248,999</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,001,671</b>	<b>3,476,745</b>	<b>6,066,275</b>	<b>30,544,691</b>	<b>22,632,147</b>

## 6. Expenditure (cont.)

Net income/(expenditure) for the period includes:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Operating lease rentals	133,449	87,001
Depreciation	1,358,701	1,205,419
(Gain) / loss on disposal of fixed assets	24,149	0
Fees payable to statutory auditor for:		
-audit	13,377	10,820
-other services	306	289
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>1,529,982</u></b>	<b><u>1,303,529</u></b>

Included within expenditure are the following transactions:

	<b>Individual items above £5,000</b>		
	<b>Total £</b>	<b>Amount £</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Fixed asset losses	£24,149	£22,603	Air handling unit disposed of due to redevelopment works rendering it surplus to requirements.

## 7. Charitable Activities

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Direct costs – educational operations	17,810,742	13,332,388
Support costs – educational operations	12,683,129	9,248,999
	<b><u>30,493,871</u></b>	<b><u>22,581,387</u></b>



## 7. Charitable Activities (cont.)

### Analysis of support costs

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>Educational</b>	<b>Educational</b>
	<b>Operations</b>	<b>Operations</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Support staff costs	5,386,783	4,339,730
Depreciation	1,358,701	1,205,419
Technology costs	452,835	381,096
Premises costs	3,468,957	1,480,824
Legal costs – conversion	22,145	0
Legal costs - other	22,369	4,898
Other support costs	1,937,675	1,808,859
Governance costs	33,664	28,173
<b>Total support costs</b>	<b>12,683,129</b>	<b>9,248,999</b>

## 8. Staff

### a. Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the period were:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	15,337,250	11,849,927
Social security costs	1,616,192	1,235,464
Pension costs	3,394,324	2,748,495
Other employee benefits	47,602	0
	<b>20,395,368</b>	<b>15,833,886</b>
Agency staff costs	581,804	429,419
Staff restructuring costs	8,500	26,571
<b>Total staff costs</b>	<b>20,985,672</b>	<b>16,289,876</b>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Redundancy payments	0	7,419
Severance payments	8,500	19,152
	<b>8,500</b>	<b>26,571</b>

## 8. Staff (cont.)

### ***b. Severance payments***

The academy trust paid 2 severance payments in the year, disclosed in the following bands:

0 - £25,000	2
£25,001 - £50,000	0
£50,001 - £100,000	0
£100,001 - £150,000	0
£150,000 +	0

### ***c. Special staff severance payments***

Included in staff restructuring costs are special severance payments totalling £8,500 (2023: £1,737). Individually, the payments were: £4,500 and £4,000.

### ***d. Staff numbers***

The average number of persons employed by the Foundation during the period was:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Teachers	221	182
Administration and support	258	201
Management	13	13
	<b>492</b>	<b>396</b>

### ***e. Higher paid staff***

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

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>
£60,001 to £70,000 p.a.	9	6
£70,001 to £80,000 p.a.	7	2
£80,001 to £90,000 p.a.	2	2
£90,001 to £100,000 p.a.	3	1
£100,001 to £110,000 p.a.	0	1
£110,001 to £120,000 p.a.	1	0

## 8. Staff (cont.)

### f. Key management personnel

Key management personnel of the Foundation comprise the trustees and the senior leadership team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Foundation was £745,763 (2023: £594,425).

## 9. Central Services

The Foundation has provided the following central services to its academies during the year: HR and payroll, financial services, legal services where required and some educational support services.

The Foundation charged for these services on the following basis:

- Flat percentage of income based on core recurrent funding

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Sir John Deane’s Sixth Form College	<b>464,124</b>	294,043
The County High School Leftwich	<b>318,582</b>	195,125
Middlewich High School	<b>234,651</b>	147,065
The Macclesfield Academy	<b>147,739</b>	0
	<b><u>1,165,096</u></b>	<b><u>636,233</u></b>

## 10. Related party transactions – Trustees’ remuneration and expenses

One trustee has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from employment with the Foundation. The Chief Executive Officer only receives remuneration in respect of services provided undertaking the role of Chief Executive Officer of The Sir John Brunner Foundation, under a contract of employment.

The value of trustees’ remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

M Snelson (Chief Executive Officer and trustee):

Remuneration £115,000 - £120,000 (2023: £105,000 - £110,000)

Employer’s pension contributions paid £30,000 - £35,000 (2023: £25,000 - £30,000)

During the year ended 31 August 2024 no travel and subsistence expenses were reimbursed or paid directly to the trustees (2023: £nil).

## **11. Trustees and Officers' Insurance**

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Foundation has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Foundation business. The insurance provides cover up to £5,000,000 on any one claim and forms part of a commercial combined policy with Aviva. Because the policy combines a number of different insurances the cost for the Trustees' and Officers' liability cover is not separately identifiable and is included in the total insurance cost.

**12. Tangible fixed assets**

	<b>Leasehold Land and Buildings</b>	<b>Assets Under Construction</b>	<b>Furniture and Equipment</b>	<b>Computer Equipment</b>	<b>Motor Vehicle</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Cost or valuation</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
At 1 September 2023	49,292,173	106,880	664,463	762,154	0	50,825,670
Transfer in of The Macclesfield Academy	8,827,619	0	98,993	155,721	8,166	9,090,499
Additions	1,928,213	1,315,126	185,678	59,675	0	3,488,692
Disposals	(34,754)	0	(158,969)	(37,129)	0	(230,852)
Reclassified assets	54,075	(54,075)	0	0	0	0
<b>At 31 August 2024</b>	<b>60,067,326</b>	<b>1,367,931</b>	<b>790,165</b>	<b>940,421</b>	<b>8,166</b>	<b>63,174,009</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>						
At 1 September 2023	4,699,203	0	417,430	520,538	0	5,637,171
Charge for period	1,145,543	0	93,276	119,270	612	1,358,701
Eliminated in respect of disposals	(34,754)	0	(131,737)	(37,129)	0	(203,620)
<b>At 31 August 2024</b>	<b>5,809,992</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>378,969</b>	<b>602,679</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>6,792,252</b>
Net book value at 31 August 2023	44,592,970	106,880	247,033	241,616	0	45,188,499
<b>Net book value at 31 August 2024</b>	<b>54,257,334</b>	<b>1,367,931</b>	<b>411,196</b>	<b>337,742</b>	<b>7,554</b>	<b>56,381,757</b>

Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College occupies its land and buildings under the terms of a 125-year lease from the Sir John Deane's Foundation Scheme Trustees (a separate charitable trust). Legal title in the lease was transferred to The Sir John Brunner Foundation on 1 April 2019.

## 12. Tangible fixed assets (cont.)

The County High School, Leftwich occupies its land and buildings under the terms of a 125-year lease from Cheshire West and Chester Council effective from 1 September 2012. Legal title in the lease was transferred to The Sir John Brunner Foundation on 1 September 2019.

Middlewich High School occupies its land and buildings under the terms of a 125-year lease from Cheshire East Council effective from 1 December 2021. Legal title in the lease was transferred to The Sir John Brunner Foundation on 1 December 2021.

The Macclesfield Academy occupies its land and buildings under the terms of a 125-year lease from Cheshire East Council, effective from 31 August 2011. Legal title in the lease was transferred to The Sir John Brunner Foundation on 1 December 2023.

Under the terms of the leases the Foundation is fully responsible for the maintenance, insurance and general upkeep of the land and buildings. As a result, the Foundation has determined that the most appropriate accounting treatment is to recognise the substance of the transaction rather than the legal form and capitalise the land and building assets in the Foundation's accounts.

## 13. Debtors

<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade debtors	322,600	20,503
VAT recoverable	479,142	292,891
Other debtors	23,310	18,700
Prepayments and accrued income	1,787,696	451,997
	<b><u>2,612,748</u></b>	<b><u>784,091</u></b>

## 14. Current investments

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Short term deposits	<u>0</u>	<u>872,086</u>

In 2023, the above deposits were invested with Close Brothers in an interest-bearing notice account for which six months' notice is required for all withdrawals. In 2024 the deposits were withdrawn from Close Brothers and invested with Lloyds in a 3 month fixed term deposit and thereby re-classified as 'cash and cash equivalents'.

**15. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade creditors	873,313	674,888
Other taxation and social security	371,006	289,728
Bank loans	169,949	159,854
Other loans	2,620	2,620
Other creditors	449,761	309,613
Accruals and deferred income	1,167,805	837,578
	<b>3,034,454</b>	<b>2,274,281</b>

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	561,117	152,337
Released from previous years	(561,117)	(152,337)
Resources deferred in year	275,933	561,117
<b>Deferred income at 31 August 2024</b>	<b>275,933</b>	<b>561,117</b>

At the balance sheet date, the Foundation was holding the following funds received in advance:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Bus overpayments and deposits	17,094	15,736
Unspent 16-19 Bursary funds carried forward	62,077	70,854
Grant reclaims	10,000	23,263
Specific donations and unspent balances	34,972	12,915
Educational funds, visits and expeditions income	50,919	84,851
Government grants (CIF, SEN & sustainability)	100,871	353,498
	<b>275,933</b>	<b>561,117</b>

Other loans of £2,620 from Salix are repayable in twice yearly instalments until September 2028.

**16. Creditors: amounts falling due after one year**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Bank loans	1,317,211	1,487,159
Other loans	9,168	11,788
	<b><u>1,326,379</u></b>	<b><u>1,498,947</u></b>

Included within the total is loans of £9,168 from Salix repayable in twice yearly instalments until September 2028.

**17. Maturity of Debt****Bank loans and overdrafts**

Bank loans and overdrafts are repayable as follows:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
In one year or less	169,949	159,854
Between one and two years	180,401	169,949
Between two and five years	609,397	574,168
In five years or more	527,413	743,042
	<b><u>1,487,160</u></b>	<b><u>1,647,013</u></b>

The Foundation has an unsecured loan with Lloyds Bank at a fixed rate of 6.38% repayable by quarterly instalments until November 2031.



**18. Funds**

	<b>Balance at 1 September 2023</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Gains (Losses) and Transfers</b>	<b>Balance at 31 August 2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Restricted General Funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	3,345,700	22,924,755	(22,941,686)	(740,682)	2,588,087
Pupil Premium	0	572,706	(572,706)	0	0
Other Grants	987,842	4,173,845	(4,299,346)	0	862,341
Other income	284,556	509,215	(519,030)	0	274,741
Pension Reserve	2,055,000	(956,000)	258,000	(2,215,000)	(858,000)
	<b>6,673,098</b>	<b>27,224,521</b>	<b>(28,074,768)</b>	<b>(2,955,682)</b>	<b>2,867,169</b>
<b>Restricted Fixed Asset Funds</b>					
Transfer on conversion	41,809,361	9,673,499	(1,189,646)	83,219	50,376,433
DfE Group capital grants	363,696	1,477,597	(73,681)	0	1,767,612
Other capital grants	174,720	0	(5,736)	0	168,984
Donated assets from Local Authority	0	1,801,018	(36,020)	0	1,764,998
Capital expenditure from GAG	286,802	0	(77,767)	657,463	866,498
	<b>42,634,579</b>	<b>12,952,114</b>	<b>(1,382,850)</b>	<b>740,682</b>	<b>54,944,525</b>
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>49,307,677</b>	<b>40,176,635</b>	<b>(29,457,618)</b>	<b>(2,215,000)</b>	<b>57,811,694</b>
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>2,500,597</b>	<b>1,769,676</b>	<b>(1,087,073)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,183,200</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>51,808,274</b>	<b>41,946,311</b>	<b>(30,544,691)</b>	<b>(2,215,000)</b>	<b>60,994,894</b>

The academy trust is not subject to GAG carried forward limits.

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

Restricted general funds – includes all income with specified criteria attached to its use and the corresponding expenditure in relation to this income.

Restricted fixed asset funds – includes all income and expenditure related to the purchase of fixed assets.

Unrestricted funds – includes all other income and expenditure which has no specific criteria attached to its use.

**18. Funds (cont.)**

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

	<b>Balance at 1 September 2022</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Gains (Losses) and Transfers</b>	<b>Balance at 31 August 2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Restricted General Funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	3,077,692	18,003,088	(17,251,021)	(484,059)	3,345,700
Pupil Premium	0	355,519	(355,519)	0	0
Other Grants	1,078,169	2,451,495	(2,541,822)	0	987,842
Other income	279,861	317,919	(313,224)	0	284,556
Pension Reserve	1,150,000	0	(133,000)	1,038,000	2,055,000
	<b>5,585,722</b>	<b>21,128,021</b>	<b>(20,594,586)</b>	<b>553,941</b>	<b>6,673,098</b>
<b>Restricted Fixed Asset Funds</b>					
Transfer on conversion	42,839,081	0	(1,029,720)	0	41,809,361
DfE Group capital grants	351,835	113,699	(101,838)	0	363,696
Other capital grants	178,710	0	(3,990)	0	174,720
Capital expenditure from GAG	(127,386)	0	(69,871)	484,059	286,802
	<b>43,242,240</b>	<b>113,699</b>	<b>(1,205,419)</b>	<b>484,059</b>	<b>42,634,579</b>
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>48,827,962</b>	<b>21,241,720</b>	<b>(21,800,005)</b>	<b>1,038,000</b>	<b>49,307,677</b>
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	2,135,699	1,197,040	(832,142)	0	2,500,597
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>50,963,661</b>	<b>22,438,760</b>	<b>(22,632,147)</b>	<b>1,038,000</b>	<b>51,808,274</b>

**Total funds analysis by academy**

Fund balances at 31 August 2024 were allocated as follows:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College	<b>5,645,892</b>	5,440,860
The County High School Leftwich	<b>24,924</b>	251,048
Middlewich High School	<b>487,720</b>	646,335
The Macclesfield Academy	<b>413,608</b>	0
Central Services	<b>336,225</b>	780,452
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	<b>6,908,369</b>	7,118,695
Restricted fixed asset fund	<b>54,944,525</b>	42,634,579
Pension reserve	<b>(858,000)</b>	2,055,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,994,894</b>	51,808,274

**18. Funds (cont.)****Total cost analysis by academy**

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

	<b>Teaching and Educational Support Staff Costs £</b>	<b>Other Support Staff Costs £</b>	<b>Educational Supplies £</b>	<b>Other Costs (excluding depreciation) £</b>	<b>2023/24 Total £</b>	<b>2022/23 Total £</b>
Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College	4,972,031	1,760,123	848,716	2,157,561	<b>9,738,431</b>	8,874,064
The County High School Leftwich	4,582,385	1,277,127	553,565	467,750	<b>6,880,827</b>	6,349,288
Middlewich High School	3,471,134	1,054,799	419,584	1,899,549	<b>6,845,066</b>	5,634,443
The Macclesfield Academy	2,436,683	633,052	304,716	1,297,799	<b>4,672,250</b>	0
Central Services Academy Trust	110,280	704,058	5,981	229,097	<b>1,049,416</b>	568,933
	<b>15,572,513</b>	<b>5,429,159</b>	<b>2,132,562</b>	<b>6,051,756</b>	<b>29,185,990</b>	21,426,728

**19. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds**

Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted General Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £</b>	<b>Total Funds £</b>
Tangible fixed assets	0	209,522	56,172,235	<b>56,381,757</b>
Current assets	3,200,490	5,834,151	797,329	<b>9,831,970</b>
Current liabilities	(17,290)	(2,318,504)	(698,660)	<b>(3,034,454)</b>
Non-current liabilities	0	0	(1,326,379)	<b>(1,326,379)</b>
Pension scheme assets	0	(858,000)	0	<b>(858,000)</b>
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>3,183,200</b>	<b>2,867,169</b>	<b>54,944,525</b>	<b>60,994,894</b>

**19. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds (cont.)**

Comparative information in respect of the previous period as at 31 August 2023 is as follows:

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted General Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Fixed Asset Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Tangible fixed assets	0	417,996	44,770,503	<b>45,188,499</b>
Current assets	2,500,717	5,837,286	0	<b>8,338,003</b>
Current liabilities	(120)	(1,637,184)	(636,977)	<b>(2,274,281)</b>
Non-current liabilities	0	0	(1,498,947)	<b>(1,498,947)</b>
Pension scheme assets	0	2,055,000	0	<b>2,055,000</b>
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>2,500,597</b>	<b>6,673,098</b>	<b>42,634,579</b>	<b>51,808,274</b>

**20. Capital and other commitments**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Commitments contracted for, but not provided for at 31 August	<u>1,310,410</u>	<u>165,892</u>

**21. Long-term commitments, including operating leases****Operating leases**

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

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Amounts due within one year	40,163	99,918
Amounts due between one and five years	64,259	51,650
Amounts due after five years	0	0
	<u><b>104,422</b></u>	<u><b>151,568</b></u>

All operating lease commitments fall under the Department for Education's approved list.

## 22. Reconciliation of net income/ (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Net income / (expenditure) for the period	11,401,620	(193,387)
Adjusted for:		
Net assets transferred from The Macclesfield Academy	(9,295,065)	0
Depreciation (note 12)	1,358,701	1,205,419
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	24,149	0
Capital grants from DfE and other capital grants	(4,031,758)	(465,789)
Interest paid	40,297	117,101
Interest receivable (note 5)	(192,086)	(98,127)
Defined benefit scheme cost less contributions payable (note 28)	(184,000)	178,000
Defined pension scheme finance cost (note 28)	(74,000)	(45,000)
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	(279,328)	102,661
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	(144,940)	395,594
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>(1,376,410)</b>	<b>1,196,472</b>

## 23. Cash flows from financing activities

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Repayments of borrowing	(162,474)	(153,208)
Cash inflows from new borrowing	0	0
Interest paid	(40,297)	(117,101)
<b>Net cash provided by / (used in) financing activities</b>	<b>(202,771)</b>	<b>(270,309)</b>

## 24. Cash flows from investing activities

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	192,086	98,127
New deposits in short term investments	872,085	(27,203)
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(3,542,767)	(454,637)
Assets Under Construction reclassified in year	54,075	0
Capital grants from DfE Group	1,959,504	784,104
Capital grants received from others	1,801,018	0
Proceeds on sale of fixed assets	3,083	0
<b>Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities</b>	<b>1,339,084</b>	<b>400,391</b>

**25. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Cash in hand and at bank	7,219,222	6,681,826
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	0	0
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>7,219,222</b>	<b>6,681,826</b>

**26. Analysis of changes in net debt**

	<b>At 1 September 2023</b>	<b>Cash flows £</b>	<b>Transfer in The Macclesfield Academy</b>	<b>At 31 August 2024</b>
	<b>£</b>		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Cash	6,681,826	(240,097)	777,493	7,219,222
Cash equivalents	0	0	0	0
	<b>6,681,826</b>	<b>(240,097)</b>	<b>777,493</b>	<b>4,591,222</b>
Loans falling due within one year	(162,474)	(10,095)	0	(172,569)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(1,498,947)	172,568	0	(1,326,379)
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,020,405</b>	<b>(77,624)</b>	<b>777,493</b>	<b>5,720,274</b>

**27. Members liability**

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

**28. Pension and similar obligations**

The Foundation'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 the Cheshire Pension Fund. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

## **28. Pension and similar obligations (cont.)**

Contributions amounting to £445,121 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2024 (2023: £293,929) and are included within creditors.

### **Teachers' Pension Scheme**

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

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

### **Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme**

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

Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 27 October 2023, with the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, applying a notional investment return based on 1.7% above the rate of CPI. The key elements of the valuation outcome are:

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

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

## 28. Pension and similar obligations (cont.)

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £2,589,195 (2023: £1,825,052).

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 pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2024 was £1,301,291 (2023: £950,195), of which employer's contributions totalled £1,015,598 (2023: £733,710) and employees' contributions totalled £285,693 (2023: £216,485). The agreed employer contribution rates for future years are 19.6% in respect of Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College, 21.0% in respect of The County High School, Leftwich, 27.6% in respect of Middlewich High School and 28.8% in respect of The Macclesfield Academy and for employees range from 5.5% to 12.5% depending on salary.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of an academy trust 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](#).

### Principal Actuarial Assumptions

	<b>At 31 August 2024</b>	<b>At 31 August 2023</b>
Rate of increase in salaries	3.35%	3.7%
Future pensions increases/Revaluation rate (CPI)	2.65%	3.0%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.00%	5.2%



**28. Pension and similar obligations (cont.)**

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

	<b>At 31 August 2024</b>	<b>At 31 August 2023</b>
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	21.4 years	21.5 years
Females	24.5 years	24.5 years
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	21.3 years	21.5 years
Females	25.3 years	25.3 years

**Sensitivity Analysis**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Discount rate: + 0.1%	(367)	(279)
Discount rate: - 0.1%	367	279
Mortality assumption: 1 year increase	732	531
Mortality assumption: 1 year decrease	(732)	(531)
Salary increase rate: +0.1%	14	0
Salary increase rate: -0.1%	(14)	0
CPI rate: + 0.1%	363	262
CPI rate: - 0.1%	(363)	(262)

**The Foundation's share of the assets in the scheme were:**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Equities	8,571	7,515
Bonds	5,598	4,908
Property	2,274	1,994
Cash and other liquid assets	<u>1,050</u>	<u>920</u>
<b>Total fair value of assets</b>	<b><u>17,493</u></b>	<b><u>15,337</u></b>

The actual return on the scheme assets was £1,627,000 (9.3%) (2023: £337,000 (2.2%)).

**28. Pension and similar obligations (cont.)****Amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Current service cost	(833)	(909)
Past service cost	0	(21)
Interest income	917	662
Interest cost	<u>(843)</u>	<u>(617)</u>
<b>Total amount recognised in the SOFA</b>	<b><u>(759)</u></b>	<b><u>(885)</u></b>

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

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
<b>At 1 September 2023</b>	<b>13,281</b>	<b>14,082</b>
Transfer in of The Macclesfield Academy	3,439	0
Current service cost	833	909
Interest cost	843	617
Employee contributions	285	216
Actuarial (gain) / loss	4	(2,299)
Benefits paid	(386)	(265)
Past service cost	<u>0</u>	<u>21</u>
<b>At 31 August 2024</b>	<b><u>18,299</u></b>	<b><u>13,281</u></b>

**Changes in the fair value of the Foundation's share of scheme assets were as follows:**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
<b>At 1 September 2023</b>	<b>15,336</b>	<b>15,232</b>
Transfer in of The Macclesfield Academy	2,483	0
Interest income	917	662
Actuarial gain / (loss)	777	(1,261)
Employer contributions	1,017	752
Employee contributions	285	216
Benefits paid	<u>(386)</u>	<u>(265)</u>
<b>Balance before asset ceiling adjustment</b>	<b>20,429</b>	<b>15,336</b>
Asset ceiling restriction	<u>(2,988)</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>At 31 August 2024</b>	<b><u>17,441</u></b>	<b><u>15,336</u></b>

## 28. Pension and similar obligations (cont.)

As shown above an asset ceiling restriction has been carried out which results in the LGPS surplus for Sir John Deane’s Sixth Form College, The, County High School Leftwich and Middlewich High School being reduced to £nil. The Macclesfield Academy pension valuation shows a deficit of £850,000 which has been recognised in full.

The restrictions per academy are as follows:

	<b>Asset ceiling restriction</b>
	<b>£000</b>
Sir John Deane’s Sixth Form	(2,295)
The, County High School Leftwich	(266)
Middlewich High School	(427)
The Macclesfield Academy	<u>0</u>
	<b><u>(2,988)</u></b>

## 29. Related Party Transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trustees have an interest.

### Expenditure related party transactions

The Fermain Academy (within The YES Trust) – a Trust in which R Halsall (a Governor at Sir John Deane’s Sixth Form College) is Chair for the YES Trust Board:

- The Foundation engaged in alternative provision student placements during the year totalling £50,375 (2023: £5,885). There were no amounts outstanding at 31 August 2024 (2023: £nil)
- The Foundation engaged in these services at arms’ length and R Halsall neither participated in, nor influenced the transactions.
- In entering into the transaction, the academy trust has complied with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook.
- For academy trusts transacting with another state funded school or academy, the provision is regarded as meeting the ‘at cost’ requirement.

## 29. Related Party Transactions (cont.)

Cre8 Macclesfield Ltd – A company in which A Fletcher (a Governor at The Macclesfield Academy) is a director:

- The Foundation engaged in tuition sessions for students during the year totalling £30,751 (2023: £nil). There were no amounts outstanding at 31 August 2024 (2023: £nil).
- The Foundation engaged in these services at arms' length and A Fletcher neither participated in, nor influenced the transactions.
- In entering into the transaction, the academy trust has complied with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook.
- The element above £2,500 has been provided 'at no more than cost' and Cre8 Macclesfield Ltd has provided a statement of assurance confirming this.

All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, including notifying ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions.

### Income related party transactions

None took place during the period of account.

## 30. Agency Arrangements

The Foundation distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for the ESFA. In the year to 31 August 2024 the Foundation received and distributed the following funds:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
16-19 bursary funds received from ESFA in year	105,212	95,237
Unspent funds carried over from previous year	70,854	73,432
Funds transferred from Free College Meals allocation	4,709	2,381
	<hr/> 180,775	<hr/> 171,050
Amount disbursed to students	(113,634)	(95,603)
Administration costs	(5,064)	(4,593)
Balance unspent included in creditors at 31 August	<hr/> <b>62,077</b>	<hr/> <b>70,854</b>

### 31. Transfer of existing academies into the Foundation

On 1 December 2023 The Macclesfield Academy joined the trust and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to The Sir John Brunner Foundation from The Macclesfield Academy for £nil consideration.

The transfer has been accounted for as a combination that is in substance a gift. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair value and recognised in the balance sheet under the appropriate headings with a corresponding net amount recognised as a net gain in the Statement of Financial Activities as Donations – Transfer from The Macclesfield Academy. The following table sets out the fair values of the identifiable assets and liabilities transferred and an analysis of their recognition in the SOFA.

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted General Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Tangible Fixed Assets</b>				
Leasehold land and buildings	0	0	8,827,619	8,827,619
Furniture and equipment	0	0	98,993	98,993
Computer equipment	0	0	155,721	155,721
Motor Vehicles	0	0	8,166	8,166
<b>Current assets</b>				
Cash in bank and in hand	312,783	214,578	250,132	777,493
Debtors due in less than one year	0	423,021	332,868	755,889
<b>Current liabilities</b>				
Creditors due in less than one year	0	(372,816)	0	(372,816)
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>				
LGPS Pension Deficit	0	(956,000)	0	(956,000)
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>312,783</b>	<b>(691,217)</b>	<b>9,673,499</b>	<b>9,295,065</b>