

**JOHN SPENDLUFFE
TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE**



**VALUE FOR MONEY
STATEMENT 2020**

Value for Money Statement

Academy trust name: JOHN SPENDLUFFE TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE

Academy trust company number: 7683660

Year ended 31 August 2020

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

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

Improving Educational Results

We have ensured that resources and funding have been directed where most needed to meet the educational needs of our pupils. The Academy has shown success again in overall educational results in Summer 2019 with strong basics figure for a school of our type.

There are no published results for this section due to the global Covid 19 pandemic and the fact that students did not sit GCSE / BTEC examinations during the summer of 2020. Instead, student grades were based on a number of factors but primarily through a centre assessed grading process. The school undertook this process with fairness and transparency so that all students were assessed as individuals within their curriculum programme of KS4 qualifications. Staff took into account a range of information and evidence including mock and test scores, work completed in lessons and completed assignments as well as external examinations already completed. Grades were assigned and quality assurance of processes within departments overseen by SLT line managers. Through the ranking of grades within each grade band any required adjustments were made to ensure compliance with the Department for Education process.

Staff have worked on a range of curriculum documents to enable consistency of approach within the classroom to be achieved. Consistency has also been addressed within the assessment process across departments and the Heads of Department forum has been deployed to share good practice within this aspect of school practice. Through enhanced consistency teachers have been able to identify students where progress is below the expected level for their target grade (KS4) or their flightpath (KS3). In these cases intervention and support is put in place to enable better progress. A range of staff are involved within this process including classroom teacher, Head of Department, SEND team and Progress Team depending on identified need. Students not only present with identified needs on transition to JSTC but also as they progress through the school. Working together with families is the focus of our attendance and inclusion team who liaise with external agencies when needed to ensure all barriers to attendance and progress are addressed to support students in school.

John Spendluffe Technology College continues to develop and monitor the proven system for tracking student progress across all year groups and their achievement to provide the basis for early, effective and appropriate intervention in key subject areas. The Academy also provides additional targeted support for students by running weekend, half term, after school and Easter revision sessions to ensure the students are reaching their full potential.

The Senior Leadership Team at the Academy closely monitors the performance of both teaching and support staff under their line management areas of responsibility by following clearly outlined performance management processes. The Academy is committed to ensuring that all staff have access to high quality CPD and networking opportunities with colleagues in a range of other schools to ensure that best practice and sharing of expertise is established. This ensures that appropriate training, support and actions are taken to address any weaknesses in performance or that career and professional development is put in place should they wish to add to their current abilities.

A clear performance management process is also in place at JSTC. All staff are set three objectives which are commensurate with the career stage of the member of staff. These include an objective linked to practice within the classroom as well as those linked to wider professional duties. Reviews of these objectives are held during the year and any further support required to enable the objectives to be met is identified and made available to the member of staff. All objectives for teaching staff are held within an electronic platform where line managers can review the progress towards completion of objectives and evidence submitted by the member of staff can be reviewed. Pay decisions focus on the information given by the teacher, Head of Department and any SLT line manager involved in addition to the review of the evidence and outcomes on the professional development tracker – to include a record of CPD undertaken by the member of staff.

All of the above processes ensure that JSTC can demonstrate good value for money with respect to student outcomes and staff performance.

Financial Governance

Our governance arrangements include regular monitoring from the Governing Body through termly meetings of the Finance, Buildings & Audit committee. These meetings are held four times per year, at which, committee members are given current and relevant financial information to ensure they are fully informed of the procedures, challenges and difficulties the Academy has gone through when making decisions on the day to day running of the school. Monthly KPI reports are sent to the Chair of Governors and Chair of Finance to show that the expected income has arrived along with the anticipated and budgeted expenditure. Holding these meetings in 2020 has been difficult due to the challenges of the Covid 19 pandemic with most communication taking place by email or phone call rather than face to face meetings.

Topics discussed at committee meetings include decisions on both teaching and support staff recruitment and the rationale and affordability of the proposal, the supply of services and utilities to the students and site, purchasing of IT equipment, future building projects along with site maintenance work needing to be carried out.

The information supplied to the Committee is further enhanced by the work of the Responsible Officer which is fulfilled by the Academy's external auditors. They undertake Internal Assurance visits over the course of the year and review financial controls in key areas. A report is then issued to the Academy after each visit and is shared with the Finance Committee prior to the meeting so it can be analysed and brought for discussion when the meeting is held. John Spendluffe Technology College was unable to call upon its usual external auditors for 'in person' visits due to the pandemic and despite the best efforts of the accountants, remote monitoring by uploading documents through a portal was almost impossible due to the challenges and staffing levels in school affected by the pandemic. This has been highlighted within the accountants year end management report as being unacceptable but there is acknowledgement that these were exceptional circumstances in which all schools were operating within. JSTC is also governed by the content of the latest version of the Academies Financial Handbook and follows the guidance set out within this document wherever possible. However, certain practices could not be followed as robustly as desired due to the Covid pandemic and the aforementioned challenges.

Effective Purchasing

The limits and processes for department and budget heads are clearly defined within the Academy's Finance & Purchasing & Tendering Policies and therefore responsibility is delegated to budget holders for ensuring that value for money is sought within their area of responsibility.

Longer term contracts (e.g. two or three years) have been entered into to deliver value for money and to safeguard against potential rises within that time period. E.g. Energy suppliers, Grounds Maintenance and IT educational software. The rationale for longer term contracts is to benefit from any discounts that may be on offer, provide consistency and build rapport with the provider and also to allow for longer term budget planning.

Examples of actions the school has taken to ensure value for money when undertaking purchases are:

- Consider different suppliers, even for small purchases, using the internet, sales representatives and supplier catalogues. E.g. for text book orders we use Amazon, Browns for Books, Waterstones and Heath Books to find the best price for each item
- Annual premises and ICT contracts are reviewed to ensure they are still fit for purpose and that they are being used for the optimum benefit of the Academy. E.g. Renegotiation of the five year electrical testing programme with existing supplier was with the clear guidance that prices would need to be equal to or only fractionally higher due to cost of living rises. Our present supplier was able to deliver on this request so business was retained.
- The school tendering policy ensures that tenders / quotations are obtained where appropriate to ensure value for money on all major expenditure. An example of this can be found within the tendering process when deciding which firm of contractors the school would engage with on CIF projects and the installation of the whole school fire alarm upgrade which was delivered during the summer of 2020.

Income Generation

The Academy looks to generate income from letting out the school premises wherever possible. The floodlit astro turf pitch is used by the local community sporting groups during weekday evenings. The main school hall continues to be used for a fitness class letting in the week as another minor income stream. JSTC hires out its open air swimming pool during the summer months to neighbouring primary schools. They use the swimming pool for swimming tuition during the school day. All of the above were significantly disrupted due to the Covid 19 pandemic which halted the use of sporting facilities for an extended period of time. The sports hall presently resembles a student Covid testing bay and the swimming pool is not operational due to the need for a significant amount of work to be undertaken to restore it to school and community use.

JSTC remains the catering provider for four neighbouring, local authority maintained primary schools showing its commitment to collaborating with other schools wherever possible. The income levels achieved by the provision of meals to these primaries, in addition to the income received from the sale of meals to JSTC students. JSTC recognises the necessity to maintain these contracts as they provide much needed additional revenue for the school and as a result of having these contracts, we have increased staffing in this area which benefits the overall local community. Significant downturn in the level of income due to the global pandemic and concerns over the long term security of these contracts due to quality control issues and reduction in the uptake of meals during and since the pandemic. All attempts are being made to ensure these contracts remain in place.

External organisations are being focused on to secure appropriate funding for certain projects around school. This includes attempting to access Sport England funding for swimming pool repairs, charitable funds for the restoration of the school library and procurement of items for the music and sport departments in school.

Any surplus monies that are at the Academy's disposal are actively managed by the College Business Manager and are invested in suitable interest bearing accounts with no risk to the capital. Due to significant cashflow issues and delays in the government repaying Covid expense by upto six months, this has almost been impossible during the last twelve months.

Reviewing controls and Managing Risk

Monthly management reports are prepared by the Finance department to be reviewed and signed by the Headteacher and are shared at Finance committee meetings.

Budget holders are issued with a departmental summary of expenditure on a half termly basis so they can ascertain whether their proposed expenditure is affordable within that financial year.

The Academy's Risk Register is reviewed on an annual basis and considers social, financial and managerial risks to the organisation. John Spendluffe Technology College also engages the professional advice where necessary to reduce financial risks which may impact on the school. E.g. Legal firm retainer, HR Advice, Occupational Health, Lincolnshire Teaching School Alliance collaboration, peer reviews with other schools and is affiliated to a number of local teacher training organisations as the school looks to train and recruit its own teaching and support staff.

Signed:



Name: Ms J Shorroch (Headteacher)

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 17 / 12 / 2020