



TAUNTON  
— SCHOOL —

# GOVERNORS' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023



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# REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE COMPANY

ITS GOVERNORS AND  
ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR  
ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

## Governors

Mr Henry Keeling, Chairman (resigned 14 November 2023)  
Mr Robert Aldrich  
Mr Christopher Butters  
Mr Philip Cooper  
Brigadier (Retired) Mark Hallis  
Mr Tim Hayden (resigned 27 September 2022)  
Mr David Hebditch  
Dr Ian Kelham  
Mr Richard Kennedy, Treasurer  
Reverend Nigel Manges  
Rear Admiral Ian Moncrieff  
Mrs Hilary Quantick (resigned 17 March 2023)  
Mr Elaine Waymouth, Deputy Chairman  
Mrs Sheila Wheeler  
Mrs Dinah Close (appointed 26 June 2023)  
Mr Matthew Pyke (appointed 26 June 2023)  
Mr Mark Anderson (appointed 10 November 2023)  
Mr Julian Whiteley (appointed 3 December 2022)

## Company Registered Number

04005803

## Charity Registered Number

1081420

## Registered office

Taunton School  
Staplegrove Road  
Taunton  
TA2 6AD

## Independent auditor

Crowe U.K. LLP  
Fourth Floor  
St James House  
St James Square  
Cheltenham  
GL50 3PR

## Bankers

HSBC Bank Plc  
17 North Street  
Taunton  
Somerset  
TA1 1NA

## Solicitors

Veale Wasbrough Vizards  
Narrow Quay House  
Narrow Quay  
Bristol BS1 4 QA

## Insurance Broker

Marsh  
Capital House  
1-5 Perrymount Road  
Haywards Heath  
West Sussex  
RH16 3SY



# GOVERNORS'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 AUGUST 2023

The Board of Governors (the 'Board'), who are Directors and Trustees of Taunton School Educational Charity (the 'Charity'), present their annual report for the year ended 31 August 2023. It is in the format prescribed by the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

## CONSTITUTION AND OBJECTS

Taunton School (the 'School') was founded in 1847. It is constituted as a company limited by guarantee registered in England as per the details at page 1. It is governed by its Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association reviewed and amended 11 March 2016 with a further small update in December 2020 to allow for online meetings.

The objects of the Charity are 'to promote and provide for the advancement of education by the provision of a school or such other means as the Governors shall from time to time determine.' In carrying out these objects, the Charity upholds the founding principles of the School which are rooted in the Christian faith. It recognises the particular emphasis of its 'Free Church' foundation on the importance of personal responsibility in the quest for faith, and in respect of religious traditions.

Significantly, in furthering these Objects for the public benefit, the Charity provides Taunton School organisation in 5 completely co-educational parts: the Senior School (known as Taunton School), Prep School, Pre-Prep and Nursery, Taunton School International and Taunton School International Middle School. This spans an age range from Infants to 18.

The School administers assisted places (bursaries), grants, awards and other benefactions such as scholarships and acts as the trustee and manager of property, endowments, bequests and gifts given or established in pursuance of its objects.



# STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT



## GOVERNING BODY

The Articles of Association sets the maximum number on the Board at 17, of which one is appointed by the Churches Advisory Panel. The remaining governors are appointed by an ordinary resolution of the Members, passed at an AGM of the Charity. Henry Keeling served as Chair of the Board throughout the year.

The Governors are the Company Directors and Trustees of the Charity, and those who have been in office for all or part of the year are listed alphabetically by surname at page 1.

## OFFICERS

- Chief Executive Officer - Mr J Johnson
- Chief Operating Officer - Mrs N Miller (Until 28th February 2023)
- Chief Operating Officer - Mrs S Reynolds (appointed 15th May 2023)
- Clerk to the Governors - Mrs N Miller (until 31st August 2023)
- Clerk to the Governors - Mrs S Reynolds (appointed 1st September 2023)
- Taunton Preparatory School Head - Mr A Edwards (until 30th June 2023)
- Taunton Preparatory School Head - Mr E Burnett (appointed 8th August 2023)
- Taunton Pre-Prep and Nursery Head - Mrs L Leach (until 31st August 2023)
- Taunton Pre-Prep and Nursery Head - Ms R Lewis (appointed 1st September 2023)
- Taunton School International - Principal Mr A Hallworth

## MEMBERSHIP

The charity has an unlimited number of members. Members are former governors and pupils of the School, over the age of 18.

## GOVERNOR RECRUITMENT & TRAINING

Board vacancies are considered by the Nominations Panel, which then makes recommendations to the full Board. All prospective candidates are considered in light of the skills/experience balance required at the time which will include eligibility, diversity, personal competence, specialist skills and local availability. New governors are appointed for a term of 3 years and, subject to periodic performance review, may be re-elected for a further 4 terms. All Governors will be formally appointed by the Members at the AGM.

New Governors induction into the workings of the School includes the policies and procedures of the Board through briefings by the Chairman, Head and Clerk and through comprehensive documentation that is kept updated on the Governor's secure online portal. They also attend specialist external courses on such matters as the role and responsibilities of Charity Trustees and receive the updated Charity Governance Code as part of their induction pack. Governors have access to continuous professional development run by organisations such as the Association of Governing Bodies of Independent Schools (AGBIS) to stay abreast of current issues and regulations in the Independent Sector. All Governors are subject to DBS checks and regular associated 'Safeguarding' training. A nominated Governor has responsibility for the Safeguarding Lead on the Board.

## GROUP STRUCTURE

The School has 2 wholly owned non-charitable subsidiaries, Taunton School Enterprises (TSE) Limited (company number 02846335) and Taunton School Trustees Limited (company number 06706952).

The principal activity of TSE Limited is the trading activity of the School whose annual profits are donated to the School under the Gift Aid Scheme. The principal activity of Taunton School Trustees Limited is that of a corporate Trustee of the School's defined benefit pension scheme for support staff, which closed in December 2010.

## ORGANISATIONAL MANAGEMENT

As the Charity Trustees and Directors, Board members, are legally responsible for the overall management and control of the School and promotion of its long term success. The Board meets at least 3 times a year. The work of implementing its policies and specific key elements is overseen by sub-groups, most of which meet at least termly and report into the Full Board as follows:

- Finance and General Purposes
- Nominations
- Committee with decision making powers, and the following Panels with advisory status
- Human Resources and Remuneration
- Health and Safety Strategy Group.
- Educational Advisory
- Marketing
- Churches Advisory
- Risk Management
- Estates
- Appeals (convened from two or three Governors as required)
- Investment
- Foundation

Other specialist working groups are set up as and when required.

Day-to-day running of the Schools is delegated to the Executive Leadership Team, which is a group drawn from Key Management Personnel. The Heads and COO attend all of the meetings of the Board and most of the meetings of the sub-groups above. Remuneration policy is set by the Board, with a policy objective of encouraging enhanced performance and of rewarding fairly and responsibly individual contributions to the School's success.

## EMPLOYMENT POLICY

The School recognises that its employees are fundamental to its success. A strategic, professional and timely approach to recruitment is used to attract and appoint employees with the necessary skills and required attributes to support the School's purpose and core values to meet the School aims.

The School is committed to ensuring that the process of safer recruitment as articulated by the Government and, selection of employees is conducted in a manner that is systematic, efficient and effective and which promotes equality of opportunity.

## PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Board confirms that they have complied with their duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

## HOW OUR ACTIVITIES DELIVER PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Board has considered the Charity Commission's current guidance on public benefit carefully. They try to ensure that the School's charitable objects are carried out for the public benefit by making sure that wherever possible, education is available to all who can draw most value from it. This is irrespective of financial circumstances since our charitable activities promote the wider education of children and access is not restricted solely by the ability to pay fees. The School's facilities are also made available as far as possible to other local schools and the wider community.

The Board remains committed to providing public benefit which is, in itself, in accordance with the School's founding principles. To this end the School cooperates with local charities and educational bodies in an ongoing endeavour to widen public access to it. It also seeks to optimise the use of the School's cultural and sporting facilities and to awaken in the School's own pupils an awareness of the social context of the all-round education they receive at the School.

## TAUNTON SCHOOL FOUNDATION

The Foundation continues to maintain the connection between the School and its alumni as well as raising vital funds to support capital projects and means-tested Assisted Places at Taunton School. The majority of our donations come from alumni, but we also receive funds from parents, staff and the wider community. In the 12-month period to 31 August 2023, voluntary donations totalled £441.3k. Of these funds, the majority were given towards our means-tested Assisted Places, which transform the lives of children who otherwise could not attend a school like Taunton. The remainder of our donations were designated towards enabling projects for our Campus Masterplan. These included the new Green Heart, a living corridor of plants and trees that link the Prep and Senior School, and the movement of the Carrington Library to the heart of our campus. A new Sixth Form Centre was also completed, with donors choosing to sponsor specific desks and study pods, creating an academic environment where older pupils can work both independently and collaboratively.

The School did not employ any external fundraisers during the year and is not registered with the Fundraising Regulator but is committed to 'good fundraising practices'. The School is a member of the Institute of Development Professionals in Education (IDPE) and actively collaborates with professional bodies in the sector. There are no instances to report of the School failing to comply with fundraising standards and the School received no formal complaints about its fundraising activity during the year. The School adheres to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and only contacts those for whom our communication will be relevant and of interest.

## GRANT MAKING POLICY

Opportunity to benefit from the School's Grants of Assisted Places (also sometimes referred to as bursaries) is not subject to geographical or other restrictions such as the ability to pay fees. Accordingly, no one is excluded from this opportunity. The Board takes the view that those pupils who attend the School and who receive financial support, contribute positively to the School community in a variety of ways. Accordingly, the benefit accrues not only to these pupils, but to the whole School ethos and inclusivity and, in some cases, to the wider community.

In the 12-month period to 31 August 2023, a total of £1,777,969 (2022: £1,727,635) was spent on means-tested assisted places/bursaries. This is the equivalent of 81 full Senior School-day fees and 5.6% of gross fee income. 213 pupils (2022: 232) received assistance with school fees. In the current academic year (2023/2024), it is estimated that 230 pupils will receive assisted places bursaries totalling £1,836,549.

## GRANT MAKING POLICY (CONTINUED)

The School's assisted places/bursary expenditure is summarised below:

	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18
Assisted Place/Bursary recipients	213	232	292	258	252	233
Value of awards	£1,777,969	£1,712,287	£1,866,726	£1,701,122	£1,638,089	£1,348,710
Average value (£)	£8,346	£7,380	£6,393	£6,606	£6,500	£5,788
Average value (%)	38.1%	35.4%	31.8%	32.9%	33.5%	30.0%



# STRATEGIC REPORT OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

## CHARITABLE OBJECTS

The Objects of the School are in the Articles of Association dated 4 December 2020.

Principally:

To promote and provide for the advancement of education by the provision of a school or such other means as the Governors shall from time to time determine provided always that:

- In admitting pupils to the School, the Governors must exercise (all other things being equal) a preference in favour of sons and daughters of members of the Free Churches; and
- In carrying out its objects, the Charity shall uphold the founding principles of the School which are rooted in the Christian faith and recognise the particular emphasis on its Free Church foundation and the importance of personal responsibility in the quest for faith, and respect for all religious traditions.

To these ends the School:

- Provides an education for children aged 0 to 18 years;
- Provides substantial financial support towards fee remission;
- Has a continuous programme of maintenance, building and technology refurbishment and development;
- Allows controlled access by the public to its grounds, buildings and facilities generally;
- Holds a variety of religious services on weekdays and on Sundays in the Chapel;
- Provides a wide range of sporting and cultural facilities, many of which are available to children from other local schools and which are also made available to members of the public where appropriate;
- Supports the wider community by 'community service' and other activities; and
- Demonstrates significant public benefit through its academic and other activities as described in paragraphs (i) to (vii) above.

# AIMS AND TARGETS

Within these objects the School aims to meet its publicly stated purpose by providing outstanding and innovative teaching and developing a culture which uses technology to drive forward teaching and learning.

Pupil and staff well-being is central to all that we do and the School aims to encourage, train and develop confident, enthusiastic and well-rounded young people who are able to form meaningful relationships with others in an international arena, irrespective of circumstance.

The School has identified its strategic objectives for the present and coming years as:

- Continuous investment in our facilities and infrastructure to provide the best possible opportunity to 'find your exceptional' and to secure Taunton School's place as a school of choice, both in the UK and Worldwide, for generations to come.
- Continue to deliver public benefit through partnerships and assisted places.
- Maintain a secure financial position;
- Deliver the next stages of the School's estate master plan.
- Prepare the Taunton School Final Salary Pension Scheme for buyout;
- Continue to develop the digital strategy;
- Increasing non-fee generated income through commercial activities;
- Reducing costs where they do not add value to the educational journey, pastoral needs and opportunities for our young people;
- Develop a plan to achieve Net Zero by 2050, starting with fully understanding the School's emissions and setting sustainable goals.



# RISK MANAGEMENT

## PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Head and Chief Operating Officer, under the oversight of the Chair of Governors, are responsible for the identification and management of the risks faced by the School. A formal review of the School's risk management appetite and processes is made annually. The Board consider the present economic impact of the crisis in Ukraine and the current ongoing inflationary cost of living crisis to be the principal risks faced by the School. Other risks that may carry significant impact include the possibility of VAT on school fees and the likely removal of Business rates relief for independent schools. Pupil safeguarding as well as health, safety and security are an ever-present significant area for risk management that are monitored astutely.

Through its internal management structures, the School has carried out a wide-ranging examination of the risks in the principal areas of the School's operations and other activities. The Board has reviewed these critically and satisfied itself that the major risks identified have been mitigated to a level as low as reasonably practical commensurate with available resources.

### Key controls used by the Charity in the whole area of Risk Management include:

- Well-publicised policies and procedures, as required by law for the safeguarding and protection of children, including procedures for the safer recruiting and vetting of staff, volunteers and contractors;
- Clear health and safety policies overseen by an active committee;
- Formal agendas for all Committees, Panels and Board of Governors activities;
- Detailed Terms of Reference for all Committees and Panels;
- Comprehensive strategic planning, budgeting and management accounting;
- Fully documented roles and responsibilities of the Governors, Head and TPS Head and other members of senior management;
- Formal written policies, processes and procedures that are subject to audit;
- Clear written delegation in authorisation and approval levels.

All of the above are subjected to periodic staff and Governor Review to maintain their currency.





# STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board is responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (UK GAAP). Company Law requires financial statements to be prepared for each financial year.

Under Company Law, the Board must only approve the financial statements if they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and the group and of the incoming resources and the application of resources. This includes the income and expenditure of the charitable group, for that period.

In preparing the financial statements, the Board has met its requirements to:

- Select the most suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

And its responsibility for:

- Keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions, disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable the Board to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and the provisions of the Charity's constitution.
- Safeguarding the assets of the Charity and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Having done so, and, insofar as each of the Governors, as members of the Board is aware, at the date of approval of this report, there is no relevant audit information (information needed by the Charity's auditor in connection with preparing the audit report) of which the Charity's auditor is unaware. Each member of the Board has taken all the steps that he or she should have taken in order to make himself or herself aware of the relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditor is aware of that information.





# ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND SECTION 172 STATEMENT

The Governors consider that they have fulfilled their duties in accordance with section 172 of the U.K. Companies Act 2006 and have acted in a way in which is most likely to promote the long-term success of the School for the benefit of its stakeholders as a whole in the following ways.

## ACADEMIC RESULTS

Taunton School continues to offer three pathways of Sixth Form study: A levels, International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme and two BTEC courses (Extended Diploma in Sport and Exercise Sciences and Diploma in Business). We firmly believe that this allows us to find the right academic pathway for the students in our care. Student tracking against baseline data is a critical part of our goal to add significant value to every student. This year was the first year of public exams, with the usual grade profile distribution, since 2019.

66%  
of all grades in the Sixth Form were  
at the equivalent of A\*-B (A level),  
5-7 (IB Higher Level) or Distinction\*.

Distinction (BTEC Diploma)

52%  
of GCSE grades were 9-7, and the  
pass rate (grades 9-4) was 95%.

As a non-selective school, we are extremely proud of all students' attainments, not just those achieving top grades.

The School careers advice offered to the students is a particular strength. With a very diverse student body, bespoke guidance on course and country requirements is tailored and offered on an individual basis. The vast majority of students achieve the grades that they need to take up their place at their first choice of University, 75% in 2023.

Our academic programme extends beyond the classroom and students have enjoyed a full range of presentations, lectures and trips, which have enhanced their learning. Friday morning scholars' talks, open to everybody, are a particular highlight and often discuss challenging existential topics, as do Friday night Burke debates for senior students.



Taunton Prep School is all about breadth. Academically, it

continues to offer a broad range of subjects which are

underpinned by modern approaches to teaching and learning.

Up to year 5 a creative curriculum is followed and from year 6,

pupils then move into specialist teaching groups. Since 2021-22

we have underpinned this with a whole school digital strategy

which ensures a consistent pathway of apps and platforms

which are used. With staff increasingly at ease with these

benefits we are now seeing the consistent use of devices to

enhance teaching and learning. Digital learning platforms need

to be used alongside more traditional methods of learning so

the move to 60 minute lessons at the start of September 2023

has made it easier to use a hybrid approach in class. 60 minute

lessons have also allowed the school to increase curriculum

time. In 2022-23 we commented on the significant benefits

seen from a Maths curriculum review which focused further on

the development of problem-solving and reasoning skills. 'In

Maths, the standardised test results over the past three years

put the average Year 8 pupil in the top 16% in the country, and

the results also indicated that over half of the pupils are on track

to obtain a 7, 8 or 9 at GCSE'. This year we are going through

the same process with the English curriculum as we build on the

literacy review in conjunction with the Literacy Tree last year.

A key role of the prep school is to ensure they are ready to thrive

in the senior school. The Year 8 Summer exams provide our

pupils with a 'gold standard' to aim for which, if attained, puts

them right at the top of National Prep School standards. In

2023 the results from the year 8 exams showed a continued

improvement from 2022 and we are now in touching distance of 50% of all year 8 exams being graded between 7-9. These results show a significant level of added value.

In the wider spheres of personal development the pupils have an incredible array of co-curricular opportunities to enjoy and to learn from: breadth and character development remain very much at the heart of the Prep School experience. This year we have launched a bespoke leadership programme which links pupil development to the Taunton values of humility, engagement and kindness. All year 7s and 8s use regular diary

entries and self-reflection to learn and develop their leadership skills, a process which eschews the principles of the IB diploma core curriculum and the importance of an inquiry based approach to learning.

At the prep school we firmly believe that what happens outside the class is as important as what happens inside the class (and that the two complement and enhance one another). With over 70 different clubs and activities during the year the pupils are able to 'find their exceptional'. Finding the thing you love, that shapes you and builds your sense of identity and self-confidence comes from the skill and commitment of the staff who have ensured excellence through inclusion – for example, the school has 84 sports teams, 904 fixtures during the year with every pupil consistently representing the school – and excellence through achievement with 6 European medals, 7 national titles, 15 national medallists and 12 county cup winners.





## ACADEMIC RESULTS

Pre-Prep and Nursery continues to be an exciting learning environment for children. The performing arts curriculum has been developed to great effect. The arts café is a particular highlight, giving children the opportunity to perform in front of an audience and develop their love for dance, music, speech and drama.

Forest School provision continues to progress for all year groups, promoting teamwork, developing resilience and fostering a love for the outdoors and nature. CPD remains a priority in enabling staff to facilitate the very best learning opportunities. Nursery staff attended the Nursery World Exhibition in London where they accessed training in risky play and storytelling. This has been shared with the wider staff body back at school and implemented into our provision. Pupil numbers in nursery remain high with a waiting list in operation for NI-N3.

**Taunton School International** offers 3 academic programmes; a one- and two-year GCSE/pre-IB programme (for 14 – 16 year olds), a Pre-Foundation Year in Business, Economics and Maths (for 16 – 17 year olds) and an International Foundation Year in Business, Economics, Maths and EAP (for 17 – 18 year olds). The School is a market leader in its one-year GCSE provision, having offered this particular course for over 25 years. In August 2023, TSI achieved an 80% GCSE pass rate (9-4) with 40% of the total grades at 9-7. Students are able to select from more than 20 different subjects at GCSE level.

In 2019, TSI introduced a one- or two-year Business Foundation Programme and this year, we saw several of our students securing places at Russell Group universities including Bristol and Manchester. All students at TSI are taught in small classes, enabling them the extensive teacher support that is required on such intensive academic programmes. TSI has a spread of nationalities with over 25 countries represented, approximately 10% of the cohort being British passport holders.

**Taunton School International Middle School** provides international students between the age of 7 and 14 years with the appropriate and relevant education, co-curricular and pastoral support they need to enter Taunton Prep School, Senior School or TSI, depending on their age and level of English. Those not entering another section of Taunton School are ideally equipped to go to another British independent school. Specialist teachers offer an extensive curriculum, which is closely linked to the curricula at the Senior School, Prep School and TSI in order to facilitate the transfer of students from one section of the School to another.



## GROUP FINANCES

The principal funding sources for the Charity are school fees and income generated by many other educational and non-educational activities. The latter are carried out by the Charity's trading company, Taunton School Enterprises Ltd (TSE) which, as described above, passes all its profits to the School. The year's expenditure has continued to support the Charity's key objectives by operating the School and investing in its development.

The Group's finances remain strong with total incoming resources of £29.2m (2022: £25.3m), net incoming resources of £16.91k, (2022 net incoming resources: £1516k); and total reserves of £20.7m (2022: £19.2m) after making capital additions of £1.5m (2022: £2.5m). The Charity continued to invest significantly in the site, with the majority of expenditure on a new Sixth Form centre and library that opened in September 2022.

We have prepared a number of scenarios that consider our cash position, sources of income and planned expenditure. These scenarios consider reduced pupil numbers, delayed fee payment, reduced fees and potential bad debts as well as impact on costs from the measures taken so far. Sensitivity around these assumptions has also been considered in our forecasting. Results of this cash flow and sensitivity analysis indicate that the cash reserves of the Charity are adequate to meet the Charity's obligations as they fall due. Correspondingly, the trustees consider it appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

## INVESTMENT POLICIES, OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE

The Investment Panel advises on the investments and monitors the performance of funds on behalf of the School, the Foundation and the Evans-Lombe Fund. At the year end the total funds invested were £51m (2022: £52.2m). The Investment Panel reports to the Board of Governors and the Trustees of the Evans-Lombe Fund, having taken appropriate and professional advice. The Board and Trustees have set a target of 5% income and fund growth to sustain the value of the capital. The School also holds some restricted funds in recognised charitable investment funds with CCLA and some on deposit awaiting investment. The Board is satisfied with the return on these funds in the prevailing financial climate.



## SECR ENERGY USE AND CARBON EMISSIONS DISCLOSURE

Taunton School Educational Charity disclose our energy use and greenhouse gas emissions that Taunton School are responsible for in line with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic and Directors' Reports) Regulations 2013 and latest 2018 regulations.

	Energy Use (kWh)		Carbon Emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)				Change (Baseline - Current)
	2022-23 (Current)	2021-22	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20 (Baseline)		
Electricity	1,862,819	2,328,774		364.24	676.15		-43%
Gas	3,273,430	5,128,089		1,014.94	917.45		-35%
Transport Fuels	1,030,610	944,863		116.89	115.37		114%
Gross Annual Total	6,166,859	8,401,726		1,496.07	1,708.97		-28%
Intensity Metric (No of Pupils)	1166	1270		1,195	1,156		1%
Total TCO <sub>2</sub> e/Pupils	0.73	1.26		1.25	1.48		-51%
Qualifying Green Tariff	-	-		-	-		-
Net Annual Total	6,185,885	8,401,726		1,496.07	1,708.97		-50%

Table 1: Primary Statement for the Financial Year ending 31st August 2023.

### Baseline Year

This is the fourth year of GHG reporting. 2020/2021 was the baseline year which fell during the COVID-19 pandemic and as such comparisons to this and future years may be skewed.

### Targets

Carbon targets have not been developed for the current reporting period but are currently in development.

### Intensity Measurement

The intensity metric chosen is average pupil numbers as at the 31 August 2023. This metric was chosen as the organisation's carbon emissions are closely linked to pupil activity

### Carbon Offset

Taunton School now have qualifying carbon offsets during this financial period and procure qualifying green or renewable tariffs for the supply of electricity or gas.

# FUTURE PLANS

The School's strategy is to maintain a strong financial position by delivering clear evidence of a consistently first- class education matched with demonstrably outstanding pastoral support.

To do this, it is building a healthy recruitment pipeline, controlling costs and using the facilities for the public benefit year on year. This generates sufficient resources to invest in the School's infrastructure, supporting the strategy of building on existing resources and foundations and making every penny count directly towards the School's purpose and its non- selective basis.

Accordingly, the priorities for resource allocation agreed by the Board are based on improving and enhancing the existing infrastructure estate and the objectives are to:

- Be an outstanding School of choice by evidence of its educational and pastoral experience for all pupils;
- Continue a strong financial performance to fully resource the operation of the School and its development and continuance of long term success;
- Increase and plough back investment in maintenance and new facilities over the next three years;
- Always be compliant with legislation and best practice wherever it may be identified to provide a safe, happy and purposeful education;
- Invest in staff training and development to attract and retain the best staff.

The School is reviewing its needs and opportunities to continue to develop its estate to maximise advantage. As the strategy is reviewed, more projects will be considered by the Board in due course.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Governors and signed on their behalf by:

Mr Richard Kennedy  
Treasurer

Date: 29th April 2024

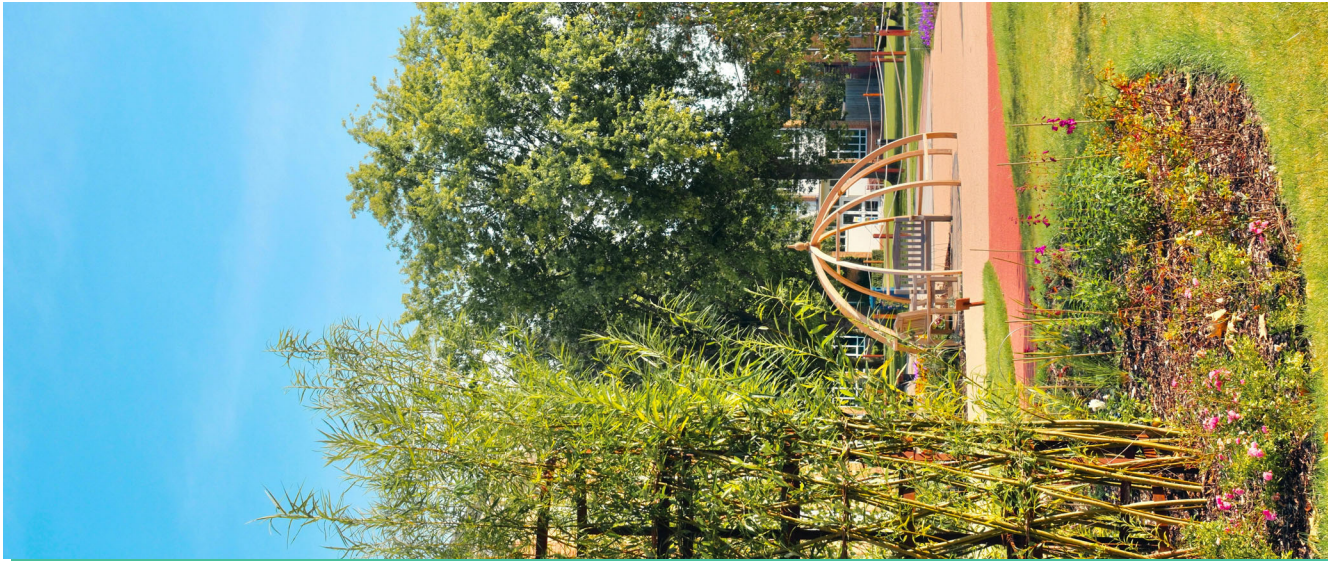




# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF  
TAUNTON SCHOOL  
EDUCATIONAL  
CHARITY





# OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of Taunton School Educational Charity (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the Consolidated statement of financial activities, the Consolidated balance sheet, the Company balance sheet, the Consolidated statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the state of the Group's and of the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2023 and of the Group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

## BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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 Governors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Group's or the parent charitable company'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 Governors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

## OTHER INFORMATION

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

## 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 Governors' Report including the Strategic Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements;
- The Governors' 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 our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Governors' Report including the Strategic Report.

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

- The parent charitable company has not kept adequate and sufficient accounting records, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- The parent charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- Certain disclosures of Governors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.





# RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

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

In preparing the financial statements, the Governors are responsible for assessing the Group's and the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Governors either intend to liquidate the Group or the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so. Shape Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks within which the charity and group operates, focusing on those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The laws and regulations we considered in this context were the Companies Act 2006, together with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and employment legislation. We assessed the required compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which might be fundamental to the charity's and the group's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. We also considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the charitable company and the group for fraud. The laws and regulations we considered in this context for the UK operations were The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Health and Safety legislation and Employment legislation.

Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the Trustees and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. We identified the greatest risk of material impact on the financial statements from irregularities, including fraud, to be the override of controls by management. Our audit procedures to respond to these risks included enquiries of management, and the Finance and General Purposes Committee about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, sample testing on the posting of journals, reviewing accounting estimates for biases, reviewing regulatory correspondence with the Charity Commission, Independent Schools Inspectorate, Ofsted and reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.

# AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks within which the charity and group operates, focusing on those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The laws and regulations we considered in this context were the Companies Act 2006, together with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and employment legislation. We assessed the required compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which might be fundamental to the charity's and the group's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. We also considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the charitable company and the group for fraud. The laws and regulations we considered in this context for the UK operations were The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Health and Safety legislation and Employment legislation.

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of management, and the Finance and General Purposes Committee about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, sample testing on the posting of journals, reviewing accounting estimates for biases, reviewing regulatory correspondence with the Charity Commission, Independent Schools Inspectorate, Ofsted and reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed non-compliance our audit in accordance with laws and standards. For example, the further removed with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. non-compliance We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect with all laws and regulations.

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

## USE OF OUR REPORT

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

  
Guy Biggin

Crowe U.K. LLP Statutory Auditor

St James House, St James Square Cheltenham GL50 3PR

Date: 31/05/2024



# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

(INCORPORATING  
INCOME AND  
EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 AUGUST 2023







## CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

The Governors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Governors and signed on their behalf by:

Mr Richard Kennedy

Treasurer

Date: 29th April 2024

The notes on pages 46 to 76 form part of these financial statements.

	Note	2023 £000	2022 £000
		Fixed Assets	
Tangible assets	14	26,212.4	25,940.9
Investments	15	5,065.9	5,152.5
Total	-	31,278.3	31,093.4
		Current assets	
Stocks	16	199.2	168.0
Debtors	17	1,036.5	966.4
Cash at bank and in hand		2,722.9	793.4
Total		3,958.6	1,927.8
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	(10,361.4)	(9,982.8)
Net current liabilities		(6,402.8)	(8,055.0)
Total assets less current liabilities		24,875.5	23,038.4
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19	(4,082.1)	(3,844.9)
Total net assets		20,793.4	19,193.5
		Charity funds	
Endowment funds	22	1,815.2	1,902.2
Restricted funds	22	4,943.2	4,396.6
Unrestricted funds	22	14,035.0	12,894.7
Total		20,792.6	19,193.5



# COMPANY BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31  
AUGUST 2023





## COMPANY BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

The Company's net movement in funds for the year was £1,600 (2022 -£1,286).

The Governors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Governors and signed on their behalf by:

Mr Richard Kennedy  
Treasurer  
Date:

The notes on pages 46 to 76 form part of these financial statements.

	Note	2023 £000	2022 £000
		Fixed Assets	
Tangible assets	14	26,199.7	25,936.2
Investments	15	5066.0	5,152.6
Total	-	31,265.7	31,088.8
		Current assets	
Stocks	16	187.9	155.0
Debtors	17	1,008.1	958.6
Cash at bank and in hand		2,699.6	764.0
Total		3,895.6	1,877.6
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	(10,264.0)	(9,906.2)
Net current liabilities		(6,368.4)	(8,028.6)
Total assets less current liabilities		24,897.3	23,060.2
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19	(4,082.1)	(3,844.9)
Total net assets		20,815.2	19,215.3
		Charity funds	
Endowment funds	22	1,902.2	1,902.2
Restricted funds	22	4,877.2	4,396.6
Unrestricted funds	22	14,035.8	12,916.5
Total funds		20,815.2	19,215.3



# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

AS AT 31  
AUGUST 2023





# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	2023 £000	2022 £000
Net cash used in operating activities	25	2,771.6	5,330.3
Dividends, interests and rents from investments		39.3	63.6
Proceeds from the sale of tangible fixed assets		197.1	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(1,587.4)	(2,500.4)
Proceeds from sale of investments		490.2	2,393.4
Purchase of investments		(422.8)	(2,462.9)
Net cash used in investing activities		(1,283.6)	(2,506.3)
Cash inflows from new borrowing		6,075	450.0
Repayments of borrowing		(20.0)	(186.9)
Finance costs paid		(146.0)	(119.1)
Net cash provided by financing activities		4,415	143.0
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		1,929.5	2,967.0
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		793.4	(2,173.6)
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	26	2,722.9	793.4

The notes on pages 46 to 76 form part of these financial statements.



# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR  
ENDED 31  
AUGUST 2023



# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

## 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Taunton School Educational Charity (the 'School') was incorporated in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee (registered no. 04005803) on 1 June 2000 and has no share capital. The School is also registered with the Charity Commission (registered no. 1081420). The registered and principal office of the School is Taunton School, Taunton, Somerset, TA2 6AD.

## 2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### 2.1 BASIS OF PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Taunton School Educational Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

The Consolidated statement of financial activities (SOFA) and Consolidated balance sheet consolidate the financial statements of the Company and its subsidiary undertaking. The results of the subsidiary are consolidated on a line by line basis.

The Company has taken advantage of the exemption allowed under section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and has not presented its own Statement of financial activities in these financial statements.

The functional currency of the School is considered to be GBP because that is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the School operates.

### 2.2 GOING CONCERN

The School depends on its existing bank facilities to meet its day to day working capital requirements. Current forecasts indicate that the School expects to be able to operate within these facilities for the whole of the foreseeable future. These facilities are renewed annually and are not guaranteed for the period covered by the going concern review. The Trustees are not aware, however, of any circumstances that may adversely affect the renewal of these facilities.

### 2.3 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION

The Charity's Land and Buildings are vested in Taunton School Trust, a restricted fund.

Tangible fixed assets are stated at historical cost and subsequently depreciated to their estimated net realisable value over their useful lives. Even so, the School operates a formal programme of maintenance that includes routine building work written off in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period concerned. Land is not depreciated.

Major items of expenditure on buildings and assets over £1,000 are capitalised. To the extent that refurbishment work is considered to improve and thus add a commensurate value to the building, such refurbishment costs are also capitalised and depreciated as appropriate.

**Depreciation is provided on the following bases:**

- Buildings, improvements and extensions: 5 - 50 years
- Furniture and equipment: 3 - 25 years

### 2.4 INVESTMENTS

Fixed Asset Investments are stated at market value. Income from Fixed Asset Investments and the related tax credit are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate. Where the market value of investments differs from the historic cost, the difference is recognised as an unrealised gain/loss in the Statement of Financial Activities. Where the investment has been sold, this is recognised as a realised gain/loss. The investment in the subsidiary is held at cost.





## 2.5 STOCKS

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable market value.

## 2.6 INCOME

All income is recognised once the Company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Fees receivable and charges for services and use of the premises, less any allowances, scholarships, bursaries granted by the Charity against those fees, but including contributions received from restricted funds, are accounted for in the period in which the service is provided.

Investment income from dividends, bank balances and fixed interest securities is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Voluntary incoming resources are accounted for as and when entitlement arises, the amount can be reliably quantified and the economic benefit to the Charity is considered probable. Voluntary income for the Charity's general purposes is accounted for as unrestricted. Where the donor or an appeal has imposed trust law restrictions, voluntary income is credited to the relevant restricted fund and incoming endowments are accounted for as permanent trust capital or expendable trust capital, according to whether the donor intends retention is to be permanent or not.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

## 2.7 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 includes all expenditure incurred by the Group to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Group's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

## 2.8 GOVERNANCE COSTS

Governance costs comprise the expenses of running the charity, including the support for the Governors, induction, training and meetings. The costs include associated legal advice and the audit costs.

## 2.9 OPERATING LEASES

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Consolidated statement of financial activities on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

## 2.10 FINANCE LEASES

Assets held under finance leases and the related lease obligation are included at the fair value of the leased assets at the inception of the lease. Depreciation on leased assets is calculated to write off this amount on a straight line basis over the shorter lease term and the useful life of the asset. Rentals payable are apportioned between the finance charge and a reduction of the outstanding obligation for future amounts payable so that the charge for each accounting period is a constant percentage of the remaining balance of the capital sum outstanding.

## 2.11 TAXATION

The Company 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 Company is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part II 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.

## 2.12 PENSIONS

The Teachers' Pension Scheme is a multi-employer pension scheme. It is not possible to identify the School's share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the Teachers' Pension Scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis and therefore, as required by FRS102, accounts for the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The School's contributions, which are in accordance with the recommendations of the Government Actuary, are charged in the period in which the salaries to which they relate are payable.

The charity contributes to the Pensions Trust Growth Plan for certain of its employees. This is in most respects a money purchase arrangement, but does not include certain guaranteed benefit elements. The Plan is a multi-employer scheme as it is not possible in the normal course of events to identify the share of underlying assets belonging to the individual participating employers and accordingly, in accordance with FRS 102, is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme with contributions being recorded as they become payable.

The Taunton School Final Salary Pension Scheme is a defined benefit scheme. The defined benefit pension scheme current service costs are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities within staff costs. The expected return on the scheme assets less the scheme interest costs are credited within other interest. The scheme actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately as other recognised gains and losses. The defined benefit scheme assets are measured at fair value at the Balance Sheet date. The scheme liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis at the Balance Sheet date using the projected unit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term to the scheme liabilities. The resulting defined benefit asset or liability is presented separately after other net assets on the face of the Balance Sheet.

The School operates a defined contribution pension scheme, for teaching staff, managed by The Royal London, as an alternative to Teachers' Pension Scheme. The employer's contribution is either 8% or 16.48%.

## 2.13 LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS

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 Company 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 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 in the Consolidated statement of financial activities as a finance cost.



## 2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

### 2.14 COMMITMENTS

Capital expenditure contracted for by the year end, for which no services or goods have been received, is disclosed by way of a note but no provision is made in the financial statements for such amounts.

### 2.15 FUND ACCOUNTING

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Governors in furtherance of the general objectives of the Group and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds and Endowed funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Group for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

### 2.16 REDUNDANCY

Redundancy and termination costs only occur where absolutely necessary and are accounted for on an accruals basis when the commitment to terminate a post on the grounds of redundancy has been made.

### 2.17 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised with the exception of investments which are held at fair value. Financial assets held at amortised cost comprise cash at bank and in hand, together with trade and other debtors. A specific provision is made for debts

for which recoverability is in doubt. Cash at bank and in hand is defined as all cash held in instant access bank accounts and used as working capital. Financial liabilities held at amortised cost comprise all creditors except social security and other taxes and provisions. Assets and liabilities held in foreign currency are translated to GBP at the balance sheet date at an appropriate year end exchange rate.

### 2.18 SIGNIFICANT ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

Preparation of the financial statements requires management to make significant judgements and estimates. The items in the financial statements where these judgements and estimates have been made include:

Useful economic lives of tangible fixed assets

The annual amortisation and depreciation charges for the tangible assets are sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are amended when necessary to reflect current estimates, based on technological advancement, future investments, economic utilisation and the physical condition of the assets. See notes 16 and 17 for the carrying amount of the tangible assets and note 2.3 for the useful lives for each class of asset.

Impairment of debtors

The School makes an estimate of the recoverable value of trade and other debtors. When assessing impairment of trade and other debtors, management considers factors including the current credit rating of the debtor, the ageing profile of debtors and historical experience. See Note 18 for the net carrying amount of the debtors and associated impairment provision.





### 3. INCOME FROM SCHOOL FEES

	2023 £000	2022 £000
	The School's fee income comprised:	
Gross fees	31,450.5	28,305.6
Less: Total bursaries, grants and allowances	(5,834.8)	(5,798.9)
Add back: Scholarships, grants and bursaries from restricted and endowed funds	90.1	105.9
Total	25,705.8	22,612.6

In 2023 and 2022, of the total income from School fees all were unrestricted

### 4. INCOME FROM OTHER EDUCATIONAL CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Entrance and registration fees	58.9	73.0
Other charges to pupils	560.8	515.2
Courses and sub-lettings	1,156.7	794.6
Total	1,776.4	1,382.8

In 2023 and 2022, of the total income from other educational charitable activities receivable all were unrestricted.

### 5. INCOME FROM OTHER ANCILLARY TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Other Income	3.2	28.5
Total	3.2	28.5

In 2023 and 2022, of the total income from other ancillary trading activities all were unrestricted.

### 6. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Restricted Funds 2023 £000	Total Funds 2023 £000	Total Funds 2022 £000
Donations	441.3	441.3	208.7
Total 2022	208.7	208.7	

### 7. INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES INCOME FROM NON ANCILLARY TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £000	Total Funds 2023 £000	Total Funds 2022 £000
Taunton School Enterprises Limited	275.5	275.5	231.3
School shop	451.0	451.0	416.1
Swim school	320.1	320.1	256.1
Fees in lieu	111.4	111.4	128.3
Total	1,158.0	1,158.0	1,031.8
Total 2022	1,031.8	1,031.8	

### 8. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Restricted Funds 2023 £000	Total Funds 2023 £000	Total Funds 2022 £000
Interest received	105.3	105.3	63.6
Total 2022	63.6	63.6	

## 9. EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS NON-ANCILLARY TRADING EXPENSES

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £000	Restricted Funds 2023 £000	Total Funds 2023 £000	Total Funds 2022 £000
Trading expenses	583.6	-	583.6	432.1
Trading expenses - depreciation	2.2	-	2.2	1.9
Total	585.8	-	585.8	434.0
Total 2022	323.0	111.0	434.0	

## 10. INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £000	Total Funds 2023 £000	Total Funds 2022 £000
Loan interest payable	146.0	146.0	119.1
Total 2022	119.1	119.1	

## 11. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES SUMMARY BY FUND TYPE

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £000	Restricted Funds 2023 £000	Total Funds 2023 £000	Total Funds 2022 £000
Teaching	13,287.2	-	13,287.2	11,920.8
Premises	5,378.2	-	5,378.2	4,738.1
Welfare	2,706.2	-	2,706.2	2,403.3
Support costs of schooling and governance costs	5,377.4	-	5,377.4	4,090.6
Grants and awards	90.1	-	90.1	105.9
Total	26,839.1	-	26,839.1	23,258.7
Total 2022	23,190.7	68.0	23,258.7	

## 11. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES SUMMARY BY EXPENDITURE TYPE

	Staff Costs 2023 £000	Depreciation 2023 £000	Other Costs 2023 £000	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
Teaching	12,380.5	-	906.7	13,287.2	11,920.8
Premises	1,526.2	1,118.8	2,733.2	5,378.2	4,738.1
Welfare	1,542.3	-	1,163.9	2,706.2	2,403.3
Support costs of schooling and governance costs	2,240.2	-	3,137.2	5,377.4	4,090.6
Grants and awards	-	-	90.1	90.1	105.9
Total	17,689.2	1,118.8	8,031.1	26,839.1	23,258.7
Total 2022	15,877.5	1,047.1	6,334.1	23,258.7	

## 11. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES GOVERNANCE INCLUDED IN SUPPORT COSTS

	Total Funds 2023 £000	Total Funds 2022 £000
Staff costs	216.0	153.5
Governors liability insurance	0.7	0.6
Auditor's remuneration	31.4	27.4
Auditor's remuneration - non audit services	16.0	5.6
Office costs	5.2	4.1
Total	269.3	191.2





## 12. STAFF COSTS

	Group 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000	Company 2023 £000	Company 2022 £000
Wages and salaries	14,525.2	13,008.5	14,525.2	13,008.5
Social security costs	1,331.6	1,221.4	1,331.6	1,221.4
Contribution to pension schemes	1,832.4	1,647.6	1,832.4	1,647.6
Total	17,689.2	15,877.5	17,689.2	15,877.5

During the year there were redundancy or termination payments made which amounted to £73.4k (2022: £18.2k).

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

	Group 2023 No.	Group 2022 No.
Wages and salaries	354	316
Contribution to pension schemes	274	251
Total	628	567

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

	Group 2023 No.	Group 2022 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	9	7
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	6	1
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	-	3
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	2	1
In the band £110,001 - £120,000	1	1
In the band £120,001 - £130,000	1	-
In the band £140,001 - £150,000	1	-
In the band £170,001 - £180,000	-	1

### 13. GOVERNORS' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

During the year, no Governors received any remuneration or other benefits (2022 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 August 2023, expenses totalling £14.5k were reimbursed or paid directly to Governors for expenditure such as travel and subsistence for all of the trustees (2022: 4.8k).



### 14. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS GROUP

	Freehold property £000	Equipment £000	Assets under construction £000	Total £000
At 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2022	31,656.6	3,819.5	436.3	35,912.4
Additions	153.2	40.8	1,196.4	1,390.4
Transfers between classes	971.7	68.7	(1,040.4)	-
At 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023	32,781.5	3,929.0	592.3	37,302.8
	Cost or valuation			
		Depreciation		
At 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2022	6,966.4	3,005.2	-	9,971.6
Charge for the year	889.8	229.0	-	1,118.8
At 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023	7,856.2	3,234.2	-	11,090.4
	Net book value			
At 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023	24,925.3	694.8	592.3	26,212.4
At 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2022	24,690.2	814.4	436.3	25,940.9

### 14. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS COMPANY

	Land and buildings £000	Equipment £000	Assets under construction £000	Total £000
At 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2022	31,644.9	3,555.9	436.3	35,637.1
Additions	153.2	30.6	1,196.4	1,380.2
Transfers between classes	971.7	68.7	(1,040.4)	-
At 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023	32,769.8	3,655.2	592.3	37,017.3
	Depreciation			
At 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2022	6,954.7	2,746.2	-	9,700.9
Charge for the year	889.8	226.9	-	1,116.7
At 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023	7,844.5	2,973.1	-	10,817.6
	Net book value			
At 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023	24,925.3	682.1	592.3	26,199.7
At 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2022	24,690.2	809.7	436.3	25,936.2

### 15. FIXED ASSETS INVESTMENTS GROUP

	Other fixed asset investments £000
At 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2022	5,152.5
Additions	422.8
Disposals	(490.2)
Revaluations	(19.2)
At 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023	5,065.9
	Net book value
At 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023	5,065.9
At 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2022	5,152.5



## 15. FIXED ASSETS INVESTMENTS COMPANY

	Investments in subsidiary companies £000	Other investments £000	Total £000
At 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2022	0.1	5,152.5	5,152.6
Additions	-	422.8	422.8
Disposals	-	(490.2)	(490.2)
Revaluations	-	(19.2)	(19.2)
At 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023	0.1	5,065.9	5,066.0
	Net book value		
At 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023	0.1	5,065.9	5,066.0
At 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2022	0.1	5,152.5	5,152.6

## 15. FIXED ASSETS INVESTMENTS ANALYSIS OF FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Quoted investments at market value	4,966.2	4,961.4
Cash at brokers	99.7	191.1
Total	5,065.9	5,152.5

Historical cost of quoted investments was £3,547.5k.

## 15. FIXED ASSETS INVESTMENTS PRINCIPLE SUBSIDIARIES

The following were subsidiary undertakings of the Company:

Names	Company number	Registered office or principal place of business	Class of shares	Holding
Taunton School Enterprises Limited	02846335	Taunton School, Staplegrove Limited Road, Taunton, TA2 6AD	£1 Ordinary	100%
Taunton School Trustees Limited	06706952	Taunton School, Staplegrove Limited Road, Taunton, TA2 6AD	£1 Ordinary	100%

The financial results of the subsidiaries for the year were:

Names	Income	Expenditure £000	Profit/(Loss) / Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year £000	Net assets £000
Taunton School Enterprises Limited	1,017.0	923.3	93.7	-
Taunton School Trustees Limited	-	-	-	0.1

Taunton School Trustees Limited is dormant.

Taunton School Enterprises Limited was formed to support the School's charitable aims through letting of its facilities when not required for educational purposes. It donates its annual profits to the School by Gift Aid - £93,700 (2022 - 66,300).

Included in the turnover of Taunton School Enterprises Limited is £772k (2022: £772k) of intercompany sales to Taunton School. Costs of sales of £566k (2022: £391k) were paid to Taunton School and a management fee of £3k (2022: £3k). At the year end £50.7k (2022: £66.6k) was owed by the subsidiary.

## 16. STOCKS

	Group 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000	Company 2023 £000	Company 2022 £000
Consumable materials	94.8	62.4	94.8	62.4
School shop and materials for sale	104.4	105.6	93.1	92.6
Total	199.2	168.0	187.9	155.0

## 17. DEBTORS

	Group 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000	Company 2023 £000	Company 2022 £000
	Due within one year			
Fee Debtors	241.9	303.0	241.9	303.0
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	-	79.0	66.6
Trade and other debtors	463.2	328.2	415.0	287.3
Prepayments and accrued income	331.4	335.2	272.2	301.7
Total	1,036.5	966.4	1,008.1	958.6

## 18. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Group 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000	Company 2023 £000	Company 2022 £000
Bank loans	64.9	19.6	64.9	19.6
Trade creditors	660.7	569.3	600.9	506.4
Other taxation and social security	378.2	342.3	378.2	342.3
Pension creditor use	280.7	261.6	280.7	261.6
Other creditors and accruals	1,363.8	952.7	1,326.2	939.0
Fee deposits use	1,079.1	896.2	1,079.1	896.2
Advanced fees scheme (note 20)	524.0	504.8	524.0	504.8
Fees received in advance of term	6,010.0	6,436.3	6,010.0	6,436.4
Total	10,361.4	9,982.8	10,264.0	9,906.2





## 19. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	Group 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000	Company 2023 £000	Company 2022 £000
Bank loans	1,136.8	594.6	1,136.8	594.6
Fee deposits	2,289.0	2,477.9	2,289.0	2,477.9
Advanced fees scheme (note 20)	656.3	772.4	656.3	772.4
Total	4,082.1	3,844.9	4,082.1	3,844.9

Included within the above are amounts falling due as follows:

	Group 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000	Company 2023 £000	Company 2022 £000
		Between two and five years		
Bank loans	1,049.7	493.4	1,049.7	493.4
		Over five years		
Bank loans	871	101.2	871	101.2

The School has three bank loans with HSBC plc. The loans are secured by a legal charge over the School's properties Greenway Road and The Grange.



## 20. ADVANCE FEES

Parents may pay to the School tuition fees in advance. Assuming pupils remain in the advance fee scheme, payments will be applied to offset the fees as follows:

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Within one year	524.0	504.8
Within one to two years	286.4	345.9
Within two to five years	369.9	391.1
Over five years	-	35.4
Total	1,180.3	1,277.2
Balance at 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2021	1,277.2	1,134.0
New contracts	490.3	720.7
Amounts utilised in payment fees	(594.5)	(483.2)
Capital repaid	(13.7)	(109.9)
Discounts applied	21.0	15.6
Balance at 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2022	1,180.3	1,277.2

## 21. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

	Group 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000	Company 2023 £000	Company 2022 £000
		Financial assets		
Financial assets measured at fair value	4,966.2	4,961.4	4,966.2	4,961.4

Financial assets measured at fair value includes assets held as investments less cash held.

## 22. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

### STATEMENT OF FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Balance at 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2022 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Gains/(Losses) £000	Balance at 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023 £000
General Funds - all funds	12,894.7	28,643.4	(27,570.9)	678	14,035.0
Ian Evans-Lombe Scholarship Fund	1,902.2	-	-	(870)	1,815.2
Taunton School Foundation	1,026.9	480.6	-	-	1,507.5
Parental Funds	105.3	-	-	-	105.3
Taunton School Trust - Land & Buildings	1,959.8	-	-	-	1,959.8
Haynes Fund	100.7	-	-	-	100.7
Ian Evans-Lombe Scholarship Fund	38.4	66.0	-	-	104.4
Gerrard Memorial Bursary	998.1	-	-	-	998.1
Taunton School Scholarship and Bursary Fund	112.6	-	-	-	112.6
Other Restricted Funds	54.8	-	-	-	54.8
Total restricted funds	4,396.6	546.6	-	-	4,943.2
Total of funds	19,193.5	29,190.0	(27,570.9)	(19.2)	20,793.4

#### Endowment funds:

The Ian Evans-Lombe Scholarship Fund forms part of the Foundation Funds. The gift was made by the Trustees of Mr Evans-Lombe with the objective to advance the education of children who could not otherwise afford the School's education by providing for scholarships to be awarded to two pupils starting in the Lower Sixth each year.

#### Restricted funds:

Taunton School Foundation (TSF) - The trust is administered by a Foundation Board, who work with the Governors to promote and provide for the development of the educational facilities and activities of the School.

Parental funds — This fund is to provide academic, sporting and co-curricular facilities for pupils and is directly managed by the Headmaster.

Taunton School Trust - The fund represents the land and property and restricted funds held by Taunton School Trust on incorporation.

Haynes Fund - The Fund was set - up by the will of the late J K Haynes. The income is to provide a scholarship for pupils of Taunton School studying Electrical, Mechanical or Civil Engineering at London University.

Ian Evans-Lombe Scholarship Fund - The Ian Evans-Lombe Scholarship Fund forms part of the Foundation Funds. The gift was made by the Trustees of Mr Evans-Lombe with the objective to advance the education of children who could not otherwise afford the School's education by providing for scholarships to be awarded to two pupils starting in the Lower Sixth each year.

Gerrard Memorial Bursary - The Fund was set-up to provide a scholarship for sporting achievements.

Taunton School Scholarship and Bursary Fund - This fund is to provide scholarships and bursaries for pupils attending Taunton School.

Other Restricted Funds - includes smaller funds supporting a range of activities in the School.

## 22. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

### STATEMENT OF FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Balance at 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2021 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Gains/(Losses) £000	Balance at 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2022 £000
General Funds - all funds	11,539.6	25,055.7	(23,632.8)	(678)	12,894.7
Ian Evans-Lombe Scholarship Fund	2,062.2	-	-	(160.0)	1,902.2
Taunton School Foundation	929.2	208.7	(111.0)	-	1,026.9
Parental Funds	105.3	-	-	-	105.3
Taunton School Trust - Land & Buildings	1,959.8	-	-	-	1,959.8
Haynes Fund	100.7	-	-	-	100.7
Ian Evans-Lombe Scholarship Fund	42.8	63.6	(68.0)	-	38.4
Gerrard Memorial Bursary	998.1	-	-	-	998.1
Taunton School Scholarship and Bursary Fund	112.6	-	-	-	112.6
Other Restricted Funds	54.8	-	-	-	54.8
Total restricted funds	4,303.3	272.3	(179.0)	-	4,396.6
Total of funds	17,905.1	25,328.0	(23,811.8)	(227.8)	19,193.5

## 23. SUMMARY OF FUNDS

### SUMMARY OF FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Balance at 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2022 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Gains/(Losses) £000	Balance at 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023 £000
General Funds	12,894.7	28,643.4	(27,570.9)	678	14,035.0
Endowment funds	1,902.2	-	-	(870)	1,815.2
Restricted funds	4,396.6	546.6	-	-	4,943.2
	19,193.5	29,190.0	(27,570.9)	(19.2)	20,793.4





### 23. SUMMARY OF FUNDS SUMMARY OF FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Balance at 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2021 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Gains/(Losses) £000	Balance at 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2022 £000
General Funds	11,539.6	25,055.7	(23,632.8)	(678)	12,894.7
Endowment funds	2,062.2	-	-	(160.0)	1,902.2
Restricted funds	4,303.3	272.3	(179.0)	-	4,396.6
	17,905.1	25,328.0	(23,811.8)	(227.8)	19,193.5

### 24. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £000	Restricted funds 2023 £000	Endowment funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2023 £000
Tangible fixed assets	22,398.9	1,998.3	1,815.2	26,212.4
Fixed asset investments	5,065.9	-	-	5,065.9
Current assets	1,013.7	2,944.9	-	3,958.6
Creditors due within one year	(10,361.4)	-	-	(10,361.4)
Creditors due in more than one year	(4,082.1)	-	-	(4,082.1)
Total	14,035.0	4,943.2	1,815.2	20,793.4

### 24. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £000	Restricted funds 2022 £000	Endowment funds 2022 £000	Total funds 2022 £000
Tangible fixed assets	22,040.4	1,998.3	1,902.2	25,940.9
Fixed asset investments	5,152.5	-	-	5,152.5
Current assets	(470.5)	2,398.3	-	1,927.8
Creditors due within one year	(9,982.8)	-	-	(9,982.8)
Creditors due in more than one year	(3,844.9)	-	-	(3,844.9)
Total	12,894.7	4,396.6	1,902.2	19,193.5

## 25. RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	Group 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000
Net income for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	1,599.9	1,288.4
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	1,118.8	1,048.1
Finance cost	146.0	119.1
Investment income	(39.3)	(65.6)
Loss on the sale of fixed assets	-	141.6
Increase in stocks	(31.2)	(25.8)
Increase in debtors	(70.2)	(73.4)
Increase in creditors	131.3	337.4
(Decrease)/increase in fees in advance and parent's deposits	(102.9)	2,330.7
Loss on investment	19.2	227.8
Net cash provided by operating activities	2,771.6	5,330.3

## 26. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	Group 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000
Cash in hand	2,722.9	793.4
Total cash and cash equivalents	2,722.9	793.4

## 27. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2022 £000	Cash flows £000	Other non-cash changes £000	At 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023 £000
Cash at bank and in hand	793.4	1,929.5	-	2,722.9
Debt due within 1 year	(19.6)	20.0	(65.3)	(64.9)
Debt due after 1 year	(594.6)	(607.5)	65.3	(1,136.8)
	179.2	1,342.0	-	1,521.2

## 28. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

	Group 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000	Company 2023 £000	Company 2022 £000
Contracted for and not provided for	-	102.2	-	102.2

## 29. PENSION COMMITMENTS

### Teachers' Pension Scheme

The School participates in the Teachers' Pension Scheme ("the TPS") for its teaching staff. The pension charge for the year includes contributions payable to the TPS of £1190,961 (2022: £1,078,639) and at the year-end £147,400 (2022 - £136,000) was accrued in respect of contributions to this scheme.

The TPS is an unfunded multi-employer defined benefits pension scheme governed by The Teachers' Pensions Regulations 2010 (as amended) and The Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014 (as amended). Members contribute on a "pay as you go" basis with contributions from members and the employer being credited to the Exchequer. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

The employer contribution rate is set by the Secretary of State following scheme valuations undertaken by the Government Actuary's Department. The most recent actuarial valuation of the TPS was prepared as at 31 March 2020 and the Valuation Report, which was published in October 2023.

Following the McCloud judgement, the remedy proposed that when benefits become payable, eligible members can select to receive

them from either the reformed or legacy schemes for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2022. The actuaries have assumed that members are likely to choose the option that provides them with the greater benefits, and in preparing the 2020 valuation have valued the 'greater value' benefits for groups of relevant members.

The valuation confirmed that the employer contribution rate for the TPS would increase from 23.6% to 28.6% from 1 April 2024. Employers are also required to pay a scheme administration levy of 0.08% giving a total employer contribution rate of 28.68%.

The Group operates a defined benefit pension scheme.

### Support Staff

The School operates a defined benefit pension scheme for its support staff, The Taunton School Final Salary Scheme, which is managed on its behalf by JLT. The scheme is funded and is contracted into the state scheme. The scheme closed to new entrants on 1 October 2001. The last formal valuation of the scheme was performed in 2021 and showed an actuarial deficit so a recovery plan has been put in place, subject to review at future funding assessments. The position at the end of 2022 is set out on the following page.



## 29. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

The financial assumptions used to calculate Scheme liabilities are as follows:

	At 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023 (%)	At 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2022 (%)
Inflation	3.1	3.3
Rate of increase in salaries	0	0
Rate of increase of pensions in payment and deferred pensions	3	3.1
Discount rate	5.4	4.3

The actuarial assumptions for life expectancy in years, assuming a retirement age of 65 are:

	At 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023 (Years)	At 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2022 (Years)
For a male retiring now	26.4	26.2
At 65 for a male aged 45 now	28.0	27.3
For a female retiring now	28.8	28.3
At 65 for a female aged 45 now	30.0	29.6

The Group's share of the assets in the scheme was:

	At 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023 £000	At 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2022 £000
Bonds	5,060.0	6,144.0
Cash	73.0	670
Total fair value of assets	5,133.0	6,210

The amounts recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities are as follows:

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Actual return less expected return on assets	(1,186.0)	(1,217.0)
Experience losses on the liabilities	514.0	(534.0)
Change in assumptions	-	2,247.0
Unrecognised surplus	547.0	(496.0)
Total amount recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities	(125.0)	-

## 29. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

Movements in the present value of the defined benefit obligation were as follows:

	2023 £000
Opening defined benefit obligation	5,428.0
Interest cost	-
Actuarial gains	(514.0)
Benefits paid	(281.0)
Interest cost	227.0
Closing defined benefit obligation	4,860.0

Movements in the fair value of the Group's share of scheme assets were as follows:

	2023 £000
Opening fair value of scheme assets	6,211.0
Interest income	264.0
Actuarial gains	-
Contributions by scheme participants	-
Contributions by employer	125.0
Benefits paid	(281.0)
Return on assets less interest income	(1,186.0)
Closing fair value of scheme assets	5,133.0

The School also operates a defined contribution pension scheme managed by The Royal London, which non-teaching staff are eligible to join. The assets of the scheme are separately from the School. The employer's contributions matches that of the employee within the region of 5-12.5%. The cost for the year represents the School's contribution to the Scheme of £310,276 (2022: £272,426).

The School operates a defined contribution pension scheme, for teaching staff, managed by The Royal London, as an alternative to Teachers' Pension Scheme. The employers contribution is either 3%, 8% or 16.48%. As at 31 August 2023 there were 47 members and the cost for the year represents the School's contribution to the scheme of £293,493 (2022: £293,493).

## 30. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

At 31 August 2023 the Group and the Company had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Group 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000	Company 2023 £000	Company 2022 £000
Not later than 1 year	261.0	273.4	10.5	7.4
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	559.9	796.3	14.7	16.2
Later than 5 years	220.6	193.3	-	1.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,021.5</b>	<b>1,263.0</b>	<b>25.2</b>	<b>25.5</b>

The following lease payments have been recognised as an expense in the Statement of financial activities:

	Group 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000
Operating lease rentals	277.1	276.0

## 31. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Two (2022 - two) Governors pay for children at the School. School fees incurred by the Governors are paid on a commercial arms' length basis.

Governors' remuneration and expenses are disclosed in note 13 and key management personal remuneration is disclosed in note 12.

There are no other related party transactions to note.





# EXCEPTIONAL TOGETHER



TAUNTON  
— SCHOOL —

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