

Taunton School Educational Charity

Annual Report and Financial Statements Year Ended 31 August 2024

Company registration number: 04005803

Charity registration number: 1081420

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Taunton School Educational Charity

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Taunton School Educational Charity

Reference and Administrative Details

Chairman:	Mr H Keeling (resigned 14 November 2023) Mr M Anderson (appointed 14 November 2023)
Governor:	Mrs S Adam (appointed 22 April 2024) Mr R Aldrich Mr C Butters Mrs D Close Mr P Cooper Brigadier (retired) M Hallas (resigned 27 June 2024) Mr D Hebditch Dr I Kelham Mr R Kennedy, Treasurer Reverend N Manges Rear Admiral I Moncrieff Mr M Pike Mrs S Shayler (appointed 9 March 2024) Mrs E Waymouth (resigned 27 June 2024) Mrs S Wheeler, Deputy Chair Mr J Whiteley
Chief Executive Officer:	Mr J Johnson
Other Officers:	Mrs S Reynolds, Chief Operating Officer Mrs S Reynolds, Clerk to the Governors Mr E Burnett, Taunton Preparatory School Head Ms R Lewis, Taunton Pre-Prep and Nursery Head Mr A Hallworth, Taunton School International Principal
Charity Registration Number	1081420
Company Registration Number	04005803
	The charity is incorporated in England and Wales.

Taunton School Educational Charity

Reference and Administrative Details

Registered Office	Taunton School Staplegrove Road Taunton Somerset TA2 6AD
Auditor	PKF Francis Clark Independent Auditor Ground Floor 90 Victoria Street Bristol BS1 6DP
Solicitors	Veale Wasbrough Vizards Narrow Quay House Narrow Quay Bristol BS1 4QA
Bankers	HSBC Bank Plc 17 North Street Taunton Somerset TA1 1NA

Taunton School Educational Charity

Governors' Report

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 2024. 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 3. 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

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 until 14 November 2023, when Mark Anderson was appointed Chair.

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 below:

Chairman:	Mr H Keeling (resigned 14 November 2023)
	Mr M Anderson (appointed 14 November 2023)

Chief Executive Officer:	Mr J Johnson
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Taunton School Educational Charity

Governors' Report

Governor:

Mrs S Adam (appointed 22 April 2024)
Mr R Aldrich
Mr C Butters
Mrs D Close
Mr P Cooper
Brigadier (retired) M Hallas (resigned 27 June 2024)
Mr D Hebditch
Dr I Kelham
Mr R Kennedy, Treasurer
Reverend N Manges
Rear Admiral I Moncrieff
Mr M Pike
Mrs S Shayler (appointed 9 March 2024)
Mrs E Waymouth (resigned 27 June 2024)
Mrs S Wheeler, Deputy Chair
Mr J Whiteley

Other Officers:

Mrs S Reynolds, Chief Operating Officer
Mrs S Reynolds, Clerk to the Governors
Mr E Burnett, Taunton Preparatory School Head
Ms R Lewis, Taunton Pre-Prep and Nursery Head
Mr A Hallworth, Taunton School International Principal

Membership

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

Taunton School Educational Charity

Governors' Report

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 Governors' 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.

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 Committee
- People Committee
- Compliance Committee
- Educational Advisory Panel
- Marketing and Admissions Panel
- Churches Advisory Panel
- Estates and Infrastructure Panel
- Foundation Panel
- Nominations Panel

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 CEO, COO and Heads 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.

Taunton School Educational Charity

Governors' Report

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 to new joiners in 2001.

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 its aims.

The School is committed to ensuring that the process of recruitment wholly adheres to Safer Recruitment guidelines, as articulated by the Department of Education and that selection of employees is conducted in a manner that secures the best talent, is fair, effective and efficient 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 Educational Charity

Governors' Report

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 2024, a total of £1,741,242 (2023: £1,777,969) was spent on means- tested assisted places/bursaries. This is the equivalent of 74 full Senior School-day fees and 6.2% of gross fee income. 201 pupils (2023: 213) received assistance with school fees.

	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	£1,727,635	£1,866,726	£1,701,122	£1,638,089	£1,348,710
Average value						
- £	£8,347	£7,447	£6,393	£6,606	£6,500	£5,788
- % of Senior schoolday fee	38.1%	35.7%	31.8%	32.9%	33.5%	30.0%

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 gifts from parents, staff and the wider community. In the 12-month period to 31 August 2024, voluntary donations and legacies totalled £1,142,874. Of the 374 donations received, most gifts supported means-tested Assisted Places, which transform the lives of children who otherwise could not attend a school like Taunton. This year, we benefited from a significant legacy and two major donations which were given to support elements of our Campus Masterplan. In particular, Taunton School's two new boarding houses and the construction of the school's first golf simulator.

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.

Objectives and Activities

Taunton School Educational Charity

Governors' Report

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:

- a. 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
- b. 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:

- i. Provides an education for children aged 0 to 18 years;
- ii. Provides substantial financial support towards fee remission;
- iii. Has a continuous programme of maintenance, building and technology refurbishment and development;
- iv. Allows controlled access by the public to its grounds, buildings and facilities generally;
- v. Holds a variety of religious services on weekdays and on Sundays in the Chapel;
- vi. 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;
- vii. Supports the wider community by 'community service' and other activities; and
- viii. Demonstrates significant public benefit through its academic and other activities as described in paragraphs (i) to (vii) above.

Taunton School Educational Charity

Governors' Report

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.

We are committed to excellence in education and holistic student development.

Our strategic objectives serve as guiding principles, ensuring that we provide an ambitious and enriching environment for every student. From academic excellence to fostering inclusive communities, each objective is designed to propel our school forward in achieving our goals.

A culture of ambition

1. Ensure that every student and member of staff embraces our culture of ambition for themselves and for each other
2. Offer a broad and relevant curriculum enabling all students to achieve personal success
3. Consistently achieve positive value added across all educational stages
4. Ensure the school is financially strong, enabling continual reinvestment in our staff and facilities

A mindset for life

5. Offer a co-curricular programme that enables students to develop the independence, resilience and skills essential for success
6. Be a community in which integrity and authenticity are highly prized
7. Temper ambition with humility
8. Provide a first-class student futures programme

A sense of belonging

9. Ensure that all members of our community feel a sense of belonging in a proudly inclusive school
10. Provide a holistic education, of genuine breadth, promoting engagement and allowing each student to 'Find Their Exceptional'
11. Ensure that Taunton School sits at the heart of our local community and that students understand their place within it
12. Unite all staff in a common purpose and shared vision for the school

A global community

13. Maintain our exceptional international diversity so that the school remains a genuinely global community
14. Ensure our cultural diversity is celebrated and recognised as a benefit by all
15. Create a connected network of Old Tauntonians across the globe, united by their affection for the school
16. Develop a sustainability strategy that recognises our individual and collective responsibilities to safeguard the environment

Taunton School Educational Charity

Governors' Report

RISK MANAGEMENT

Principle risks and uncertainties

The Chief Executive Officer 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 at each panel and committee meeting, with risks allocated. The Board considers the imposition of VAT on school fees, removal of business rates relief and increases in employer national insurance costs to be the principal risks faced by the School. 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;
- risks assigned to responsible panels and members of the executive team to aid accountability;
- formal written policies, processes and procedures that are subject to audit;
- clear written delegation in authorisation and approval levels.

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.

Taunton School Educational Charity

Governors' Report

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

EDUCATION

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, BTEC and the NCUK International Foundation Year. 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.

Guided by our experienced Futures Department, approximately 96% of all Sixth Formers take up university or college places either in the UK or overseas, with others beginning apprenticeships or entering the workplace directly.

Students at our Sixth Form celebrated outstanding personal success in their A-Level and BTEC qualifications.

The cohort of 130 students achieved 61% A* - B, or equivalent, in their A-Level, BTEC and International Baccalaureate qualifications, while 40% of their results were awarded the highest grades of A* - A.

The top 100 students achieved an impressive 76% A* - B or equivalent and 51% A* - A.

We also offer our Sixth Form students the chance to complete an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) alongside their studies and this year 70% of students saw their EPQs awarded A*-A in a wide range of topics beyond the Sixth Form curriculum.

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Year 13 students celebrated impressive results in the International Baccalaureate Diploma. With an average score of 34 points and a 100% pass rate, they significantly exceeded the global average.

Taunton School's Year 11 students achieved 42% 9 - 7 in their GCSEs with the top 100 students achieving 67% 9-7. These results are on average half a grade higher than those expected from national benchmarking, placing Taunton School in the top 10% of schools for value added nationally.

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

Our academic programme extends beyond the classroom and students have enjoyed a full range of presentations, lectures and trips, which have enhanced their learning. We are extremely proud that our co-curricular programme, in our ISI inspection in April 2024, was recognized as 'a significant strength, with the activities on offer making a major contribution to pupils' physical and mental health, and their social, economic and emotional wellbeing.'

The report commented that 'the programme has been carefully crafted and honed by the school's leaders, who take into account pupils' views and show a deep understanding of how to unearth the potential of each pupil.'

Taunton School remains committed to finding every child's unique talents.

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 academic 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 2024 the results from the year 8 exams showed a continued improvement from 2022 as we continue to aim to add value at each key stage of a child's curriculum.

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. We continue to develop this area of school life and the development of the 'Taunton 12' gives pupils the chance to reflect and develop their whole character. All year 7s and 8s use regular diary entries and self-reflection to learn and develop their character, a process which eschews the principles of the IB diploma core curriculum and the importance of an inquiry based approach to learning.

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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 pupils regularly attending national events and even swimming the English Channel in August 2024.

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. The new Head of Pre-prep Sports is developing the curriculum, focusing on a values based approach, with a view to facilitate more inter-school competitions. CPD remains a priority in Nursery in enabling staff to facilitate the very best learning opportunities. Nursery was closed for the August INSET which enabled staff to receive training in facilitating meaningful interactions, particularly for children with SEND. Pupil numbers in both Pre-prep and Nursery are high and, with successful recruitment, the expansion of Nursery will be realised.

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/Global Studies 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 2024, TSI achieved an 88.4% GCSE pass rate (9-4) with 43.3% of the total grades at 9-7. Students are able to select from more than 20 different subjects at GCSE level. On our International Foundation Year programme, our A*- B pass rate was a very impressive 79%. with just under 60% of the grades being A*/A.

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 approximately 30 countries represented, with around 5% 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.

Taunton School Educational Charity

Governors' Report

Inspection

In the second week of the Summer term we were visited by a team of inspectors from the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI).

The language of school inspection reports now avoids single word judgements such as 'excellent' or 'good' and instead makes a series of evidence-based statements to describe the school's provision.

Taunton School's report, encompassing TS, TSI and TSIMS, is very complimentary about several key areas of the education we provide: the academic progress our students make and our ambition for them; the personalised and tailored curriculum for Sixth Form students; the mutual respect evident between students and their celebration of cultural diversity within our global community; the development of close bonds between students who feel valued and that they belong; our strong emphasis on skills for leadership and independent living, ensuring the right mindset for life. It is really encouraging to see such positive commentary on each of our four key strategic pillars highlighted in bold.

We are delighted to have been praised in particular for the extraordinary breadth of opportunity provided for all. Inspectors highlighted our leading co-curricular programme as a 'significant strength'. This is the highest accolade available to schools under the new inspection regime and we understand that only a small percentage of schools will be awarded a 'significant strength'.

We are delighted to have external validation for what we know to be true of Taunton School, where, in the words of the report, we 'show a deep understanding of how to unearth the potential of each child.' In short, we enable children to find their version of 'exceptional'.

Taunton School's Prep and Pre-Prep report, which encompasses all the year groups from Year 1 through to Year 8, is very complimentary. The headline judgements are that pupils benefit from our 'dynamic and caring community rich with opportunity both inside and outside the classroom'. In this community pupils are able 'to find their exceptional by embracing the opportunities available and they flourish as a result.'

The inspectors focused on the 'stimulating' learning environment where the classroom experience 'inspires pupils' because of 'teachers' in-depth subject knowledge.' Pupils are 'focused and motivated' by teachers who have ambition for them. Outside the classroom pupils speak 'enthusiastically' about the 'extensive' co-curricular opportunities which enable them to 'flourish.' They become 'rounded individuals for the future' developing the right mindset for life.

Staff 'prioritise' the pupils' emotional wellbeing which is underpinned by the 'vigilance of pastoral leaders' who 'actively promote respect and inclusion.' Such an environment means that pupils are 'happy,' demonstrating a sense of belonging, in part because they are 'confident their voices will be heard.' By recognising the 'importance of embracing the view of others' the inspectors praised how our pupils learn to 'become responsible and caring citizens' speaking 'respectfully about those from different races and genders to themselves.' Even at an early age they are aware of the importance of our global community.

Boarding received special mention with the parent survey being particularly positive. The pupils spoke very warmly about the homely atmosphere in Thone with experiences that were 'rich and nurturing' with particular focus on the leadership opportunities they enjoyed. The inspectors also highlighted the enthusiasm the pupils have for the wide range of weekend activities.

Our Nursery setting was also inspected during the second week of term. There were again many compliments, recognising the hard work and dedication of the staff. The Nursery was judged to be good in all areas, with 'valuable links' between home and Nursery, as well as the 'positive relationships' between staff and children being recognised as strengths.

Taunton School Educational Charity

Governors' Report

Even at this young age, there was a positive commentary on each of our four key strategic pillars. The inspectors focused on the curriculum noting, 'staff are effective at supporting children to take risks and investigate during their play' and recognised the ambition they have for all children in designing a curriculum 'with the intention that each child, including those who have SEND, is able to gain the knowledge and understanding they need to succeed.' There was also recognition of the fabulous 'rich experiences' offered by our specialist teachers and that children are 'well prepared for future learning.' Children were notably encouraged to develop a mindset for life through a 'stimulating curriculum' and opportunities to 'play co-operatively' using the skills of 'investigation, curiosity and critical thinking', enabling children to 'be active learners and to have positive attitudes to their learning' while also learning to 'respect each other's ideas, communicate together and establish fair rules for play.'

Inspectors observed a 'strong culture of shared responsibility' for safeguarding practices within the Nursery, noting 'leaders give the utmost priority to safeguarding ensuring children are kept safe.' Staff ensure that children feel 'emotionally secure' by 'valuing their opinions' and as a result 'children consistently demonstrate that they feel extremely safe and happy.' This environment fosters a sense of belonging, because key persons 'know their children extremely well' and enable children to achieve 'a sense of pride and confidence.' Even at an early age, all are aware of the importance of our global community, with staff and children seen to 'welcome the diverse cultures evident in Nursery.' Throughout the Nursery, staff provide opportunities for children to deepen their understanding of other cultures as they 'celebrate festivals from different countries.'

We are delighted that the ISI team recognised what a special community we are part of. It is reassuring that even in a challenging economic climate for all fee-paying parents, that we really do add value both in and out of the classroom.

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 £31.5m (2023: £29.2m); net incoming resources of £1.0m, (2023: £1.6m); and total reserves of £21.8m (2023: £20.8m) after making capital additions of £4.1m (2023: £1.4m).

The Charity continued to invest significantly in the site, with the majority of expenditure on a new multi use games area, two new astro turf pitches, significant investment in the outdoor and indoor areas of our Nursery and Pre-prep and

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.

Taunton School Educational Charity

Governors' Report

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 £2m (2023: £5.1m). 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.

Reserves level and policy

The Board has examined the financial risks and challenges faced by the Charity closely over the short and medium term. The Charity has invested its reserves in the provision of the educational facilities to meet its objectives and consequently, like many well-established independent schools, has negative free reserves. The Board is satisfied that the financial plans and forecasts give them comfort that the Charity is able to meet all its foreseeable commitments.

The School's total reserves of £21.8m at the period end include £2.1m endowment capital, £3.6m of unspent restricted income and £16.2m unrestricted income.

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		Carbon Emissions					
	(kWh)		(tCO2e)					
	2023-24 (Current)	2022-23	2023-24 (Current)	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20 (Baseline)	Change (Baseline - Current)
Electricity	1,899,518	1,862,819	393	386	450	364	676	-42%
Gas	2,987,752	3,273,430	547	599	923	1015	917	-40%
Business Travel - Grey Fleet	66,781		16		228			
Transport Fuels	866,201	1,030,610	207	246		117	115	80%
Gross Annual Total	5,820,252	6,185,885	1,163	1,235	1,601	1,496	1,708	-32%
Intensity Metric (No of Pupils)	1248	1166	1248	1166	1270	1195	1156	8%
Total TCO2e/Pupils			1	0.73	1.26	1.25	1.48	-32%
Qualifying Green Tariff	1,899,518	1,862,819	393	386	-	-	-	
Net Annual Total	5,820,252	6,185,885	770	849	1,601	1,496	1,708	-55%

Table 1: Primary Statement for the Financial Year ending 31st August 2024.

Taunton School Educational Charity

Governors' Report

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 2024. 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, increasing commercial income 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.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of Taunton School Educational Charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

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

Taunton School Educational Charity

Governors' Report

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards, comprising FRS 102 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the parent charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 04/02/2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr R Kennedy
Treasurer

Taunton School Educational Charity

Independent Auditor's Report to the Governors of Taunton School Educational Charity

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Taunton School Educational Charity (the 'charitable parent company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 August 2024, which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, Consolidated Balance Sheet, Balance Sheet, Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising Charities SORP - FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and applicable law (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 parent charity's affairs as at 31 August 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; 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 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 UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the 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 ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the original financial statements were 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 Governors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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.

Taunton School Educational Charity

Independent Auditor's Report to the Governors of Taunton School Educational Charity

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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 matter 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 and Governors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the and Governors' 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 group and the parent charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the and the Governors' Report.

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, 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 Governors

As explained more fully in the Statement of trustees' responsibilities (set out on page 10), the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Governors are responsible for assessing the charity'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 charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Taunton School Educational Charity

Independent Auditor's Report to the Governors of Taunton School Educational Charity

Auditor 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:

Taunton School Educational Charity

Independent Auditor's Report to the Governors of Taunton School Educational Charity

As part of our audit planning, through discussions with management, we obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that is applicable to the group and the sector in which it operates to identify the key laws and regulations affecting the group.

We considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements, including, but not limited to the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP), the Charities Act 2011 and relevant tax compliance regulations in the UK. 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 may be fundamental to the charity's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. We identified the following areas as those most likely to have such an effect: Employment Law, Data Protection, Health and Safety Legislation and the Independent Schools Inspectorate.

We discussed with management how the compliance with these laws and regulations is monitored and we discussed the policies and procedures in place. We also identified the individuals who have responsibility for ensuring that the entity complies with laws and regulations and deals with reporting any issues as they arise. As part of our planning procedures, we assessed the risk of any non-compliance with laws and regulations on the group's ability to continue trading and the risk of material misstatement to the accounts.

Based on this understanding we designed our audit procedures to identify non-compliance with such laws and regulations.

Our procedures involved the following:

- Discussions and enquiries with management of compliance with laws and regulations;
- Review of board minutes and significant legal costs incurred in the year; and
- Addressing the risk of management override of internal controls, including testing of journals and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the Governors that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

As part of our enquiries, we discussed with management whether there have been any known instances, allegations or suspicions of fraud, of which there were none.

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

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate omissions, collusion, forgery, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are also less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that are not closely related to events and transactions reflected in the financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Taunton School Educational Charity

Independent Auditor's Report to the Governors of Taunton School Educational Charity

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from an error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the group's internal control;
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Governors;
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Governors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the group's or the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the group or parent charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern;
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation;
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the group to express an opinion on the financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion; and
- We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during the audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's Governors, 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 Governors 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 Governors as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Taunton School Educational Charity

Independent Auditor's Report to the Governors of Taunton School Educational Charity

PKF Francis Clark

.....
Duncan Leslie (Senior Statutory Auditor)
PKF Francis Clark, Statutory Auditor

Ground Floor
90 Victoria Street
Bristol
BS1 6DP

Date: 27/03/2025.....

Taunton School Educational Charity

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities

Year Ended 31 August 2024

(Including Consolidated Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £ 000	Restricted funds £ 000	Endowment funds £ 000	Total 2024 £ 000	Total 2023 £ 000
Income and Endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	3	1,143	-	-	1,143	441
Charitable activities		-	-	-	-	-
School fees	4	26,901	-	-	26,901	25,706
Other educational income	5	2,000	-	-	2,000	1,776
Other ancillary trading income	6	5	-	-	5	3
Other trading activities	7	1,293	-	-	1,293	1,158
Investment income	8	-	-	75	75	105
Total income		31,342	-	75	31,417	29,190
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	9	-	-	-	-	-
Trading expenses		(738)	-	-	(738)	(586)
Financing costs		(160)	-	-	(160)	(146)
Charitable activities	10	-	-	-	-	-
Education and grant making		(28,534)	(998)	(86)	(29,618)	(26,839)
Total expenditure		(29,431)	(998)	(86)	(30,515)	(27,571)
Gains/losses on investment assets		-	-	143	143	(19)
Net income/(expenditure)		1,911	(998)	132	1,045	1,600
Transfers between funds		261	(365)	104	-	-
Net movement in funds		2,172	(1,363)	236	1,045	1,600
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		14,035	4,943	1,815	20,793	19,194
Total funds carried forward	21	16,207	3,580	2,051	21,838	20,793

All of the group's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2023 and 2024 shown in note 21.

The notes on pages 29 to 57 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Taunton School Educational Charity

Consolidated Balance Sheet

31 August 2024

	Note	2024 £ 000	2023 £ 000
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	29,146	26,212
Investments		<u>2,020</u>	<u>5,066</u>
		<u>31,165</u>	<u>31,278</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	15	207	199
Debtors	16	1,568	1,037
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>6,080</u>	<u>2,723</u>
		7,855	3,959
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	17	<u>(11,108)</u>	<u>(10,361)</u>
Net current liabilities		<u>(3,253)</u>	<u>(6,403)</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		27,912	24,875
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	18	<u>(6,074)</u>	<u>(4,082)</u>
Net assets		<u>21,838</u>	<u>20,793</u>
Funds of the group:			
Endowment funds		2,051	1,815
Restricted funds	21	3,580	4,943
Unrestricted funds		<u>16,207</u>	<u>14,035</u>
Total funds	21	<u>21,838</u>	<u>20,793</u>

The financial statements on pages 25 to 57 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 04/02/2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Mr R Kennedy
Treasurer

The notes on pages 29 to 57 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Taunton School Educational Charity

Balance Sheet

31 August 2024

	Note	2024 £ 000	2023 £ 000
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	28,868	26,200
Investments		<u>2,020</u>	<u>5,066</u>
		<u>30,888</u>	<u>31,266</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	15	195	188
Debtors	16	1,740	1,008
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>5,569</u>	<u>2,700</u>
		7,504	3,896
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	17	<u>(10,712)</u>	<u>(10,264)</u>
Net current liabilities		<u>(3,208)</u>	<u>(6,368)</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		27,679	24,897
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	18	<u>(6,074)</u>	<u>(4,082)</u>
Net assets		<u>21,605</u>	<u>20,815</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Endowment funds		2,051	2,008
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds		3,580	4,772
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>15,974</u>	<u>14,036</u>
Total funds	21	<u>21,605</u>	<u>20,815</u>

The financial statements on pages 25 to 57 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 04/02/2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Mr R Kennedy
Treasurer

The notes on pages 29 to 57 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Taunton School Educational Charity

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

Year Ended 31 August 2024

	Note	2024 £ 000	2023 £ 000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net income		1,045	1,600
Adjustments to cash flows from non-cash items			
Depreciation	9	1,146	1,119
Investment income	8	(132)	(39)
Interest payable	9	160	146
Loss on investment		-	19
		<u>2,218</u>	<u>2,845</u>
Working capital adjustments			
Increase in stocks	15	(8)	(31)
Increase in debtors	16	(531)	(70)
Increase in creditors	17	131	131
Increase/(decrease) in fees in advance and parent's deposits	18	<u>2,583</u>	<u>(103)</u>
Net cash flows from operating activities		<u>4,393</u>	<u>2,772</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	8	132	39
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	13	(4,079)	(1,587)
Sale of tangible fixed assets		-	197
Purchase of investments		(267)	(423)
Sale of investments		<u>3,457</u>	<u>490</u>
Net cash flows from investing activities		<u>(757)</u>	<u>(1,284)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities			
Interest payable and similar charges	9	(160)	(146)
Repayment of loans and borrowings	17	(119)	(20)
Cash inflows from new borrowing		-	608
Net cash flows from financing activities		<u>(279)</u>	<u>442</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		3,357	1,930
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September		<u>2,723</u>	<u>793</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August		<u>6,080</u>	<u>2,723</u>

All of the cash flows are derived from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The notes on pages 29 to 57 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Taunton School Educational Charity

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 August 2024

1 Charity status

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 address of its registered and principal office is:

Taunton School
Staplegrove Road
Taunton
Somerset
TA2 6AD

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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)) (issued in October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

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 notes.

Basis of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements consolidate the financial statements of the charity and its subsidiary undertakings drawn up to 31 August 2024. The results of the subsidiary are consolidated on a line by line basis.

Taunton School Educational Charity

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 August 2024

A subsidiary is an entity controlled by the charity. Control is achieved where the charity has the power to govern the financial and operating policies of an entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities.

The results of subsidiaries acquired or disposed of during the year are included in the statement of financial activities from the effective date of acquisition or up to the effective date of disposal, as appropriate. Where necessary, adjustments are made to the financial statements of subsidiaries to bring their accounting policies into line with those used by the group.

The purchase method of accounting is used to account for business combinations that result in the acquisition of subsidiaries by the group. The cost of a business combination is measured as the fair value of the assets given, equity instruments issued and liabilities incurred or assumed at the date of exchange, plus costs directly attributable to the business combination. Identifiable assets acquired and liabilities and contingent liabilities assumed in a business combination are measured initially at their fair values at the acquisition date. Any excess of the cost of the business combination over the acquirer's interest in the net fair value of the identifiable assets, liabilities and contingent liabilities recognised is recorded as goodwill.

Inter-company transactions, balances and unrealised gains on transactions between the charity and its subsidiaries, which are related parties, are eliminated in full.

Intra-group losses are also eliminated but may indicate an impairment that requires recognition in the consolidated financial statements.

Accounting policies of subsidiaries have been changed where necessary to ensure consistency with the policies adopted by the group. Non-controlling interests in the net assets of consolidated subsidiaries are identified separately from the group's equity therein. Non-controlling interests consist of the amount of those interests at the date of the original business combination and the non-controlling shareholder's share of changes in equity since the date of the combination. Total comprehensive income is attributed to non-controlling interests even if this results in the non-controlling interests having a deficit balance.

The Charity 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.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the group's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the group.

Taunton School Educational Charity

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 August 2024

Income and endowments

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.

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.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Taunton School Educational Charity

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 August 2024

Taxation

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

Tangible fixed assets

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 and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Land and buildings	5-50 years
Equipment	3-25 years
Motor vehicles	5 years
Assets under construction	Not depreciated

Business combinations

Business combinations are accounted for under the purchase method. Where necessary, adjustments are made to the financial statements of subsidiaries to bring the accounting policies used into line with those used by the group. All intra-group transactions, balances, income and expenses are eliminated on consolidation. In accordance with Section 35 of FRS 102, Section 19 of FRS 102 has not been applied in these financial statements in respect of business combinations effected prior to the date of transition.

Fixed asset 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.

Taunton School Educational Charity

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 August 2024

Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell, after due regard for obsolete and slow moving stocks. Cost is determined using the first-in, first-out (FIFO).

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

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.

Taunton School Educational Charity

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 August 2024

Foreign exchange

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate of exchange at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the balance sheet date are reported at the rates of exchange prevailing at that date.

The results of overseas operations are translated at the average rates of exchange during the period and their balance sheets at the rates ruling at the balance sheet date. Exchange differences arising on translation of the opening net assets and results of overseas operations are reported in other comprehensive income and accumulated in equity (attributed to non-controlling interests as appropriate).

Other exchange differences are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they arise except for:

- 1) exchange differences on transactions entered into to hedge certain foreign currency risks (see above);
- 2) exchange differences arising on gains or losses on non-monetary items which are recognised in other comprehensive income; and
- 3) in the case of the consolidated financial statements, exchange differences on monetary items receivable from or payable to a foreign operation for which settlement is neither planned nor likely to occur (therefore forming part of the net investment in the foreign operation), which are recognised in other comprehensive income and reported under equity.

Fund structure

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.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Taunton School Educational Charity

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 August 2024

Operating and finance leases

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.

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.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

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%.

Taunton School Educational Charity

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 August 2024

Financial instruments

Classification

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the group becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the group after deducting all of its liabilities.

Recognition and measurement

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.

Significant estimate 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 13 for the carrying amount of the tangible assets.

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 16 for the net carrying amount of the debtors and associated impairment provision.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds £ 000	Total 2024 £ 000	Total 2023 £ 000
Donations	143	143	441
Legacies	1,000	1,000	-
	<u>1,143</u>	<u>1,143</u>	<u>441</u>

Taunton School Educational Charity

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 August 2024

4 Income from School fees

	Total 2024 £ 000	Total 2023 £ 000
The School's fee income comprised:		
Gross fees	33,063	31,451
Less: Total bursaries, grants and allowances	(6,161)	(5,835)
Add back: Scholarships, grants and bursaries from restricted and endowed funds	-	90
	<u>26,901</u>	<u>25,706</u>

In 2024 and 2023, of the total income from School fees all were unrestricted.

5 Income from other educational charitable activities

	Total 2024 £ 000	Total 2023 £ 000
Entrance and registration fees	60	59
Other charges to pupils	646	561
Courses and sub-lettings	1,294	1,157
	<u>2,000</u>	<u>1,776</u>

In 2024 and 2023, of the total income from other educational charitable activities receivable all were unrestricted.

6 Income from other ancillary trading activities

	Total 2024 £ 000	Total 2023 £ 000
Other income	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>

In 2024 and 2023, of the total income from other ancillary trading activities all were unrestricted.

Taunton School Educational Charity

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 August 2024

7 Income from other trading activities

Income from non ancillary trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £ 000	Total 2024 £ 000	Total 2023 £ 000
Taunton School Enterprises Limited	342	342	276
School shop	451	451	451
Swim school	251	251	320
Fees in lieu	248	248	111
	<u>1,293</u>	<u>1,293</u>	<u>1,158</u>

8 Investment income

	Endowment £ 000	Total 2024 £ 000	Total 2023 £ 000
Interest received	<u>75</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>105</u>

9 Expenditure on raising funds

a) Non-ancillary trading expenses

	Unrestricted funds £ 000	Total 2024 £ 000	Total 2023 £ 000
Trading expenses	723	723	584
Trading expenses - depreciation	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>2</u>
	<u>738</u>	<u>738</u>	<u>586</u>

b) Investment management costs

	Unrestricted funds £ 000	Total 2024 £ 000	Total 2023 £ 000
Loan interest payable	<u>160</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>146</u>
	<u>160</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>146</u>

Taunton School Educational Charity

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 August 2024

10 Expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds £ 000	Restricted funds £ 000	Endowment funds £000	Total 2024 £ 000	Total 2023 £ 000
Teaching	14,125	-	-	14,125	13,287
Premises	4,737	998	-	5,735	5,378
Welfare	2,887	-	-	2,887	2,706
Support costs of schooling and governance costs	6,785	-	86	6,871	5,377
Grants and awards	-	-	-	-	90
	<u>28,534</u>	<u>998</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>29,618</u>	<u>26,839</u>

Summary by expenditure type

	Staff costs £ 000	Depreciation £ 000	Other costs £ 000	2024 £ 000	2023 £ 000
Teaching	13,273	-	852	14,125	13,287
Premises	1,724	1,135	2,877	5,735	5,378
Welfare	1,729	-	1,158	2,887	2,706
Support costs of schooling and governance costs	2,333	-	4,537	6,871	5,377
Grants and awards	-	-	-	-	90
Total for 2024	<u>19,059</u>	<u>1,135</u>	<u>9,424</u>	<u>29,618</u>	<u>26,839</u>

Governance included in support costs

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Staff costs	333	216
Governors liability insurance	-	1
Auditor's remuneration	32	31
Auditor's remuneration - non audit services	9	16
Office costs	3	5
	<u>377</u>	<u>269</u>

Taunton School Educational Charity

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 August 2024

11 Governors' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Governors received any remuneration or other benefits (2023: £Nil).

During the year ended 31 August 2024, expenses totalling £0.8k were reimbursed or paid directly to Governors for expenditure such as travel and subsistence for all of the trustees (2023: £14.5k).

12 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	Group 2024 £ 000	Group 2023 £ 000
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	15,672	14,525
Social security costs	1,405	1,332
Pension costs	1,982	1,832
	<u>19,059</u>	<u>17,689</u>

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

	Group 2024 No	Group 2023 No
Teaching staff	366	354
Support staff	295	274
	<u>661</u>	<u>628</u>

During the year, the group made redundancy and/or termination payments which totalled £Nil (2023 - £73,400).

The number of employees whose emoluments fell within the following bands was:

	2024 No	2023 No
£60,001 - £70,000	6	9
£70,001 - £80,000	5	6
£80,001 - £90,000	2	-
£90,001 - £100,000	-	2
£110,001 - £120,000	3	1
£120,001 - £130,000	-	1
£140,001 - £150,000	-	1
£160,001 - £170,000	1	-

Taunton School Educational Charity

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 August 2024

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the group were £617,400 (2023 - £725,400).

Taunton School Educational Charity

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 August 2024

13 Tangible fixed assets

Group	Land and buildings £ 000	Equipment £ 000	Motor vehicles £ 000	Assets under Construction £ 000	Total £ 000
Cost					
At 1 September 2023	32,782	3,929	-	592	37,303
Additions	247	236	54	3,543	4,079
Transfers	317	361	-	(678)	-
At 31 August 2024	33,345	4,526	54	3,457	41,382
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2023	7,856	3,234	-	-	11,090
Charge for the year	870	268	7	-	1,146
Transfers	8	(8)	-	-	-
At 31 August 2024	8,735	3,495	7	-	12,236
Net book value					
At 31 August 2024	24,611	1,031	47	3,457	29,146
At 31 August 2023	24,925	695	-	592	26,212

Taunton School Educational Charity

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 August 2024

Charity

	Land and buildings £ 000	Equipment £ 000	Assets under Construction £ 000	Total £ 000
Cost				
At 1 September 2023	32,770	3,655	592	37,017
Additions	45	212	3,543	3,799
Transfers	317	361	(678)	-
At 31 August 2024	<u>33,132</u>	<u>4,228</u>	<u>3,457</u>	<u>40,817</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2023	7,845	2,973	-	10,818
Charge for the year	870	261	-	1,131
Transfers	8	(8)	-	-
At 31 August 2024	<u>8,723</u>	<u>3,226</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,949</u>
Net book value				
At 31 August 2024	<u>24,409</u>	<u>1,002</u>	<u>3,457</u>	<u>28,868</u>
At 31 August 2023	<u>24,925</u>	<u>682</u>	<u>592</u>	<u>26,200</u>

14 Fixed asset investments

Group

	Other fixed asset investments £ 000	Total £ 000
Cost or Valuation		
At 1 September 2023	5,066	5,066
Revaluation	143	143
Additions	267	267
Disposals	(272)	(272)
Withdraws	(3,185)	(3,185)
At 31 August 2024	<u>2,020</u>	<u>2,020</u>
Net book value		
At 31 August 2024	<u>2,020</u>	<u>2,020</u>
At 31 August 2023	<u>5,066</u>	<u>5,066</u>

Taunton School Educational Charity

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 August 2024

Charity

Shares in group undertakings and participating interests

	Subsidiary undertakings	Total
	£	£
Cost		
At 1 September 2023	100	100
At 31 August 2024	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
Net book value		
At 31 August 2024	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
At 31 August 2023	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

Taunton School Educational Charity

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 August 2024

Other investments

	Listed investments £ 000	Total £ 000
Cost or Valuation		
At 1 September 2023	5,066	5,066
Revaluation	143	143
Additions	267	267
Disposals	(272)	(272)
Withdraws	(3,185)	(3,185)
At 31 August 2024	<u>2,020</u>	<u>2,020</u>
Net book value		
At 31 August 2024	<u>2,020</u>	<u>2,020</u>
At 31 August 2023	<u>5,066</u>	<u>5,066</u>
Analysis of fixed asset investments		
	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Quoted investments at market value	1,912	4,966
Cash at brokers	108	100
	<u>2,020</u>	<u>5,066</u>

Historical cost of quoted investments was £1,767k.

Details of undertakings

Details of the investments in which the charity holds 20% or more of the nominal value of any class of share capital are as follows:

Taunton School Educational Charity

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 August 2024

Undertaking	Country of incorporation	Holding	Proportion of voting rights and shares held		Principal activity
			2024	2023	
Subsidiary undertakings					
Taunton School Enterprises Limited (company no. 02846335) Taunton School, Staplegrove Road, Taunton, TA2 6AD	England and Wales	£1 Ordinary	100%	100%	To support the School's charitable aims through letting of its facilities when not required for educational purposes
Taunton School Trustees Limited (company no. 06706952) Taunton School, Staplegrove Road, Taunton, TA2 6AD	England and Wales	£1 Ordinary	100%	100%	Dormant company

The financial results of the subsidiaries for the year were:

	Income	Expenditure	Profit/(Loss)	Net assets
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Taunton School Enterprises Limited	1,428	1,287	141	-
Taunton School Trustees Limited	-	-	-	0.1

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 taxable profits to the School by Gift Aid - £nil (2023 - £82k).

Included in the turnover of Taunton School Enterprises Limited is £795k (2023: £772k) of intercompany sales to Taunton School. A management fee of £3k (2023: £3k) was paid to Taunton School. At the year end, £314.8k (2023: £50.7k) was owed by the subsidiary.

Taunton School Educational Charity

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 August 2024

15 Stock

	2024 £ 000	Group 2023 £ 000	2024 £ 000	Charity 2023 £ 000
Consumable materials	103	95	103	95
School shop and materials for sale	104	104	92	93
	<u>207</u>	<u>199</u>	<u>195</u>	<u>188</u>

16 Debtors

	2024 £ 000	Group 2023 £ 000	2024 £ 000	Charity 2023 £ 000
Trade and other debtors	584	418	510	415
Due from group undertakings	-	-	314	79
Prepayments and accrued income	428	331	428	272
VAT recoverable	68	45	-	-
Fee debtors	488	242	488	242
	<u>1,568</u>	<u>1,037</u>	<u>1,740</u>	<u>1,008</u>

Taunton School Educational Charity

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 August 2024

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	Group	2024	Charity
	£ 000	2023	£ 000	2023
		£ 000		£ 000
Bank loans	40	65	40	65
Trade creditors	1,121	661	1,083	601
Other taxation and social security	377	378	377	378
Pension scheme creditor	299	281	299	281
Other creditors and accruals	1,016	1,364	658	1,326
Fee deposits use	1,092	1,079	1,092	1,079
Advance fee scheme	1,338	524	1,338	524
Fees received in advance of term	5,824	6,010	5,824	6,010
	<u>11,108</u>	<u>10,361</u>	<u>10,712</u>	<u>10,264</u>

18 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

	2024	Group	2024	Charity
	£ 000	2023	£ 000	2023
		£ 000		£ 000
Bank loans	1,127	1,137	1,127	1,137
Fee deposits	3,366	2,289	3,366	2,289
Advance fee scheme	1,581	656	1,581	656
	<u>6,074</u>	<u>4,082</u>	<u>6,074</u>	<u>4,082</u>

Included within the above are amounts falling due as follows:

Between two and five years

Bank loans	<u>190</u>	<u>1,050</u>	<u>190</u>	<u>1,050</u>
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Over five years

Bank loans	<u>937</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>937</u>	<u>87</u>
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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.

Taunton School Educational Charity

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 August 2024

19 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 fees as follows:

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Within one year	1,338	524
Within one to two years	787	286
Within two to five years	747	370
Over five years	47	-
	<u>2,919</u>	<u>1,180</u>

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Balance at 1 September 2023	1,180	1,277
New contracts	2,360	490
Amounts utilised in payment fees	(535)	(594)
Capital repaid	(110)	(14)
Discounts applied	24	21
Balance at 31 August 2024	<u>2,919</u>	<u>1,180</u>

20 Financial instruments

	Group	Group	Company	Company
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Financial assets				
Financial assets measured at fair value	<u>1,945</u>	<u>4,966</u>	<u>1,945</u>	<u>4,966</u>

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

Taunton School Educational Charity

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 August 2024

21 Funds

Group

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £ 000	Incoming resources £ 000	Resources expended £ 000	Transfers £ 000	Balance at 31 August 2024 £ 000
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds - all funds	14,035	31,342	(29,431)	261	16,207
Restricted funds					
Taunton School Foundation	1,508	-	-	113	1,620
Parental Funds	105	-	-	(105)	-
Taunton School Trust - Land & Buildings	1,960	-	-	-	1,960
Haynes Fund	101	-	-	(101)	-
Ian Evans-Lombe Scholarship Fund	104	-	-	(104)	-
Gerrard Memorial Bursary	998	-	(998)	-	-
Taunton School Scholarship and Bursary Fund	113	-	-	(113)	-
Other Restricted Funds	55	-	-	(55)	-
Total restricted funds	<u>4,943</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(998)</u>	<u>(365)</u>	<u>3,580</u>
Endowment funds					
Ian Evans-Lombe Scholarship Fund	1,815	132	-	104	2,051
	<u>1,815</u>	<u>132</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>104</u>	<u>2,051</u>
Total funds	<u>20,793</u>	<u>31,474</u>	<u>(30,429)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,838</u>

Taunton School Educational Charity

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 August 2024

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £ 000	Incoming resources £ 000	Resources expended £ 000	Gains/ (losses) £ 000	Balance at 31 August 2023 £ 000
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds - all funds	12,895	28,643	(27,571)	68	14,035
Restricted funds					
Taunton School Foundation	1,027	481	-	-	1,508
Parental Funds	105	-	-	-	105
Taunton School Trust - Land & Buildings	1,960	-	-	-	1,960
Haynes Fund	101	-	-	-	101
Ian Evans-Lombe Scholarship Fund	38	66	-	-	104
Gerrard Memorial Bursary	998	-	-	-	998
Taunton School Scholarship and Bursary Fund	113	-	-	-	113
Other Restricted Funds	55	-	-	-	55
Total restricted funds	<u>4,397</u>	<u>547</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,943</u>
Endowment funds					
Ian Evans-Lombe Scholarship Fund	1,902	-	-	(87)	1,815
	<u>1,902</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(87)</u>	<u>1,815</u>
Total funds	<u>19,194</u>	<u>29,190</u>	<u>(27,571)</u>	<u>(19)</u>	<u>20,793</u>

Taunton School Educational Charity

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 August 2024

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

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.

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

Taunton School Educational Charity

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 August 2024

22 Analysis of net assets between funds

Group

	Unrestricted funds General £ 000	Restricted funds £ 000	Endowment funds Expendable £ 000	Total funds at 31 August 2024 £ 000
Tangible fixed assets	25,594	1,500	2,051	29,145
Fixed asset investments	2,020	-	-	2,020
Current assets	5,775	2,080	-	7,855
Current liabilities	(11,108)	-	-	(11,108)
Creditors over 1 year	(6,074)	-	-	(6,074)
Total net assets	16,207	3,580	2,051	21,838
	Unrestricted funds £ 000	Restricted £ 000	Endowment funds £ 000	Total funds at 31 August 2023 £ 000
Tangible fixed assets	22,399	1,998	1,815	26,212
Fixed asset investments	5,066	-	-	5,066
Current assets	1,014	2,945	-	3,959
Current liabilities	(10,361)	-	-	(10,361)
Creditors over 1 year	(4,082)	-	-	(4,082)
Total net assets	14,035	4,943	1,815	20,793

23 Analysis of net funds

Group

	At 1 September 2023 £ 000	Financing cash flows £ 000	At 31 August 2024 £ 000
Cash at bank and in hand	2,723	3,357	6,080
Debt due within one year	(65)	25	(40)
Debt due after more than one year	(1,137)	10	(1,127)
Net debt	1,521	3,392	4,913

Taunton School Educational Charity

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 August 2024

	At 1 September 2022 £ 000	Financing cash flows £ 000	Other non cash changes £ 000	At 31 August 2023 £ 000
Cash at bank and in hand	793	1,930	-	2,723
Debt due within one year	(20)	20	(65)	(65)
Debt due after more than one year	(595)	(608)	65	(1,137)
Net debt	179	1,342	-	1,521

24 Pension and other schemes

Defined benefit pension schemes 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 £1,626,705 (2023: £1,190,961) and at the year-end £126,542 (2023: £147,400) 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 2024 is set out below.

Taunton School Educational Charity

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 August 2024

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

	2023	2024
	£000	£000
Actual return less expected return on assets	(1,311)	(1,186)
Experience losses on the liabilities	(46)	514
Change in assumptions	-	-
Unrecognised surplus	257	547
Total amount recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities	(1,100)	(125)

Reconciliation of scheme assets and liabilities to assets and liabilities recognised

The amounts recognised in the statement of financial position are as follows:

	2024	2023
	£ 000	£ 000
Fair value of scheme assets	4,789	5,133
Present value of defined benefit obligation	(4,738)	(4,860)
Defined benefit pension scheme surplus	51	273

Defined benefit obligation

Changes in the defined benefit obligation are as follows:

	2024
	£ 000
Present value at start of year	(4,860)
Interest cost	(251)
Actuarial gains and losses	(46)
Benefits paid	419
Present value at end of year	(4,738)

Fair value of scheme assets

Changes in the fair value of scheme assets are as follows:

	2024
	£ 000
Fair value at start of year	5,133
Interest income	286
Return on assets less interest income	(1,311)
Employer contributions	1,100
Benefits paid	(419)
Fair value at end of year	4,789

Taunton School Educational Charity

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 August 2024

Analysis of assets

The major categories of scheme assets are as follows:

	2024 £ 000	2023 £ 000
Cash	51	73
Bonds	4,738	5,060
	<u>4,789</u>	<u>5,133</u>

Principal actuarial assumptions

The principal actuarial assumptions at the statement of financial position date are as follows:

	2024 %	2023 %
Discount rate	5.00	5.40
Future pension increases	2.90	3.00
Inflation	<u>3.00</u>	<u>3.10</u>

Post retirement mortality assumptions

	2024 Years	2023 Years
Current UK pensioners at retirement age - male	26.00	26.40
Current UK pensioners at retirement age - female	27.00	28.40
Future UK pensioners at retirement age - male	28.00	28.00
Future UK pensioners at retirement age - female	<u>30.00</u>	<u>30.00</u>

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 held 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 £355,295 (2023: £310,276).

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 2024 there were 50 members and the cost for the year represents the School's contribution to the scheme of £294,194 (2023: £293,493).

Taunton School Educational Charity

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 August 2024

25 Obligations under leases

Operating lease commitments

At 31 August 2024 the Group and the Charity had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2024	Group	2024	Charity
	2023	2023	2024	2023
	£ 000	£ 000	£ 000	£ 000
Within one year	294	261	7	11
Between one and five years	772	540	5	15
After five years	300	221	-	-
	<u>1,366</u>	<u>1,022</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>25</u>

The following lease payments have been recognised as an expense in the Statement of Financial Activities: £247k (2023: £277k).

26 Related party transactions

Two (2023 - 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 11 and key management personnel remuneration is disclosed in note 12.

Transactions with Taunton School Enterprises are disclosed in note 14.

A total of £1,003,776 (2023 - £nil) was donated to Taunton School Educational Charity by current or former trustees.

There are no other related party transactions to note.