BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

England & Wales · Charity number 1093419

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	04492250
Registered	2002-08-14
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	58 Beresford Road Oxton Wirral CH43 2JD
Phone	01516524014
Email	enquire@birkenheadschool.co.uk
Website	www.birkenheadschool.co.uk

Activities

Objects: A) THE ACQUISITION OF THE PROPERTY AND ASSETS OF THE BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL LIMITED, THE TRUST KNOWN AS THE MCALLESTER TRUST (CONSTITUTED BY TRUST DEED DATED 18 NOVEMBER 1952) AND THE TRUST KNOWN AS THE JUBILEE TRUST (CONSTITUTED BY TRUST DEED DATED 30 MARCH 1911) AND THE CARRYING ON, AS SUCCESSORS TO THE SAID COMPANY AND TRUSTS OF THEIR CHARITABLE OBJECTS AND THE ADOPTION AND DISCHARGE OF THEIR LIABILITIES AND ENGAGEMENTS.B) TO FURTHER THE EDUCATION (ACADEMIC, SOCIAL, MORAL AND PHYSICAL) OF PUPILS ATTENDING THE BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL (INCLUDING THE BIRKENHEAD PREPARATORY SCHOOL) IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES.

Activities: We are an independent, co-educational school which admits girls and boys from 3 months to 18 years. The School comprises of a Nursery, Pre-Prep, Prep and Senior elements (including 6th Form).

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People

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Geography

- Wirral

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-08-31	£13,639,560	£13,051,789	£22,204,502	166
2023-08-31	£12,484,010	£11,972,950	£20,760,624	167
2022-08-31	£11,554,498	£11,031,460	£19,871,925	165
2021-08-31	£10,391,126	£9,676,078	£18,724,444	163
2020-08-31	£9,417,179	£8,815,966	£16,618,580	149

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew Armstrong		2025-06-23
Christine Atkinson Howard		2024-08-21
Josh Stirrett		2025-06-23
Julian Sowerby		2026-04-27
MR M R CASHIN MA		2016-06-20
Michael Stuart Furniss		2018-06-25
Philip Adams		2024-09-16
dr Nicola Jayne Thorp MRCP, FRCR		2023-09-18

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BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

England & Wales - Charity number 1093419

Accounts

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

BIRKENHEAD
SCHOOL

Company registration number: 4492250

Charity registration number: 1093419

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Contents

2	Notice of the Annual General Meeting
3	Trustees, officers and advisors
4 – 18	Trustees' report
19 - 22	Auditors' report
23 - 24	Consolidated statement of financial activities
25	Balance sheets
26	Consolidated statement of cash flows
27 - 47	Notes to the financial statements

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Birkenhead School will be held at the Meeting Room Birkenhead School on Monday 24th March 2025, at 5:30 p.m. for the following purposes:

1. To receive and adopt the report of the directors and the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024;

2. To elect directors, one third of whom retire in accordance with the Articles of Association and being eligible, may offer themselves for re-election;

3. To transact any other business appropriate to be dealt with at an Annual General Meeting.

By order of the Board

D. J. Byrne
Secretary

Date:

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

GOVERNORS	Mr M. R. Cashin MA (Chairman) Mr P.J. Adams (appointed 16 September 2024) Mr A.J. Cross LLB (Hons) (resigned 31 December 2024) Mr M.S.Furniss Mrs J.L. Greensmith CBE, DL (resigned 20 January 2025) Mrs S.J. Higginson OBE (appointed 18 September 2023) Mrs C.A.A. Howard (appointed 21 August 2024) Mr D.I.Pottinger Mr E.N. Rice FRICS Mr W.D.C. Rushworth BA Dr N.J. Thorp (appointed 18 September 2023)
HEADMASTER	Mr P.R. Vicars MA
SECRETARY/BURSAR	Mr D.J. Byrne (from 8th August 2024) Mr M.J. Turner (to 2nd September 2024)
REGISTERED OFFICE	The Lodge 58 Beresford Road Oxton Wirral CH43 2JD
BANKERS	National Westminster Bank Plc 6 Grange Road West Charing Cross Birkenhead CH41 4DF
AUDITORS	Xeinadin Audit Limited 46 Hamilton Square Birkenhead CH41 5AR
SOLICITORS	Jolliffe & Co LLP 6 St John Street Chester CH1 1DA Bermans LLP Lancaster House Tithebarn Street Mercury Court Liverpool L2 2QP
INVESTMENT MANAGERS	Rathbone Investment Management Port of Liverpool Building Pier Head Liverpool L3 1NW

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The 'School' comprises Birkenhead School, a company limited by guarantee (company no. 4492250) and a registered charity (charity no. 1093419); a wholly-owned trading subsidiary, Novitas Services Limited (company no. 4501547), which transferred its activities to Birkenhead School at the end of August 2009 and is now dormant; and Birkenhead School Foundation Trust (charity no. 1068650). The Birkenhead School Foundation Trust (Foundation Trust) produces its own independent audited accounts.

Novitas Services Ltd is a wholly-owned dormant subsidiary of Birkenhead School and its directors are all Governors of the School.

The Foundation Trust is a separate charity, effectively under the control of the School. Its trustees are appointed by the School and include Governors, senior officers of the School and other appointees.

Governance and management

The School's Governors, who are the directors and trustees of the charity, are listed on Page 3. They are also the members of the company and are potentially liable for £1 each in the event of the winding up of the company. The Board of Governors normally meets once each term and it has a Finance and General Purpose's sub-committee and an Education sub-committee. In this report Governors are also referred to as Trustees.

The Board delegates the day to day running of the School to the Headmaster, who is the Chief Executive of the business, and the senior officers of the School who, together, comprise, 'the Executive'. In addition to the Headmaster, members include the Bursar, Head of Prep, and three Deputy Heads.

Paul Vicars joined the School as Headmaster on 1st September 2016, having previously served at Shrewsbury School.

Mark Turner (Bursar) left the School at the end of the 2023/24 after 12 years' service. The board of directors would like to thank Mark for his dedication and contribution to the school during these years.

Arrangement for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

A subset of the governors form the Remuneration Committee, who annually review the salaries and bonuses for roles appointed by the Governors (Headmaster, Bursar, Head of Prep) and advise on remuneration for the other executive roles.

Governor selection and training

The Board of Governors is conscious of the need to keep within its number a wide range of skills and experience. New Governors join the Board by invitation and care is taken to maintain the range of skills and experience. New Governors are offered training on appointment and training for all Governors is arranged from time to time.

Risk assessment

The major risks to which the School is exposed (as identified by the Governors) have been reviewed and systems established to avoid and to mitigate these risks.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The School's stated objects are:

'To further the education (academic, social, moral and physical) of pupils attending Birkenhead School (including Birkenhead Preparatory School) in accordance with Christian principles'.

(The above is extracted from the Memorandum of Association of Birkenhead School).

The School's published aims are to:

- provide an open and happy community in which endeavour and achievement flourish;
- offer a well-proven route to academic success, seeking to enable students to realise their potential and prepare them for later life;
- create a caring and structured environment in which students grow in self-confidence and enjoy many opportunities for teamwork and personal development;
- set high standards for itself and for its students, not just academic but also personal standards of integrity, self-discipline, compassion and respect for others.

In the furtherance of these aims, the School's Governors, as the charity trustees, have complied with their duty in s4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's published general and relevant sub-section guidance concerning the operation of the Public Benefit requirement under that Act.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Birkenhead School looks to make a difference to the lives of students by inspiring a lifelong love of leaming and supporting students to excel academically, emotionally and socially within the educational setting. The School's independence allows it to be responsive to change and innovate to ensure that a first-class education is provided for all students, with academic results regularly placing the School as one of the leading independent schools within the North West and UK.

Of course, the curriculumm offered at Birkenhead School looks to educate beyond the statutory requirements and this extends from the Early Years' Foundation Stage in the Nursery to A Levels in the Sixth Form. A wide range of co-curmicular opportunities are available, including programmes such as 'Enrich and Explore', 'Future Skills', 'Beyond the Curriculum' and the 'Nicholls Lecture Series'. These offer educational opportunities for students distinct from those offered to their peers elsewhere.

During the year ended 31st August 2024, the School educated approx. 316 (2023: 320) pupils aged 5-11 in Prep and approx. 524 (2023: 510) students in Seniors, including approx. 100 Sixth Form students. Following the move to co-education across all years in 2008, girls continue to thrive in the School, constituting approx. 45% of the students across the School (of school age). Around 140 children (2023: 130) were cared for within the Early Years provision. Holiday activity weeks were provided by third parties who undertook a mixture of Birkenhead School Activity Weeks and Kings Camps weeks. Kings Camps are part of the Kings Active Foundation, a UK registered charity.

School fees from September 2023 were as follows: Nursery (full-time, including catering) - £4,875 per term; Pre-Prep (full-time) - £3,810 per term; Reception - £3,235 per term; Prep (Years 1-6) - £3,695 per term; Seniors (Year 7 – 8) - £4,520 per term; Seniors (Year 9 to Year 11) - £4,895 per term; Sixth Form - £4,955.

School Exam Results

Highlights of the Summer 2024 A Level and GCSE results include:

A Levels:

- 26% of all grades were awarded A*
- 62% of all grades were awarded A*-A
- 83% of all grades were awarded A*-B

GCSEs:

- 21% of all grades were awarded grade 9
- 59% of all grades were awarded grades 9-7

The majority of students progress on to university, including some of the most competitive courses at Oxbridge and other Russell Group universities. Increasingly, some students are seeking degree apprenticeships, both with local and national employers, with recent positions gained in organisations including Dyson, Airbus, the BBC, Amazon, Redrow and Microsoft.

PREP (including EARLY YEARS)

Prep and Early Years children had another vibrant and inspiring year, enjoying all the many opportunities afforded to them, thanks to the dedication, enthusiasm and creativity of the staff. The curriculum went from strength to strength, starting in Early Years where a unique blend of staff-planned and child-initiated activities saw the children develop their learning through play, imagination and physical activity. Nursery children were often seen out and about during their daily walks around the campus, and they thoroughly enjoyed regular visits to the pond in Seniors; the joy of discovery as they followed the life cycle of frogs was a particular highlight. The daily singing, dancing and learning actions at story time was enjoyed by all, and for the Rising 3s, growing a variety of fruit and vegetables in the Nursery garden was a truly rewarding learning experience. In Pre-Prep, the 'people who help us' topic was very popular. Through role-play, the use of resources and props, and through meeting a variety of professionals (eg. a policeman, a paramedic and a dentist), this topic really came alive. Our Early Years children were highly engaged with their curriculum and the independence and interpersonal skills developed over the year will no doubt be excellent preparation for an exciting learning journey through Prep.

There were some highly effective developments to the Prep curriculum over the year, not least the introduction of the 'Short Write', providing more opportunities for writing and greater coverage of different written genres and topics. Pupils were also given greater exposure to different styles of mathematical problems, expanding their minds and encouraging greater flexibility of thought. A feature of the academic year was an on-going drive to increase cross-curricular ICT opportunities, with a new bank of iPads purchased accordingly. Prep students now enjoy access to three banks of iPads (one for each building) and a superb ICT suite, and each year Digital Leaders are appointed from Years 5 and 6 pupils to assist and enthuse younger pupils with their ICT skills and to test out new tech!

The great outdoors has never been more important for children's development – a superb antidote to screen time, which, if not managed appropriately, can have a tendency to dominate some children's lives. The positive impact of learning through nature trails, outdoor investigations and forest school activities cannot be underestimated. From Reception through to Year 4, pupils now take part in our bespoke Nature Explorers programme, participating in outdoor activities that build valuable skills and foster an appreciation for the natural world. The children now work towards various achievement levels over the five years of the course: Acorn, Young Sapling, Mighty Oak, Park Warden, and Park Keeper Awards. The children's engagement with the programme was a joy to see and through expressing their awe and wonder, working as a team and writing up their findings, we saw many positive impacts on their broader learning skills.

Little School (Reception to Year 2) enjoyed their first full academic year in the House System. House captains were appointed in September and then a drawing competition led to the introduction of House mascots. House spirit was in abundance for a number of different events: a football competition, a 'Children in Need' Bake Sale, an Easter Egg colouring competition and of course the hugely successful Little School Sports Day. The Play Leaders Programme and the Little School Student Council continued to encourage the early development of leadership skills and our first ever Year 2 Residential Trip saw pupils astounding their teachers with their sense of adventure and growing independence.

The number of children participating in our Civic Award Scheme grew this year after a very successful launch in 2022. The Scheme is a personal development programme made up of five strands for the children to complete: local awareness, self-reliance, service to others, personal achievement in physical activities and wide use of leisure time. In May, there was a special ceremony where the children received awards from the Mayor of Wirral, Councillor Cherry Povall, JP. As the children complete each level of this scheme, they advance to the next level, and as new children join at the lower levels, so the scheme grows. It truly is a wonderful programme which complements the ethos and values of our School so well.

Every year group from Year 2 to 6 enjoyed a residential adventure trip and, in addition to this, there was a ski trip for Years 5 and 6. 59 children and 8 staff headed to Alpe d'Huez at Easter for a superb week of skiing, with lessons catering for all abilities from beginners to advanced, and numerous après ski activities. Our group was commended by ski instructors, hotel staff and airline crew for their superb behaviour and manners, and staff leading the trip said the children were a delight to look after.

Within the Junior Prep years, a broad range of House competitions took place over the year. Football, Cross Country, Rounders, Cricket, Boccia, Chess and the House Quiz were all keenly contested and hugely popular. These friendly competitions brought the children together from different year groups, building teamwork and House spirit and of course the biggest House competition of them all was Sports Day. It had to be rescheduled due to rain, but when it finally occurred it was a truly memorable event, with over 200 children involved and a wonderful atmosphere on School Field with parents and grandparents in support, a barbecue and even a Pimms tent! Added to the many House points won from all these competitions, were the points awarded throughout the year for good work, kindness and good manners. Each week, House points were collated with individual winners celebrated in assembly and the winning House announced. The accumulation of all those points ultimately led to the announcement of the winning House at the end of the summer term. This year's House Championship winners were Bidston and they enjoyed a special celebration on an inflatable obstacle course on McAllester Field in the final week of term!

The after-school programme saw the introduction of some very popular new clubs run by our teachers, such as Photography Club and MIMIC (Music, Imaginative Movement, Individuality and Creativity). An additional externally run Chess club was also launched; this was in response to the increasing interest amongst Junior pupils to play Chess and their desire to be coached by an expert! All in all, over 50 clubs were offered each term and it was clear that our co-curricular offering over the course of the year greatly enriched the children's experience of School.

Another action-packed year of sport saw all pupils from Years 3 to 6 given opportunities to compete in a variety of sports throughout the year. Our inclusive approach allowed everyone to develop their skills, build confidence, and experience the thrill of team sports. With fixtures in netball, lacrosse, cross country, gymnastics, football, rugby, cricket, rounders and athletics, there were opportunities for everyone. Dedication, team spirit and determination were seen in abundance, with particular success enjoyed in cross country and athletics. At the AJIS Cross Country Championships at Rossall School, we won the Year 5 Girls' race and the Year 6 Boys' race. The AJIS Indoor Athletics Championships in late January was another highlight; we won three gold medals, a silver medal, and two bronze medals. And we were also the overall winners of the Wirral Schools Indoor Athletics meeting, which was an outstanding team achievement.

Music and Drama featured strongly throughout the year, with pupils performing in Musical Serenades, School Concerts, Christmas Shows, Carol Services, Form Assemblies and our Year 6 Musical Production, 'The Jungle Book'. As enthusiastic as ever, Year 6 gave their all and produced two truly memorable performances of this much-loved show – a very fine way to round off their time in Prep.

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

SENIORS (Year 7 to Upper Sixth)

Science

Providing inspiring opportunities continued to be the mindset of the Science department, and all staff across Birkenhead School, with the culmination being another year of outstanding GCSE and A Level results.

Outside of the regular curriculum, where a particular feature remains the learning derived from undertaking experiments, the department provided a number of regular clubs, trips, competitions, outreach and leadership opportunities.

Regular clubs, typically weekly, included Junior Science, Astronomy, Dissection Club, a Science Research Group, and Advanced Tutorial Groups (ATGs) for Sixth Form Medics, Dentists, Vets and Engineers.

During Easter 2024, approximately 30 students and 3 staff enjoyed a space exploration inspired trip to Texas. This included the opportunity to view the eclipse. During the year, the Sixth Form chemists visited Liverpool University to experience working in a university lab: their tasks involved both preparing and analysing organic compounds. Lower Sixth students also attended a Royal Society lecture on Artificial Intelligence in York. As part of the School's Futures Programme, the Engineering group visited Airbus, AMF Engineering Ltd and NSG Environmental Ltd during the course of the academic year, while the Sixth Form Biologists and Psychologists enjoyed a 'Brain Day' on site, inspired by external speakers.

The Science department view external competitions as important opportunities to stretch learning. During the year, students participated in Biology and Physics Olympiads, the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge, the RSC Top of the Bench Chemistry Competition at Liverpool University, a STEM competition at The Grange School, and UK ROC – a rocket building competition.

A further feature of the department is the partnership work with local schools and cubs and brownie groups. This work included the long-running and ever popular two Science evenings in October where the School's Science Leaders (approx. 30 Year 7 to Upper Sixth with a passion for science) helped inspire over 150 local primary school age children with experiments and demonstrations on the School site. The department also contributes fully to the 'Be Inspired' programme on a number of Saturdays during the Summer Term.

English

The English Department offered a diverse array of activities to nurture the students' literary and creative talents. The many highlights included a visit by talented actor, director, producer, and filmmaker, Celyn Jones, who conducted engaging workshops with Year 9 students, focusing on the art of filmmaking and its connections to their study of 'Small Island.' These sessions provided students with a unique opportunity to explore the world of storytelling through film.

In 'Form Time Philosophy', students in Years 9, 10, and 12 had the chance to explore various critical schools and thinkers, including Plato, Kant, Hegel, Marx, and Nietzsche.

The annual Ghost Story event, now in its fourth year, has seen the publication of two volumes of ghost stories featuring introductions and unpublished works by the renowned author, Ramsey Campbell. This event has been a platform for students from Years 7 to 13 to display their writing talents.

The department's dedication to nurturing creative writing talents was further highlighted when two students emerged as finalists in the prestigious Athenaeum writing competition for students aged 16-19 across Merseyside. In March, the School hosted the Merseyside and Greater Manchester heat of the National Reading Champions Quiz, with twenty-five teams participating from fourteen local schools.

SENIORS (Year 7 to Upper Sixth)

English

The year was a busy and exciting one for the students in English, with numerous events showcasing their talents, creativity, and teamwork.

One of the standout successes was the Ghost Story for Christmas event, which proved to be a hit once again. Students from Year 7 through to Upper Sixth read out their contributions to our published anthology of ghost stories, captivating the audience with their spooky tales. This year, we were honoured to have acclaimed horror writer Ramsey Campbell serve as a judge for the event.

Another exciting event was the National Reading Champions competition, which we hosted this year. Teams from over ten schools in the region competed in a fun and engaging event, which was enjoyed by all involved. Our students performed excellently and showed great enthusiasm and dedication to the art of reading.

Poetry by Heart returned this year, with Year 7 students performing their poems in our internal Beyond The Curriculum competition. While we were not successful in reaching the final at the Globe Theatre in London, it was a fantastic experience for all involved and demonstrated the talent and commitment of our students to the spoken word.

In a major achievement for the school, the Rotary Debating Competition – Youth Speaks – saw our team progress to the national finals for the first time ever. This was a remarkable accomplishment, with one of the School's students awarded Best Opposition Speaker for his lively, fluent, and engaging delivery.

The year was also filled with exciting theatre trips, offering students the chance to experience a variety of productions. Among the highlights were Macbeth, Life of Pi, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, and Six, all of which left our students with plenty to reflect on and discuss.

Languages

Academic performance has remained strong in Modern Languages, culminating in impressive grades in the external examinations in summer 2024, where French was the subject attaining the top value-added score in the School at GCSE.

In February half term, a group of forty A-Level and GCSE students participated in a 3-day trip to Madrid, providing them with opportunities to learn more about the Spanish language, history and culture.

Six students from Year 11 and the Sixth form gained a bronze award in the UK Linguistic Olympiad competition.

The younger children from Years 3 to 6 were able to extend their knowledge of French culture and language during their weekly French Club sessions.

Art

Art is a popular subject at both GCSE and A Level, with our largest A Level group yet embarking on the course this academic year. Positive Value-Added scores indicate the strength of the subject, including a score of 0.58 for those GCSE students with a SEND profile. 50% of A Level students achieved A*. Alongside the academic demands of the subject, art teaches the value of creativity as a means for personal development, critical thinking and self-reflection, with the aim of helping students successfully navigate an ever changing and challenging world.

Exam groups have access to the department and staff 3 times a week in afterschool academic clubs to assist and extend coursework. A weekly lunchtime Creative Club for Year 7 - 9 students allowed for fun projects outside of lessons. A dedicated lunchtime club for Year 9 provided extensions tasks while afterschool smART sessions in the summer term offered the opportunity to experiment with new techniques including batik.

In early October, Sixth Form students travelled to London, firstly visiting Tate Modern to view the extensive permanent collection, then the 'Capturing the Moment' exhibition of contemporary painting and photography; viewing art on a phone is no substitute for seeing work 'in the flesh'. A tube ride across London to the Victoria & Albert Museum led to the sold out 'Chanel' exhibition; this infamous show was a dream come true for the fashionistas in the group!

Two outstanding hands-on workshops contributed to the School's 'Arts Festival' across October and November this year alongside the Music, Drama and English departments. The first focused on graphic style illustration with artist 'Emelbi', who impressed Year 9 students with his quirky graffiti portraits created using pen, pencil and highlighter. Students from Years 11 and the Upper Sixth participated in an 'Everyday Objects Workshop' with internationally respected artist Lisa Milroy RA; it was fascinating to hear about her ideas and working practice. A busy Bushell Hall exhibition, celebrating GCSE & A Level art, combined with an Evening of Art and Music, made for a wonderful showcase of student talent. The three-week festival included numerous lunchtime events including a fun clay Pudsey Bear activity led by Lower Sixth students.

Over the February half-term, students and staff travelled to Madrid for a Spanish and Art Cultural visit. The busy itinerary included a walking tour of historical sites and visits to the Atlético Madrid Football Stadium and Las Ventas Bullring. In the Reina Sofia Art Gallery, students saw 'Guernica', the iconic anti-war painting by Pablo Picasso, whereas in El Museo Nacional del Prado, they saw works by masters of European art including Goya and Velasque; the value of this experience was evident in subsequent A Level studies. On the last afternoon, students and staff attended a cookery course, taught in Spanish, where they prepared classic dishes including paella and tortilla.

In June, pupils from local primary schools attended 3 Saturday art sessions, run by the department as part of the School's 'Be Inspired' programme. During the year, the department also assisted with sets and props for the Scuttlers and Oliver productions.

An intense Summer Term of external exams led to impressive work, much of which was on display during Birkonian Week and at the Arts Awards Evening. Once again, Year 7 to 9 students received Amazing Artist awards alongside prizes for the older years.

Student work is regularly celebrated and events communicated through #birkenheadschoolart Instagram. It currently has 1,195 followers including parents, schools, art colleges, galleries and other artists.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

It is clear, both from on-site observations and feedback from parents, both prospective and current, that all stakeholders place significant value on co-curricular activities. The School takes great pride in the diversity and extensive provision of co-curricular activities, and we continue to invest in coaching and resources, with increased investment in both areas this year.

In our most recent student voice survey, over 80% of respondents participate in School co-curricular activities, with many others attending clubs for non-competitive reasons.

Sport

The School continued to offer competitive and recreational opportunities across the whole School and in a range of sports including Athletics, Cricket, Football, Golf, Hockey, Lacrosse, Netball, Tennis, Rounders, Orienteering, Cross-Country and Rugby. In addition to this core provision, recreational clubs offered a breadth of opportunity across sports such as Badminton, Table Tennis and Gymnastics, and activities including Yoga, Climbing and Dance.

Sport in The Prep

The integration and planning for sports development are clearly paying dividends between Prep and Seniors. The Prep had an excellent year in sport with the usual strong performances in Netball, Football, Cricket and Rugby becoming established in the Prep programme. The levels of participation and performance in the Prep in AJIS (Association of Junior Independent Schools) sports festivals and Interhouse competitions are outstanding in comparison to other local primary education providers. Staffing resources from Seniors staff and external coaches have assisted the development of the Prep programme, with Prep sport going from strength to strength providing a conveyor belt of talent into Seniors. New sports are being developed within the Prep such as Lacrosse, Hockey and Cross Country to support the Seniors' programme. Tennis has continued to thrive, helped by the LTA programme; as a result, we were able to enter senior teams in the Cheshire Cup for boys and girls. This will enable the development of a strong senior school Tennis programme in the future.

Sport in Seniors

The School prides itself on high levels of participation and achievement in Seniors with a significant number of students attending lunch and after-school practices in addition to the curricular provision of PE & Games.

The School is reaping the dividends of investing in high-level coaches, and staff coaching development is enhancing students' progress. The Focus sports of rugby, cricket and netball are thriving. Netball teams continue to reach the latter stages of national and regional events. The rugby teams are increasing their performance levels, with the fixture list developed over recent years to offer greater challenge. The rugby 7s programme is also currently doing exceptionally well, whilst participation in Hockey and Lacrosse is developing strongly. The School has national prominence in lacrosse: for example, the U14 team reached the semi-finals at the National Championships in March 2024, while the U12 team are Northern Champions. In 2024-25, the boys' and girls' hockey teams are entered into the Independent School's Hockey Cups at U13 and U19 age groups for the first time.

In Seniors, competitive teams are fielded in local, regional and national leagues and tournaments. In a typical year, this would include six boys' Hockey teams, eight Rugby teams, seven girls' Hockey teams, five Lacrosse teams, eight Netball teams and six Cricket teams competing weekly during the relevant season.

The School prides itself in delivering high participation rates of students enjoying sport across all year groups with many contributing across a vast number of cross-curricular activities of the School. In total, the School played over 600 fixtures in all sport during the year; with the most important features being the enjoyment,

health benefits and the range of skills and values that the students learn from playing sport and representing their School.

Several students are currently part of various sporting talent pathways: in Rugby Union, Sale Sharks, and Cheshire RFU; in Lacrosse, the England Performance Pathway and Cheshire County; in Netball, Manchester Thunder, Loughborough Lightening, Leeds Rhinos, Birmingham Bears, Cheshire and Merseyside County Netball and national age-group academies. The School has a number of cricketers in the Cheshire and Lancashire programmes. In Hockey, players enjoy the JAC academy pathways and at an elite level in the Pennine Pumas, and national age-group selection. In Lacrosse, a number of girls play for the county and two are in the U18 England Academy. Students also participate in other sports programmes operated by each sport's associations or professional clubs/franchises and a number alumni (Old Birkonians - OBs) play in high-level local and national leagues: these include Caldy 1st XV rugby, Oxton, Neston 1st XI cricket, netball for Wales U23s, hockey in the National leagues. Two OBs currently play Lacrosse/Box Lacrosse for England and/or GB.

The Fitness Suite has seen a big increase in usage by students and staff, benefitting from recent capital investment. A successful Strength and Conditioning program has utilised the expertise of an elite local company and has delivered significant performance benefits to the students. There has also been investment in the climbing wall with new holds, harnesses, equipment and ongoing training for relevant staff.

The School continues to share its sporting facilities with several clubs and schools in the area, including on a hire basis, at reduced rates where applicable. This year we have rolled out the 'Bridges' sports festivals to link with local primaries to inspire local children. This scheme offers festival visit opportunities to local Primary and Prep Schools, combined with coaching in Cricket, Rugby, Hockey and Netball. The sports department also enjoyed being heavily involved with the 'Be Inspired' programme, offering a range of sporting activities on each day the programme ran over the Summer Term: colleagues and senior students supported enthusiastic youngsters from the local community in enjoying the range of sports offered.

The end of the School year was celebrated by holding the Sports Awards for the Seniors and the traditional Sports Days for both Prep and Seniors. These events provided a real celebration of Birkonian sporting endeavour and skill, and were well attended by students, parents and staff.

The School enjoys participating in flagship national tournaments. 3 Rugby teams participated in the Rosslyn Park National 7s while the 1st and U14 squads participated in the Lacrosse Nationals at Aldershot. In July, the School's cricketers toured Sri Lanka with 34 students and 6 staff enjoying an action packed 14 days of sport, culture and spectacular sights. In the lead up to the tour, we had a very well attended Sports Personality Dinner with Graham Gooch OBE as guest speaker.

In March, 60 pupils and 6 staff had a wonderful week of skiing in La Plagne with good snow and excellent spirit de corps displayed in a memorable trip.

Drama

Drama continues to grow in popularity and student participation both within the academic curriculum and in School productions. Student and staff led lunch-time clubs include dancing, acting and preparation for GCSE and A Level devised pieces alongside opportunities to enjoy talking through plays and shows recently attended: during the year, trips to watch Hamilton, Blood Brothers and Dear Evan Hansen were popular with large numbers of students.

It was a particularly busy year for School productions, with a gritty drama 'Scuttlers' entertaining audiences in November, while the full School production of 'Oliver' played to 9 sold-out performances in March: becoming a regular feature of the calendar is the Matinee Lunch performance attended by an increasing number of Old Birkonians each year.

Music

Co-curricular Music provision has continued to grow throughout the year, with large numbers now both receiving weekly tuition in an impressively wide range of instruments and taking part in the two major Whole School concerts at Christmas and during Birkonian Week. Unique to Birkenhead School, as a day school, as far as we know, are our weekly services of Choral Evensong, sung by the Chapel Choir, which continued to take place in the School Chapel together with the occasional special seasonal services. Nine Lessons and Carols is always a particular highlight, and proves so popular that it needs to happen twice on the same day in order to accommodate the vast numbers who would like to attend. Technology continued to be utilised well in Chapel, with selected services also being livestreamed on the Music YouTube channel.

The annual Festival of Arts was again a big success with over a fortnight of events in November featuring musicians of all ages, with highlights being the 'Come and Sing' Evensong service in Chapel, Jazz Night, Art Exhibition, as well as a number of inspiring workshops led by visiting professionals.

As well as these opportunities to sing and play as part of a group, solo opportunities for young musicians of all ages and experiences took place frequently, with the more informal termly 'Serenade' concerts for our less advanced performers together with two Chamber Music Concerts for the more experienced. Trinity and ABRSM practical and theory examinations continued to be successfully passed by students of all ages, and we had several of our more experienced musicians represent the School as members of the National Youth Choirs, National Children's Orchestras, National Youth Music Theatre, Junior Royal Northern College of Music, Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Company (choirs, bands and orchestras), Wirral Symphonic Wind Band, Out of the Blue big band, Heswall Concert Band, and Early Music Youth Orchestra and String Academy.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

During the academic year, 84 students participated in the Bronze programme, 15 in Silver and 10 in Gold. Expedition training was conducted during the year in route planning and navigation, camp craft and first aid. The practice and qualifying expeditions made full use of the hills of NE Wales and the Snowdonia mountains, with the qualifying expeditions taking place in June and July, shortly before and after the end of the Summer Term. The students have participated in a wide variety of volunteering projects in support of their awards, including working with animals at Tam-O-Shanter farm, helping in a variety of charity shops, fundraising for organisations such as The Hive, Hubbub, and Islamic Relief and coaching young chess players at Dawpool Primary School. Others have volunteered to support activities on site at Birkenhead School, such as singing in Chapel and acting as a sports leader, coaching prep school children.

Other Co-Curricular Clubs

The provision of a broad range of lunchtime and after School co-curricular clubs continues to be a feature of the School. In addition to the considerable sporting, drama and musical provision, these clubs range from public speaking and debating to yoga, table tennis and astronomy. Some lunchtime clubs are offered by members of the Sixth Form. These have added great diversity to the provision, and leadership from the students, and include a Film Society and a Sports Analysis club in recent years. Sixth Form students also offer clubs to Prep Students and Girls' Rugby, Drama and Public Speaking are popular.

Futures Provision

The School's provision of 'Futures' advice is extensive. A dedicated Futures Team of staff provide bespoke support and guidance to both students and parents in preparing students for university. Gap years, apprenticeships and the world of work. This includes 'off-timetable' events for members of the Sixth Form such as the Futures Morning and the Futures Conference which take place throughout the Summer Term. Roles within the Futures Team include specialisms in UCAS, Oxbridge applications, Futures skills (including the various aptitude tests for high tariff courses), apprenticeships and internships and overseas university applications.

Face to face advice is supported by a regular Futures Newsletter that includes a range of advice on degree courses, the latest apprenticeship opportunities and reading/online course suggestions. The newsletter is available on Firefly and sent to parents.

Futures advice starts in Prep developing an awareness of different areas within the world of work and continues into Seniors including the use of Morrisby tests in Year 10 which are followed by individual interviews with a member of the Futures Team. The Futures Team is supported through the use of Unifrog software, an integrated platform which assists staff, students, parents and guardians in researching and preparing for application to university courses and apprenticeships.

A feature of the Futures provision is the strong support of the Old Birkonian Society, and alumni are to the fore in supporting current students and/or recent leavers through specific careers advice, work experience, mock interviews and apprenticeship programmes.

Inspiring Talks Series

During the 2023-24 academic year, the School's Inspiring Talks Series continued to welcome high-profile speakers to the School for both public and student events. The series included:

- The weekly Nicholls Lecture for Sixth Form students during the Michaelmas and Lent terms
- The Boumphrey Lecture Series for Prep pupils in Years 5 and 6
- Author talks for both students and the wider community held in conjunction with a local independent bookshop
- The No Limits Series in Seniors
- The annual Sports Personality Dinner

Topics covered by the Nicholls Lecture Series, and delivered by parents, prospective parents and numerous Old Birkonians ranged from the NHS, Food Product Design and BAFTA Award winning filmmaking, to Financial Acquisitions & Mergers, Premier League Refereeing and Video Conferencing Skills. Seniors students also enjoyed a talk from TV presenter and author, Louise Minchin, as part of the School's No Limits Series.

In Prep, younger children were delighted by Boumphrey lectures delivered by author Anna James, Sue Higginson OBE and Deputy Lieutenant of Merseyside, and from Ian Boumphrey himself! In conjunction with a local independent bookseller, the School also hosted public events, welcoming TV presenter Julia Bradbury, Hollywood and TV actor Richard Armitage, journalist Bryony Gordon, and journalist and TV presenter Liz Earle.

The annual Sports Personality Dinner, held in May, welcomed former England Cricketer, Graham Gooch, OBE, who spoke at the black-tie event. The dinner raised funds for the School's cricket tour to Sri Lanka and for the local Sri Lankan charity, Foundation of Goodness.

Parents' Association (PA)

During 2023-24, fundraising and community connections remained a focus for the Parents' Association. Highlights of the year included the annual Fireworks Display and Christmas Bazaar. The PA also launched a '300 Fundraising Club' during the course of the year to further support their fundraising efforts.

Funds raised by the PA supported a wide range of activities across the School: for Gambit chess sets and digital timers for the Junior Prep Chess Club; equipment for the Year 4 Board Games and Construction Club; dens in Pre-Prep to provide calming, safe spaces for emotional wellbeing; playground furniture and equipment

for Little School; sound equipment for School productions and concerts; hoodies for the lacrosse teams representing the School at the National Lacrosse Competition; a public-speaking training day for students in Years 6 to 9 to support future debating competitions; contributions toward the Sri Lanka cricket tour; support for the Texas science trip, enabling students to meet an astronaut at NASA; ice creams for each student participating in Sports Days and the Year 6 Jungle Book performance; and a contribution toward the Sixth Form Leavers' Ball.

Birkonian Week

The conclusion of a busy academic year was appropriately marked by a range of celebration and awards events in Birkonian Week including the Creative and Performing Arts Awards, Sports Awards, 1st Team Awards and BBQ, Chapel Choir Dinner, Sports Day and Speech Day.

Community Involvement and Charitable Giving

Students and families of Birkenhead School continue to demonstrate significant community involvement and charitable giving, supporting causes both locally and globally.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of the School's wider provision across Wirral is the 'Be Inspired' programme. Now in its fourth year, this popular initiative sees over 30 local Year 5 children from a number of local primary schools, attend four Saturdays at Birkenhead School where they enjoy a range of academic, sporting, drama, design and 'softer skills' enrichment sessions. These sessions are run by School staff, volunteer parents and members of the Sixth Form helping each group. The course culminates in a prize-giving and lunch event for the children, their parents, and their teachers on the final Saturday.

Similar excitement each year is generated by the two Science Evenings held in October. The School's Science department, including teachers and technicians, and aided by the School's student Science Leaders helped inspire over 150 local primary school age children with experiments and demonstrations. These events are always popular and heavily over-subscribed.

With the School's wholehearted commitment to co-curricular activities, it is a feature of the School to run a number of primary age events aiming to inspire a love of sporting, music and creative pursuits. During the 2023-24 academic year, the School hosted rugby and cricket primary school festivals, invited a number of primary schools to watch the Seniors musical, alongside author talks, and DT and sport workshops. The School also hosted local and regional events including the National Reading Quiz and Maths Olympiad.

The School's Community Club show excellent leadership for student involvement in local charities, working with Hubbub UK for the second successive year to support more sustainable clothing initiatives with a second-hand clothes project and driving the School's collection of Christmas jumpers which were then distributed to members of The Hive, Wirral Youth Zone. The School is also a member of The Hive 100 Club, a collection of businesses, organisations and individuals that support the outstanding work of this charity.

During the year, student activities have raised funds for a number of charities, which include: The Hive; Kaola North-West; Neo Community; Charles Thompson Mission; Claire House; Save the Children; NSPCC; UNICEF; Teenage Cancer Trust, and Change a Child's Life.

During the year, the School also lets out its facilities to a number of local clubs, charities and faith-based groups, often at reduced rates.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE REVIEW

Fee Support

Trustees do not want the cost of education at Birkenhead School to prevent any eligible child attending the School. Gross fees were discounted by £1,182k (2023: £1,078k), through bursaries, scholarships and other discounts (9.7% of gross fees. 2023: 9.4%). In particular, bursary support under the auspices of the Foundation Trust represented around 5.5% (2023: 5.3%) of gross fee income and benefitted 76 pupils (2023: 71). A smaller number of pupils - 36 (2023: 39) - received transformational bursaries of between 75% and 100%. Some fee support is provided for from returns on investments and some directly from generous benefactors.

During the course of the academic year, the School continued its education of three Ukrainian students (two in Year 4; one in Year 11) and support of their families who had fled Ukraine following the invasion by Russia, and who were initially being hosted by current School families. These students were provided with full bursaries, alongside assistance with the provision of uniform and other School equipment.

Access Scholarships continued to provide assistance to enable able pupils with a proven academic record to enter at Year 7 or the Sixth Form from other educational backgrounds. Some specific support towards the latter is provided by two charitable trusts under the management of the Old Birkonian Society Council.

In addition, the School has awarded financial scholarships to 58 Seniors students (2023: 51) for academic or musical excellence. This support totalled £110k (2023: £81k) and represented 1.4% of gross fees in Seniors. Some receiving scholarships also qualified for means-tested bursary support and are included in those figures as well. Some further scholarships are now honorary - continuing the emphasis of providing financially for those most at need while recognising excellence.

The progress of pupils receiving scholarships is reviewed at least every couple of years to ensure that pupils continue to progress in line with their abilities, stretching their potential yet further.

Facilities

The Schools' sports facilities are made available to the public for use wherever feasible and are discounted for charity or educational use. As highlighted above, many are used for inter-school events through the year.

The School follows a programme of planned maintenance and development to ensure that its estate remains fit for purpose and efficient.

The School continued to facilitate "G'Wed" productions throughout the Summer of 2024.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The School's financial position remains strong. A cash surplus from operations of just over 2.5% of net fee income was achieved, giving trustees the confidence to moderate fee increases, manage pension liabilities and continue with a programme of investment in school facilities. The capital investment programme is currently funded without external borrowing.

Net operating income was £588k (2023: £511k). This combined with investment gains of £814k (2023: losses £172k), an actuarial gain on a defined benefit pension scheme of £42k (2023: £550k. As a result, total funds across the School Group were £22,205k as at 31st August 2024 (2023: £20,761k). The net cash provided by operating activities was £1,493k (2023: £286k).

Reserves policy

Investment income from the reserves is used to provide fee assistance to pupils and thereby to widen access to the School. More fee assistance is provided than can be funded by the income of the Foundation Trust, and it is therefore the policy of the Foundation Trustees to seek to increase the capital held by the Trust. It is the policy of the School to transfer surpluses not required within the School to the Foundation Trust. The Foundation Trust is also in a position to consider loans and/or grants to support significant investment in the School.

The asset allocation policy of the Foundation Trust ensures that there are sufficient liquid funds to cover at least three months' operating expenses.

Funding sources

Around 95% of the School's operating income was derived from fees and associated charges. Other notable contributions were: commercial activities, 0.8%; investment income 2.9%; and donations 0.5%.

Investment policy

As noted, the School's reserves are largely held in the Foundation Trust. Trustees have an investment policy which aims to secure a balance of income and capital growth in the medium to long-term.

Professional investment managers are employed with their appointment reviewed on a regular basis.

GOING CONCERN

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

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The School will seek to maintain and increase the availability of scholarships and bursaries and to encourage parents of academically able children to apply to the School. The surplus income and ongoing reserve are important not least as the investment income generated in the Foundation Trust is used to provide substantial bursary support. Other income will continue to be used to enhance the School's provision through improvements to the estate and the School's equipment.

Sound management and governance remains in place to ensure that the School continues to deliver good value during a challenging period for the independent sector. The imposition of VAT, loss of business rates relief and increase in national insurance contributions in the forthcoming financial year has led to a strategic plan being developed to ensure the School continues to thrive. We remain proud of being able to offer an exceptional product against the backdrop of these new financial pressures. The School agreed to pass on only 10% of the

new VAT liability (on fees) in January 2025 in order to demonstrate we are doing all we can to assist our families and the Birkenhead community.

Our transport provision continues to grow as we extend our reach across the City Region and beyond. The School has recently invested in its first electric vehicle to reduce our carbon footprint and prepare ourselves for the petrol/diesel ban due to come into force in 2030.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Birkenhead School for the purpose of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure of the charitable group for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company and group will continue in operation.

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

STATEMENT OF DISCLOSURE TO AUDITOR

So far as Trustees are aware there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware.

The Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by the Board on 24th March 2025 and signed on its behalf by

M.R. Cashin Chairman

Company registration number: **4492250**

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Birkenhead School (the 'charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise the consolidate statement of financial activities including an income and expenditure account, consolidated balance sheet, charity balance sheet, consolidated cash flow statement 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 FRS102 "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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2024 and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2015

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the academy in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' report 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 charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006
In our opinion, based on the work underneath in the course of the audit:
- the information given in the Trustees' report report, which includes the directors' report and the strategic report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report included within the Trustees' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report or the directors' report included within the Trustees' 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 or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

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

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
We have been appointed as auditor under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with the Acts and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud
Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including
fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the group through discussions with trustees and other management, and from our knowledge and experience of charity sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the group, including the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011, data protection, anti-bribery, employment, food hygiene, OFSTED and health and safety legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management team and inspecting legal correspondence; and identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the group's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management team as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC and relevant regulators.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

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

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

Use of our report

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

Helen Furlong FCCA
(Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of
Xeinadin Audit Limited
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors

24.03.25

46 Hamilton Square
Birkenhead
Merseyside
CH41 5AR

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM						
Donations and Legacies	2	2,141	70,567	-	72,708	286,366
Charitable activities						
Fees receivable	3	11,229,951	-	-	11,229,951	10,287,197
Catering income		813,296	-	-	813,296	709,588
Activity courses		-	-	-	-	7,558
School trips		520,386	-	-	520,386	374,919
Other income		395,684	-	-	395,684	286,116
Other trading activities	4	99,854	12,844	-	112,698	92,829
Investment income	5	392,447	3,110	901	396,458	291,085
Other income		98,379	-	-	98,379	148,352
Total		13,552,138	86,521	901	13,639,560	12,484,010
EXPENDITURE ON						
Raising funds	6	295,557	-	-	295,557	298,513
Charitable activities						
Grants awards and prizes		2,509	-	901	3,410	5,323
Teaching costs		9,288,053	4,814	-	9,292,867	8,468,657
Catering and welfare		1,066,568	-	-	1,066,568	927,607
Premises		1,875,222	-	-	1,875,222	1,889,492
Activity courses		5,310	-	-	5,310	8,439
School trips		512,855	-	-	512,855	374,919
Total	7	13,046,074	4,814	901	13,051,789	11,972,950
Net income before gain (losses)		506,064	81,707	-	587,771	511,060
Gains/(losses) on disposal of investments		246,431	-	-	246,431	(1,754)
Net gains/(losses) on revaluation of investments		565,184	-	2,492	567,676	(170,607)
Net income carried forward		1,317,679	81,707	2,492	1,401,878	338,699

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (continued)
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Net income brought forward		1,317,679	81,707	2,492	140,878	338,699
Transfer between funds		73,114	(73,114)	-	-	-
		1,390,793	8,593	2,492	1,401,878	338,699
Other recognised gains (losses)						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension scheme	18	42,000	-	-	42,000	550,000
Net movement in funds		1,432,793	8,593	2,492	1,443,878	888,699
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward		20,590,649	139,006	30,969	20,760,624	19,871,925
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		22,023,442	147,599	33,461	22,204,502	20,760,624

CONTINUING OPERATIONS
All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities.

TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES
The Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account) includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Note	2024 Group	2024 Company	2023 Group	2023 Company
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible fixed assets	12	12,817,890	12,628,770	12,792,822	12,599,762
Investments	13	7,196,617	33,460	7,094,310	30,968
		20,014,507	12,662,230	19,887,132	12,630,730
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	14	993,089	1,421,048	949,550	1,322,398
Cash at bank and in hand		4,497,616	3,278,788	2,378,987	2,168,164
		5,490,705	4,699,836	3,328,537	3,490,562
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	15	(4,232,710)	(4,223,282)	(3,321,045)	(3,302,967)
Net current assets (liabilities)		1,257,995	476,554	7,492	187,595
NET ASSETS EXCLUDING PENSION LIABILITY		21,272,502	13,138,784	19,894,624	12,818,325
Defined benefit pension scheme asset (liability)	18	932,000	932,000	866,000	866,000
NET ASSETS INCLUDING PENSION (LIABILITIES) /ASSETS		22,204,502	14,070,784	20,760,624	13,684,325
FUNDS					
Unrestricted: general		8,273,552	476,553	6,932,827	187,596
fixed assets		12,817,890	12,628,770	12,792,822	12,599,762
pension reserve	18	932,000	932,000	866,000	866,000
	16	22,023,442	14,037,323	20,590,649	13,653,358
Restricted	16	147,599	-	139,006	-
Endowment	16	33,461	33,461	30,969	30,969
TOTAL FUNDS		22,204,502	14,070,784	20,760,624	13,684,325

The financial statements on pages 23 to 48 were approved by the Board on 24th March 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

M.R. Cashin

Trustee

M.Furniss

Trustee

Company registration No: 4492250

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL
CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Cash generated from operations	1	1,492,921	285,878
Investing activities:			
Dividends interest and rents from investments		396,458	291,085
Proceeds from sale of fixed asset investments		1,798,960	1,170,522
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets		-	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(482,550)	(385,648)
Purchase of fixed asset investments		(1,291,163)	(2,427,205)
Net cash generated from investing activities		421,705	(1,351,246)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		1,914,626	(1,065,368)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		2,676,219	3,741,587
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		4,590,845	2,676,219

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2024 £	2023 £
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	1,401,878	338,699
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	457,482	446,937
(Gains) on disposal of assets	-	-
Losses (Gains) on investment	(814,107)	175,389
Pension fund non cash adjustment	(24,000)	11,000
Dividends interest and rents from investments	(396,458)	(291,085)
(Increase) decrease in debtors	(43,539)	(502,499)
(Decrease) increase in creditors	911,665	107,437
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	1,492,921	285,878

2. ANALYSYS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

The group had no debt during the year

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The financial statements of the charitable group, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with the exception of investments which are included at market value.

1.2 GROUP ACCOUNTS

These financial statements consolidate the results of the charity, its wholly-owned subsidiary Novitas Services Limited and The Birkenhead School Foundation Trust (which is under common control) on a line by line basis. A separate statement of financial activities for the charity itself is not presented because the charity has taken advantage of the exemptions afforded by paragraph 397 of the SORP and of the Companies Act 2006.

1.3 INCOMING RESOURCES

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

1.4 FEES AND SIMILAR INCOME

Fees receivable and charges for services and use of premises are accounted for in the period in which the service is provided. Fees receivable are stated inclusive of contributions from assistance funds and before deduction of allowances and other remissions allowed by the school.

1.5 VOLUNTARY INCOME

Donations are recognised in the statement of financial activities as incoming resources when receivable except in so far as they are incapable of financial measurement.

1.6 RESOURCES EXPENDED

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity.

1.7 GRANTS PAYABLE

The School awards Scholarships and Bursaries to some pupils, which have the effect of reducing the fees payable by the parents of those pupils. Scholarships are awarded for academic merit and Bursaries are awarded in response to parental hardship. Awards are made using money from several sources, including that provided by The Birkenhead School Foundation Trust, the Old Birkonian Society and the School's own funds.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.8 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised and included at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition. The substantial replacement of a capital asset as part of a project will also be capitalised. Further IT infrastructure and data-holding devices will be capitalised, as will durable music instruments costing more than £250. Depreciation is provided at annual rates in order to write off the cost of each asset over its estimated useful life as follows:

Land	Nil
Buildings	Straight line basis over 10 to 50 years
Furniture and equipment	Straight line basis over 2 to 10 years
Motor vehicles	Straight line basis over 5 years

1.9 OPERATING LEASES

Payments under operating leases are charged to the SOFA as incurred.

1.10 INVESTMENTS

Quoted investments are included in the financial statements at their market value at the balance sheet date. The investment properties are included at valuation.

Gains and losses arising on the disposal and revaluation of investments are calculated by reference to their book value and credited or charged to the SOFA.

Dividends and interest thereon are included in the SOFA on a receivable basis.

The Trust's investment property was professionally revalued during the 2012-13 financial year.

1.11 PENSION SCHEMES

Retirement benefits to employees of the School are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS), the Merseyside Pension Fund (MPF) and a further workplace pension scheme (The People's Pension (TPP) with B&CE Insurance Limited). The TPS and MPF are defined benefit schemes which are externally managed and contracted out of the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme. Contributions to the schemes are charged to the income and expenditure account so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the School in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The MPF contributions are determined by independent, qualified actuaries on the basis of triennial valuations using the projected unit method. The TPS contributions are set as a matter of national government pay policy following regular reviews. The pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis 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 currency and 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 TPP was entered as a workplace scheme as a replacement to the Prudential stakeholder pension on 1st April, 2014 in order to reduce employees' pension management costs and to facilitate compliance with the auto-enrolment regulations. Both are defined contribution schemes for employees. The annual contributions payable are charged to the statement of financial activities. Differences between contributions payable in the year and contributions actually paid are shown as either accruals or prepayments in the balance sheet.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.12 FUND ACCOUNTING

Unrestricted funds, which have not been designated for other purposes, are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

Endowment funds are retained on trust for the benefit of the charity as a capital fund.

Donations received for the general purposes of the School are credited to unrestricted funds. Donations subject to specific wishes of the donors are carried to relevant restricted funds or to endowment funds, where the amount is required to be held as permanent capital.

1.13 GOVERNANCE COSTS

These comprise costs for the running of the charity itself as an organisation.

1.14 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised costs using the effective interest method.

2. VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Donations				
General donations	2,141	70,567	72,708	272,366
Legacies	-	-	-	14,000
	2,141	70,567	72,708	286,366

Included in donations of £272,366 for 2023 is an amount of £46,756 which is restricted.

3. SCHOOL FEES

	2024 £	2023 £
The school's fee income comprised:		
Gross fees	12,418,118	11,357,471
Less bursaries, scholarships and discounts	(1,188,167)	(1,070,274)
	11,229,951	10,287,197

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
School shop commission	15,300	-	15,300	12,582
Hire of facilities	84,554		84,554	64,708
Fundraising events	-	12,844	12,844	15,539
	99,854	12,844	112,698	92,829

Included in fundraising events of £15,539 for 2023 is an amount of £15,539 which is restricted.

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	2024 £	2023 £
Dividends	129,441	3,110	-	132,551	177,513
Bank interest	148,024	-	-	148,024	43,786
Common Investments Fund shares	-	-	901	901	894
Rental income (including recharges)	114,982	-	-	114,982	68,892
	392,447	3,110	901	396,458	291,085

For the year ended 31 August 2023

	£	£	£	£
Dividends	173,722	3,791	-	177,513
Bank interest	43,786	-	-	43,786
Common Investments Fund shares	-	-	894	894
Rental income (including recharges)	68,892	-	-	68,892
	286,400	3,791	894	291,085

6. EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS

	2024 £	2023 £
Publicity and marketing	53,737	80,209
Staff costs	163,771	136,798
Fundraising	39,676	41,717
Investment management costs	38,373	39,789
	295,557	298,513

7. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Staff costs	Depreciation	Other costs	Support costs	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Charitable expenditure						
Grants awards and prizes	-	-	3,410	-	3,410	5,323
Teaching costs	7,346,394	261,583	464,809	1,220,081	9,292,867	8,468,657
Welfare	43,407	4,610	878,515	140,036	1,066,568	927,607
Premises	673,539	191,297	764,687	245,699	1,875,222	1,889,492
Activity courses	-	-	5,310	-	5,310	8,439
School trips	-		512,855		512,855	374,919
Total	8,063,340	457,490	2,629,586	1,605,816	12,756,232	11,674,437
For the year ended 31 August 2023						
Grants awards and prizes	-	-	5,323	-		5,323
Teaching costs	6,899,975	247,157	737,414	584,111		8,468,657
Welfare	45,269	10,134	806,204	66,000		927,607
Premises	620,456	189,646	945,305	134,085		1,889,492
Activity courses	-	-	8,439	-		8,439
School trips	-	-	374,919	-		374,919
Total	7,565,700	446,937	2,877,604	784,196		11,674,437

8. ALLOCATION OF SUPPORT COSTS

The Charity apportions its support costs as shown in the table below. Support costs are allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

	Teaching	Welfare	Premises	Activity courses	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	377,238	43,298	75,968		496,504	484,363
Depreciation	-				-	3,940
Office costs	526,346	60,412	105,996		692,754	187,958
Recruitment, hospitality and presentations	23,107	2,652	4,653		30,412	25,776
Subscriptions and affiliations	10,851	1,245	2,185		14,281	17,658
Bank charges	4,702	540	947		6,189	5,542
Governance costs	277,837	31,889	55,950		365,676	58,959
	1,220,081	140,036	245,699		1,605,816	784,196

8. **ALLOCATION OF SUPPORT COSTS (continued)**

For the year ended 31 August 2023	Teaching	Welfare	Premises	Activity courses	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	360,780	40,765	82,818	-	484,363
Depreciation	- -	3,940	-		3,940
Office costs	142,934	12,212	32,812	-	187,958
Recruitment, hospitality and presentations	19,200	2,169	4,407	-	25,776
Subscriptions and affiliations	13,153	1,486	3,019	-	17,658
Bank charges	4,128	466	948	-	5,542
Governance costs	43,916	4,962	10,081	-	58,959
	584,111	66,000	148,013	-	784,196

9. **STAFF COSTS**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	6,829,003	6,503,218
Social security costs	671,214	648,287
Pension contribution	1,205,353	1,018,658
Apprenticeship levy	18,045	16,698
	8,723,615	8,186,861

The directors have received no remuneration during the year or the previous year.

The average number of full time equivalent employees in the period, excluding directors, was:

	2024	2023
	No.	No.
Teaching	78	81
Teaching support	14	11
Technical support	7	7
Estates support	21	22
Administration and marketing	15	15
Early years	30	33
Welfare	1	1
	166	170

9. **STAFF COSTS (continued)**

	2024 No.	2023 No.
The number of higher paid employees was:		
£60,001 - £70,000	6	1
£70,001 - £80,000	1	2
£80,001 - £90,000	1	1
£90,001 - £100,000	1	1
£100,001 - £110,000	-	-
£130,000 - £140,000	1	1
	10	6

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Headmaster, the Head of Prep, Bursar and three Deputy Heads (2 Seniors, 1 Prep) and their employee benefits total £762,528 (2023 : £716,749).

10. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2023 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and Legacies	2	239,610	46,756	-	286,366
Fees receivable	3	10,287,197	-	-	10,287,197
Catering income		709,588	-	-	709,588
Sports courses		7,558	-	-	7,558
School trips		374,919	-	-	374,919
Other income		286,116	-	-	286,116
Other trading activities	4	77,290	15,539	-	92,829
Investment income	5	286,400	3,791	894	291,085
Other income		148,352	-	-	148,352
Total		12,417,030	66,086	894	12,484,010
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	6	298,513	-	-	298,513
Charitable activities					
Grants awards and prizes		4,429	-	894	5,323
Teaching costs		8,403,886	64,771	-	8,468,657
Catering and welfare		927,607	-	-	927,607
Premises		1,889,492	-	-	1,889,492
Sports courses		8,439	-	-	8,439
School trips		374,919	-	-	374,919
Total	7	11,907,285	64,771	894	11,972,950
Net income before gains/(losses)		509,745	1,315	-	511,060
Net gains on investments		(171,746)	-	(615)	(172,361)
Net income		337,999	1,315	(615)	338,699

10. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (continued)

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds	Total 2023 £
Net income brought forward	337,999	1,315	(615)	338,699
Transfer between funds				
	337,999	1,315	(615)	338,699
Other recognised gains				
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension scheme	550,000	-	-	550,000
Net movement in funds	887,999	1,315	(615)	888,699
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	19,702,650	137,691	31,584	19,871,925
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	20,590,649	139,006	30,969	20,760,624

11. NET INCOME(EXPENDITURE)

	2024 £	2023 £
Resources expended include		
Operating lease payments	4,954	5,487
Auditors remuneration: for audit services	12,000	11,000
for accountancy services	5,000	3,970
Directors' liability insurance		9,323
Depreciation of owned fixed assets	457,482	446,937

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Land and Buildings	Assets under Construction	Furniture and equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Group					
At 1 September 2023	12,090,719	-	3,376,294	246,144	15,713,157
Additions	189,440	-	191,570	101,540	482,550
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2024	12,280,159	-	3,567,864	347,684	16,195,707
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2023	166,705	-	2,563,441	190,189	2,920,335
Charge for period	171,036	-	262,245	24,201	457,482
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2024	337,741	-	2,825,686	214,390	3,377,817
Net book value					
At 31 August 2024	11,942,418	-	742,178	133,294	12,817,890
At 31 August 2023	11,924,014	-	812,853	55,955	12,792,822
Company					
At 1 September 2023	11,893,719	-	3,339,027	246,144	15,478,890
Additions	189,440	-	191,570	101,540	482,550
Transfers					
Disposals					
At 31 August 2024	12,083,159	-	3,530,597	347,684	15,961,440
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2023	162,765	-	2,526,174	190,189	2,879,128
Charge for period	167,096	-	262,245	24,201	453,542
Disposals					
At 31 August 2024	329,861	-	2,788,419	214,390	3,332,670
Net book value					
At 31 August 2024	11,753,298		742,178	133,294	12,628,770
At 31 August 2023	11,730,954	-	812,853	55,955	12,599,762

At 31 August 2024 land and buildings included £12,075,000 at valuations made in August 2022, which were professionally valued by CBRE on a fair value basis, in accordance with guidelines issued by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

Land and buildings includes land amounting to £3,886,940 which is not depreciated. This asset is used for direct charitable purposes.

13. **FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Group		
Market value at 1 September 2023	7,094,310	5,808,533
Additions at cost	1,291,163	2,427,205
Disposals at opening market value	(1,548,892)	(1,172,276)
Revaluation changes	564,039	(173,635)
(Decrease) in deposits	(204,003)	204,483
Market value at 31 August 2024	7,196,617	7,094,310
Historical cost at 31 August 2024	6,272,848	6,670,813

The investments comprise:	2024	2023
	£	£
UK Government stocks	682,032	442,250
UK equities and funds	2,236,953	2,448,176
Overseas equities and funds	4,108,031	3,366,902
Common Investment Funds	33,460	30,968
Cash awaiting investment	93,229	297,232
Investment property in Nantwich	-	462,842
Solar panels	42,912	45,940
	7,196,617	7,094,310

Company	2024	2023
	£	£
Market value at 1 September 2023	30,968	31,585
Revaluation changes	2,492	(615)
Market value at 31 August 2024	33,460	30,968
Historical cost at 31 August 2024	12,365	12,365

The investments comprise:	2024	2023
	£	£
Common Investment Fund shares	30,958	30,966
Investment in subsidiary company - see note 20(a)	2	2
	30,960	30,968

Shares in the Common Investment Fund have been valued by reference to prices quoted by the Fund Managers.

14. DEBTORS

	2024		2023	
	Group	Company	Group	Company
	£	£	£	£
Fees receivable	712,539	712,539	234,288	234,288
Other debtors	116,722	104,232	484,488	470,488
Prepayments and accrued income	155,997	155,997	219,296	219,296
Amounts due from subsidiary undertakings	-	448,280	-	398,326
Tax recoverable	7,831	-	11,478	-
	993,089	1,421,048	949,550	1,322,398

15. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024		2023	
	Group	Company	Group	Company
	£	£	£	£
Fee payments in advance	1,744,046	1,744,046	1,827,625	1,827,625
Trade creditors	517,979	517,979	437,627	437,627
Other taxation and social security	166,121	166,121	164,015	164,015
Other creditors	1,597,058	1,597,058	789,149	789,149
Accruals and deferred income	207,506	198,078	102,629	84,551
	4,232,710	4,223,282	3,321,045	3,302,967

16. ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Balance at 1 September 2023	Income	Expenditure	Gains Losses and transfers	Balance at 31 August 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	19,724,649	13,552,138	13,070,074	884,729	21,091,442
Pension deficit	866,000	-	(24,000)	42,000	932,000
	20,590,649	13,552,138	13,046,074	926,729	22,023,442
Restricted funds					
Bursary funding	131,531	73,677	-	(73,114)	132,094
Restricted fundraising	7,475	12,844	4,814		15,505
Permanent endowment					
Prize and Scholarship Funds	30,969	901	901	2,492	33,461
Total funds	20,760,624	13,639,560	13,051,789	856,107	22,204,502

Funds are transferred from restricted funds to unrestricted funds within the Group (School and Trust) when they are applied for the intended purposes (e.g. bursary funding, prizes or other grants).

16. **ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENT IN FUNDS (Continued)**
Comparatives for the previous year

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains Losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	19,375,650	12,417,030	11,896,285	(171,746)	19,724,649
Pension surplus (deficit)	327,000	-	11,000	550,000	866,000
	19,702,650	12,417,030	11,907,285	378,254	20,590,649
Restricted funds					
Bursary funding	129,097	50,547	48,113	-	131,531
Restricted fundraising	8,594	15,539	16,658	-	7,475
Permanent endowment					
Prize and Scholarship Funds	31,584	894	894	(615)	30,969
Total funds	19,871,925	12,484,010	11,972,950	377,639	20,760,624

17. **ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

Group	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	12,817,890	-	-	12,817,890
Investments	7,031,062	132,095	33,460	7,196,617
Cash and bank	4,482,111	15,504	1	4,497,616
Net current assets (liabilities)	(3,239,621)	-	-	(3,239,621
Defined benefit pension asset	932,000	-	-	932,000
	22,023,442	147,599	33,461	22,204,502

Company	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	12,628,770	-	-	12,628,770
Investments	-	-	33,460	33,460
Cash and bank	3,278,787	-	1	3,278,788
Net current assets (liabilities)	(2,802,234)			(2,802,234)
Defined benefit pension asset	932,000	-	-	932,000
	14,037,323	-	33,461	14,070,784

17. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS
Comparatives for the previous year

Group	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	12,792,822	-	-	12,792,822
Investments	6,931,811	131,531	30,968	7,094,310
Cash and bank	2,371,512	7,475		2,378,967
Net current assets (liabilities)	(2,371,495)			(2,371,495)
Defined benefit pension asset	866,000			866,000
	20,590,650	139,006	30,968	20,760,624

Company	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	12,599,762	-		12,599,762
Investments	-	-	30,968	30,968
Cash and bank	2,168,164	-	-	2,168,164
Net current assets (liabilities)	(1,980,569)	-		(1,980,569)
Defined benefit pension asset	866,000	-		866,000
	13,653,357	-	30,968	13,684,325

18. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The School does not operate a pension for its employees but all employees have the opportunity to be part of either defined benefit schemes provided by approved bodies in the UK or the defined contribution workplace pension scheme – The People's Pension (operated by B&CE Insurance Limited).

(a) Merseyside Pension Fund (MPF)

Birkenhead School is an admitted body of the Merseyside Pension Fund, the local government pension scheme. Members contribute varying rates between 5.8% and 6.8% of pensionable salary and the School contributes at set rates agreed between the scheme's trustees and actuaries.

This scheme is being accounted for under FRS102, as the projected unit actuarial cost method. Total employer contributions amounted to £28,777 (2023: £26,022).

Membership numbers at 31 August 2024	2024	2023
Active	3	3
Deferred	2	2
Pensioners	15	19
Widow	7	6

18. **PENSION COMMITMENTS (continued)**

The actuarial assumptions underlying the assets and liabilities as at 31 August 2024 were:-

Assumptions	**2024**	**2023**
Rate of CPI inflation	2.6%	2.8%
Rate of salary increases	4.1%	4.3%
Rate of pension increases	2.7%	2.9%
Discount rate	4.9%	5.6%

The assets in the Fund and expected rate of return were:

	2024 £000's	**2023 £000's**
Equities	1,551	1,666
Government bonds	660	483
Other bonds	226	150
Property	328	385
Cash/liquidity	207	99
Other	799	879
Total market value of assets	3,771	3,662
Actuarial value of (liabilities)	(2,839)	(2,796)
Fund surplus	932	866

18. **PENSION COMMITMENTS (continued)**

The amounts recognised in statement of financial activities are as follows:-

	31 August 2024 £000's	31 August 2023 £000's
Current service cost	25	28
Net interest cost	(48)	(16)
Administration expenses	1	(1)
Total included in employee expenses	(22)	11

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

Opening defined benefit obligation	2,796	3,334
Current/past service cost	25	28
Interest on pension liabilities	150	139
Members contributions	8	8
Actuarial (gains)losses on liabilities	107	(558)
Benefits/transfers paid	(247)	(155)
Benefit obligations at end of year	2,839	2,796

Changes in the fair value of plan assets are as follows:-

	2024 £000's	2023 £000's
Opening fair value of plan assets	3,662	3,671
Interest on pension plan assets	198	155
Remeasurements	149	(18)
Employer contributions	2	2
Members contributions	8	8
Benefits/transfers paid	(247)	(155)
Administration expenses	(1)	(1)
Fair value of plan assets at 31 August 2024	3,771	3,662

Statement of recognised gains and losses

Actuarial gains/(losses) recognised in the STRGL	(42)	539

18. **PENSION COMMITMENTS (continued)**

(b) **Teachers' Pension Scheme**

The School participates in the Teachers' Pension Scheme (England and Wales), (TPS) for its teaching staff. This is a multi-employer defined benefits pension scheme and it is not possible or appropriate to identify the assets and liabilities of the Scheme which are attributable to the School. Accordingly, the School accounts for its contributions as if the TPS were a defined contribution scheme. The charge for the year to 31 August 2024 was £1,042,070 (2023 £915,043).

The latest actuarial valuation of the Scheme by the Government Actuary was issued on 5 March 2019 relating to the period to 31 March 2016

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 23.68% of pensionable pay including a 0.08% employer administration charge.
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date £218,100 million, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £196,100 million giving a notional past service deficit of £22,000 million
- the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 2.4% above the rate of CPI. The assumed real rate of return is 2.4% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.2%. The assumed nominal rate of return including earnings growth is 4.45%.

(c) **Stakeholder pension scheme**

The School started to operate a defined contributions pension scheme for employees in 2002 when The Merseyside Pension Fund was closed to new employees. Initially this provision was via the Prudential stakeholder pension scheme. On 1st April 2014, contributions were transferred to The People's Pension, operated by B & CE Insurance Limited. This has a lower management fee and is compliant with auto-enrolment pension regulations. The employers' contribution rate has remained at a maximum of 5% with an exception for the Bursar at 12.5%.

The pension charge for the year to 31 August 2024 was £190,280 (2023: £89,850)

19. OTHER FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

(i) At 31 August 2024 the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows

	2024 £	2023 £
Within one year	4,954	4,954
Between two and five years	13,622	18,576
	18,576	23,530

(ii) The School has a (reviewable) commitment to partly fund the fees of a certain number of students who have been granted bursaries and scholarships during their school careers.

The Birkenhead School Foundation Trust has agreed to provide assistance to the School in respect of these fees both in this financial period and in future years.

20. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

At 31 August 2024 the School had capital commitments amounting to £Nil (2023 £Nil)

21. SUBSIDIARY AND RELATED ENTITIES

(a) Novitas Services Limited

The Charity owns the whole of the issued share capital of Novitas Services Limited, a company registered in England and Wales. At 1 September 2009 the subsidiary ceased trading and its activities were absorbed by Birkenhead School.

A summary of the results of the subsidiary is shown on the following page, these expenses have been consolidated on a line by line basis in the SOFA.

21. SUBSIDIARY AND RELATED ENTITIES (continued)

(a) Novitas Services Limited

	2024 £	2023 £
Turnover	-	-
Cost of sales	-	-
Gross profit	-	-
Other income	-	-
Administrative expenses	(3,940)	(3,940)
Surplus of revaluation	-	-
Profit/(Loss)	(3,940)	(3,940)

The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:	2024 £	2023 £
Assets	189,120	193,060
Liabilities	(351,867)	(351,867)
	(162,747)	(158,807)
Share capital	2	2
Profit and loss account	(162,749)	(158,809)
	(162,747)	(158,507)

(b) Birkenhead School Foundation Trust – connected charity

The Birkenhead School Foundation Trust is a connected, but separately registered charitable trust (registration no. 1068650) established in 1998 with the object of applying its trust fund and income to assist the School further its charitable objects. It is under common control of the School.

A summary of the results for the Trust is shown below:

	2024 £	2023 £
Incoming resources	369,678	1,901,021
Resources expended	(119,933)	(306,615)
Losses (gains) on investments	811,615	(171,746)
Net movement in funds	1,061,360	1,422,660

21. **SUBSIDIARY AND RELATED ENTITIES (continued)**

(b) **Birkenhead School Foundation Trust – connected charity**

The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:	**2024** £	**2023** £
Assets	8,402,308	7,299,646
Liabilities	(105,842)	(64,540)
	8,296,466	7,234,106
Unrestricted funds	8,148,868	7,096,100
Restricted funds	147,598	139,006
	8,296,466	7,235,106

(c) **Birkenhead School**

The surplus dealt with in the Statement of Financial Activities of the parent company was £386,458 (2023: Deficit £530,021).

22. **CONTINGENT LIABILITY**

On 5TH July 2018, Birkenhead School entered into a contract with Compass Contract Services (UK) Limited as the provider of catering and related services. The contract is for 10 years and may be terminated by either party on the first, third, fifth, or seventh anniversary of the Services Commencement date, being 1st August 2018. As part of the contract Compass Contract Services (UK) Limited provided capital investment into the catering facilities to the value of £350,000.

If the agreement is terminated by either party earlier than 31 July 2028 for whatever reason, Birkenhead School must pay the following, together with the value of any VAT chargeable thereon:

Year	1	2	3	4	5
Liability (£)	164,286	127,143	90,000	60,000	30,000

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

England & Wales - Charity number 1093419

Accounts

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Company registration number: 4492250

Charity registration number: 1093419

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Contents

2	Notice of the Annual General Meeting
3	Trustees, officers and advisors
4 – 18	Trustees' report
19 - 22	Auditors' report
23 - 24	Consolidated statement of financial activities
25	Balance sheets
26	Consolidated statement of cash flows
27 - 47	Notes to the financial statements

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Birkenhead School will be held at the Meeting Room Birkenhead School on Monday 27th March 2023, at 6 p.m. for the following purposes:

1. To receive and adopt the report of the directors and the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023;

2. To elect directors, one third of whom retire in accordance with the Articles of Association and being eligible, may offer themselves for re-election;

3. To transact any other business appropriate to be dealt with at an Annual General Meeting.

By order of the Board

M.J. Turner
Secretary

Date:

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

GOVERNORS	Mr A.J. Cross LLB (Hons) (Chairman) Mr M.R. Cashin MA Mr A.D. Coates MA, JP (resigned 24 July 2023) Mrs L.A.C. Dodd BA (Hons) Chartered FCSI (resigned 23 July 2023) Mr M.S.Furniss Mrs J.L. Greensmith CBE, DL Mrs S J Higginson (appointed 18 September 2023) Dr J.K. Moore OBE, FRCA, MBA (resigned 31 December 2022) Mr D.I.Pottinger Mr E.N. Rice FRICS Mr W.D.C. Rushworth BA Dr N J Thorp (appointed 18 September 2023)
HEADMASTER	P.R. Vicars MA
SECRETARY/BURSAR	M.J. Turner MA
REGISTERED OFFICE	The Lodge 58 Beresford Road Oxton Wirral CH43 2JD
BANKERS	National Westminster Bank Plc 6 Grange Road West Charing Cross Birkenhead CH41 4DF
AUDITORS	Xeinadin Audit Limited 2 Hilliards Court Chester Business Park CH4 9QP
SOLICITORS	Jolliffe & Co LLP 6 St John Street Chester CH1 1DA Bermans LLP Lancaster House Tithebarn Street Mercury Court Liverpool L2 2QP
INVESTMENT MANAGERS	Rathbone Investment Management Port of Liverpool Building Pier Head Liverpool L3 1NW

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The 'School' comprises Birkenhead School, a company limited by guarantee (company no. 4492250) and a registered charity (charity no. 1093419); a wholly-owned trading subsidiary, Novitas Services Limited (company no. 4501547), which transferred its activities to Birkenhead School at the end of August 2009 and is now dormant; and Birkenhead School Foundation Trust (charity no. 1068650) . The Birkenhead School Foundation Trust (Foundation Trust) produces its own independent audited accounts.

Novitas Services Ltd is a wholly-owned dormant subsidiary of Birkenhead School and its directors are all Governors of the School.

The Foundation Trust is a separate charity, effectively under the control of the School. Its trustees are appointed by the School and include Governors, senior officers of the School and other appointees.

Governance and management

The School's Governors, who are the directors and trustees of the charity, are listed on Page 3. They are also the members of the company and are potentially liable for £1 each in the event of the winding up of the company. The Board of Governors normally meets once each term and it has a Finance and General Purpose's sub-committee and an Education sub-committee. In this report Governors are also referred to as Trustees.

The Board delegates the day to day running of the School to the Headmaster, who is the Chief Executive of the business, and the senior officers of the School who, together, comprise, 'the Executive'. In addition to the Headmaster, members include the Bursar, Head of Prep, and three Deputy Heads.

Paul Vicars joined the School as Headmaster on 1st September 2016, having previously served at Shrewsbury School.

Arrangement for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

A subset of the governors form the Remuneration Committee, who annually review the salaries and bonuses for roles appointed by the Governors (Headmaster, Bursar, Head of Prep) and advise on remuneration for the other executive roles.

Governor selection and training

The Board of Governors is conscious of the need to keep within its number a wide range of skills and experience. New Governors join the Board by invitation and care is taken to maintain the range of skills and experience. New Governors are offered training on appointment and training for all Governors is arranged from time to time.

Risk assessment

The major risks to which the School is exposed (as identified by the Governors) have been reviewed and systems established to avoid and to mitigate these risks.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The School's stated objects are:

'To further the education (academic, social, moral and physical) of pupils attending Birkenhead School (including Birkenhead Preparatory School) in accordance with Christian principles'.

(The above is extracted from the Memorandum of Association of Birkenhead School).

The School's published aims are to:

- provide an open and happy community in which endeavour and achievement flourish;
- offer a well-proven route to academic success, seeking to enable students to realise their potential and prepare them for later life;
- create a caring and structured environment in which students grow in self-confidence and enjoy many opportunities for teamwork and personal development;
- set high standards for itself and for its students, not just academic but also personal standards of integrity, self-discipline, compassion and respect for others.

In the furtherance of these aims, the School's Governors, as the charity trustees, have complied with their duty in s4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's published general and relevant sub-section guidance concerning the operation of the Public Benefit requirement under that Act.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Birkenhead School looks to make a difference to the lives of students by inspiring a lifelong love of learning and supporting students to excel academically, emotionally and socially within the educational setting. The School's independence allows it to be responsive to change and innovate to ensure that a first-class education is provided for all students, with academic results regularly placing the School as one of the leading independent schools within the North West and UK.

Of course, the curriculum offered at Birkenhead School looks to educate beyond the statutory requirements and this extends from the Early Years' Foundation Stage in the Nursery to A Levels in the Sixth Form. A wide range of co-curricular opportunities are available, including programmes such as 'Enrich and Explore', 'Future Skills', 'Beyond the Curriculum' and the 'Nicholls Lecture Series'. These offer educational opportunities for students distinct from those offered to their peers elsewhere.

During the year ended 31st August 2023, the School educated approx. 320 (2022: 340) pupils aged 5-11 in Prep and approx. 510 (2022: 500) students in Seniors, including approx. 83 Sixth Form students. Following the move to co-education across all years in 2008, girls continue to thrive in the School, constituting approx. 45% of the students across the School (of school age). Around 130 (2022: 130) children were cared for within the Early Years provision. Holiday activity weeks were provided by third parties who undertook a mixture of Birkenhead School Activity Weeks and Kings Camps weeks. Kings Camps are part of the Kings Active Foundation, a UK registered charity.

School fees from September 2022 were as follows: Nursery (full-time, including catering) - £4,452 per term; Pre-Prep (full-time) - £3,560 per term; Reception - £3,025 per term; Prep (Years 1-6) - £3,450 per term; Seniors (Years 7-8) - £4,225 per term; Seniors (Year 9 to Year 11) - £4,575 per term.

Highlights of the Summer 2023 A Level and GCSE results include:

A Levels:

- 21% of all grades were awarded A*
- 52% of all grades were awarded A*-A
- 75% of all grades were awarded A*-B
- 50% of all grades in Chemistry were A*

GCSEs:

- 13% of all grades were awarded grade 9
- 48% of all grades were awarded grades 9-7

The majority of students progress on to university, including some of the most competitive courses at Oxbridge and other Russell Group universities. Increasingly, some students are seeking degree apprenticeships, both with local and national employers, with recent positions gained in organisations including Dyson, Airbus, the BBC, Amazon, Redrow and Microsoft.

PREP (including EARLY YEARS)

The Prep enjoyed another excellent year of academic, sporting and cultural experiences and celebrated these with a number of celebratory events at the end of the Summer Term. The School's largest ever Year 6 Musical will live long in the memory; there were seventy children involved in 'Wind in the Willows', and the exploits of Toad and his chums were performed brilliantly to full audiences on three separate evenings at the end of June.

In the classroom, the pupils were highly engaged with the independent curriculum, which has been refreshed and updated in recent years to ensure an inspiring educational journey through Prep. Pupils' curiosity and ambition were nurtured and developed not only in the classroom, but through the numerous co-curricular opportunities available to them. There were over fifty clubs across the age range and the vast majority of children stayed on after school at least once a week to participate in after school clubs. The Science Clubs were particularly popular and twenty-two children completed Crest Awards during the year. The new Philosophy Club, run by two Sixth Formers proved very popular. Chess went from strength to strength and, as well as providing club and tournament opportunities, the children enjoyed playing in the Wessex Wing at break times.

Every pupil from Years 3 to 6 experienced a residential trip and also had the opportunity to play for a School team. Several fixtures during the year involved whole year groups representing the School – gone are the days where it would only be the chosen few heading off after lunch to play sport against another school. As well as offering representative opportunities to the many, several of the School's 'A' teams excelled in sporting competitions over the year. The Under 11 'A' Football Team won the AJIS 'World Cup' in a superb tournament held at the Etihad Stadium in December. AJIS is an association of 29 Independent Junior Schools across the North West. The Under 11 Boys won the AJIS Cross Country Competition at Rossall School and the Under 11 'A' Netball Team won the Merseyside Schools Games tournament, competing against schools from all across the Wirral and Liverpool.

The School's sports staff coach across both Seniors and Prep, developing the Prep sport provision and helping provide students with high levels of enthusiasm and skills as they progress into Seniors. New sports are being developed within the prep such as lacrosse and hockey to support the Seniors' programme and tennis has continued to thrive, helped by the LTA programme.

Music and Drama played a big part in Prep life throughout the year and all performances were a joy to attend. Little School performed their Christmas Show and their Summer Concert and the Little School Choir performed in the Whole School Summer Concert. Each Junior Prep year group presented a Christmas Celebration in Chapel, and there were performances during the year from choirs, from Prep Orchestra and from instrumental soloists too. In addition, every Year 3, 4 and 5 class presented a Form Assembly to their parents and the rest of Juniors. Prep Orchestra grew in both number and skill, with seventy pupils on stage at the Christmas and Summer Concerts, performing impressive repertoires to packed audiences in Bushell Hall. There were also termly Music Serenades – informal concerts for pupils from Years 1 to 7 to perform for their parents in Prep Hall; these were superb concerts and thoroughly enjoyed by participants and audiences alike.

Many Senior students came 'back to Prep' during the year, involving themselves in the academic mentoring scheme, hearing readers, assisting with productions and concerts, supporting with Prep Orchestra or with other clubs and sports; all of this activity reinforced the wonderful 'One School' ethos - something that is very special about Birkenhead School. During the Lent Term, some of the Sixth Formers helped coach sports skills to Reception pupils. Reception loved this, and a particular favourite for them was playing 'duck-duck-goose' in the Sports Hall! But Sixth Formers were not the only ones developing their leadership skills. The Year 2 Play Leaders helped their peers to enjoy new games on the playground and to be inclusive, friendly and responsible; they were exemplary in their roles. During the year, the first ever Little School Student Council was appointed and the brand new Civic Award Scheme for children in Years 1 and 2 was launched; they all received awards from the Mayor of Wirral at a special ceremony in Prep Hall in May. Little School also enjoyed a fantastic author visit; the self-proclaimed "Chocolate Monster", Donna David, visited in March to talk about her new book, 'Planes, Planes, Planes!' and she had the children enthralled with her warm and engaging manner.

For Reception to Year 4, a very special Outdoor Classroom Day took place on 18th May. Among the many activities undertaken, children planted vegetables in the School's allotment, listened to stories in the Willow Dome, made grass caterpillars, took part in a traffic survey and created dragon collages in Forest School. Outdoor Learning in Prep goes from strength to strength, and for 2023-24 a brand-new Nature Explorers programme is being launched.

From January, children in Years 1 and 2 joined older siblings and fellow Birkonians in one of the School's four established Houses: Beresford, Bidston, Kingsmead and Shrewsbury. The extension of the House system into Little School generated much excitement and served to broaden the strength of community and House spirit across the School. Within the Junior Prep years, additional competitions and activities were added such that, over the course of the year, 26 different competitions took place! The Girls House Football and Mixed Tag Rugby competitions were keenly contested new events and were hugely popular, bringing children together from different year groups to represent their House, engendering a feeling of belonging and kinship. A significant feature within the Junior Prep rewards policy is the accrual of House points. House points are awarded for good work, kindness and for good manners, for example. Each week, House points are collated with individual winners celebrated and the winning House announced in assembly. New for 2023 was the introduction of our House Championship, the culmination of all the various competitions throughout the year. These included, for example, Chess, Boccia and Sports Day. This year's winners were Beresford with a small winning margin of 8 points over Bidston and they got to enjoy an afternoon of inflatable fun and activities. The House system is thriving bringing further positive impacts on community, competition and teamwork throughout the year.

Early Years

Our Early Years Foundation Stage welcomed their new Head of Early Years, Mrs Katie Tyrie, in September. Mrs Tyrie has inspired staff and children with various new initiatives, such as 'Pre-Prep Explorers' (special theme weeks during the School holidays). She brought her own particular flair for Art to the very first theme week, which she named 'Every Child an Artist', creating a wonderful exhibition of the children's work after a fun-filled week of mixing, splodging, printing and painting! Other themes included 'Healthy Eating', 'Space and the Planets', a special science week entitled 'Awe and Wonder' and even a 'Prep-fest' week where children were encouraged to express themselves through music, dance and costume designing. Over the course of the year, parents were invited to a range of information evenings and social events to learn more about the School's approach to Early Years education; these were popular events which helped to further build the sense of community and strengthen links between staff and parents.

The brand-new Outdoor Learning Area in Pre-Prep, which opened in September 2022, provided a fantastic platform from which to develop the children's imaginative and creative skills outdoors, and to encourage their physical development too. The children also enjoyed regular visits to our Forest School throughout the year (whatever the weather!), developing skills for life and enhancing their physical and mental well-being. Groups of Nursery children and their Key Workers were often spotted around School on walks, making the most of the campus and enjoying meeting staff and children on their travels.

In Nursery, children continued to thrive in a wonderful environment that encourages them to learn through all their senses. The staff have a wealth of fun and games at their disposal to ensure every day is filled with learning opportunities. A song, a rhyme, a squash, a squeeze, a giggle and a wiggle all added to the variety of ways our youngest children enjoyed the year! In a recent Ofsted survey it was revealed that Early Years practitioners may engage in up to one thousand interactions in just one day. All actions big and small seek to support children's learning and development. As children move through the rooms in Nursery, from Babies into Toddlers and then up to Rising 3's, their curiosity is ignited and their independence nurtured day in, day out, by our highly skilled staff.

Our children engaged in a wide range of experiences to make connections and to start forming the foundations of learning that will last them a lifetime. Nursery Staff carefully planned activities and adventures for them, for example celebrating the Coronation in style, or escorting a teddy bear to a picnic on a different part of the campus. Many special moments were recorded and shared with parents. The first taste of some unfamiliar food, a bug safari in Forest School, a dance move to rival "Strictly" or a wellie walk to the children's favourite big puddle! The children benefited throughout the year from the staff's high ambitions for them and their passion for nurturing their talents and skills.

At the culmination of an amazing year in Prep, it was a great pleasure for pupils, parents and staff to gather for the many Summer Term events, not only to celebrate the children's numerous achievements, but to enjoy gathering as a community again.

SENIORS

Science

The Science department supports a number of clubs throughout the year which contribute to the exceptional learning and exam results enjoyed by the students. Weekly clubs include Junior Science (Friday lunchtimes), Astronomy (November to February) and separate Advanced Tutorial Groups (ATGs) for Sixth Form medics/dentists and engineers respectively. 'Beyond the Curriculum' (BTC) Senior Science also offered students the opportunity to pursue their own interests through scientific enquiry.

The student Science Leaders support Junior Science club on a Thursday and play a key role during Open events and with Cubs/Brownie Science evenings. Peer Mentor and Intervention groups are run throughout the year, as is a Dissection Club, held at different points of the year for separate year groups.

During the year, students participated in a number of external Science competitions. These included:

- Biology Olympiads for both Lower and Upper Sixth
- Two teams at the Biology Olympiad at Edge Hill University
- RSC Top of the Bench Chemistry competition (involving students in Years 9-11)
- Physics Olympiad for Lower and Upper Sixth
- The Physics Olympiad Experimental Project: a group of Year 10 , 11 and Upper Sixth students

The Science Department contributed fully to the School's STEM Careers Evening and the 'Be Inspired' programme during the Summer Term, running science activities on three of the four mornings. Forty-eight students went on the first, and very successful, European STEM trip to Belgium in October 2022. The staff team included DT and Computing to bring STEM representation together for the students. Approximately thirty students have signed up for the next Space Exploration inspired trip to Texas, including the opportunity to view an Eclipse, in April 2024.

English

The English Department offered a diverse array of activities to nurture the students' literary and creative talents. The many highlights included a visit by talented actor, director, producer, and filmmaker, Celyn Jones, who conducted engaging workshops with Year 9 students, focusing on the art of filmmaking and its connections to their study of 'Small Island.' These sessions provided students with a unique opportunity to explore the world of storytelling through film.

In 'Form Time Philosophy', students in Years 9, 10, and 12 had the chance to explore various critical schools and thinkers, including Plato, Kant, Hegel, Marx, and Nietzsche.

The annual Ghost Story event, now in its fourth year, has seen the publication of two volumes of ghost stories featuring introductions and unpublished works by the renowned author, Ramsey Campbell. This event has been a platform for students from Years 7 to 13 to display their writing talents.

The department's dedication to nurturing creative writing talents was further highlighted when two students emerged as finalists in the prestigious Athenaeum writing competition for students aged 16-19 across Merseyside. In March, the School hosted the Merseyside and Greater Manchester heat of the National Reading Champions Quiz, with twenty-five teams participating from fourteen local schools.

The students had the opportunity to witness captivating theatrical performances during the year, including a powerful adaptation of Malorie Blackman's 'Noughts and Crosses' and the National Theatre's production of 'The Ocean at the End of the Lane,' based on Neil Gaiman's fantasy novel. These experiences enrich the students' understanding of literature and storytelling.

The debating and public speaking teams excelled in the English Speaking Union's Churchill and Mace competitions, showcasing their persuasive skills and confidence. Additionally, the students achieved success at the regional level in the Rotary 'Youth Speaks' competition, addressing topics ranging from recycling to the future of handwriting in our digital world.

Looking ahead, the English Department remains committed to inspiring and educating students in the joys of literature, critical thinking, and creative expression.

Languages

Ten students from Years 10, 11 and the Lower Sixth achieved medals in the UK Linguistic Olympiad in February 2023 and these included five who were awarded Gold. The younger children from Years 3 to 6 were able to extend their knowledge of French culture and language during the weekly French Club sessions

Art

Art continues to thrive within the school and deliver strong 'value added' scores for GCSE and A Level. Clubs, workshops and extensive after-school support mean students reach their full potential through studying a subject that provides them with the creative skills, critical thinking and independence necessary for success in life.

Exam groups have access to the department and staff 3 times a week in after-school academic clubs. A weekly lunchtime Creative club for KS3 students allows for fun projects outside of lessons, while after-school sessions in the Summer Term gave Year 9 students the chance to experiment with new techniques including batik.

A Level students attended the 'London Galleries' trip in September, the first post-Covid Art trip back to the capital. This included a visit to 'Feminine Power; the Divine to the Demonic' at the British Museum, followed by a curator talk and tour at the National Gallery.

November's 'Festival of Arts' organised with the Music Department, showcased the creative talents of our students and staff. The three-week festival included numerous lunchtime art workshops including clay decorations, anime and a Sixth Form-led Yayoi Kusama inspired 'dot' installation in the dedicated Sixth Form art room. This newly developed facility, adjacent to the department, allows A Level students the space and quiet for practical work outside of timetabled lessons. The festival also included an extensive Bushell Hall based Art Exhibition combined with an Evening of Art and Music, and a practical workshop with Cheshire Falconry who filled Bushell Hall with birds of prey, large and small. Year 10 and 11 students were provided with a unique opportunity to sketch and photograph amazing wildlife first-hand.

In June, Art ran a Saturday morning Art Workshop for local primary school students as part of the 'Be Inspired' programme. In late June, Art joined forces with the Classics department for a Year 12 visit to 'Return of the Gods' at the World Museum to enhance their A Level studies.

The Arts Awards evening during Birkonian Week allowed for presentation of the inaugural 'Amazing Artist' award. Based around the School's values, this recognises participation and contribution to art and is awarded to one student each in Years 7,8 and 9. The evening was complemented by a week-long display of student work in both the Sixth Form Centre and marquee.

During the year, the department painted large scale sets for Matilda and Chicago and created Mr Toad's car for prep!

The #birkenheadschoolart Instagram regularly celebrates work by Seniors students alongside departmental and school achievements and events and has 1,124 followers.

Co-Curricular Activities

The School places great value on providing an extensive range of co-curricular opportunities to the students. Investment in coaching and provision is considerable, to which this year has been added further 'paid-for' co-curricular, for example a greater range of music ensembles and strength and conditioning sessions.

Sport

The School prides itself on high levels of participation and achievement with a significant number of students attending lunch and after-school practices in addition to the curricular provision of PE & Games.

The School continued to offer competitive and recreational opportunities across the whole School and in a range of sports including athletics, cricket, football, golf, hockey, lacrosse, netball, tennis, rounders, orienteering, cross-country and rugby. In addition to this core provision, recreational clubs offered a breadth of opportunity across sports such as badminton, table tennis and gymnastics, and activities including yoga, climbing and dance.

The School's investment in high-level coaches and staff development continues to enhance standards across the age ranges and across a variety of sports. In Seniors, competitive teams are fielded in local, regional and national leagues and tournaments. In a typical year, this would include six boys' hockey teams, eight rugby teams, seven girls' hockey teams, five lacrosse teams, eight netball teams and six cricket teams competing weekly during the relevant season. A total of 571 sporting fixtures were played across all ages.

Several students are currently part of sporting talent pathways: in rugby union, Sale Sharks, and Cheshire RFU; in Lacrosse the England Performance Pathway and Cheshire County; in netball Manchester Thunder, Loughborough Lightening, Leeds Rhinos and Severn Stars Netball, Cheshire and Merseyside County, and Wales U19; in cricket, the Cheshire and Lancashire programs and the Bunbury Festival; in hockey, the JAC academy pathways and at an elite level the England Talent Pathway; in lacrosse Cheshire and Merseyside and in the England Academy.

The Fitness Suite has seen a significant increase in usage by students and staff, benefitting from the investment made over the course of the year. The climbing wall, with new holds and routes installed, is enjoyed by the whole School.

The School continues to share its sporting facilities with several clubs and schools in the area, including on a hire basis, at reduced rates where applicable, whilst also offering festival visit opportunities to local Primary and Prep Schools, combined with coaching, in cricket, rugby, hockey and netball.

The sports department also enjoyed being heavily involved with the 'Be Inspired' programme, offering a range of sporting activities. Colleagues and senior students supported enthusiastic youngsters from the local community in enjoying the range of sports offered.

The end of the School year was celebrated during the Sports Awards Evening for the Seniors and the traditional Sports Days for both the Prep and Seniors. These celebrate the breadth of Birkonian sporting endeavour and skill and were well attended by students, parents and staff. The School hosted the Senior Cricket festival with Greshams, USC London and George Watsons all playing three days of competitive cricket.

The Hockey and Netball tour to South Africa in 2023 was a great success with 45 students and 5 staff enjoying an action packed 14 days of sport, culture and spectacular sights. 3 rugby teams participated in the Rosslyn Park 7s and the U14 and U15 netball squads enjoyed domestic netball tours. In the build-up to the South Africa tour, the School hosted a very well attended Sports Personality Dinner with Sam Quek as guest speaker. In 2024, cricket squads will tour Sri Lanka. In 2025, rugby squads will tour Canada.

Sporting highlights in 2022-23 included:

- The U13 netball team winning the U13 Independent Schools National Plate
- The U13 lacrosse team reaching the quarter-finals of the National Championships
- The U16 rugby team winning the Cheshire Shield
- The U12 rugby team going undefeated during the season
- The 1st XV beating Stonyhurst with the last kick of the game in front of a sizeable crowd under floodlights at Birkenhead Park RUFC in February
- The golf team coming 3rd in the ISGA Championships
- The orienteering team coming 3rd in the small schools category at the British Championships

Drama

The appointment of a specialist teacher has furthered the popularity of drama with a strong take-up of the curricular subject and high levels of participation, approx. 40-50 students in cast and crew, in outstanding co-curricular productions.

A Year 7-9 production of Matilda took to the stage in December, followed by a Year 9 to Upper Sixth Production of Chicago in April. Becoming a regular feature of the calendar is the Matinee Lunch performance attended by an increasing number of Old Birkonians each year.

Music

The co-curricular Music provision has continued to grow in strength and numbers as the post-Covid rebuild continued throughout the year. Weekly services of Choral Evensong, sung by the Chapel Choir, took place in the School Chapel together with a welcome return of the 'live' Harvest and Christmas Eucharists. Selected services were also made available on the Music YouTube channel, including the choral highlight of the year: the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, which took place twice with large and appreciative congregations.

Children and students from Year 1 to Upper Sixth now benefit from the wide range of instrumental and vocal opportunities on offer, and another welcome return was the Christmas Concert in Bushell Hall. Solo opportunities for young musicians of all ages and experiences took place frequently, with the more informal 'Serenade' series for our less advanced performers together with two Chamber Music Concerts for the more proficient. Students continued to sit their ABRSM and Trinity practical and theory examinations, some of these being in person whilst others preferring to continue with online submissions. A number of the School's more experienced musicians represent the School as members of the National Youth Choir, National Children's Orchestra, Junior Royal Northern College of Music, Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Company (choirs and orchestras), Wirral Symphonic Wind Band, Out of the Blue big band, Heswall Concert Band, and Early Music Youth Orchestra.

Previously the Festival of Music, the expanded Festival of Arts was a big success with over a fortnight of events in November featuring musicians of all ages and representation from the music, art and drama departments. Highlights were the 'Come and Sing' Remembrance Sunday service in Chapel, Jazz Night, Art Exhibition, and inspiring workshops led by visiting professionals.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

The whole of Year 10 continued to undertake the Bronze award with the expedition taking place in the Clwyddian Hills. The Gold and Silver groups both performed well, using open (Canadian) canoes for the expedition section, in some particularly adverse conditions.

There has been very good uptake of the Gold and Silver programme for the coming year, with 32 signed up for Silver and 13 for Gold.

Co-Curricular Clubs

The provision of a broad range of lunchtime and after School co-curricular clubs continues to be a feature of the School. In addition to the considerable sporting and musical provision, these clubs range from public speaking and debating to yoga, table tennis and astronomy. Some lunch time clubs are offered by members of the Sixth Form. These have added great diversity to the provision, and leadership from the students, and include a Film Society and a Sports Analysis club.

Futures Provision

The School's provision of 'Futures' advice is extensive. A dedicated Futures Team of staff provide bespoke support and guidance to both students and parents in preparing students for university, Gap years, apprenticeships and the world of work. This includes 'off-timetable' events for members of the Sixth Form such as the Futures Morning on 14th March 2023, and the Futures Conference on the 15th June 2023. Roles within the Futures Team include specialisms in UCAS, Oxbridge applications, Futures Skills (including the various aptitude tests for high tariff courses), apprenticeships & internships and overseas university applications.

Face to face advice is supported by a regular Futures Newsletter that includes a range of advice on degree courses, the latest apprenticeship opportunities and reading/online course suggestions. The newsletter is available on Firefly and sent to parents.

Futures advice starts in Prep developing an awareness of different areas within the work of work and continues into Seniors including the use of Morrisby tests in Year 10 which are followed by individual interviews with a member of the Futures Team. The Futures team are supported through the use of Unifrog software, an integrated platform which assists staff, students, parents and guardians in researching and preparing for application to university courses and apprenticeships.

A feature of the Futures provision is the strong support of the Old Birkonian Society, and alumni are to the fore in supporting current students and/or recent leavers through specific careers advice, work experience, mock interviews and apprenticeship programmes.

Inspiring Talks Series

During 2022/23 the Inspiring Talks Series continued to welcome high-profile speakers to the School for both public and School events. The series encompasses: author talks for both students and the wider community held in conjunction with an independent bookshop; the Boumphrey Lecture Series for Prep pupils in Years 5 and 6; the No Limits Series; the annual Sports Personality Dinner; and a weekly Nicholls Lecture Series for Sixth Form students during the Michaelmas and Lent Terms.

The annual Sports Personality Dinner, held in May, saw Olympian and TV Presenter, Sam Quek MBE, talk at the black-tie dinner which was held to raise funds for the School's netball and hockey tour to South Africa alongside local South African charities, Door of Hope, an orphanage in Johannesburg that cares for abandoned babies, and Langa Sports Club, that offers sporting opportunities to the most impoverished residents of Cape Town.

In conjunction with a local independent bookseller, the School hosted events open to the public and welcomed historian, TV presenter and author, Lucy Worsley to the School, along with best-selling author Jojo Moyes, and crime writers Val McDermid, Mark Billingham, Chris Brookmyre, Stuart Neville and Luca Vest. Past speakers have included well-known authors and TV presenters including Rick Stein, Sir Tony Robinson, Clare Balding, JoJo Moyes and Konnie Huq amongst others.

Birkonian Week

A busy year was appropriately marked by a range of celebratory and award-giving events in Birkonian Week. This included Creative and Performing Arts Awards, Sports Awards, 1st Team Awards and BBQ, Chapel Choir Dinner, Sports Days, Speech Day and Annual Prizegiving. The JP Hargreaves Diploma and the Colours and Honours Awards system are now well-embedded.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND CHARITABLE GIVING

In its third year, the School's 'Be Inspired' programme saw thirty-six local Year 5 children, from nine different primary schools, attend four consecutive Saturdays at Birkenhead School where they enjoyed a range of academic, sporting, drama, design and 'softer skills' enrichment sessions. These sessions were run by School staff, volunteer parents and members of the Sixth Form helping each group. The course culminated in a prize-giving and lunch event for the children, their parents, and their teachers on the final Saturday.

In November, the School welcomed 160 local Cubs and Brownies to take part in a range of experiments at the School's *Big Bang Science Events*. The extremely popular science evenings were once again over-subscribed. Young Science Leaders from Years 7 to Upper Sixth, ran the activities for the attendees. The evenings are supported by The Royal Society of Chemistry.

The School looks for opportunities to support the learning and development of children and students across the Wirral wherever possible. During 2022-23, these have also included:

- Hosting Year 11 students from Ridgeway High School for Science workshops
- Hosting Year 5 students from St Bridgets Primary School for a Design & Technology Workshop
- During the Festival of Arts held in November, the Music department ran a GCSE workshop with Dr Kris Worsley, and invited music students from local schools
- The Futures team hosted a STEM Conference, offering advice and guidance on careers in the STEM sector, for students across the Wirral

The School's Community Club have led the way for student involvement in local charities, working with Hubbub UK to support more sustainable clothing initiatives with a second-hand clothes project and driving the School's collection of Christmas jumpers which were then distributed to members of The Hive, Wirral Youth Zone. The School is also a member of The Hive 100 Club, a collection of businesses, organisations and individuals that support the outstanding work of this charity.

During the year, own clothes' days raised funds for charities including the Langa Township Sports Development (in South Africa) and #helloyellow. The School's harvest collection was delivered to the local charity Neo Community.

The Christmas period brought considerable charitable activity, including making and distributing Christmas hampers to Neo Community, and retiring collections at the end of the Nine Lessons and Carol Services donated to Arrowe Park and Clatterbridge Hospitals, and Change a Child's Life (in Nepal).

In March, for Red Nose Day, every member of Year 9 contributed to 'rowing the Mersey' on rowing machines to raise funds for Save the Children. Over £1,000 was raised. In total, across the year, donations to charities were in excess of £12,500.

The Parents' Association

Fundraising and friendship were the focus for the Parents' Association during 2022-23. Highlights included the annual Fireworks Display and a welcome return of the annual Christmas Bazaar. Other events included successful Pre-Loved Uniform Sales and a Writers Day with local author, Dave McCluskey, for both Prep and Senior students.

Funds raised by the Parents' Association have been used to support a wide range of activities across the School. During 2022-23 money raised went towards: table tennis tables for use by Prep and Senior students, football goals and kit for Junior Prep, Junior hurdles, Prep netball dresses, Lego for Junior Prep for use in co-curricular activities, Senior orienteering kits, music stands for Senior Orchestra, Chapel Choir cassocks and surpluses, books for the new Philosophy Club in Seniors, music equipment for use by Prep pupils, Fun Club/wet break resources in Prep, new Forest School resources and equipment, a Sensory path in the Outdoor Learning area in Prep, funding towards the Sixth Form Leavers Ball, support for the South Africa Sports tour, and Christmas Tree decorations for the School community.

All students enjoyed an ice-cream, courtesy of the Parents' Association at the School sports days and both staff and students received a commemorative badge to mark King Charles III's Coronation in May 2023.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE REVIEW

Fee Support

Trustees do not want the cost of education at Birkenhead School to prevent any eligible child attending the School. Gross fees were discounted by £1,070k (2022: £1,064k), through bursaries, scholarships and other discounts (9.4% of gross fees. 2022: 9.8%). In particular, bursary support under the auspices of the Foundation Trust represented around 5.4% (2022: 5.8%) of gross fee income and benefitted 71 pupils (2022: 80). A smaller number of pupils - 39 (2022:35) - received transformational bursaries of between 75% and 100%. Some fee support is provided for from returns on investments and some directly from generous benefactors.

During the course of the academic year, the School continued its education of four Ukrainian students (two in Year 3; two in Year 10) and support of their families who had fled Ukraine following the invasion by Russia, and who were initially being hosted by current School families. These students were provided with full bursaries, alongside assistance with the provision of uniform and other School equipment.

Access Scholarships continued to provide assistance to enable able pupils with a proven academic record to enter at Year 7 or the Sixth Form from other educational backgrounds. Some specific support towards the latter is provided by two charitable trusts under the management of the Old Birkonian Society Council.

In addition the School has awarded financial scholarships to 51 Seniors students (2022: 47) for academic or musical excellence. This support totalled £81k (2021: £94k) and represented 0.7% of gross fees in Seniors. Some receiving scholarships also qualified for means-tested bursary support and are included in those figures as well. Some further scholarships are now honorary – continuing the emphasis of providing financially for those most at need while recognising excellence.

The progress of pupils receiving scholarships is reviewed at least every couple of years to ensure that pupils continue to progress in line with their abilities, stretching their potential yet further. One musical scholarship was withdrawn during the year as a result of this review.

Facilities

The Schools' sports facilities are made available to the public for use wherever feasible and are discounted for charity or educational use. As highlighted above, many are used for inter-school events through the year.

The School follows a programme of planned maintenance and development to ensure that its estate remains fit for purpose and efficient. During the year to 31st August, 2023, the Sports Hall floor was relaid completely, floodlights were renewed at our first class artificial pitch, a nature area completely refurbished, the 6th Form area furnished and reconfigured, The Little School toilets refurbished considerable outdoors furniture and storage created for the Pre-Prep, and a refreshed staff room for the Nursery staff. This is all alongside considerable further redecoration across the site and installation of new drainage to protect the Prep playground area.

The School was able to welcome a completely new type of facility hire over the Summer of 2023 when Golden Path Productions set most of their new ITVX Series "G'Wed" on the site with locations on site not only portraying a fictional school, but also a courtroom, hospital and doctor's room. The Costume, Make-up and Art Teams wer also based on site and numbers of our students were able to take part as extras.

The complete refurbishment of the School's main library and meeting room was also completed at the start of the academic / financial year.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The School's financial position remains strong. A cash surplus from operations of just over 2.5% of net fee income was achieved, giving trustees the confidence to moderate fee increases, manage pension liabilities and continue with a programme of investment in school facilities. The capital investment programme is currently funded without external borrowing.

Net operating income was £511k (2022: £523k). This combined with investment losses of £172k (2022: £731k), an actuarial gain on a defined benefit pension scheme of £550k (2022: £369k). In 2021-22 there was also a net gain on property revaluation of £986k. As a result, total funds across the School Group were £20,761k as at 31st August 2023 (2022: £19,872k). The net cash provided by operating activities was £288k (2022: £1,988k), the variance largely being due to the property revaluation, an exercise the trustees are required to undertake every few years.

Reserves policy

Investment income from the reserves is used to provide fee assistance to pupils and thereby to widen access to the School. More fee assistance is provided than can be funded by the income of the Foundation Trust, and it is therefore the policy of the Foundation Trustees to seek to increase the capital held by the Trust. It is the policy of the School to transfer surpluses not required within the School to the Foundation Trust. The Foundation Trust is also in a position to consider loans and/or grants to support significant investment in the School.

The asset allocation policy of the Foundation Trust ensures that there are sufficient liquid funds to cover at least three months' operating expenses.

Funding sources

Around 93% of the School's operating income was derived from fees and associated charges. Other notable contributions were: commercial activities, 0.7%; investment income 2.3%; and donations 2.3%.

Investment policy

As noted, the School's reserves are largely held in the Foundation Trust. Trustees have an investment policy which aims to secure a balance of income and capital growth in the medium to long-term. Professional investment managers are employed with their appointment reviewed on a regular basis.

GOING CONCERN

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

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The School will seek to maintain and increase the availability of scholarships and bursaries and to encourage parents of academically able children to apply to the School. The surplus income and ongoing reserve are important not least as the investment income generated in the Foundation Trust is used to provide substantial bursary support. Other income will continue to be used to enhance the School's provision through improvements to the Estate and the School's equipment. Specifically, strategic projects to dispose of the unused Noctorum Field and invest in an extended sports hall and bursary provision (alongside investment in community sports / affordable housing) have been developed.

Sound management is pursued to ensure that the School continues to deliver good value during a period of substantial inflationary pressures and with the prospect of the imposition of VAT on School fees (and other possible corporate taxation) and the potential loss of business rates relief. This includes valuing School staff and

Sound management is pursued to ensure that the School continues to deliver good value during a period of substantial inflationary pressures and with the prospect of the imposition of VAT on School fees (and other possible corporate taxation) and the potential loss of business rates relief. This includes valuing School staff and their roles, all with a view to stewarding the School's resources effectively for both current and future School pupils and their families.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Birkenhead School for the purpose of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure of the charitable group for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company and group will continue in operation.

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

STATEMENT OF DISCLOSURE TO AUDITOR

So far as Trustees are aware there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware.

The Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by the Board on 11th December 2023 and signed on its behalf by

A.J. Cross
Chairman

Company registration number: **4492250**

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Birkenhead School (the 'charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the consolidate statement of financial activities including an income and expenditure account, consolidated balance sheet, charity balance sheet, consolidated cash flow statement 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 FRS102 "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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2022 and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2015

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the academy in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' report 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 charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006
In our opinion, based on the work underneath in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' report report, which includes the directors' report and the strategic report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report included within the Trustees' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report or the directors' report included within the Trustees' 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 or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

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

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
We have been appointed as auditor under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with the Acts and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including
fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the group through discussions with trustees and other management, and from our knowledge and experience of charity sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the group, including the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011, data protection, anti-bribery, employment, food hygiene, OFSTED and health and safety legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management team and inspecting legal correspondence; and identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the group's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management team as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC and relevant regulators.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

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

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

Use of our report

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

Helen Furlong FCCA
(Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of
Xeinadin Audit Limited
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors

2 Hilliards Court
Chester Business Park
Chester
CH4 9QP

09.05.2024

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM						
Donations and Legacies	2	239,610	46,756	-	286,366	127,834
Charitable activities						
Fees receivable	3	10,287,197	-	-	10,287,197	9,788,952
Catering income		709,588	-	-	709,588	660,731
Activity courses		7,558	-	-	7,558	91,212
School trips		374,919	-	-	374,919	234,670
Other income		286,116	-	-	286,116	272,688
Other trading activities	4	77,290	15,539	-	92,829	79,365
Investment income	5	286,400	3,791	894	291,085	205,050
Other income		148,352	-	-	148,352	93,996
Total		12,417,030	66,086	894	12,484,010	11,554,498
EXPENDITURE ON						
Raising funds	6	298,513	-	-	298,513	148,501
Charitable activities						
Grants awards and prizes		4,429	-	894	5,323	4,428
Teaching costs		8,403,886	64,771	-	8,468,657	7,956,368
Catering and welfare		927,607	-	-	927,607	915,424
Premises		1,889,492	-	-	1,889,492	1,708,773
Activity courses		8,439	-	-	8,439	67,100
School trips		374,919	-	-	374,919	230,866
Total	7	11,907,285	64,771	894	11,972,950	11,031,460
Net income before gain (losses)		509,745	1,315	-	511,060	523,038
Net gains/(losses) on investments		(171,746)	-	(615)	(172,361)	(730,981)
Net income carried forward		337,999	1,315	(615)	338,699	(207,943)

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (continued)
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Net income brought forward		337,999	1,315	(615)	338,699	(207,943)
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-	-
		337,999	1,315	(615)	338,699	(207,943)
Other recognised gains (losses)						
Gains on revaluation of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-	986,424
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension scheme	18	550,000	-	-	550,000	369,000
Net movement in funds		887,999	1,315	(615)	888,699	1,147,481
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward		19,702,650	137,691	31,584	19,871,925	18,724,444
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		20,590,649	139,006	30,969	20,760,624	19,871,925

CONTINUING OPERATIONS
All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities.

TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES
The Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account) includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	2023 Group	2023 Company	2022 Group	2022 Company
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible fixed assets	12	12,792,822	12,599,762	12,854,111	12,657,111
Investments	13	7,094,310	30,968	5,808,533	31,584
		19,887,132	12,630,730	18,662,644	12,688,695
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	14	949,550	1,322,398	447,051	950,968
Cash at bank and in hand		2,378,987	2,168,164	3,648,838	3,450,099
		3,328,537	3,490,562	4,095,889	4,401,067
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	15	(3,321,045)	(3,302,967)	(3,213,608)	(3,202,415)
Net current assets (liabilities)		7,492	187,595	882,281	1,198,652
NET ASSETS EXCLUDING PENSION LIABILITY		19,894,624	12,818,325	19,544,925	13,887,347
Defined benefit pension scheme asset (liability)	18	866,000	866,000	327,000	327,000
NET ASSETS INCLUDING PENSION (LIABILITIES) /ASSETS		20,760,624	13,684,325	19,871,925	14,214,347
FUNDS					
Unrestricted: general		19,724,649	12,787,358	19,375,650	13,854,113
pension reserve	18	866,000	866,000	327,000	327,000
	16	20,590,649	13,653,358	19,702,650	14,181,113
Restricted	16	139,006	-	137,691	1,650
Endowment	16	30,969	30,969	31,584	31,584
TOTAL FUNDS		20,760,624	13,684,325	19,871,925	14,214,347

The financial statements on pages 23 to 48 were approved by the Board on 11 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

A.J. Cross

Director

M.R. Cashin

Director

Company registration No: 4492250

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL
CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Cash generated from operations	1	285,878	1,988,037
Investing activities:			
Dividends interest and rents from investments		291,085	205,050
Proceeds from sale of fixed asset investments		1,170,522	645,918
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets		-	20,000
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(385,648)	(853,937)
Purchase of fixed asset investments		(2,427,205)	(816,968)
Net cash generated from investing activities		(1,351,246)	(799,937)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		(1,065,368)	188,100
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		3,741,587	3,553,487
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		2,676,219	3,741,587

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2023 £	2022 £
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	338,699	778,481
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	446,937	408,621
(Gains) on disposal of assets	-	(20,000)
Losses (Gains) on investment	175,389	734,009
Gains on property revaluation	-	(986,424)
Pension fund non cash adjustment	11,000	47,000
Dividends interest and rents from investments	(291,085)	(205,050)
(Increase) decrease in debtors	(502,499)	(163,154)
(Decrease) increase in creditors	107,437	394,554
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	285,878	1,988,037

2. ANALYSYS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

The group had no debt during the year

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The financial statements of the charitable group, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with the exception of investments which are included at market value.

1.2 GROUP ACCOUNTS

These financial statements consolidate the results of the charity, its wholly-owned subsidiary Novitas Services Limited and The Birkenhead School Foundation Trust (which is under common control) on a line by line basis. A separate statement of financial activities for the charity itself is not presented because the charity has taken advantage of the exemptions afforded by paragraph 397 of the SORP and of the Companies Act 2006.

1.3 INCOMING RESOURCES

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

1.4 FEES AND SIMILAR INCOME

Fees receivable and charges for services and use of premises are accounted for in the period in which the service is provided. Fees receivable are stated inclusive of contributions from assistance funds and before deduction of allowances and other remissions allowed by the school.

1.5 VOLUNTARY INCOME

Donations are recognised in the statement of financial activities as incoming resources when receivable except in so far as they are incapable of financial measurement.

1.6 RESOURCES EXPENDED

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity.

1.7 GRANTS PAYABLE

The School awards Scholarships and Bursaries to some pupils, which have the effect of reducing the fees payable by the parents of those pupils. Scholarships are awarded for academic merit and Bursaries are awarded in response to parental hardship. Awards are made using money from several sources, including that provided by The Birkenhead School Foundation Trust, the Old Birkonian Society and the School's own funds.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.8 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised and included at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition. Depreciation is provided at annual rates in order to write off the cost of each asset over its estimated useful life as follows:

Land	Nil
Buildings	Straight line basis over 10 to 50 years
Furniture and equipment	Straight line basis over 2 to 10 years
Motor vehicles	Straight line basis over 5 years

1.9 OPERATING LEASES

Payments under operating leases are charged to the SOFA as incurred.

1.10 INVESTMENTS

Quoted investments are included in the financial statements at their market value at the balance sheet date. The investment properties are included at valuation.

Gains and losses arising on the disposal and revaluation of investments are calculated by reference to their book value and credited or charged to the SOFA.

Dividends and interest thereon are included in the SOFA on a receivable basis.

The Trust's investment property was professionally revalued during the 2012-13 financial year.

1.11 PENSION SCHEMES

Retirement benefits to employees of the School are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS), the Merseyside Pension Fund (MPF) and a further workplace pension scheme (The People's Pension (TPP) with B&CE Insurance Limited). The TPS and MPF are defined benefit schemes which are externally managed and contracted out of the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme. Contributions to the schemes are charged to the income and expenditure account so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the School in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The MPF contributions are determined by independent, qualified actuaries on the basis of triennial valuations using the projected unit method. The TPS contributions are set as a matter of national government pay policy following regular reviews. The pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis 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 currency and 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 TPP was entered as a workplace scheme as a replacement to the Prudential stakeholder pension on 1st April, 2014 in order to reduce employees' pension management costs and to facilitate compliance with the auto-enrolment regulations. Both are defined contribution schemes for employees. The annual contributions payable are charged to the statement of financial activities. Differences between contributions payable in the year and contributions actually paid are shown as either accruals or prepayments in the balance sheet.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.12 FUND ACCOUNTING

Unrestricted funds, which have not been designated for other purposes, are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

Endowment funds are retained on trust for the benefit of the charity as a capital fund.

Donations received for the general purposes of the School are credited to unrestricted funds. Donations subject to specific wishes of the donors are carried to relevant restricted funds or to endowment funds, where the amount is required to be held as permanent capital.

1.13 GOVERNANCE COSTS

These comprise costs for the running of the charity itself as an organisation.

1.14 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised costs using the effective interest method.

2. VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Donations				
General donations	225,610	46,756	272,366	127,834
Legacies	14,000	-	14,000	-
	239,610	46,756	286,366	127,834

Included in donations of £127,834 for 2022 is an amount of £69,811 which is restricted.

3. SCHOOL FEES

	2023	2022
	£	£
The school's fee income comprised:		
Gross fees	11,357,471	10,852,922
Less bursaries, scholarships and discounts	(1,070,274)	(1,063,970)
	10,287,197	9,788,952

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
School shop commission	12,582	-	12,582	13,300
Hire of facilities	64,708	-	64,708	40,570
Fundraising events	-	15,539	15,539	25,495
	77,290	15,539	92,829	79,365

Included in fundraising evets of £9,766 for 2022 is an amount of £7,929 which is restricted.

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	2023 £	2022 £
Dividends	173,722	3,791	-	177,513	129,615
Bank interest	43,786	-	-	43,786	21,640
Common Investments Fund shares	-	-	894	894	888
Rental income (including recharges)	68,892	-	-	68,892	52,907
	286,400	3,791	894	291,085	205,050

For the year ended 31 August 2022

	£	£	£	£
Dividends	127,412	2,203	-	129,615
Bank interest	21,640	-	-	21,640
Common Investments Fund shares		-	888	888
Rental income (including recharges)	52,907	-	-	52,907
	201,959	2,203	866	205,050

6. EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS

	2023 £	2022 £
Publicity and marketing	80,209	89,116
Staff costs	136,798	-
Fundraising	41,717	21,791
Investment management costs	39,789	37,594
	298,513	148,501

7. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Staff costs	Depreciation	Other costs	Support costs	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Charitable expenditure						
Grants awards and prizes	-	-	5,323	-	5,323	4,428
Teaching costs	6,899,975	247,157	737,414	584,111	8,468,657	7,956,368
Welfare	45,269	10,134	806,204	66,000	927,607	915,424
Premises	620,456	189,646	945,305	134,085	1,889,492	1,708,773
Activity courses	-	-	8,439	-	8,439	67,100
School trips	-	-	374,919	-	374,919	230,866
Total	7,565,700	446,937	2,877,604	784,196	11,674,437	10,882,959
For the year ended 31 August 2022						
Grants awards and prizes	-	-	4,428	-		4,428
Teaching costs	6,501,171	251,263	562,287	641,647		7,956,368
Welfare	52,205	6,194	783,271	73,754		915,424
Premises	570,864	140,436	855,741	141,732		1,708,773
Activity courses	-	-	60,662	6,438		67,100
School trips	-	-	230,255	-		230,866-
Total	6,431,473	397,893	2,497,255	863,571		10,882,959

8. ALLOCATION OF SUPPORT COSTS

The Charity apportions its support costs as shown in the table below. Support costs are allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

	Teaching	Welfare	Premises	Activity courses	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	360,780	40,765	82,818	-	484,363	571,243
Depreciation	-	3,940	-	-	3,940	7,128
Office costs	142,934	12,212	32,812	-	187,958	195,938
Recruitment, hospitality and presentations	19,200	2,169	4,407	-	25,776	14,130
Subscriptions and affiliations	13,153	1,486	3,019	-	17,658	11,294
Bank charges	4,128	466	948	-	5,542	6,236
Governance costs	43,916	4,962	10,081	-	58,959	57,602
	584,111	66,000	134,085	-	784,196	863,571

8. **ALLOCATION OF SUPPORT COSTS (continued)**

For the year ended 31 August 2022	Teaching £	Welfare £	Premises £	Activity courses £	Total 2022 £
Staff costs	458,814	52,374	99,515	5,319	571,243
Depreciation	3,028	-	3,600	-	7,128
Office costs	142,706	16,290	30,952	1,653	195,938
Recruitment, hospitality and presentations	5,251	599	1,139	61	14,130
Subscriptions and affiliations	6,519	744	1,414	76	11,294
Bank charges	5,432	620	1,178	63	6,236
Governance costs	47,096	5,376	10,215	546	57,602
	668,845	76,003	148,013	7,718	863,571

9. **STAFF COSTS**

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	6,503,218	6,084,884
Social security costs	648,287	608,759
Pension contribution	1,018,658	987,095
Apprenticeship levy	16,698	14,745
	8,186,861	7,695,483

The directors have received no remuneration during the year or the previous year.

The average number of full time equivalent employees in the period, excluding directors, was:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Teaching	79	77
Teaching support	14	12
Technical support	7	7
Estates support	21	22
Administration and marketing	15	15
Early years	30	31
Welfare	1	1
	167	165

9. **STAFF COSTS (continued)**

	2023 No.	2022 No.
The number of higher paid employees was:		
£60,001 - £70,000	1	2
£70,001 - £80,000	2	1
£80,001 - £90,000	1	1
£90,001 - £100,000	-	1
£100,001 - £110,000	2	-
£130,000 - £140,000	1	1
	6	6

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Headmaster, the Head of Prep, Bursar and three Deputy Heads (2 Seniors, 1 Prep) and their employee benefits total £716,749 (2022 : £694,900).

10. **COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2022 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and Legacies	2	58,023	69,811	-	127,834
Fees receivable	3	9,788,952	-	-	9,788,952
Catering income		660,731	-	-	660,731
Sports courses		91,212	-	-	91,212
School trips		234,670	-	-	234,670
Other income		272,688	-	-	272,688
Other trading activities	4	53,870	25,495	-	79,365
Investment income	5	201,959	2,203	888	205,050
Other income		93,996	-	-	93,996
Total		11,456,101	97,509	888	11,554,498
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	6	148,501	-	-	148,501
Charitable activities					
Grants awards and prizes		4,428	-	-	4,428
Teaching costs		7,936,458	19,910	-	7,956,368
Catering and welfare		915,424	-	-	915,424
Premises		1,708,773	-	-	1,708,773
Sports courses		67,100	-	-	67,100
School trips		230,866	-	-	230,866
Total	7	11,011,550	19,910	-	11,031,460
Net income before gains/(losses)		444,551	77,599	888	523,038
Net gains on investments		(728,572)	-	(2,409)	(730,981)
Net income		(284,021)	77,599	(1,521)	(207,943)

10. **COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (continued)**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds	Total 2022 £
Net income brought forward	(284,021)	77,599	(1,521)	(207,943)
Transfer between funds	33,325	(35,840)	2,515	-
	(250,696)	41,759	994	(207,943)
Gains on revaluation of fixed assets	986,424	-	-	986,424
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension scheme	369,000	-	-	369,000
Net movement in funds	1,104,728	41,759	994	1,147,481
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	18,597,922	95,932	30,590	18,724,444
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	19,702,650	137,691	31,584	19,871,925

11. **NET INCOME(EXPENDITURE)**

	2023 £	2022 £
Resources expended include		
Operating lease payments	5,487	5,665
Auditors remuneration: for audit services	11,000	10,000
for accountancy services	3,970	3,200
Directors' liability insurance	9,323	8,134
Depreciation of owned fixed assets	446,937	408,621

12. **TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Land and Buildings	Assets under Construction	Furniture and equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Group					
At 1 September 2022	11,256,844	818,156	3,041,244	211,265	15,327,509
Additions	-	136,191	214,578	34,879	385,648
Transfers	833,875	(954,347)	120,472	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2023	12,090,719	-	3,376,294	246,144	15,713,157
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2022	-	-	2,310,089	163,309	2,473,398
Charge for period	166,705	-	253,352	26,880	446,937
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2023	166,705	-	2,563,441	190,189	2,920,335
Net book value					
At 31 August 2023	11,924,014	-	812,853	55,955	12,792,822
At 31 August 2022	11,256,844	818,156	731,155	69,743	11,422,373
Company					
At 1 September 2022	11,059,844	818,156	3,003,977	211,265	15,093,242
Additions	-	136,191	214,578	34,879	385,648
Transfers	833,875	(954,347)	120,472	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
				-	
At 31 August 2023	11,893,719	-	3,339,027	246,144	15,478,890
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2022	-	-	2,272,822	163,309	2,436,131
Charge for period	162,765	-	253,352	26,880	442,997
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2023	162,765	-	2,526,174	190,189	2,879,128
Net book value					
At 31 August 2023	11,730,954	-	812,853	55,955	12,599,762
At 31 August 2022	11,059,844	818,156	731,155	47,956	12,657,111

At 31 August 2022 land and buildings included £12,075,000 at valuations made in August 2022, which were professionally valued by CBRE on a fair value basis, in accordance with guidelines issued by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

Land and buildings includes land amounting to £3,886,940 which is not depreciated. This asset is used for direct charitable purposes.

13. **FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Group		
Market value at 1 September 2022	5,808,533	6,360,375
Additions at cost	2,427,205	816,968
Disposals at opening market value	(1,172,276)	(324,599)
Revaluation changes	(173,635)	(755,332)
(Decrease) in deposits	204,483	11,121
Market value at 31 August 2023	7,094,310	5,808,533
Historical cost at 31 August 2023	6,670,813	5,200,488

The investments comprise:	2023	2022
	£	£
UK Government stocks	442,250	226,782
UK equities and funds	2,448,176	1,845,999
Overseas equities and funds	3366,902	3,107,298
Common Investment Funds	30,968	31,583
Cash awaiting investment	297,232	92,749
Investment property in Nantwich	462,842	455,154
Solar panels	45,940	48,968
	7,094,310	5,808,533

	2023	2022
Company	£	£
Market value at 1 September 2022	31,585	33,105
Revaluation changes	(615)	(1,520)
Market value at 31 August 2023	30,968	31,585
Historical cost at 31 August 2023	12,365	12,366

The investments comprise:	2023	2022
	£	£
Common Investment Fund shares	30,966	31,583
Investment in subsidiary company - see note 20(a)	2	2
	30,968	31,585

Shares in the Common Investment Fund have been valued by reference to prices quoted by the Fund Managers.

The investment property was revalued by Smith & Sons (property consultants) on 12th December 2012 in accordance with guidelines issued by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors at £330,000.

14. DEBTORS

	2023		2022	
	Group	Company	Group	Company
	£	£	£	£
Fees receivable	234,288	234,288	140,665	140,665
Other debtors	484,488	470,488	86,733	84,708
Prepayments and accrued income	219,296	219,296	207,278	207,278
Amounts due from subsidiary undertakings	-	398,326	-	518,317
Tax recoverable	11,478	-	12,375	-
	949,550	1,322,398	447,051	950,968

15. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023		2022	
	Group	Company	Group	Company
	£	£	£	£
Fee payments in advance	1,827,625	1,827,625	1,825,501	1,825,501
Trade creditors	437,627	437,627	445,260	445,260
Other taxation and social security	164,015	164,015	166,779	166,779
Other creditors	789,149	789,149	692,600	692,600
Accruals and deferred income	102,629	84,551	83,468	72,275
	3,321,045	3,302,967	3,213,608	3,202,415

16. ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Balance at 1 September 2022	Income	Expenditure	Gains Losses and transfers	Balance at 31 August 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	19,375,650	12,417,030	11,896,285	(171,746)	19,724,649
Pension deficit	327,000	-	11,000	550,000	866,000
	19,702,650	12,417,030	11,907,285	378,254	20,590,649
Restricted funds					
Bursary funding	129,097	50,547	48,113	-	131,531
Restricted fundraising	8,594	15,539	16,658	-	7,475
Permanent endowment					
Prize and Scholarship Funds	31,584	894	894	(615)	30,969
Total funds	19,871,925	12,484,010	11,972,950	377,639	20,760,624

Funds are transferred from restricted funds to unrestricted funds within the Group (School and Trust) when they are applied for the intended purposes (e.g. bursary funding, prizes or other grants).

16. **ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENT IN FUNDS (Continued)**
Comparatives for the previous year

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains Losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	18,592,922	11,456,101	(10,964,550)	291,177	19,375,650
Pension surplus (deficit)	5,000	-	(47,000)	369,000	327,000
	18,597,922	11,456,101	(11,011,550)	660,177	19,702,650
Restricted funds					
Bursary funding	92,923	72,014	-	(35,840)	129,097
Restricted fundraising	3,009	25,495	(19,910)	-	8,594
Permanent endowment					
Prize and Scholarship Funds	30,590	888	-	106	31,584
Total funds	18,724,444	11,554,498	(11,031,460)	624,443	19,871,925

17. **ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

Group	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	12,792,822	-	-	12,792,822
Investments	6,931,811	131,531	30,968	7,094,310
Cash and bank	2,371,512	7,475	-	2,378,987
Net current assets (liabilities)	(2,371,495)	-	-	(2,371,495)
Defined benefit pension asset	866,000	-	-	866,000
	20,590,650	139,006	30,968	20,760,624

Company	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	12,599,762	-	-	12,599,762
Investments	-	-	30,968	30,968
Cash and bank	2,168,164	-	-	2,168,164
Net current assets (liabilities)	(1,980,569)	-	-	(1,980,569)
Defined benefit pension asset	866,000	-	-	866,000
	13,653,357	-	30,968	13,684,325

17. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Comparatives for the previous year

Group	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	12,854,111	-	-	12,854,111
Investments	5,647,852	129,097	31,584	5,808,533
Cash and bank	3,640,244	8,594	-	3,648,838
Net current assets (liabilities)	(2,766,557)	-	-	(2,766,557)
Defined benefit pension asset	327,000	-	-	327,000
	19,702,650	137,691	31,584	19,871,925

Company	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	12,657,111	-	-	12,657,111
Investments		-	31,584	31,584
Cash and bank	3,450,099	-	-	3,450,099
Net current assets (liabilities)	(2,253,097)	1,650	-	(2,251,447)
Defined benefit pension asset	327,000	-	-	327,000
	14,181,113	1,650	31,584	14,214,347

18. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The School does not operate a pension for its employees but all employees have the opportunity to be part of either defined benefit schemes provided by approved bodies in the UK or the defined contribution workplace pension scheme – The People's Pension (operated by B&CE Insurance Limited).

(a) Merseyside Pension Fund (MPF)

Birkenhead School is an admitted body of the Merseyside Pension Fund, the local government pension scheme. Members contribute varying rates between 5.8% and 6.8% of pensionable salary and the School contributes at set rates agreed between the scheme's trustees and actuaries.

This scheme is being accounted for under FRS102, as the projected unit actuarial cost method. Total employer contributions amounted to £26,022 (2022: £27,910).

Membership numbers at 31 August 2023	2023	2022
Active	3	4
Deferred	2	2
Pensioners	19	19
Widow	6	5

18. **PENSION COMMITMENTS (continued)**

The actuarial assumptions underlying the assets and liabilities as at 31 August 2023 were:-

Assumptions	**2023**	**2022**
Rate of CPI inflation	2.8%	3.0%
Rate of salary increases	4.3%	4.5%
Rate of pension increases	2.9%	3.1%
Discount rate	5.6%	4.3%

The assets in the Fund and expected rate of return were:

	2023 £000's	**2022 £000's**
Equities	1,666	1,358
Government bonds	483	797
Other bonds	150	297
Property	385	301
Cash/liquidity	99	191
Other	879	727
Total market value of assets	3,662	3,671
Actuarial value of (liabilities)	(2,796)	(3,334)
Fund surplus	866	337

18. **PENSION COMMITMENTS (continued)**

The amounts recognised in statement of financial activities are as follows:-

	31 August 2023 £000's	31 August 2022 £000's
Current service cost	28	47
Net interest cost	(16)	(1)
Administration expenses	(1)	1
Total included in employee expenses	11	47

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

Opening defined benefit obligation	3,334	4,115
Current/past service cost	28	47
Interest on pension liabilities	139	68
Members contributions	8	9
Actuarial (gains)losses on liabilities	(558)	(753)
Benefits/transfers paid	(155)	(152)
Benefit obligations at end of year	2,796	3,334

Changes in the fair value of plan assets are as follows:-

	2023 £000's	2022 £000's
Opening fair value of plan assets	3,671	4,120
Interest on pension plan assets	155	69
Remeasurements	(18)	(384)
Employer contributions	2	10
Members contributions	8	9
Benefits/transfers paid	(155)	(152)
Administration expenses	(1)	(1)
Fair value of plan assets at 31 August 2023	3,662	3,671

Statement of recognised gains and losses

Actuarial gains/(losses) recognised in the STRGL	539	369

18. **PENSION COMMITMENTS (continued)**

(b) **Teachers' Pension Scheme**

The School participates in the Teachers' Pension Scheme (England and Wales), (TPS) for its teaching staff. This is a multi-employer defined benefits pension scheme and it is not possible or appropriate to identify the assets and liabilities of the Scheme which are attributable to the School. Accordingly, the School accounts for its contributions as if the TPS were a defined contribution scheme. The charge for the year to 31 August 2023 was £915,043 (2022 £856,298).

The latest actuarial valuation of the Scheme by the Government Actuary was issued on 5 March 2019 relating to the period to 31 March 2016

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 23.68% of pensionable pay including a 0.08% employer administration charge.
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date £218,100 million, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £196,100 million giving a notional past service deficit of £22,000 million
- the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 2.4% above the rate of CPI. The assumed real rate of return is 2.4% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.2%. The assumed nominal rate of return including earnings growth is 4.45%.

(c) **Stakeholder pension scheme**

The School started to operate a defined contributions pension scheme for employees in 2002 when The Merseyside Pension Fund was closed to new employees. Initially this provision was via the Prudential stakeholder pension scheme. On 1st April 2014, contributions were transferred to The People's Pension, operated by B & CE Insurance Limited. This has a lower management fee and is compliant with auto-enrolment pension regulations. The employers' contribution rate has remained at a maximum of 5% with an exception for the Bursar at 12.5%.

The pension charge for the year to 31 August 2023 was £89,850 (2022: £78,081)

19. OTHER FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

(i) At 31 August 2023 the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows

	2023 £	2022 £
Within one year	4,954	5,665
Between two and five years	18,576	-
	23,530	5,665

(ii) The School has a (reviewable) commitment to partly fund the fees of a certain number of students who have been granted bursaries and scholarships during their school careers.

The Birkenhead School Foundation Trust has agreed to provide assistance to the School in respect of these fees both in this financial period and in future years.

20. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

At 31 August 2023 the School had capital commitments amounting to £Nil (2022 £207k)

21. SUBSIDIARY AND RELATED ENTITIES

(a) Novitas Services Limited

The Charity owns the whole of the issued share capital of Novitas Services Limited, a company registered in England and Wales. At 1 September 2009 the subsidiary ceased trading and its activities were absorbed by Birkenhead School.

A summary of the results of the subsidiary is shown on the following page, these expenses have been consolidated on a line by line basis in the SOFA.

21. **SUBSIDIARY AND RELATED ENTITIES (continued)**

(a) **Novitas Services Limited**

	2023 £	2022 £
Turnover	-	-
Cost of sales	-	-
Gross profit	-	-
Other income	-	-
Administrative expenses	(3,940)	(4,100)
Surplus of revaluation	-	18,875
Profit/(Loss)	(3,940)	14,775

The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:	2023 £	2022 £
Assets	193,060	197,000
Liabilities	(351,867)	(351,867)
	(158,807)	(154,867)
Share capital	2	2
Profit and loss account	(158,809)	(154,869)
	(158,507)	(154,867)

(b) **Birkenhead School Foundation Trust – connected charity**

The Birkenhead School Foundation Trust is a connected, but separately registered charitable trust (registration no. 1068650) established in 1998 with the object of applying its trust fund and income to assist the School further its charitable objects. It is under common control of the School.

A summary of the results for the Trust is shown below:

	2023 £	2022 £
Incoming resources	1,901,021	447,018
Resources expended	(306,615)	(279,264)
Losses (gains) on investments	(171,746)	(728,572)
Net movement in funds	1,422,660	(560,818)

21. **SUBSIDIARY AND RELATED ENTITIES (continued)**

(b) **Birkenhead School Foundation Trust – connected charity**

The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:	**2023** £	**2022** £
Assets	7,299,646	5,990,089
Liabilities	(64,540)	(177,643)
	7,234,106	5,812,446
Unrestricted funds	7,096,100	5,676,405
Restricted funds	139,006	136,041
	7,235,106	5,812,446

(c) **Birkenhead School**

The deficit dealt with in the Statement of Financial Activities of the parent company was £530,021 (2022: Surplus £1,693,524).

22. **CONTINGENT LIABILITY**

On 5TH July 2018, Birkenhead School entered into a contract with Compass Contract Services (UK) Limited as the provider of catering and related services. The contract is for 10 years and may be terminated by either party on the first, third, fifth, or seventh anniversary of the Services Commencement date, being 1st August 2018. As part of the contract Compass Contract Services (UK) Limited provided capital investment into the catering facilities to the value of £350,000.

If the agreement is terminated by either party earlier than 31 July 2028 for whatever reason, Birkenhead School must pay the following, together with the value of any VAT chargeable thereon:

Year	1	2	3	4	5	6
Liability (£)	201,429	164,286	127,143	90,000	60,000	30,000

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

England & Wales - Charity number 1093419

Accounts

Charity registration number 1068650

THE BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL FOUNDATION TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

THE BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL FOUNDATION TRUST

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mr M R Feeny (Chair from 07.11.22) LLB Mr H E R FitzHerbert BA (Hons) PGCE Mr Edward Rice FRICS Mrs Kirsten Pankhurst Mr P R Vicars MA Mr A J Cross LLB (Hons) Mr M R Cashin MA Mr N P Turner	(Appointed 7 November 2022)
Charity number	1068650	
Auditor	Xeinadin Audit Limited 2 Hilliards Court Chester Business Park Chester Cheshire CH4 9QP	
Bankers	National Westminster Bank Plc 2 Grange Road West Birkenhead Wirral Merseyside CH41 4DF	
Solicitors	DWF LLP 5 St Paul's Square Old Hall Street Liverpool Merseyside L3 9AE	
Investment advisors	Rathbone Investment Management Port of Liverpool Pier Head Liverpool Merseyside L3 1NW	

THE BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL FOUNDATION TRUST

CONTENTS

	Page
Trustees' report	1 - 2
Statement of trustees' responsibilities	3
Independent auditor's report	4 - 7
Statement of financial activities	8
Statement of financial position	9
Statement of cash flows	10
Notes to the financial statements	11 - 20

THE BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL FOUNDATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "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)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016)

Objectives and activities
The Trust's stated objects are;

'To assist and support Birkenhead School to further its charitable objects'

(The above is extracted from the Declaration of Trust).

It is currently envisaged that the Trust will assist the School in various ways:

By giving money to the School for the provision of bursaries
By providing money to the School for capital and special projects; such money to be as a gift or loan.

Money for bursaries comes from the Trust's income; money for capital or special projects may be from income or from the Trust's capital.

The Trust seeks to increase its income and capital over time, so that it can provide increased levels of support to the School.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Achievements and performance
The Trust has continued its aims of supporting the School throughout the year, and has granted a further £180,000 (2021 £180,000) to facilitate the provision of school bursaries and other necessary expenditure. This is in addition to restricted donations of £40,617 (2021 - £35,840).

The trustees consider the value of the investment property remains unchanged at £330,000, however an extension to the building was completed shortly before the year end, with an agreement to lease at an increased rent to be finalised in the following months at which point a revaluation of the property will be both possible and appropriate.

Financial review
The Trust had income during the year of £447,018 (2021 £373,733) and expenditure of £279,264 (2021 £244,895) which together with loss on investments of £728,572 (2021 gain £918,857) left £560,818 to be deducted from the reserves brought forward of £6,373,264 leaving funds available to be carried forward of £5,812,446. Unrestricted free reserves of the Trust amounted to £5,172,283.

Investment income from its reserves is used to provide fee assistance to pupils and thereby to widen access to the School. More fee assistance is provided by the School than can be funded by the income of the Foundation Trust and it is therefore the policy of the Trustees to seek to increase the capital held by the Trust.

The Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Trust has adequate resources to continue to fulfil its aims for the foreseeable future. For this reason it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.

Trustees have an investment policy which aims to secure a balance of income and capital growth. Professional investment managers are employed.

Trustees have an investment policy which aims to secure a balance of income and capital growth. Professional investment managers are employed.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

The Trust aims to increase its level of income, both through encouraging donations and from sound management of its capital. It will respond, on request, to the strategic development needs of the School, considering how it can best support the School's charitable objectives.

After a fairly lengthy lease extension on the retail property owned in Nantwich, the building extension project in conjunction with the tenant (Specsavers) is now complete with a finalized lease being drawn up as a result. Trustees will then reconsider the position of this tangible (but illiquid) property asset within their portfolio.

Structure, governance and management

The Birkenhead School Foundation Trust (the Trust) is a registered charity (charity no. 1068650). It is under the effective control of Birkenhead School (the School), a company limited by guarantee (company no. 4492250) and a registered charity (charity no. 1093419).

Trustees, who are appointed by the governors of the School are as listed. They are drawn from current or former governors of the School, senior executives of the School and a representative of the Old Birkonian Society.

Trustees delegate the day to day running of the Trust's business to their Secretary, who is the Bursar of the School.

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:
Mrs L A C Dodd BA (Hons) Chartered FCSI (Chair (Resigned 7 November 2022) to 07.11.22)
Mr M R Feeny (Chair from 07.11.22) LLB
Mr H E R FitzHerbert BA (Hons) PGCE
Dr J K Moore OBE FRCA MBA (Resigned 7 November 2022)
Mr Edward Rice FRICS
Mrs Kirsten Pankhurst
Mr P R Vicars MA
Mr A J Cross LLB (Hons)
Mr M R Cashin MA
Mr N P Turner (Appointed 7 November 2022)

Trustees are conscious of the need to keep within its number a wide range of skills and experience. New Trustees are offered training on appointment and training for all Trustees is arranged from time to time.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

M. R. C

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Mr M R Feeny (Chair from 07.11.22) LLB
Trustee
Dated: 30th January, 2023

THE BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL FOUNDATION TRUST

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

The trustees 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).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

THE BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL FOUNDATION TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL FOUNDATION TRUST

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Birkenhead School Foundation Trust (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 August 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the statement of financial position, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, 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 Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL FOUNDATION TRUST

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the 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 trustees either intend to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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.

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

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with trustees and other management, and from our knowledge and experience of charity sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charity, including Charities Act 2011, data protection & anti-bribery.
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management team and inspecting legal correspondence; and identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the Charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management team as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC and relevant regulators.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL FOUNDATION TRUST

Other matters

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements 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)" (as amended) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

This has been done in order for the financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with current Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees 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 charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Helen Furlong FCCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Xeinadin Audit Limited

29.3.23

Accountants
Statutory Auditor

2 Hilliards Court
Chester Business Park
Chester
Cheshire
CH4 9QP

THE BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL FOUNDATION TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	194,305	68,161	262,466	193,557	19,861	213,418
Other trading activities	4	1,941	25,495	27,436	1,837	7,929	9,766
Investments	5	154,913	2,203	157,116	148,351	2,198	150,549
Total income		351,159	95,859	447,018	343,745	29,988	373,733
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	6	37,594	-	37,594	37,724	-	37,724
Charitable activities	8	185,920	55,750	241,670	155,883	51,288	207,171
Total expenditure		223,514	55,750	279,264	193,607	51,288	244,895
Net gains/(losses) on investments	12	(728,572)	-	(728,572)	918,857	-	918,857
Net movement in funds		(600,927)	40,109	(560,818)	1,068,995	(21,300)	1,047,695
Fund balances at 1 September 2021		6,277,332	95,932	6,373,264	5,208,337	117,232	5,325,569
Fund balances at 31 August 2022		5,676,405	136,041	5,812,446	6,277,332	95,932	6,373,264

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

THE BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL FOUNDATION TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2022

	Notes	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	13		48,968		51,996
Investment properties	14		455,154		340,108
Investments	15		5,272,828		5,935,167
			5,776,950		6,327,271
Current assets					
Debtors	17	14,400		21,499	
Cash at bank and in hand		198,739		211,615	
		213,139		233,114	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	(177,643)		(187,121)	
Net current assets			35,496		45,993
Total assets less current liabilities			5,812,446		6,373,264
Income funds					
Restricted funds	19		136,041		95,932
Unrestricted funds			5,676,405		6,277,332
			5,812,446		6,373,264

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 30th January 2023

M. R. Co

Mr M R Feeny (Chair from 07.11.22) LLB

THE BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL FOUNDATION TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	22		11,287		(26,394)
Investing activities					
Purchase of investment property		(115,046)		(7,190)	
Purchase of other investments		(701,922)		(867,631)	
Proceeds on disposal of other investments		635,689		807,507	
Investment income received		157,116		150,549	
Net cash (used in)/generated from investing activities			(24,163)		83,235
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents			(12,876)		56,841
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			211,615		154,774
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			198,739		211,615

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Birkenhead School Foundation Trust is an unincorporated charity established under a trust dated 23 January 1998 with deeds of variation dated 26 November 2001 and 28 October 2002.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "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)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due. This is normally upon notification by our investment advisor of the dividend yield of the investment portfolio.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.5 Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, 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 accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

Support costs are those that that assist the work of the charity but are not directly attributable to the charitable activities. Support costs include office costs, administrative payroll costs and governance costs which support the charity's activities. Where the support costs cannot be attributable to a direct activity they have been allocated to the costs of raising funds and charitable activities on a pro-rata basis.

Governance costs represent costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the audit fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures and fittings	4% on cost

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Investment properties

Investment property, which is property held to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation, is initially recognised at cost, which includes the purchase cost and any directly attributable expenditure. Subsequently it is measured at fair value at the reporting end date. The surplus or deficit on revaluation is recognised in profit or loss.

1.8 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.9 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.10 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.11 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2022	**2022**	**2022**	2021	2021	2021
	£	**£**	**£**	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	194,305	68,161	262,466	193,557	19,861	213,418

4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2022	**2022**	**2022**	2021	2021	2021
	£	**£**	**£**	£	£	£
Income from energy created	1,941	-	1,941	1,837	-	1,837
Fundraising events	-	25,495	25,495	-	7,929	7,929
Other trading activities	1,941	25,495	27,436	1,837	7,929	9,766

5 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2022	**2022**	**2022**	2021	2021	2021
	£	**£**	**£**	£	£	£
Rental income	27,500	-	27,500	27,500	-	27,500
Income from listed investments	127,358	2,203	129,561	120,528	5,399	125,927
Income from unlisted investments	-	-	-	-	(3,201)	(3,201)
Interest receivable	55	-	55	323	-	323
	154,913	2,203	157,116	148,351	2,198	150,549

6 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £
Trading costs		
Depreciation and impairment	3,028	3,028
Investment management	34,566	34,696
	37,594	37,724

7 Charitable activities

	Grants payable 2022 £	Grants payable 2021 £
Charitable donations	19,910	13,131
Grant funding of activities (see note 8)	215,840	190,617
Share of support costs (see note 9)	260	123
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	5,660	3,300
	241,670	207,171
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	185,920	155,883
Restricted funds	55,750	51,288
	241,670	207,171

8 Grants payable

	2022 £	2021 £
Grants to institutions:		
Birkenhead School	215,840	190,617

9 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2022	Support costs	Governance costs	2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Sundries	260	-	260	123	-	123
Audit fees	-	3,500	3,500	-	3,300	3,300
Legal and professional	-	2,160	2,160	-	-	-
	260	5,660	5,920	123	3,300	3,423
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	260	5,660	5,920	123	3,300	3,423

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £3,500 (2021- £3,300) for audit fees.

10 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
Total	-	-

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

12 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2022	2021
	£	£
Revaluation of investments	(750,783)	865,391
Gain/(loss) on sale of investments	22,211	53,466
	(728,572)	918,857

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings
	£
Cost	
At 1 September 2021	75,704
At 31 August 2022	75,704
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 September 2021	23,708
Depreciation charged in the year	3,028
At 31 August 2022	26,736
Carrying amount	
At 31 August 2022	48,968
At 31 August 2021	51,996

14 Investment property

	2022 £
Fair value	
At 1 September 2021	340,108
Additions through external acquisition	115,046
At 31 August 2022	455,154

Investment property comprises a commercial property let to Specsavers on a 15 year lease, which commenced in 2003. The fair value of the investment property has been arrived at on the basis of a valuation carried out at December 2012 by Smith & Sons Property Consultants, who are not connected with the charity. The valuation was made in accordance with guidelines issued by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

The charity is currently re-negotiating this lease for a further long term period after extending the property. As part of this process the property will be professionally revalued during the year to 31 August 2023. At present the added value represents the cost of the building project

15 Fixed asset investments

	£		£
Cost or valuation			
At 1 September 2021	5,853,539	81,628	5,935,167
Additions	701,922	11,121	713,043
Valuation changes	(750,783)	-	(750,783)
Disposals	(624,599)	-	(624,599)
At 31 August 2022	5,180,079	92,749	5,272,828
Carrying amount			
At 31 August 2022	5,180,079	92,749	5,272,828
At 31 August 2021	5,853,539	81,628	5,935,167

	2022 £	2021 £
Investments at fair value comprise:		
Government stocks	226,782	210,336
United Kingdom equities and funds	1,845,999	2,164,231
Overseas Equities and funds	3,107,298	3,478,972
	5,180,079	5,853,539

The historical cost of the investments is £4,475,418 (2021: £4,224,083)

16 Financial instruments

	2022	2021
	£	£
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss	5,180,079	5,853,539

17 Debtors

	2022	2021
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Other debtors	14,400	21,499

18 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Other creditors	166,450	176,577
Accruals and deferred income	11,193	10,544
	177,643	187,121

19 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

		Movement in funds			Movement in funds		
	Balance at 1 September 2020	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 1 September 2021	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 31 August 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bursaries	111,776	21,764	(40,617)	92,923	70,364	(35,840)	127,447
Fundraising activities	5,456	8,224	(10,671)	3,009	25,495	(19,910)	8,594
	117,232	29,988	(51,288)	95,932	95,859	(55,750)	136,041

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	48,968	-	48,968	51,996	-	51,996
Investment properties	455,154	-	455,154	340,108	-	340,108
Investments	5,145,381	127,447	5,272,828	5,842,244	92,923	5,935,167
Current assets/(liabilities)	26,902	8,594	35,496	42,984	3,009	45,993
	5,676,405	136,041	5,812,446	6,277,332	95,932	6,373,264

21 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2021 - none).

22 Cash generated from operations	**2022 £**	**2021 £**
(Deficit)/surpus for the year	(560,818)	1,047,695
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(157,116)	(150,549)
Gain on disposal of investments	(22,211)	(53,466)
Fair value gains and losses on investments	750,783	(865,391)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	3,028	3,028
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	7,099	(6,912)
(Decrease) in creditors	(9,478)	(799)
Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	11,287	(26,394)

23 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no debt during the year.

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

England & Wales - Charity number 1093419

Accounts

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year ended 31 August 2021

Company registration number: 4492250

Charity registration number: 1093419

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Contents

2	Notice of the Annual General Meeting
3	Trustees, officers and advisors
4 – 16	Trustees' report
17 - 20	Auditors' report
21 - 22	Consolidated statement of financial activities
23	Balance sheets
24 - 25	Consolidated statement of cash flows
26 - 45	Notes to the financial statements

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Birkenhead School will be held at the Meeting Room Birkenhead School on Monday, March 21nd 2022, at 6 p.m. for the following purposes:

1. To receive and adopt the report of the directors and the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2021;

2. To elect directors, one third of whom retire in accordance with the Articles of Association and being eligible, may offer themselves for re-election;

3. To transact any other business appropriate to be dealt with at an Annual General Meeting.

By order of the Board

M.J. Turner
Secretary

Date:

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

GOVERNORS	Mr A.J. Cross LLB (Hons) (Chairman) Mr I.G. Boumphrey Mr M.R. Cashin MA Mr A.D. Coates MA, JP Mrs L.A.C. Dodd BA (Hons) Chartered FCSI Mr M.S.Furniss Mrs J.L. Greensmith CBE, DL Dr J.K. Moore OBE, FRCA, MBA Mr D.I.Pottinger Mr E.N. Rice FRICS Mr W.D.C. Rushworth BA
HEADMASTER	P.R. Vicars MA
SECRETARY/BURSAR	M.J. Turner MA
REGISTERED OFFICE	The Lodge 58 Beresford Road Oxton Wirral CH43 2JD
BANKERS	National Westminster Bank Plc 6 Grange Road West Charing Cross Birkenhead CH41 4DF
AUDITORS	McLintocks (NW) Limited 46 Hamilton Square Birkenhead CH41 5AR
SOLICITORS	Jolliffe & Co LLP 6 St John Street Chester CH1 1DA Bermans LLP Lancaster House Tithebarn Street Mercury Court Liverpool L2 2QP
INVESTMENT MANAGERS	Rathbone Investment Management Port of Liverpool Building Pier Head Liverpool L3 1NW

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The 'School' comprises Birkenhead School, a company limited by guarantee (company no. 4492250) and a registered charity (charity no. 1093419); a wholly-owned trading subsidiary, Novitas Services Limited (company no. 4501547), which transferred its activities to Birkenhead School at the end of August 2009 and is now dormant; and Birkenhead School Foundation Trust (charity no. 1068650) . The Birkenhead School Foundation Trust (Foundation Trust) produces its own independent audited accounts.

Novitas Services Ltd is a wholly-owned dormant subsidiary of Birkenhead School and its directors are all Governors of the School.

The Foundation Trust is a separate charity, effectively under the control of the School. Its trustees are appointed by the School and include Governors, senior officers of the School and other appointees.

Governance and management

The School's Governors, who are the directors and trustees of the charity, are listed on Page 3. They are also the members of the company and are potentially liable for £1 each in the event of the winding up of the company. The Board of Governors normally meets once each term and it has a Finance and General Purpose's sub-committee and an Education sub-committee. In this report Governors are also referred to as Trustees.

The Board delegates the day to day running of the School to the Headmaster, who is the Chief Executive of the business, and the senior officers of the School who, together, comprise, 'the Executive'. In addition to the Headmaster, members include the Bursar, Head of Prep, and three Deputy Heads.

Paul Vicars joined the School as Headmaster on 1st September, 2016, having previously served at Shrewsbury School.

Arrangement for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

A subset of the governors form the Remuneration Committee, who annually review the salaries and bonuses for roles appointed by the Governors (Headmaster, Bursar, Head of Prep) and advise on remuneration for the other executive roles.

Governor selection and training

The Board of Governors is conscious of the need to keep within its number a wide range of skills and experience. New Governors join the Board by invitation and care is taken to maintain the range of skills and experience. New Governors are offered training on appointment and training for all Governors is arranged from time to time.

Risk assessment

The major risks to which the School is exposed (as identified by the Governors) have been reviewed and systems established to avoid and to mitigate these risks.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The School's stated objects are:

'To further the education (academic, social, moral and physical) of pupils attending Birkenhead School (including Birkenhead Preparatory School) in accordance with Christian principles'.

(The above is extracted from the Memorandum of Association of Birkenhead School).

The School's published aims are to:

- provide an open and happy community in which endeavour and achievement flourish;
- offer a well-proven route to academic success, seeking to enable students to realise their potential and prepare them for later life;
- create a caring and structured environment in which students grow in self-confidence and enjoy many opportunities for teamwork and personal development;
- set high standards for itself and for its students, not just academic but also personal standards of integrity, self-discipline, compassion and respect for others.

In the furtherance of these aims, the School's Governors, as the charity trustees, have complied with their duty in s4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's published general and relevant sub-section guidance concerning the operation of the Public Benefit requirement under that Act.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Birkenhead School looks to make a difference to the lives of students by inspiring a lifelong love of learning and supporting students to excel academically, emotionally and socially within the educational setting. The School's independence allows the School to be responsive to change and innovative to ensure that a first-class education is provided for all students with academic results regularly placing the School as one of the leading independent schools within the North West and UK.

Of course, the curriculum offered at Birkenhead School looks to educate beyond the statutory requirements and this extends from the Early Years' Foundation Stage in the Nursery to A Levels in the Sixth Form. A wide range of co-curricular opportunities are available, including programmes such as 'Enrich and Explore', 'Future Skills', 'Beyond the Curriculum' and the 'Nicholls Lecture Series'. This offers educational opportunities for students distinct from those offered to their peers elsewhere.

During the year ended 31st August 2021, the School educated approx. 320 (2020: 330) pupils aged 5-11 in Prep and approx. 490 (2020: 458) students in the Senior School, including approx. 119 Sixth Form students (2020: 100). Following the move to co-education across all years in 2008, girls continue to thrive in the School, constituting approx. 40% of the students across the School (of school age). Around 130 (2020: 124) children were cared for within the Early Years provision. The School also provided before and after school care for up to 50 children each day during term time. Holiday Activity weeks, called 'Star Activities' operated during most weeks of the School holidays, including during the pandemic.

Our fees from January 2021 (inclusive of most Year Group Trips, examination fees and other materials) were as follows: Nursery (full-time, including catering) - £3,900 per term; Pre-Prep (full-time) - £3,300 per term; Reception (£2,830 per term); Prep (Years 1-6) - £3,215 per term; Seniors (Years 7-8) - £3,955 per term; Seniors (Year 9 to Upper 6th) - £4,260per term.

Highlights of the Summer 2021 A Level and GCSE results, which were awarded by Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) were:

A Levels:

- 82% of all grades were awarded A* - B
- 37% of all grades were awarded at A*
- Fifteen students achieved 3 or more A* across their subjects
- Three students took up their places at Oxbridge, studying Land Economy, Economics & Management and Medicine, alongside a further four medics at medical schools across the country

GCSEs:

- 45% of all grades were awarded grades 9 – 8
- 26% of all grades were awarded grade 9
- Two students achieved a clean sweep of grade 9's
- Seventeen students gained grades 7 – 9 in all their subjects

The majority of students progress on to university, including some of the most competitive courses at Oxbridge and other Russell Group universities. Increasingly, some students are seeking apprenticeships, both with local and national employers, with recent positions gained in organisations including the BBC and Microsoft.

COVID-19 IMPACT

The pandemic brought considerable disruption to School routines throughout the academic year, but the School remained open throughout, driven by the professionalism and commitment of all staff, the support of parents and the resilience and adaptability of the children and students.

The welfare of the community was paramount throughout, with an extensive system of controls in place, all risk assessed, and with the School following Government guidance throughout, provided principally by the DfE and Public Health England. Considerable staff and student absence through positive Covid tests or through self-isolation following identification as a close contact was a feature of the year, as was the desire from staff to provide extensive cover for colleagues and the very best academic and wider provision whether in person or remote.

The School's Virtual Learning Environment, Firefly, played a crucial role in supporting the students' learning, especially during the Lent Term when the national lockdown meant delivery was remote from early January through to early March. Lessons were delivered through a balanced provision of live and interactive delivery alongside tasks set through Firefly. During this time, the School set up the Covid on-site testing requested by the Government, which continued through the Summer Term and into the start of the 2021-22 new academic year. Throughout the Lent Term, the School supported, on-site, the learning of vulnerable children and those of key workers.

The Summer Term brought a return to the School site for all. While public exams were replaced by Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs), the School also sought as much normality as possible, providing a range of co-curricular opportunities, recognising the loss of such activities during so much of the academic year.

PREP (including EARLY YEARS)

The Prep has enjoyed an excellent year despite the disruption of the pandemic. Neither the children nor the staff have allowed the pandemic to hold them back and they have shown incredible resilience and determination. Staff have continued with the ethos of providing an enriching array of opportunities and activities from which the children absorb knowledge, learn new skills and develop core lifelong attributes. While some teaching always remained on site for those permitted to attend, the Lent Term period of "lockdown" in Little School (Reception, Year 1 and 2) and Junior Prep (Years 3 to 6) were characterised by remote learning utilising a range of resources and software, including Class Dojo and Firefly and lots of pastoral phone calls and Form Zoom time. Despite the restrictions, the co-curricular provision remained a strong theme throughout, with as much outdoor learning, sport, music and creative activities as possible.

The Early Years transition to a blended learning approach with a more fluid way of learning continues. Alongside the phonics and mathematics programmes, 'in the moment planning' is used to excite, challenge and extend the children, giving them the time they need to practise and incorporate what they have learned in their play.

The children have been delighted by the addition of two guinea pigs, Luna and Kiki, and Humphrey, a wire-haired Dachshund, who divide their time between Nursery and Pre-Prep. The benefits of children coming into regular contact with animals has been well documented with stronger immune systems, raised self-esteem, promotion of empathy and responsibility among the benefits gained. Such a theme has been continued through the different 'rooms' with the Toddler room studying the life cycle of a frog, Rising 3's hatching five stick insects and Pre-Prep learning about butterfly metamorphosis and entomology! Outdoor learning is a theme within Prep and the addition of a new allotment area, funded generously by the Parents' Association, and adding to the School's Outdoor Classroom and Willow Dome, has led to children across a range of year groups growing herbs and vegetables, learning about composting and landfill, with the side product of some beautiful sweet pea cuttings in the Prep Office. It was a delight that Pre-Prep were still able to perform their Christmas Nativity in Prep Hall, even though the performance was only able to be recorded and then watched at home.

The highlight for Little School children this year was probably Year 1's letter from the Queen, which followed the children's offer to design a new hat for the Queen having read the book 'The Queen's Hat' by Steve Antony. The staff highlight was probably the resilience the children showed in adapting their learning during the year, including their use of Class Dojo in which work was set, received and marked, photographs and videos posted. Reception enjoyed fitting healthy eating workshops around their focus on phonics, Maths and lots of outdoor activities which included a summer visit to Chester Zoo (as did Year 1). The Year 2s enjoyed writing letters and receiving a reply from the author Christopher Quirk, having read his book 'Alexander and the Curly Wurly Caterpillar'. They went back in time during a 'Victorian Day' in November and enjoyed their June visit to Knowsley Safari Park. The Little School classes used technology to produce their Christmas production 'Twinkly Tree Top Tale'. The year group bubbles performed separately, but their contributions were then 'stitched together' into one production with the link sent to homes on Vimeo. The Summer production centred around 'Hope' with a variety of songs, poems and paintings including 'This is Me' and 'Ain't No Mountain High Enough'.

Junior Prep classes (Years 3 to 6) adapted exceptionally well to the varying demands of remote and on-site learning. The Crest Award Scheme through Science Club Year Group 'bubbles' continued to run, and the pupils enjoyed participation in events such as Roman Day in Year 3, Charlotte's Web Dressing Up in Year 4, and Teach Rex sustainability talks and a Travel Agent Day in Year 5. It was important that the pupils also still marked occasions such as Children's Mental Health Week in February, Odd Socks Day and World Book Day.

The Prep's ethos was to look at the public health restrictions as an opportunity to be creative and to reassess their offering. One of the outcomes was to direct more resources towards co-curricular activities, including more time of the School's PE and Games staff devoted to Prep, alongside additional external coaches with strong links to the performance pathways in sports, including rugby and netball. Tennis continued to thrive, helped by the LTA programme both within the Games programme and through additional clubs. The extensive clubs programme was also further developed: whether the children are keen climbers or budding scientists, actors or dancers, or prefer lego, board games, music, multi-media or nature, there's a club for all children at School. Many of the pupils' contributions to activities, sports and within the classroom contribute towards House competitions. Weekly individual house point winners are awarded, which feed into termly cups – the Summer Term winners were Bidston House.

The integrated enrichment programmes of 'Enrich and Explore' in Reception, Years 1 and 2, and 'Future Skills' in Year 3 to 6, continue to drive forward the development of a range of skills, celebrating that intelligence comes in a variety of forms. Here, the pupils learn skills as diverse as sign language, mindfulness, problem solving and philosophical enquiry; a National Theatre actor was even drafted in to deliver Theatre Skills! Some particular highlights for Years 3 and 4 were experienced on their trips to the local outdoor centre, Barnstondale, for a residential stay. Activities included abseiling, climbing, archery, target shooting and river crossing, with a campfire BBQ setting the students up for their night away.

After such a disrupted year, but one characterised by an ever-stronger sense of the School community and its supportive network, it was apt that we were able to welcome parents on site for a few of the Summer Term's traditional events - some of the Prep Sports Days, and one performance of the Year 6 production of Peter Pan – an uplifting way to finish a quite remarkable academic year in Prep.

SENIORS

Science

The Science department continued with a number of regular clubs which included Astronomy Club, Dissection Club, Junior Science Club, Science Leaders and the Biology Reading Group. The Medics and Dentists Advanced Tutorial Group continued to meet in preparation for Oxbridge and other high tariff university courses.

In addition, a number of competitions continued to take place, with strong participation across a range of years in the Biology Challenge & Olympiads, the Chemistry and Physics Olympiads and the Physics Olympiad Experimental Project.

English

In the face of challenges, the department has continued to flex and adapt to a very different way of delivering its usual diet of creativity and challenge, whilst ensuring the provision of consistent and focused teaching and learning opportunities. Both students and teachers alike have used their well-honed remote learning skills this year, with the combined use of Zoom and Firefly proving an excellent bridge between live classroom teaching and individual home learning. This year's National Poetry day began the year on an optimistic tone, the theme of 'Vision' offering the students the opportunity to explore and express their own hopes for the uncertain months ahead.

Despite having to compete on Zoom this year, the Senior Debating team were successful in getting through to the finals of the Oxford Schools Debating competition. This was a wonderful achievement - the team performed impressively against some of the most prestigious schools in the world.

Continuing the now established 'Ghost Story for Christmas' writing competition, students of all year groups submitted their Ghostly tales, with established author Ramsey Campbell generously incorporating his own dedication in the School's published anthology, 'Those Who Wait'. The Sixth Form Wider Reading club has continued to attract students who may not be studying English Literature A Level, proving to be an excellent way to explore a love of literature outside the classroom.

The Gothic Literature Unit of work has proved to be immensely engaging for Key Stage Three students, with a competition for the best pieces at the end of the scheme of work. The department were able to recruit its own Carnegie Shadowing team shortly before the move to online learning, with the group meeting via Zoom to share their opinions about this year's shortlist via Zoom.

Languages

National lockdown prevented any participation in Linguistics Olympiads but language learning continued apace via Zoom and Firefly with many students making excellent progress with extension activities and enrichment clubs operating remotely via online language learning websites, such as Memrise, Quizlet and Duolingo.

Art

A full curriculum was delivered across the Senior School, with the department providing an important outlet for creativity during a difficult time for students.

In the Michaelmas Term, the production of videos was used to demonstrate processes which would normally require staff being close to students, including using materials such as clay. Throughout the period of lockdown in the Lent Term, practical schemes of work were delivered through zoom, using videos and visualisers to assist students in making progress at home.

As in 2020, packs of materials were provided to students to ensure exam groups could be creative and productive. Despite no trips to kick start projects, students took inspiration from varied sources to create remarkable work considering the disruption. The Coronavirus led Year 11 students to produce microbe lino cuts with one developing work into a ceramic plague mask. Several A level students looked at the world of nature, exploring the beauty and fragility of our environment in a pandemic, while others looked to literature and mythology for inspiration.

In June, the work by students across Seniors was photographed to create a Virtual Exhibition celebrating their achievements. When in school, the department ran Year 7 & 8 lunchtime clubs and year specific afterschool clubs, providing exam groups with added access to staff in lieu of time at home. In the Summer Term, the department ran a short series of afterschool 'smART' sessions for Year 9 students opting to take GCSE and were involved in the Be Inspired program, delivering a Saturday morning printmaking session to local primary school children. Staff painted the scenery for 'Les Miserables'.

The Art Instagram account, which documents the many activities of the department, currently has over 1,000 followers.

Co-Curricular Activities

The School continues to believe in the provision of opportunities and skills that set students up for life. This is delivered through the recruitment of staff who are passionate for inspiring the children and students both inside and outside the classroom, which results in an extensive co-curricular programme including sports, music, drama and a wide range of other activities. The School hosts its own sponsored Scout Troop on site, rent free, and all Year 10 students undertake the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. Older students then move on to the Silver and Gold awards.

While activities were heavily disrupted by Covid, the School took a 'can-do' attitude to its co-curricular provision wherever possible, investing in further staff where desired, especially during the periods when students were 'bubbled'. The end of the School year was celebrated by holding many of the School's established events such as Prize Giving, Arts Awards, Sports Awards and both Prep and Seniors Musicals and the traditional Sports Days too.

Sport: The School prides itself on high levels of participation and achievement across the Prep and Seniors with a significant number of students attending lunch and after-school practices in addition to the curricular provision of PE & Games. COVID presented challenges to the provision, but the School continued to offer competitive and recreational opportunities across the whole School and in a range of sports including athletics, cricket, football, golf, hockey, lacrosse, netball, tennis, rounders, orienteering, cross-country and rugby. In addition to this core provision, recreational clubs offered a breadth of opportunity across sports such as badminton, table tennis and gymnastics, and activities including yoga and dance.

During the academic year, the School took an active decision to invest more resources into sport. A new appointment, as well as increased provision for external coaches has improved provision across all sectors of the School, most significantly in Prep. This has further enhanced the opportunity for every student to develop as an individual in the School's Focus Sports and to engage in activities to promote health and wellbeing.

The Prep continued to compete at a high level in netball and football and is beginning to see an improvement in rugby outcomes with both boys and girls participating in regular fixtures and tournaments including prestigious wins in a number of high-profile competitions, at least until such activities were curtailed by public health restrictions at the different stages of UK lockdown process.

In Seniors, the School fields competitive teams in local, regional and national leagues and tournaments in all the core sports. In a typical year, this would include five boys' hockey teams, eight rugby teams, seven girls' hockey teams, five lacrosse teams, eight netball teams and six cricket teams competing on a weekly basis during the relevant season. Whilst fixture opportunities for winter sports were curtailed this year, the cricketers managed to complete a full programme of fixtures, and enjoyed the enhanced net facilities provided at McAllester Field.

A number of students are currently part of various sporting talent pathways (Sale Sharks, Lacrosse England Performance Pathway, Manchester Thunder, Leeds Rhinos and Severn Stars Netball, Cheshire and Merseyside Netball and Hockey England Talent Pathway) operated by each sport's associations or professional clubs/franchises.

The Fitness Suite has seen a big increase in usage of students and staff, particularly welcome during lockdown when fixtures and competitions were rare. Further investment in equipment is planned next year.

The School continues to share their sporting facilities with a number of clubs and schools in the area, including on a hire basis, at reduced rates where applicable, whilst also offering festival visit opportunities to local Primary and Prep Schools, combined with coaching, in cricket, rugby, hockey and netball.

The sports department also enjoyed being heavily involved with the "Be Inspired" programme, offering a range of sporting activities on each day the programme ran, over the summer term. Colleagues and senior students supported enthusiastic youngsters from the local community in enjoying the range of sports offered, which included netball, rugby, lacrosse, climbing and rounders.

Drama: Co-curricular drama again featured prominently during the year, with over 100 students involved across Prep and Seniors in the summer productions. Unfortunately, this year's Year 6 annual production, Peter Pan, was only able to perform once, with positive Covid cases requiring the cancellation of the second performance.

The Seniors production of Les Misérables remained on stage for the duration of the run, with nine performances to a socially distanced audience. The performances, involving three rotations of cast, including the return of 6 Old Birkonians, represented the culmination of 20 months of work, despair, hope and finally elation, following the postponement of the original performance date of March 2020. The emotional input into the performances, and that etched on those in the audience, reflected all these emotions, but it was the lift that everyone needed at the end of one of the strangest academic years in history.

The continued success of the summer productions, and the skills and confidence it brings to the cast and crew, has led to the School looking to further develop its dramatic offerings in 2022, with Grease being the nominated Seniors musical for March 2022, alongside the new addition of a Key Stage 3 drama, Joseph, being planned for June 2022. Further investment in the dramatic arts is under consideration including staffing, curriculum additions, and the improvements to the technical facilities in Bushell Hall.

Music

The Covid-19 pandemic caused a major reshuffle to the music co-curricular provision last year, with the enforced year group bubbles and assorted lockdowns creating both new challenges as well as opportunities.

The Christmas Concert, Prep Christmas Celebration Services, and the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols were all broadcast on YouTube, reaching far and wide across the globe including Old Birkonians from as far afield as China, Canada, and Germany. Other virtual services were also recorded throughout the year, as well as separate multi-screen video performances from the Chapel Choir.

As the restrictions began to be lifted towards the end of the year, two Upper Sixth year groups came together with students from all years in Seniors to provide the orchestral backing for the productions of Les Miserables and Peter Pan, both to live audiences.

Many of our young musicians also continued to sit ABRSM and Trinity practical and theory examinations, though these were also via video performance, and our team of visiting music tutors spent most of the year delivering online lessons to our students via Zoom and FaceTime.

Where Covid restrictions allowed, many students have taken part in concerts both on site and in the wider community, and an increasing number of students have taken advantage of additional opportunities available to them, including the National Children's Orchestra, National Youth Choirs, Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Orchestra and Choir, Early Music as Education Orchestra and ensembles, Wirral Symphonic Wind Band, Out of the Blue Big Band, Heswall Concert Band and the Junior Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester.

The annual Festival of Music, though forced to go online, was another great success, with a huge number of video submissions sent in by pupils and students from Infants, Prep and Seniors, as well as most of our visiting music tutors.

Futures Provision

The School's provision of Careers or 'Futures' advice has developed greatly in recent years. A dedicated Futures Team of staff provide support and extensive guidance, alongside parents, in preparing students for university, Gap years, apprenticeships and the world of work. Roles within the team include specialisms in UCAS, Oxbridge applications, Futures Skills (including the various aptitude tests for high tariff courses), and overseas university applications. Careers advice starts in Prep developing an awareness of different areas within the work of work, and continues into Seniors including use of Morrisby tests in Year 10 which are followed by individual interviews with the School's Careers Adviser.

A feature of the Futures provision is the strong support of the Old Birkonian Society, and alumni are to the fore in supporting current students and/or recent leavers through specific careers advice, work experience, mock interviews and apprenticeship programmes. In recent years, events have included industry specific careers conferences, apprenticeship breakfasts and an apprenticeship conference by Zoom.

Beyond the Curriculum (BTC)

The Beyond the Curriculum programme is a key element of the School's educational provision and ethos, and builds on the Enrich and Explore and Future Skills programmes developed in Little School and Junior Prep respectively. The focus within BTC is on students learning skills and developing passions that will prepare them for life. The programme is delivered through a weekly double period within the timetable. In Years 7 and 8, the programme includes activities as diverse as cookery, dance, yoga, debating, and etiquette lessons. In the Sixth Form, the programme looks to enhance the skills needed for further education and the world of work, and includes critical thinking, research, presentation and interview skills.

Inspiring Talks Series

During 2020 - 21 the Inspiring Talks Series continued in virtual format with talks organised via Zoom for students during the year. Speakers included Dame Floella Benjamin who spoke to children in Little School and Year 3; Robin Stevens, author, who spoke to students from Year 5 upwards; and a range of authors including Dermot O'Leary as part of World Book Day activities and Clare Balding.

The Nicholls Lecture Series hosted talks online, including Admiral Sir Philip Jones, former First Sea Lord and Old Birkonian, who spoke to students in Years 10 to Upper Sixth; and John Barnes MBE, former England footballer, who spoke to Sixth Form students on the subject of racism.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND CHARITABLE GIVING

Although a difficult year for some, the School maintained a strong charitable focus donating produce, money and time to local charities. In October, the Harvest collection generated half a tonne of food and products donated to Wirral Food Bank. There were also significant donations made by individual families.

In November, children in Prep once again enjoyed Children in Need Day and came into School in their own clothes in return for a donation, raising £742. In the build-up to Remembrance Sunday, the Poppy Appeal, in support of the Royal British Legion, raised £380.

As has become custom, Christmas brings a number of charitable initiatives across the School:

- Neo Community & Number Seven Café: Just prior to the end of term, each tutor group in Seniors was provided with a Christmas tree and asked to donate money that would go towards decorations and local charities. Thirty trees adorned the School grounds, on display by Overdale, McAllester and Sixth Form. On the last day of term these trees were donated to local families in need via Neo Community along with a 'Bag for Christmas' that contained decorations, food and other items for the families to enjoy. The Click and Collect campaign asked members of the School community to donate food items. On Saturday 12th December, Father Mark, School Chaplain and a team of Sixth Form students headed out in the School minibus to collect the items directly from peoples' houses, alongside generous donations from many families, OB's and local businesses. The food was shared with Number Seven Café in Birkenhead and Neo Community for local families in need. The School further supported the charity by making a financial donation to each charity to help purchase additional food.

- Koala North West: Nursery and Pre-Prep families continue to make generous donations to help local families in conjunction with the Birkenhead charity, Koala North-West. Families select a gift tag from one of the trees located outside Nursery and Pre-Prep which offers information on who the gift would be given to, and donate accordingly. The Early Years department (Nursery and Pre-Prep) has been supporting the charity, which was formerly known as Home Start Wirral, for a number of years.

- Charles Thompson Mission: Families in Prep continue to donate food to help make up hampers for local families along with toys that could be distributed to children in the Birkenhead area. In the Sixth Form, students collected toiletries and other items to make up washbags for those in need.

- Claire House & Save the Children: On the last day of term students across Prep and Seniors had fun wearing their Christmas jumpers and other festive adornments in return for a donation. The money raised was then shared between local charity Claire House and Save the Children. The total raised was over £1700.

In January, the School collected food for Number Seven Café. The School filled the Chaplain's car three times over with extra donations of harvest type products! Students also undertook several bake sales which raised approx. £300. On the 1st April — Nursery and Pre-School teamed up with Koala North West and collected Easter eggs for local families. In conjunction with Seniors, by the 8th April, approx. 800 eggs had been collected and distributed.

'Be Inspired' Programme

The Summer Term 2021 saw the launch of the exciting "Be Inspired" programme. This annual programme, which the School hopes to develop considerably in the coming years, brought approx. 80 talented students from the local area onto the School site across six Saturdays during the Summer Term. They participated in a range of academic, sporting and musical activities beyond the provision typically available in Primary Schools, staffed by Birkenhead School staff and supported by Sixth Form volunteers. The children were picked up and dropped off at the start and end of each day by minibus, with breakfast and lunch provided.

The Parents' Association

The Parents' Association continued to raise funds during the year, albeit in different ways according to circumstances. Highlights included an online Christmas raffle, sale of Christmas cards drawn by the children and a Chance Auction in Prep. Funds raised by the Parents' Association have been used to support a wide range of activities across the School, including a new allotment area in Prep, additional play equipment in Early Years, purchase of guinea pigs in Prep and funding towards the Peter Pan (Prep) and Les Misérables (Seniors) drama productions.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE REVIEW

Fee Support

Trustees do not want the cost of education at Birkenhead School to prevent any eligible child attending the School. Gross fees were discounted by £773k (2019: £806k), through bursaries, scholarships and other discounts (8.5% of gross fees after rebates to 31st August. 2019: 9.4%). In particular, bursary support under the auspices of the Foundation Trust represented around 5.8% (2019: 5.7%) of gross fee income (after rebates to 31st August 2020) and benefitted 79 pupils (2020: 76). A smaller number of pupils 33 (2020:29) received transformational bursaries of between 75% and 100%. Some fee support is provided for from returns on investments and some directly from generous benefactors.

Access Scholarships continued to provide assistance to enable able pupils with a proven academic record to enter the Sixth Form from other educational backgrounds. Some specific support is provided by two charitable trusts under the management of the Old Birkonian Society Council.

In addition the School has awarded financial scholarships to 48 Seniors students (2020: 42) for academic or musical excellence. This support totalled £61k (2019: £59k) and represented 1% of gross fees in Seniors . Of this number, 9 also qualified for means-tested bursary support and are included in those figures as well. Some further scholarships are now honorary – continuing the emphasis of providing financially for those most at need while recognising excellence.

The progress of pupils receiving scholarships is reviewed at least every couple of years to ensure that pupils continue to progress in line with their abilities, stretching their potential yet further. One musical scholarship was withdrawn during the year as a result of this review.

Facilities

The Schools' sports facilities and meeting spaces are made available to the public for use wherever feasible and are discounted for charity or educational use. As highlighted above, many are used for inter-school events through the year.

The School follows a programme of planned maintenance and development to ensure that its estate remains fit for purpose and efficient. During the year to 31st August, 2021, the Music Department and Nursery windows have been replaced, the Little School Playground extended, additional bicycle sheds installed, widescreen televisions (touchscreen in Prep) installed in classrooms across the School, the Seniors' Staff Room refurbished and a new telephone system installed.

Covid-19 Impact

The commentary above makes several references to the impact of the Covid-19 coronavirus and, more specifically, the interruption/alteration of many activities due to the public health measures introduced. The period where the country has been copping with the pandemic has brought, and continues to bring, many challenges. Not least of these has been the over-riding requirement to provide continuity in education and assessment of progress, and in a safe way for staff, children / students and visitors. This provision itself has necessitated considerable further expenditure on facilities (screens), staffing – both in terms of learning support and cover for absence.

The Governors' Standing Committee constituted for oversight of the School's provision amid these issues met less regularly as both society's approach and the School's became more established, with ongoing governance through the more usual mechanisms.

As outlined briefly above, the School supported many families' cashflow challenges with alternative payment schedule options, and provided 13 additional exceptional temporary bursaries, 8 in the range of 75-100% of fees.

Summary

The School's financial position remains strong. A cash surplus from operations of just over 11% of net fee income was achieved, giving trustees the confidence to moderate fee increases, manage pension liabilities and continue with a programme of investment in school facilities. The capital investment programme is currently funded without external borrowing.

Net operating income was £715k (2020: £601k). Combined with investment gains of £924k (2019: £239k), and an actuarial gain on a defined benefit pension scheme of £467k (2020: £88k), led total funds across the School Group to be £18,724k as at 3st August (2019: £16,618k) across the School Group. The net cash provided by operating activities was £1,432k (2019: £684k), the variance largely being due to the exceptional measures required in 2020 and substantial positive variances in creditors/ debtors alongside those measures

Reserves policy

Investment income from the reserves is used to provide fee assistance to pupils and thereby to widen access to the School. More fee assistance is provided than can be funded by the income of the Foundation Trust, and it is therefore the policy of the Foundation Trustees to seek to increase the capital held by the Trust. It is the policy of the School to transfer surpluses not required within the School to the Foundation Trust. The Foundation Trust is also in a position to consider loans and/or grants to support significant investment in the School.

The asset allocation policy of the Foundation Trust ensures that there are sufficient liquid funds to cover at least three months' operating expenses.

Funding sources

Around 94% of the School's operating income was derived from fees and associated charges. Other notable contributions were: commercial activities, 1.7%; investment income 1.8%; and donations 1.2%.

Investment policy

As noted, the School's reserves are largely held in the Foundation Trust. Trustees have an investment policy which aims to secure a balance of income and capital growth in the medium to long-term. Professional investment managers are employed with their appointment reviewed on a regular basis.

GOING CONCERN

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

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The School will seek to maintain and increase the availability of scholarships and bursaries and to encourage parents of academically able children to apply to the School. The surplus income transferred is important since the investment income generated in the Foundation Trust is used to provide substantial bursary support. Other income will continue to be used to enhance the School's provision through improvements to the Estate and the School's equipment. Specifically, strategic projects to dispose of the little-used Noctorum Field and invest in an extended sports hall and bursary provision (alongside investment in community sports / affordable housing) have been developed. This led to the submission of two planning proposals in Summer 2020 which are still under consideration by Wirral Council.

Sound finances will be maintained including the prediction of required maintenance of the estate alongside any planned capital development. All of these elements are regularly reviewed by the Governors who are also considering a wide range of potential capital investments in the facilities the School provides for its pupils and the wider community.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Birkenhead School for the purpose of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure of the charitable group for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company and group will continue in operation.

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

STATEMENT OF DISCLOSURE TO AUDITOR

So far as Trustees are aware there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware.

The Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by the Board on 13/12/21 and signed on its behalf by

A J Cross

A.J. Cross
Chairman

Company registration number: **4492250**

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Birkenhead School (the 'charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 August 2021 which comprise the consolidate statement of financial activities including an income and expenditure account, consolidated balance sheet, charity balance sheet, consolidated cash flow statement 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 FRS102 "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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2021 and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2015

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the academy in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' report 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 charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006
In our opinion, based on the work underneath in the course of the audit:
- the information given in the Trustees' report report, which includes the directors' report and the strategic report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report included within the Trustees' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report or the directors' report included within the Trustees' 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 or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

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

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
We have been appointed as auditor under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with the Acts and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud
Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including
fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the group through discussions with trustees and other management, and from our knowledge and experience of charity sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the group, including the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011, data protection, anti-bribery, employment, food hygiene, OFSTED and health and safety legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management team and inspecting legal correspondence; and identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the group's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management team as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC and relevant regulators.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

Use of our report

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

Helen Furlong FCCA
(Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of
McLintocks (NW) Limited
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors

46 Hamilton Square
Birkenhead
Merseyside
CH41 5AR

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM						
Donations and Legacies	2	107,743	19,861	-	127,604	206,039
Charitable activities						
Fees receivable	3	9,096,251	-	-	9,096,251	8,226,714
Catering income		512,354	-	-	512,354	438,989
Activity courses		132,285	-	-	132,285	96,529
School trips		59,303	-	-	59,303	24,947
Other income		118,884	-	-	118,884	100,204
Other trading activities	4	33,381	7,929	-	41,310	63,692
Investment income	5	184,051	2,198	866	187,115	181,403
Other income		116,018	-	-	116,018	78,662
Total		10,360,272	29,988	866	10,391,126	9,417,179
EXPENDITURE ON						
Raising funds	6	105,787	-	-	105,787	108,709
Charitable activities						
Grants awards and prizes		-	-	3,381	3,381	3,977
Teaching costs		7,013,280	10,671	-	7,023,951	6,445,821
Catering and welfare		799,485	-	-	799,485	691,706
Premises		1,519,100	-	-	1,519,100	1,432,382
Activity courses		158,812	-	-	158,812	104,165
School trips		65,562	-	-	65,562	29,206
Total	7	9,662,026	10,671	3,381	9,676,078	8,815,966
Net gains/(losses) on investments		918,857	-	4,959	923,816	239,000
Net income carried forward		1,617,103	19,317	2,444	1,638,864	840,213

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (continued)
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Net income brought forward		1,617,103	19,317	2,444	1,638,864	840,213
Transfer between funds		40,617	(40,617)	-	-	-
		1,657,720	(21,300)	2,444	1,638,864	840,213
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension scheme	18	467,000	-	-	467,000	88,000
Net movement in funds		2,124,720	(21,300)	2,444	2,105,864	928,213
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward		16,473,202	117,232	28,146	16,618,580	15,690,367
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		18,597,922	95,932	30,590	18,724,444	16,618,580

CONTINUING OPERATIONS
All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities.

TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES
The Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account) includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 AUGUST 2021

	Note	2021 Group	2021 Company	2020 Group	2020 Company
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible fixed assets	12	11,422,373	11,240,148	11,118,021	10,932,197
Investments	13	6,360,375	33,105	5,372,274	28,146
		17,782,748	11,273,253	16,490,295	10,960,343
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	14	283,897	790,841	532,744	1,047,252
Cash at bank and in hand		3,471,853	3,260,237	2,588,552	2,433,779
		3,755,750	4,051,078	3,121,296	3,481,031
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	15	(2,819,054)	(2,808,510)	(2,582,011)	(2,571,322)
Net current assets (liabilities)		936,696	1,242,568	539,285	909,709
NET ASSETS EXCLUDING PENSION LIABILITY		18,719,444	12,515,821	17,029,580	11,870,052
Defined benefit pension scheme asset (liability)	18	5,000	5,000	(411,000)	(411,000)
NET ASSETS INCLUDING PENSION (LIABILITIES) /ASSETS		18,724,444	12,522,821	16,618,580	11,459,052
FUNDS					
Unrestricted: general		18,592,922	12,490,231	16,884,202	11,841,906
pension reserve	18	5,000	5,000	(411,000)	(411,000)
	16	18,597,922	12,495,231	16,473,202	11,430,906
Restricted	16	95,932	-	117,232	-
Endowment	16	30,590	30,590	28,146	28,146
TOTAL FUNDS		18,724,444	12,525,821	16,618,580	11,459,052

The financial statements on pages 15 to 37 were approved by the Board on and signed on its behalf by:

A.J. Cross

Director

M.R. Cashin

Director

Company registration No: 4492250

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL
CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Cash generated from operations	1	1,432,817	683,978
Investing activities:			
Dividends interest and rents from investments		187,115	181,403
Proceeds from sale of fixed asset investments		697,601	924,827
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets		-	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(669,318)	(352,701)
Purchase of fixed asset investments		(874,821)	(1,156,605)
Net cash generated from investing activities		(659,423)	(403,076)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		773,394	280,902
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		2,780,087	2,499,185
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		3,553,481	2,780,087

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2021 £	2020 £
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	1,638,864	840,213
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	364,966	308,562
(Gains) on disposal of assets	-	-
(Gains) on investment	(920,788)	(235,972)
Pension fund non cash adjustment	51,000	43,000
Dividends interest and rents from investments	(187,115)	(181,403)
Decrease in debtors	248,847	20,748
(Decrease) increase in creditors	237,043	(111,170)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	1,432,817	683,978

2. ANALYSYS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

The group had no debt during the year

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The financial statements of the charitable group, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with the exception of investments which are included at market value.

1.2 GROUP ACCOUNTS

These financial statements consolidate the results of the charity, its wholly-owned subsidiary Novitas Services Limited and The Birkenhead School Foundation Trust (which is under common control) on a line by line basis. A separate statement of financial activities for the charity itself is not presented because the charity has taken advantage of the exemptions afforded by paragraph 397 of the SORP and of the Companies Act 2006.

1.3 INCOMING RESOURCES

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

1.4 FEES AND SIMILAR INCOME

Fees receivable and charges for services and use of premises are accounted for in the period in which the service is provided. Fees receivable are stated inclusive of contributions from assistance funds and before deduction of allowances and other remissions allowed by the school.

1.5 VOLUNTARY INCOME

Donations are recognised in the statement of financial activities as incoming resources when receivable except in so far as they are incapable of financial measurement.

1.6 RESOURCES EXPENDED

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity.

1.7 GRANTS PAYABLE

The School awards Scholarships and Bursaries to some pupils, which have the effect of reducing the fees payable by the parents of those pupils. Scholarships are awarded for academic merit and Bursaries are awarded in response to parental hardship. Awards are made using money from several sources, including that provided by The Birkenhead School Foundation Trust, the Old Birkonian Society and the School's own funds.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.8 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £2,000 are capitalised and included at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition. Depreciation is provided at annual rates in order to write off the cost of each asset over its estimated useful life as follows:

Land	Nil
Buildings	Straight line basis over 10 to 50 years
Furniture and equipment	Straight line basis over 2 to 10 years
Motor vehicles	Straight line basis over 5 years

1.9 OPERATING LEASES

Payments under operating leases are charged to the SOFA as incurred.

1.10 INVESTMENTS

Quoted investments are included in the financial statements at their market value at the balance sheet date. The investment properties are included at valuation.

Gains and losses arising on the disposal and revaluation of investments are calculated by reference to their book value, and credited or charged to the SOFA.

Dividends and interest thereon are included in the SOFA on a receivable basis.

The Trust's investment property was professionally revalued during the 2012-13 financial year.

1.11 PENSION SCHEMES

Retirement benefits to employees of the School are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS), the Merseyside Pension Fund (MPF) and a further workplace pension scheme (The People's Pension (TPP) with B&CE Insurance Limited). The TPS and MPF are defined benefit schemes which are externally managed and contracted out of the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme. Contributions to the schemes are charged to the income and expenditure account so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the School in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The MPF contributions are determined by independent, qualified actuaries on the basis of triennial valuations using the projected unit method. The TPS contributions are set as a matter of national government pay policy following regular reviews. The pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis 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 currency and 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 TPP was entered as a workplace scheme as a replacement to the Prudential stakeholder pension on 1st April, 2014 in order to reduce employees' pension management costs and to facilitate compliance with the auto-enrolment regulations. Both are defined contribution schemes for employees. The annual contributions payable are charged to the statement of financial activities. Differences between contributions payable in the year and contributions actually paid are shown as either accruals or prepayments in the balance sheet.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.12 FUND ACCOUNTING

Unrestricted funds, which have not been designated for other purposes, are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

Endowment funds are retained on trust for the benefit of the charity as a capital fund.

Donations received for the general purposes of the School are credited to unrestricted funds. Donations subject to specific wishes of the donors are carried to relevant restricted funds or to endowment funds, where the amount is required to be held as permanent capital.

1.13 GOVERNANCE COSTS

These comprise costs for the running of the charity itself as an organisation.

1.14 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised costs using the effective interest method.

2. VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Donations				
General donations	57,102	19,861	76,963	48,796
CJRS grants	50,641	-	50,641	157,243
	107,743	19,861	127,604	66,651

Included in donation of £48,796 for 2020 is an amount of £15,214 which is restricted.

3. SCHOOL FEES

	2021 £	2020 £
The school's fee income comprised:		
Gross fees	10,104,342	9,556,275
Less bursaries, scholarships and discounts	(1,008,091)	(1,329,561)
	9,096,251	8,226,714

4. TRADING INCOME

	2021	2020
	£	£
School shop commission	10,470	15,345
Hire of facilities	21,074	31,531
Fundraising events	9,766	16,816
	41,310	63,692

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Dividends	119,662	2,198	-	121,860	118,896
Bank interest	9,509	-	-	9,509	22,909
Common Investments Fund shares	-	-	866	866	433
Rental income (including recharges)	54,880	-	-	54,880	39,165
	184,051	2,198	866	187,115	181,403

For the year ended 31 August 2020

	£	£	£	£
Dividends	115,695	3,201	-	118,896
Bank interest	22,909	-	-	22,909
Common Investments Fund shares	-	-	433	433
Rental income (including recharges)	39,155	-	-	39,165
	177,769	3,201	433	181,403

6. EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Publicity and marketing	68,063	73,342
Investment management costs	37,724	35,367
	105,787	108,709

7. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Staff costs	Depreciation	Other costs	Support costs	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Charitable expenditure						
Grants awards and prizes	-	-	3,381	-	3,381	3,977
Teaching costs	5,764,143	202,168	388,795	668,845	7,023,951	6,445,821
Welfare	49,084	6,611	667,787	76,003	799,485	691,706
Premises	540,623	145,960	684,504	148,013	1,519,100	1,432,382
Activity courses	77,623	-	73,471	7,718	158,812	104,165
School trips	-	-	65,562	-	65,562	29,206
Total	6,431,473	354,739	1,883,500	900,579	9,570,291	8,707,257
For the year ended 31 August 2020						
Grants awards and prizes	-	-	3,977	-		3,977
Teaching costs	5,230,152	151,209	445,505	618,955		6,445,821
Welfare	42,312	6,223	575,973	67,198		691,706
Premises	508,035	146,868	633,119	144,360		1,432,382
Activity courses	35,811	-	60,939	7,415		104,165
School trips	-	-	29,206	-		29,206
Total	5,816,310	304,300	1,748,719	837,928		8,707,257

8. ALLOCATION OF SUPPORT COSTS

The Charity apportions its support costs as shown in the table below. Support costs are allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

	Teaching	Welfare	Premises	Activity courses	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	458,814	52,374	99,515	5,319	616,022	513,060
Depreciation	3,028	-	3,600	-	6,628	4,262
Office costs	142,705	16,290	30,952	1,653	191,600	228,644
Recruitment, hospitality and presentations	5,251	599	1,139	61	7,050	9,880
Subscriptions and affiliations	6,519	744	1,414	76	8,753	8,932
Bank charges	5,432	620	1,178	63	7,293	7,334
Governance costs	47,096	5,376	10,215	546	63,233	65,816
	668,845	76,003	148,013	7,718	900,579	837,928

8. ALLOCATION OF SUPPORT COSTS (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020	Teaching £	Welfare £	Premises £	Activity courses £	Total 2020 £
Staff costs	382,546	41,118	84,816	4,580	513,060
Depreciation	-	662	3,600	-	4,262
Office costs	170,469	18,330	37,799	2,046	228,644
Recruitment, hospitality and presentations	7,366	792	1,633	88	9,880
Subscriptions and affiliations	6,660	716	1,477	80	8,932
Bank charges	5,469	588	1,212	65	7,334
Governance costs	46,445	4,992	13,823	556	65,816
	618,955	67,198	144,360	7,415	837,928

9. STAFF COSTS

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	5,599,805	5,038,342
Social security costs	527,217	474,097
Pension contribution	908,250	849,461
Apprenticeship levy	12,223	9,833
	7,047,495	6,371,733

The directors have received no remuneration during the year or the previous year.

The average number of full time equivalent employees in the period, excluding directors, was:

	2021 No.	2020 No.
Teaching	74	72
Teaching support	12	11
Technical support	7	7
Estates support	22	20
Administration	15	13
Early years	31	25
Welfare	1	1
	163	149

9. **STAFF COSTS (continued)**

	2020 No.	2019 No.
The number of higher paid employees was:		
£60,001 - £70,000	1	2
£70,001 - £80,000	1	1
£80,001 - £90,000	1	-
£90,001 - £100,000	1	-
£100,001 - £110,000	-	1
£110,001 - £120,000	-	-
£120,001 - £130,000	-	-
£130,000 - £140,000	1	-
	5	4

The key management personnel of the charity comprises the Headmaster, the Head of Prep, Bursar and three Deputy Heads (2 Seniors, 1 Prep) and their employee benefits total £642,713 (2020 : £606,630).

10. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2020 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and Legacies	2	190,825	15,214	-	206,039
Fees receivable	3	8,226,714	-	-	8,226,714
Catering income		438,989	-	-	438,989
Sports courses		96,529	-	-	96,529
School trips		24,947	-	-	24,947
Other income		100,204	-	-	100,204
Other trading activities	4	52,791	10,901	-	63,692
Investment income	5	177,769	3,201	433	181,403
Other income		78,662	-	-	78,662
Total		9,387,430	29,316	433	9,417,179
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	6	108,709	-	-	108,709
Charitable activities					
Grants awards and prizes		2,832	-	1,145	3,977
Teaching costs		6,429,199	16,622	-	6,445,821
Catering and welfare		691,706	-	-	691,706
Premises		1,432,382	-	-	1,432,382
Sports courses		104,165	-	-	104,165
School trips		29,206	-	-	29,206
Total	7	8,798,199	16,622	1,145	8,815,966
Net gains on investments		238,390	-	610	239,000
Net income		827,621	12,694	(102)	840,213

10. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (continued)

	Unrestricted	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds	2019 £
Net income brought forward		827,621	12,694	(102)	840,213
Transfer between funds		46,831	(46,831)	-	-
		874,452	(34,137)	(102)	840,213
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension scheme		88,000	-	-	88,000
Net movement in funds		962,452	(34,137)	(102)	928,213
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		15,510,750	151,369	28,248	15,690,367
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		16,473,202	117,232	28,146	16,618,580

11. NET INCOME(EXPENDITURE)

	2021 £	2020 £
Resources expended include		
Operating lease payments	13,470	13,470
Auditors remuneration: for audit services	12,000	11,500
for accountancy services	5,640	6,338
Directors' liability insurance	7,526	6,945
Depreciation of owned fixed assets	364,966	308,562

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Land and Buildings	Assets under Construction	Furniture and equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Group					
At 1 September 2020	11,575,063	292,794	2,256,165	211,534	14,335,556
Additions	-	299,026	344,438	25,854	669,318
Transfers	-	(127,305)	127,305	-	-
At 31 August 2021	11,575,063	464,515	2,727,908	237,388	15,004,874
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2020	1,082,883	-	1,996,397	138,255	3,217,535
Charge for period	203,069	-	132,507	29,390	364,966
At 31 August 2021	1,285,952	-	2,128,904	167,645	3,582,501
Net book value					
At 31 August 2021	10,289,111	464,515	599,004	69,743	11,422,373
At 31 August 2020	10,492,180	292,794	259,768	73,279	11,118,021
Company					
At 1 September 2020	11,370,063	292,794	2,218,899	211,534	14,093,290
Additions	-	299,026	344,437	25,854	669,317
Transfers	-	(127,305)	127,305	-	-
At 31 August 2021	11,370,063	464,515	2,690,641	237,388	14,762,607
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2020	1,063,708	-	1,959,130	138,255	3,161,093
Charge for period	199,469	-	132,507	29,390	361,366
At 31 August 2021	1,263,177	-	2,091,637	167,645	3,522,459
Net book value					
At 31 August 2021	10,106,886	464,515	599,004	69,743	11,240,148
At 31 August 2020	10,306,355	292,794	259,769	73,279	10,932,197

At 31 August 2021 land and buildings included £10,580,000 at valuations made in August 2014, which were professionally valued by Keppie Massie on an open market value basis, in accordance with guidelines issued by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

Land and buildings includes land amounting to £3,625,000 which is not depreciated. This asset is used for direct charitable purposes.

13. **FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS**

	2021	2020
	£	£
Group		
Market value at 1 September 2020	5,372,274	4,994,088
Additions at cost	874,821	1,156,605
Disposals at opening market value	(644,134)	(999,351)
Revaluation changes	867,322	310,496
(Decrease) in deposits	(109,907)	(89,564)
Market value at 31 August 2021	6,360,375	5,372,274
Historical cost at 31 August 2021	4,822,986	4,549,466

The investments comprise:	2021	2020
	£	£
UK Government stocks	210,336	208,568
UK equities and funds	2,164,231	1,733,435
Overseas equities and funds	3,478,972	2,822,648
Common Investment Funds	33,105	28,146
Cash awaiting investment	81,628	191,535
Investment property in Nantwich	340,108	332,918
Solar panels	51,996	55,024
	6,360,376	5,372,274

Company	2021	2020
	£	£
Market value at 1 September 2020	28,146	27,536
Revaluation changes	4,959	610
Market value at 31 August 2021	33,105	28,146
Historical cost at 31 August 2021	12,366	12,366

The investments comprise:	2021	2020
	£	£
Common Investment Fund shares	33,103	28,144
Investment in subsidiary company - see note 20(a)	2	2
	33,105	28,146

Shares in the Common Investment Fund have been valued by reference to prices quoted by the Fund Managers.

The investment property was revalued by Smith & Sons (property consultants) on 12th December 2012 in accordance with guidelines issued by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors at £330,000.

14. DEBTORS

	2021		2020	
	Group	Company	Group	Company
	£	£	£	£
Fees receivable	161,984	161,984	331,684	331,684
Other debtors	6,963	1,748	5,217	-
Prepayments and accrued income	98,665	98,665	186,471	186,471
Amounts due from subsidiary undertakings	-	528,444	-	529,097
Tax recoverable	16,285	-	9,372	-
	283,897	790,841	532,744	1,047,252

15. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021		2020	
	Group	Company	Group	Company
	£	£	£	£
Fee payments in advance	1,489,100	1,489,100	1,272,631	1,272,631
Trade creditors	362,085	362,085	188,850	188,850
Other taxation and social security	161,421	161,421	113,388	113,149
Other creditors	680,935	680,935	758,983	758,983
Accruals and deferred income	125,513	114,969	248,159	237,709
	2,819,054	2,808,510	2,582,011	2,571,322

16. ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Balance at 1 September 2020	Income	Expenditure	Gains Losses and transfers	Balance at 31 August 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	16,884,202	10,360,272	(9,611,026)	959,474	18,592,922
Pension deficit	(411,000)	-	(51,000)	467,000	5,000
	16,473,202	10,360,272	(9,662,026)	1,426,474	18,597,922
Restricted funds					
Bursary funding	111,768	22,059	(287)	(40,617)	92,923
Restricted fundraising	5,464	7,929	(10,384)	-	3,009
Permanent endowment					
Prize and Scholarship Funds	28,146	866	(3,381)	4,959	30,590
Total funds	16,618,580	10,391,126	(9,676,078)	1,390,816	18,724,444

Funds are transferred from restricted funds to unrestricted funds within the Group (School and Trust) when they are applied for the intended purposes (e.g. bursary funding, prizes or other grants).

16. **ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENT IN FUNDS (Continued)**
Comparatives for the previous year

	Balance at 1 September 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains Losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2020 £
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	15,966,750	9,387,430	(8,755,199)	285,221	16,844,202
Pension surplus (deficit)	(456,000)	-	(43,000)	88,000	(411,000)
	15,510,750	9,387,430	(8,798,199)	373,221	16,473,202
Restricted funds					
Bursary funding	140,192	22,463	(4,056)	(46,831)	111,768
Restricted fundraising	11177	6,853	(12,566)	-	5,464
Permanent endowment					
Prize and Scholarship Funds	28,248	433	(1,145)	610	28,146
Total funds	15,690,367	9,417,179	(8,815,966)	327,000	16,618,580

17. **ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

Group	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	11,422,373	-	-	11,422,373
Investments	6,234,347	92,923	33,105	6,360,375
Cash and bank	3,471,853	-	-	3,471,853
Net current (liabilities)	(2,535,651)	3,009	(2,515)	(2,535,157)
Defined benefit pension asset	5,000	-	-	5,000
	18,597,922	95,932	30,590	18,724,444

Company	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	11,240,148			11,240,148
Investments	-	-	33,105	33,105
Cash and bank	3,260,237	-	-	3,260,237
Net current (liabilities)	(2,015,154)	-	(2,515)	(2,017,669)
Defined benefit pension asset	5,000	-	-	5,000
	12,490,231	-	30,590	12,520,821

17. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Comparatives for the previous year

Group	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	11,118,021	-	-	11,118,021
Investments	5,314,273	29,855	28,146	5,372,274
Cash and bank	2,433,781	154,771	-	2,588,552
Net current (liabilities)	(1,981,873)	(67,394)	-	(2,049,267)
Defined benefit pension asset	(411,000)	-	-	(411,000)
	16,473,202	117,232	28,146	16,618,580

Company	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	10,932,197			10,932,197
Investments	-	-	28,146	28,146
Cash and bank	2,433,779	-	-	2,433,779
Net current (liabilities)	(1,524,070)	-	-	(1,524,070)
Defined benefit pension asset	(411,000)	-	-	(411,000)
	11,430,906	-	28,146	11,459,052

18. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The School does not operate a pension for its employees but all employees have the opportunity to be part of either defined benefit schemes provided by approved bodies in the UK or the defined contribution workplace pension scheme – The People's Pension (operated by B&CE Insurance Limited).

(a) Merseyside Pension Fund (MPF)

Birkenhead School is an admitted body of the Merseyside Pension Fund, the local government pension scheme. Members contribute varying rates between 5.8% and 6.8% of pensionable salary and the School contributes at set rates agreed between the scheme's trustees and actuaries.

This scheme is being accounted for under FRS102, as the projected unit actuarial cost method. Total employer contributions amounted to £29,935 (2020: £29,722).

Membership numbers at 31 August 2020	2021	2020
Active	4	4
Deferred	2	2
Pensioners	21	21
Widow	3	3

18. **PENSION COMMITMENTS (continued)**

The actuarial assumptions underlying the assets and liabilities as at 31 August 2021 were:-

Assumptions	**2021**	**2020**
Rate of CPI inflation	2.7%	2.4%
Rate of salary increases	4.2%	3.9%
Rate of pension increases	2.8%	2.5%
Discount rate	1.7%	1.7%

The assets in the Fund and expected rate of return were:

	2021 £000's	**2020 £000's**
Equities	1,748	1,789
Government bonds	115	92
Other bonds	968	507
Property	321	331
Cash/liquidity	152	198
Other	816	757
Total market value of assets	4,120	3,674
Actuarial value of (liabilities)	(4,115)	(4,085)
Fund surplus/(deficit)	5	(411)

18. **PENSION COMMITMENTS (continued)**

The amounts recognised in statement of financial activities are as follows:-

	31 August 2021 £000's	31 August 2020 £000's
Current service cost	46	50
Net interest cost	7	10
Administration expenses	1	1
Total included in employee expenses	54	61

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

Opening defined benefit obligation	4,085	4,351
Current/past service cost	46	52
Interest on pension liabilities	68	77
Members contributions	9	8
Actuarial (gains)losses on liabilities	63	(217)
Benefits/transfers paid	(156)	(186)
Benefit obligations at end of year	4,115	4,085

Changes in the fair value of plan assets are as follows:-

	2021 £000's	2020 £000's
Opening fair value of plan assets	3,674	3,895
Interest on pension plan assets	61	69
Remeasurements	530	(129)
Employer contributions	3	18
Members contributions	9	8
Benefits/transfers paid	(156)	(186)
Administration expenses	(1)	(1)
Fair value of plan assets at 31 August 2021	4,120	3,674

Statement of recognised gains and losses

Actuarial gains/(losses) recognised in the STRGL	467	88

18. **PENSION COMMITMENTS (continued)**

(b) **Teachers' Pension Scheme**

The School participates in the Teachers' Pension Scheme (England and Wales), (TPS) for its teaching staff. This is a multi-employer defined benefits pension scheme and it is not possible or appropriate to identify the assets and liabilities of the Scheme which are attributable to the School. Accordingly, the School accounts for its contributions as if the TPS were a defined contribution scheme. The charge for the year to 31 August 2021 was £784,713: (2020 £723,893).

The latest actuarial valuation of the Scheme by the Government Actuary was issued on 5 March 2019 relating to the period to 31 March 2016

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 23.68% of pensionable pay including a 0.08% employer administration charge.
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date £218,100 million, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £196,100 million giving a notional past service deficit of £22,000 million
- the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 2.4% above the rate of CPI. The assumed real rate of return is 2.4% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.2%. The assumed nominal rate of return including earnings growth is 4.45%.

(c) **Stakeholder pension scheme**

The School started to operate a defined contributions pension scheme for employees in 2002 when The Merseyside Pension Fund was closed to new employees. Initially this provision was via the Prudential stakeholder pension scheme. On 1st April 2014, contributions were transferred to The People's Pension, operated by B & CE Insurance Limited. This has a lower management fee and is compliant with auto-enrolment pension regulations. The employers' contribution rate has remained at a maximum of 5% with an exception for the Bursar at 12.5% .

The pension charge for the year to 31 August 2021 was 68,308: (2020: £66,293)

19. OTHER FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

(i) At 31 August 2021 the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows

	2021 £	2020 £
Within one year	5,665	1,951
Between two and five years	4,249	15,580
	9,914	17,531

(ii) The School has a (reviewable) commitment to partly fund the fees of a certain number of students who have been granted bursaries and scholarships during their school careers.

The Birkenhead School Foundation Trust has agreed to provide assistance to the School in respect of these fees both in this financial period and in future years.

20. SUBSIDIARY AND RELATED ENTITIES

(a) Novitas Services Limited

The Charity owns the whole of the issued share capital of Novitas Services Limited, a company registered in England and Wales. At 1 September 2009 the subsidiary ceased trading and its activities were absorbed by Birkenhead School.

A summary of the results of the subsidiary is shown on the following page, these expenses have been consolidated on a line by line basis in the SOFA.

20. **SUBSIDIARY AND RELATED ENTITIES (continued)**

(a) **Novitas Services Limited**

	2021 £	2020 £
Turnover	-	-
Cost of sales	-	-
Gross profit	-	-
Other income	-	-
Administrative expenses	(3,600)	(4,262)
Profit/(Loss)	(3,600)	(4,718)

The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:	2021 £	2020 £
Assets	182,225	185,825
Liabilities	(351,867)	(351,867)
	(169,642)	(166,042)
Share capital	2	2
Profit and loss account	(169,644)	(166,044)
	(169,642)	(166,042)

(b) **Birkenhead School Foundation Trust – connected charity**

The Birkenhead School Foundation Trust is a connected, but separately registered charitable trust (registration no. 1068650) established in 1998 with the object of applying its trust fund and income to assist the School further its charitable objects. It is under common control of the School.

A summary of the results for the Trust is shown below:

	2021 £	2020 £
Incoming resources	373,733	336,922
Resources expended	(244,895)	(237,145)
Gains on investments	918,857	238,390
Net movement in funds	1,047,695	338,167

20. **SUBSIDIARY AND RELATED ENTITIES (continued)**

(b) **Birkenhead School Foundation Trust – connected charity**

The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:	**2021** £	**2020** £
Assets	6,560,385	5,513,489
Liabilities	(187,121)	(187,920)
	6,373,264	5,325,569
Unrestricted funds	6,277,332	5,208,337
Restricted funds	95,932	117,232
	6,373,264	5,325,569

(c) **Birkenhead School**

The surplus dealt with in the Statement of Financial Activities of the parent company was £1,061,769 (2020: Deficit £594,308).

21. **CONTINGENT LIABILITY**

On 5TH July 2018, Birkenhead School entered into a contract with Compass Contract Services (UK) Limited as the provider of catering and related services. The contract is for 10 years and may be terminated by either party on the first, third, fifth, or seventh anniversary of the Services Commencement date, being 1st August 2018. As part of the contract Compass Contract Services (UK) Limited provided capital investment into the catering facilities to the value of £350,000.

If the agreement is terminated by either party earlier than 31 July 2028 for whatever reason, Birkenhead School must pay the following, together with the value of any VAT chargeable thereon:

Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Liability (£)	275,714	238,571	201,429	164,286	127,143	90,000	60,000	30,000

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

England & Wales - Charity number 1093419

Accounts

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year ended 31 August 2020

Company registration number: 4492250

Charity registration number: 1093419

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Contents

2	Notice of the Annual General Meeting
3	Trustees, officers and advisors
4 – 14	Trustees' report
15 - 16	Auditors' report
17- 18	Consolidated statement of financial activities
19	Balance sheets
20 - 21	Consolidated statement of cash flows
22 - 39	Notes to the financial statements

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

NOTICE OF MEETING

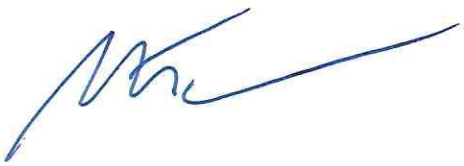
Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Birkenhead School will be held at the Meeting Room Birkenhead School on Monday, March 22nd, 2021, at 6 p.m. for the following purposes:

1. To receive and adopt the report of the directors and the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2020;

2. To elect directors, one third of whom retire in accordance with the Articles of Association and being eligible, may offer themselves for re-election;

3. To transact any other business appropriate to be dealt with at an Annual General Meeting.

By order of the Board



M.J. Turner
Secretary

Date: 7th December, 2020

GOVERNORS	Mr A.J. Cross LLB (Hons) (Chairman) Mr I.G. Boumphrey Mr M.R. Cashin MA Mr A.D. Coates MA, JP Mrs L.A.C. Dodd BA (Hons) Chartered FCSI Mr M.S.Furniss Mrs J.L. Greensmith CBE, DL Dr J.K. Moore OBE, FRCA, MBA Mr D.I.Pottinger Mr E.N. Rice FRICS Mr W.D.C. Rushworth BA
HEADMASTER	P.R. Vicars MA
SECRETARY/BURSAR	M.J. Turner MA
REGISTERED OFFICE	The Lodge 58 Beresford Road Oxton Wirral CH43 2JD
BANKERS	National Westminster Bank Plc 6 Grange Road West Charing Cross Birkenhead CH41 4DF
AUDITORS	McLintocks (NW) Limited 46 Hamilton Square Birkenhead CH41 5AR
SOLICITORS	Jolliffe & Co LLP 6 St John Street Chester CH1 1DA Bermans LLP Lancaster House Tithebarn Street Mercury Court Liverpool L2 2QP
INVESTMENT MANAGERS	Rathbone Investment Management Port of Liverpool Building Pier Head Liverpool L3 1NW

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The 'School' comprises Birkenhead School, a company limited by guarantee (company no. 4492250) and a registered charity (charity no. 1093419); a wholly-owned trading subsidiary, Novitas Services Limited (company no. 4501547), which transferred its activities to Birkenhead School at the end of August 2009 and is now dormant; and Birkenhead School Foundation Trust (charity no. 1068650) . The Birkenhead School Foundation Trust (Foundation Trust) produces its own independent audited accounts.

Novitas Services Ltd is a wholly-owned dormant subsidiary of Birkenhead School and its directors are all Governors of the School.

The Foundation Trust is a separate charity, effectively under the control of the School. Its trustees are appointed by the School and include Governors, senior officers of the School and other appointees.

Governance and management

The School's Governors, who are the directors and trustees of the charity, are listed on Page 3. They are also the members of the company and are potentially liable for £1 each in the event of the winding up of the company. The Board of Governors normally meets once each term and it has a Finance and General Purpose's sub-committee and an Education sub-committee. In this report Governors are also referred to as Trustees.

The Board delegates the day to day running of the School to the Headmaster, who is the Chief Executive of the business, and the senior officers of the School who, together, comprise, 'the Executive'. In addition to the Headmaster, members include the Bursar, Head of Prep, and three Deputy Heads.

Paul Vicars joined the School as Headmaster on 1st September, 2016, having previously served at Shrewsbury School.

Arrangement for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

A subset of the governors form the Remuneration Committee, who annually review the salaries and bonuses for roles appointed by the Governors (Headmaster, Bursar, Head of Prep) and advise on remuneration for the other executive roles.

Governor selection and training

The Board of Governors is conscious of the need to keep within its number a wide range of skills and experience. New Governors join the Board by invitation and care is taken to maintain the range of skills and experience. New Governors are offered training on appointment and training for all Governors is arranged from time to time.

Risk assessment

The major risks to which the School is exposed (as identified by the Governors) have been reviewed and systems established to avoid and to mitigate these risks.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The School's stated objects are:

'To further the education (academic, social, moral and physical) of pupils attending Birkenhead School (including Birkenhead Preparatory School) in accordance with Christian principles'.

(The above is extracted from the Memorandum of Association of Birkenhead School).

The School's published aims are to:

- provide an open and happy community in which endeavour and achievement flourish;
- offer a well-proven route to academic success, seeking to enable students to realise their potential and prepare them for later life;
- create a caring and structured environment in which students grow in self-confidence and enjoy many opportunities for teamwork and personal development;
- set high standards for itself and for its students, not just academic but also personal standards of integrity, self-discipline, compassion and respect for others.

In the furtherance of these aims, the School's Governors, as the charity trustees, have complied with their duty in s4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's published general and relevant sub-section guidance concerning the operation of the Public Benefit requirement under that Act.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Birkenhead School looks to make a difference to the lives of students by inspiring a lifelong love of learning and supporting students to excel academically, emotionally and socially within the educational setting. The School's independence allows the School to be responsive to change and innovative to ensure that a first-class education is provided for all students with academic results regularly placing the School as one of the leading independent schools within the North West and UK.

Of course, the curriculum offered at Birkenhead School looks to educate beyond the statutory requirements and this extends from the Early Years' Foundation Stage in the Nursery to A Levels in the Sixth Form. A wide range of co-curricular opportunities are available, including programmes such as 'Enrich and Explore', 'Future Skills', 'Beyond the Curriculum' and the 'Nicholls Lecture Series'. This offers educational opportunities for students distinct from those offered to their peers elsewhere.

During the year ended 31st August 2020, the School educated 330 (2019: 319) pupils aged 5-11 in Prep and 458 (2019: 424) students in the Senior School, including 100 Sixth Form students (2019:85). Following many co-educational years, girls continue to thrive in the School, constituting about 40% of the students across the School (of school age). Around 124 children were cared for within the Early Years provision. The School also provided before and after school care for up to 50 children each day during term time. Holiday Activity weeks, called 'Star Activities' operated during most weeks of the School holidays, including during the pandemic. During the Easter holidays these courses were provided with no cost to those children of "key workers".

Our fees (inclusive of most Year Group Trips, examination fees and other materials) were as follows: Nursery (full-time, including catering) - £3,775 per term; Pre-Prep (full-time) - £3,185 per term; Reception (£2,755 per term); Prep (Years 1-6) - £3,125 per term; Seniors (Years 7-8) - £3,845 per term; Seniors (Year 9 to Upper 6th) - £4,145 per term.

Highlights of the Summer 2020 A Levels and GCSE results, which were awarded through a combination of Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) and OFQUAL's algorithm were:

- 43 candidates completed their A Level examinations and achieved a pass rate of 100%, with 52% of passes at grade A* or A and 73% at A* to B. 4 students achieved A*s in all their exams: in all, a third of students achieved all A* and A grades across all their subjects.

- 73 students completed their GCSE examinations. 23% of all grades awarded were at the highest grade 9, with 45% being awarded at grades 8 and 9.

The majority of students progress on to university, including some of the most competitive courses at Oxbridge and other Russell Group universities. Increasingly, some students are fully supported in taking on apprenticeships, both with local and national employers, including the BBC.

The progress of the academic year was significantly altered by the pandemic, although a strong educational provision continued, with some children remaining on site throughout, and through an extensive remote learning programme from mid-March onwards in both Prep and Seniors. This utilised the School's virtual learning environments including DoJo and Firefly, alongside more interactive methods such as the School's YouTube channel, pre-recorded videos, voiceover presentation and lessons with interaction via the internet (i.e. Zoom). A number of students of key workers, and vulnerable students were educated on site throughout the last two weeks of the Lent Term and all of the Summer Term. As soon as Government guidance allowed, other year groups also returned to the School site.

PREP

Over the summer of 2019, our Nursery building had a fantastic make-over and in September we opened a brand-new facility – a room used for "Rising 3s", which has been a great success. Pre-Prep had its highest number of pupils since opening and one of the highlights of the year was their project on "people who help us" – the children were truly inspired by their visitors, who included police officers, doctors, dentists and vets.

The children in Little School (Reception, Years 1 & 2) found their "Enrich and Explore" programme thoroughly fulfilling; this has been developed to include sign language, nature, animal care, problem solving, team building, mindfulness, handicraft and drama. They also enjoyed some wonderful school trips on themes as varied as "recycling" and "mini-beasts" and they put on a truly magnificent Christmas Show, "There's Something Amazing Going On!"

Junior Prep pupils have loved the new Eureka Extension Programme, thoroughly enjoying taking on challenges to develop their academic potential. They also enjoyed taking part in national initiatives such as Anti-Bullying Week, Road Safety Week and British Science Week. Many children earned CREST awards – CREST is the British Science Association's scheme to inspire and develop young scientists. The Prep's fundraising for the international charity Change a Child's Life reached a grand total of £5,017 and, having decided to use the money to sponsor Natalia, a little girl from the slums of North Nairobi, pupils learned of the amazing difference sponsorship will make.

Our School teams achieved great success from September to March before Covid-19 restrictions stopped all competitive sport for a period. The U11A Football team got through to the semi-finals of the Liverpool Echo Shield, but did not get to play their match. The Cross-Country running team picked up many individual medals in the Wirral Schools races as well as the Association of Junior Independent Schools (AJIS) races and the Year 5 girls won their AJIS race. We also had individual gold, silver and bronze medal winners in the AJIS Indoor Athletics Championships. We saw more girls than ever before representing the School in Netball, due to the introduction of 'C' team fixtures, and our U11A team had an excellent season, achieving impressive wins against King's Chester, Queen's Chester and King's Macclesfield teams.

We had truly memorable musical events at Christmas and record numbers in Prep Orchestra too. Sadly, the Year 6 musical show was unable to take place due to Covid-19 restrictions, but Year 6 recorded a medley of Aladdin songs as a lasting memento for their families.

Perhaps the most notable achievement from the year was how well pupils engaged in remote learning during lockdown. For remote learning to work for primary age children, it needs the sustained engagement of teachers, pupils and parents and there was no doubt that we had this. The progress the children made, their perseverance, the development of their ICT skills and the growth of their independence were all down to the fact that the community pulled together to provide their ongoing support in these challenging times.

SENIORS

SCIENCE – Building on the success of peer mentoring within Science, the 'Science Leader' scheme continues to go from strength to strength. This year, the Science Leaders trained to be demonstrators for age-appropriate activities used for community and transition events. Unfortunately, these events, including the very popular Science Fairs run for cubs and brownies have been curtailed by the pandemic.

Beyond the excellent academic achievements, there is a wide offering developing ideas and opportunities outside of exam specifications. These activities help prepare the students for Science outside of and beyond School, broadening their skill set and improving their university applications and employment chances. Examples of such activities include a Junior Science Club (including CREST awards), Biology Challenge and a Senior Science Research Group (challenging for Nuffield bursaries, CREST awards and similar): the School team reached the National Final which was subsequently cancelled due to the pandemic.

Individual trips and activities have included participation in the RAF Physics of Flight, Top of the Bench competitions, RSC Analytical Competitions, Salter's Chemistry camps, the Biology Challenge, RSC Spectroscopy in a Suitcase and Olympiad competitions. The Astronomy Club continues to attract a number of devoted and enthusiastic followers.

A special trip was undertaken this year when a group of approximately 50 students across the Seniors years attended NASA in Florida as part of a combined Science and Business Studies trip.

ENGLISH – This was another busy year for the English Department, including adapting to the demands of remote learning whilst maintaining the creativity and enthusiasm of teachers and students. Interactive remote lessons included acting out scenes from Macbeth (complete with props and costumes) and showcasing pupil's research on Sir Thomas Mallory and King Arthur. The Sixth Form mentorship scheme has worked well, pairing enthusiastic Sixth Formers with promising Year 9 students. Our inaugural 'Ghost Story for Christmas' project, inspired by the tradition of M.R. James at Eton was a great success, with the addition of special guest, author Ramsey Campbell. National Poetry Day was celebrated with convincing performances from Year 7, their favourite poems on the theme of 'Freedom' - ever so pertinent this year.

This academic year has seen a push to intensify students' engagement with literary heritage texts. Although a medieval week planned for Summer Term, including the involvement of local schools and with a visit from a re-enactor could not go ahead, resources were created which focused on the medieval work of Mallory and the Arthurian tradition. World Book Day involved welcoming Year 6 students to Overdale (Years 7 and 8), the first of many transitional opportunities for the year group. This year's theme, 'Sharing a Story' involved Year 7 students sharing tales with Year 6 and a group effort at origami bookmarks. A wider reading club has been established which aims to prepare Key Stage 4 students for A Level and to extend the reading of Lower Sixth students. Year 9 students were invited to join our annual Carnegie Shadowing Club. This unfortunately had to move online but gave the students some co-curricular time to indulge and expand their wider reading.

The English Department's support of School Debating continued with success in the first rounds of the English Speaking Union's 'Churchill' and 'Mace' competitions. Unfortunately, the final rounds in Oxford were not able to go ahead and we look forward to competing again in the future.

LANGUAGES – Three students achieved Gold awards and three achieved Silver in the United Kingdom Linguistics Olympiad (UKLO) competition. The Spanish Prep Club was well attended by Years 3 to 6 from January until the period of national Vocid-19 restrictions leading many to be educated off-site. The restrictions also led to the cancellation of the Seniors trip to Spain.

ART – In early October 2019, our annual Sixth Form Art Trip to London focused on the different ways artists use the figure within their work. Students visited the National Gallery, the National Portrait Gallery and the much-anticipated Antony Gormley exhibition at the Royal Academy; an inspiring, memorable show. In November, Year 10 visited The Walker Art Gallery and the World Museum for an exhibition by the Japanese artist Taki Katei which informed much of their accomplished autumn coursework.

In late January, the Lower Sixth explored the North Wirral coast to gather resources and develop photographic skills as part of their Urban Landscape project. In February, Year 5 pupils visited the department for an afternoon ceramic workshop, assisted in their work by Year 10 students; a busy and productive occasion.

Throughout the period where most students were restricted from accessing the campus we engaged students across all years in creative activities through our YouTube videos: these included drawing, mixed media work and printmaking. Exam groups received regular selected materials through the post to support their ongoing creativity. We ended the year with an online 'movie' version of our annual exhibition which showcased students from Year 7 upwards with special attention to work by all Year 11 and Upper Sixth students to recognise their achievements.

Up until the Covid-19 national restrictions, lunch time and after-school clubs occurred (including our new smART sessions to extend the most able GCSE students) supporting the teaching of Art across all years. In the summer, the Head of Department ran an Art Course as part of Star Activities. The Art Department's activities are currently enjoyed by almost 1000 followers on the department's Instagram site.

Co-Curricular Activities

Co-curricular activities form a major part of the overall School curriculum and ethos. Despite the period where most students were restricted from attending our campus (beginning in March), clubs and activities ran from September through to March and "virtual" clubs were then popular, especially Birkenhead's Got Virtual Talent, and the Photography competition. The end of the School year was celebrated by holding remote PrizeGiving ceremonies for all Year Groups via the internet and also included Sports awards and Arts Awards celebrations. Adding to the end of year festivities were the online Art Exhibition and the Virtual Choir. There was even the opportunity for Virtual Sports day, which saw a large number of videos being recorded and submitted from students across the age range.

SPORT - The School prides itself on high levels of participation and achievement across Prep and Seniors with significant numbers of students attending lunch and after-school practices in addition to the curricular provision of PE & Games. Competitive sports across the whole School include athletics, cricket, football, golf, hockey, lacrosse, netball, tennis, rounders, orienteering, cross-country and rugby. In addition to this core provision, lunchtime and recreational clubs offer a breadth of opportunity across sports such as badminton and gymnastics, and activities including yoga.

In recent years in Prep, the opportunity to participate in tri-golf, judo and competitive gymnastics has been added. During this academic year, increased coaching resources have been devoted to Prep to enable further skills development in two of the Schools' focus sports, lacrosse and hockey. The Prep continues to compete at a high level in football and netball with both boys and girls participating in regular fixtures and tournaments including prestigious wins in a number of high-profile competitions, at least until such activities were curtailed by public health restrictions.

In Seniors, the School fields competitive teams in the local, regional and national leagues in all its core sports. Five boys' hockey teams, eight rugby teams, seven girls' hockey teams, five lacrosse teams and eight netball teams compete on a weekly basis during the relevant season.

The 1st and U16 rugby team would have normally competed in the Rosslyn Park National Rugby Sevens event in March 2020 but the event was an early casualty of the pandemic resitrctions. The School hopes to increase entries to include 1st team, U16, U14, and U13 in 2020-21. The School's netball players achieved great success with four teams making the Wirral finals, two teams making the Merseyside Finals (with the U14's finishing runners-up) and the U18 1st XII representing the School at the North West Finals. It was sad to see the loss of our cricket season and with it some key opportunities for one of the most talented 1st XI squads at School for a number of years. School were also unable to undertake their cricket tour to the West Indies planned for the summer. A similar fate befell the North of England and National lacrosse tournaments, annual fixtures in the School's diary.

A number of students are currently part of various sporting talent pathways (Sale Sharks, Lacrosse England Performance Pathway, Manchester Thunder Netball, Cheshire Netball and Hockey England Talent Pathway) operated by each sport's associations or professional clubs/franchises.

The new athletic development gym increased contact time in our focus sports and the new parent, student and school communication platform (SOCS) is a further initiative started in the 2019-20 academic year.

The School continues to share their sporting facilities with a number of clubs and schools in the area, including on a hire basis, at reduced rates where applicable, whilst also offering festival visit opportunities to local Primary and Prep Schools, combined with coaching, in cricket, rugby, hockey and netball. We are constantly looking at ways to share our facilities and provision with others and to demonstrate the amazing things we can offer.

DRAMA - Drama again involved over 100 students across Prep and Seniors in preparation for Summer performances. Unfortunately, these were cancelled due to the Covid-19 restrictions – Les Miserables in Seniors and Aladdin in Prep. The House Drama Competition was again a hotly contested and very popular event with Bidston taking the eventual honours. Christmas is celebrated through individual year group services in Prep with pupils performing and singing as part of their year group choir.

Drama is embedded within the curriculum in Prep and in Year 7 in particular, alongside other regular opportunities within the co-curricular programme. An ambitious plan is currently being drafted to encourage performances in Overdale (Years 7 and 8) every two years alongside an annual School production.

MUSIC - Music continues to play a major role in the life of the School at all ages, even during a challenging year. Our array of bands, choirs, orchestras, and chamber music groups cater for a wide range of tastes and abilities and are enjoyed by pupils from Year 3 to Upper Sixth. Many of our young musicians sat ABRSM or Trinity practical and theory graded examinations, and students continue to enjoy success in local festivals and competitions across the local area. Singing continues to be a major strength of the School's provision, with the robed Chapel Choir being invited to sing services at Chester Cathedral and Selwyn College, Cambridge, as well as their regular weekly Choral Evensong in the School Chapel.

Many students from across the whole School have taken part in concerts both on site and in the wider community, with the addition of regular solo and chamber music concerts to the calendar. An increasing number of students take advantage of many of the further opportunities available across the area, including the Leader and Principal Second Violin of the Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, Early Music as Education Orchestra and ensembles, Wirral Symphonic Wind Band, Out of the Blue Big Band, and the Junior Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. The annual Festival of Music was also another great success, with another 'Come and Sing' day for students, parents, and friends, GCSE study day, performance workshops, music technology seminar, and daily lunchtime recitals led by our visiting music tutors.

During lockdown singers and musicians sent in recordings for Virtual Choir, Virtual Evensong and Virtual orchestra. A "silver-lining" of this difficult time has been the upskilling in recording and editing skills – valuable to take into the post-pandemic period.

BEYOND THE CURRICULUM (BTC) – The School continues to believe in the provision of opportunities and skills that set students up for life. It hosts its own sponsored Scout Troop on site, rent free, and all Year 10 students undertake the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. Older students then move on to the Silver and Gold awards. The School's programme of outdoor education involved over 300 students in residential trips at the start of the academic year.

In Prep, the "Enrich and Explore" programme in Years 1 & 2 includes activities such as sign language, nature, animal care, problem solving, team building, mindfulness, handicraft and drama. The Future Skills programme for Years 3 to 6 is devised to develop skills of philosophical enquiry, independent study, general knowledge and communications.

As students move into Seniors, their BTC programme includes lessons on first impressions, body language, interview technique, dining etiquette, public speaking, critical thinking, cooking, first aid, drama, careers and the environment. Two lessons each week are reserved for BTC during both Years 7 and 8. Even broader opportunities are offered in the Sixth Form and areas covered in recent years include the Extended Project Qualification, architecture, classical Greek, computing, cookery, global issues, robotics and programming, photography and print making, science in the community, research projects and journalism. Scientists in Year 10 have the opportunity to become a Science Leader. Science Leaders help out our younger students as well as providing additional support for the Science Department's co-curricular activities, such as those hosted on our Open Days, and the annual Big Bang Science events for local cubs and brownies. These hugely popular and fun events for Cubs and Brownies are held in conjunction with Big Bang North West and the Royal Society of Chemistry.

INSPIRING TALKS SERIES - In 2019/20 we hosted a number of public events with Linghams Booksellers in Heswall as part of our Inspiring Talks Series. George Alagiah, BBC Newsreader and author, and JoJo Moyes, best-selling author, both spoke to audiences in the School's Bushell Hall and in February 2020, local schools were invited to join Prep pupils for an event with former Blue Peter TV presenter, Konnie Huq.

CHARITABLE GIVING – The desire to be a positive presence within our local community is a key aim for the School and continues to be developed. The four main charities supported this year have been: Number Seven Café and Supermarket; Children in Need; Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM), and Water Aid. Our charitable events and initiatives this year have further included the following:

Prep started the year in this respect with an assembly given by "Change a Child's Life". Following this, a significant quantity of older School uniforms were shipped over to Kenya. Over the course of the year, over £2,100 has been raised for this charity. In October, our Harvest Festival filled two vans of produce which supported the Number Seven Community Café and Supermarket, and the local Foodbank. Parents have also made specific individual donations to these excellent local initiatives, including suits to a homeless charity for those attending job interviews. As Christmas approached, we were involved in Tranmere Rovers' "Carols on the Kop", a great example of a different take on our charitable year, donating time, expertise, and talent to help make a difference. We have also been able to support a charity for children 10 – 18 years old in the Birkenhead area with their football competition practice, and the Birkenhead Sea Cadet Corps have used the sports hall on Sunday Evenings.

In November, Little School classes created their own shoebox collections for the Charles Thompson Mission. Prep organised another great Children in Need event raising over £900.

In the build-up to Christmas, Sixth Form students visited residents of Caldy Manor Residential Home to sing carols. A Christmas Jumper day in Prep and Little School raised over £500.

At the start of the Lent Term, following correspondence with the local MP, the School donated several bags of children's coats to local initiatives as part of the "Feeding Britain" campaign. As the pandemic started to impact, the School launched another harvest collection with each year group asked to donate targeted products to the Foodbank. This continued each week over a number of months with a Sixth Form student picking up the food items from School every week, including through the summer holidays, and taking them to the Number Seven Café and the Foodbank.

In the Summer Term, the pandemic did not stop Year 1's efforts, and through meeting healthy exercise targets during May, over £2,300 was raised for Wirral's St John Hospice. Further - a "Zoom Coffee morning" also raised further funds for Wirral Foodbank. Towards the end of the term, further outgrown uniform was donated to local children in the Birkenhead area, including 50 pairs of shoes.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS - The School continues to organise an extensive range of educational trips alongside, and beyond the curriculum, for all ages, although many had to be cancelled this year due to public health restrictions on local and international travel / activities due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Duke of Edinburgh expeditions have all been successfully completed, while some annual tours such as the sports (cricket) tour to St. Lucia, a Prep/Overdale ski trip and the Battlefields visit all had to be cancelled.

THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION - The Parents' Association started the year with a Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support and continued with the annual Bonfire and Fireworks display, hosted at Noctorum Field, and the Christmas Bazaar, held in conjunction with 20th Birkenhead Scouts, and open to members of the local community.
Accessibility

FEE SUPPORT - Trustees do not want the cost of education at Birkenhead School to prevent any eligible child attending the School. Gross fees were discounted by £773k (2019: £806k), through bursaries, scholarships and other discounts (8.5% of gross fees. 2019: 9.4%). In particular, bursary support under the auspices of the Foundation Trust represented around 5.8% (2019: 5.7%) of gross fee income and benefitted 76 pupils (2019: 76). A small number of pupils 29 (2019: 16) received transformational bursaries of between 75% and 100%. Some fee support is provided for from returns on investments and some directly from generous benefactors.

Access Scholarships continued to provide assistance to enable able pupils with a proven academic record to enter the Sixth Form from other educational backgrounds. Some specific support is provided by two charitable trusts under the management of the Old Birkonian Society Council.

In addition the School has awarded scholarships to 42 senior students (2019: 44) for academic, musical or sporting excellence. This support totalled £59k (2019: £54k) and represented 1% of gross fees in Seniors. Of this number, 10 also qualified for means-tested bursary support and are included in those figures as well. Some scholarships are now honorary – continuing the emphasis of providing financially for those most at need.

The progress of pupils receiving scholarships is reviewed at least every couple of years to ensure that pupils continue to progress in line with their abilities, stretching their potential yet further. One musical scholarship was withdrawn during the year as a result of this review.

FACILITIES - The Schools' sports facilities are made available to the public for use wherever feasible and are discounted for charity or educational use. As highlighted above, many are used for inter school events through the year. When public meetings have been permitted, we have hosted a Christian fellowship meeting on a regular basis - "The Filling Station".. As noted in part above, the School hosts a number of sporting tournaments during the year – both for those at Primary School and Seniors.

The School follows a programme of planned maintenance and development to ensure that its estate remains fit for purpose and efficient. During the year to 31st August, 2020, three students' common rooms have been refurbished / extended as well as facilities for the infant years of Prep and a complete overhaul of the main Prep Hall.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

COVID-19 IMPACT - The commentary above makes several references to the impact of the Covid-19 coronavirus and, more specifically, the interruption/alteration of many activities due to the public health measures introduced. The period where the country has been copping with the pandemic has brought, and continues to bring, many challenges. Not least of these has been the over-riding requirement to provide continuity in education, and in a safe way for staff, children / students and visitors. This provision itself has necessitated considerable further expenditure on facilities (screens), staffing (more in 2020-21 – teachers, teaching support, janitors, catering) and revenue items (e.g. signage, PPE, sanitiser). Some costs were reduced by provision not required (e.g. catering, some trips) and by the provision of the job retention scheme for roles that were unnecessary during the period of the highest public health restrictions (grant received of £157k directly, plus parallel reduced catering contract costs).

The School was early to identify the impact and formed a Governors' Standing Committee which met weekly from 27th March over the Summer Term then monthly to date. This group supported the School's considerations of how to support the whole School community through this period, establishing an approach to supporting families financially affected through enabling the deferral of fees and/or direct fee support for those directly placed in unanticipated hardship.

Further, acknowledging the impact on every family's life in a variety of ways, the School implemented a prompt rebate of 80% of Early Years' fees, catering, minibus service and catering fees. Towards the end of the Summer Term the School was further able to support its families by the provision of a rebate of parental contributions to the Summer Term's fees (with the exception of Early Years – already rebated). The increase in School fees was deferred to January 2021 from the more usual August 2020. The overall reduced income from the above measures is estimated to be towards £700k (with a reduced income in Michaelmas Term 2020 of approximately £100k). The rebates were in addition to hardship support through direct exceptional bursary support and the agreed deferral of fee payments.

A further financial detail arising from the period of the pandemic has been the need to pursue refunds from arranged trips without an immediate reversion to insurance cover. Thanks to persistent and considered approaches, by far the majority of costs were recovered, and the School assisted families further by providing those refunds at an early stage.

While provision for bad debt has been increased for the 2020-21 academic year, it is hoped that the prompt, conscientious and individual consideration by both School and families seen in the last few months will continue to ensure that significant debts to School do no arise.

OVERALL - The School's financial position remains strong. A cash surplus of just over 11% of net fee income was achieved, giving trustees the confidence to moderate fee increases, manage pension liabilities and continue with a programme of investment in school facilities. The capital investment programme is currently funded without external borrowing.

Net operating income was £601k (2019: £543k). Combined with investment gains of £239k (2019: £86k), and an actuarial gain on a defined benefit pension scheme of £88k (2019: loss of £420k), led total funds across the School Group were £16,618k as at 3st August (2019: £15,690k) across the School Group. The net cash provided by operating activities was £492k (2019: £959k), the variance largely being due to the exceptional measures outlined above.

Reserves policy

Investment income from the reserves is used to provide fee assistance to pupils and thereby to widen access to the School. More fee assistance is provided than can be funded by the income of the Foundation Trust, and it is therefore the policy of the Foundation Trustees to seek to increase the capital held by the Trust. It is the policy of the School to transfer surpluses not required within the School to the Foundation Trust. The Foundation Trust is also in a position to consider loans and/or grants to support significant investment in the School.

The asset allocation policy of the Foundation Trust ensures that there are sufficient liquid funds to cover at least three months' operating expenses.

Funding sources

Around 93% of the School's operating income was derived from fees and associated charges. Other notable contributions were: commercial activities, 1.7%; investment income 1.9%; and donations 2.2%.

Investment policy

As noted, the School's reserves are largely held in the Foundation Trust. Trustees have an investment policy which aims to secure a balance of income and capital growth in the medium to long-term. Professional investment managers are employed with their appointment reviewed on a regular basis.

GOING CONCERN

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

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The School will seek to maintain and increase the availability of scholarships and bursaries and to encourage parents of academically able children to apply to the School. The surplus income transferred is important since the investment income generated in the Foundation Trust is used to provide substantial bursary support. Other income will continue to be used to enhance the School's provision through improvements to the Estate and the School's equipment. Sound finances will be maintained including the prediction of required maintenance of the estate alongside any planned capital development. All of these elements are regularly reviewed by the Governors who are also considering a wide range of potential capital investments in the facilities the School provides for its pupils and the wider community.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Birkenhead School for the purpose of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure of the charitable group for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company and group will continue in operation.

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

STATEMENT OF DISCLOSURE TO AUDITOR

So far as Trustees are aware there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware.

The Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by the Board on 7.12.20 and signed on its behalf by

A.J. Cross
Chairman

Company registration number: **4492250**

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Birkenhead School (the 'charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 August 2020 which comprise the consolidate statement of financial activities including an income and expenditure account, consolidated balance sheet, charity balance sheet, consolidated cash flow statement 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 FRS102 "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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2020 and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2015

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the academy 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

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the group's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

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

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

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Report of the Governors for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Governors has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL (continued)

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the Trustees.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Helen Furlong FCCA
(Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of
McLintocks (NW) Limited
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors

7.12.20

46 Hamilton Square
Birkenhead
Merseyside
CH41 5AR

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM						
Donations and Legacies	2	190,825	15,214	-	206,039	66,651
Charitable activities						
Fees receivable	3	8,226,714	-	-	8,226,714	7,800,274
Catering income		438,989	-	-	438,989	553,975
Activity courses		96,529	-	-	96,529	91,316
School trips		24,947	-	-	24,947	278,439
Other income		100,204	-	-	100,204	135,252
Other trading activities	4	52,791	10,901	-	63,692	52,263
Investment income	5	177,769	3,201	433	181,403	182,658
Other income		78,662	-	-	78,662	128,759
Total		9,387,430	29,316	433	9,417,179	9,289,587
EXPENDITURE ON						
Raising funds	6	108,709	-	-	108,709	110,857
Charitable activities						
Grants awards and prizes		2,832	-	1,145	3,977	4,346
Teaching costs		6,429,199	16,622	-	6,445,821	6,034,047
Catering and welfare		691,706	-	-	691,706	854,248
Premises		1,432,382	-	-	1,432,382	1,385,939
Activity courses		104,165	-	-	104,165	76,543
School trips		29,206	-	-	29,206	281,073
Total	7	8,798,199	16,622	1,145	8,815,966	8,747,053
Net gains/(losses) on investments		238,390	-	610	239,000	86,787
Net income carried forward		827,621	12,694	(102)	840,213	629,321

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (continued) (INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Net income brought forward		827,621	12,694	(102)	840,213	629,321
Transfer between funds		46,831	(46,831)	-	-	-
		874,452	(34,137)	(102)	840,213	629,321
Actuarial (losses) gains on defined benefit pension scheme	18	88,000	-	-	88,000	(420,000)
Net movement in funds		962,452	(34,137)	(102)	928,213	209,321
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward		15,510,750	151,369	28,248	15,690,367	15,481,046
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		16,473,202	117,232	28,146	16,618,580	15,690,367

CONTINUING OPERATIONS
All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities.

TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES
The Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account) includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

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BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 AUGUST 2020

	Note	2020 Group £	2020 Company £	2019 Group £	2019 Company £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible fixed assets	12	11,118,021	10,932,197	11,073,882	10,833,795
Investments	13	5,372,274	28,146	4,994,089	27,536
		16,490,295	10,960,343	16,067,971	10,911,331
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	14	532,744	1,047,252	553,492	941,695
Cash at bank and in hand		2,588,552	2,433,779	2,218,085	2,149,417
		3,121,296	3,481,031	2,771,577	3,091,112
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	15	(2,582,011)	(2,571,322)	(2,693,181)	(2,681,699)
Net current assets (liabilities)		539,285	909,709	78,396	409,413
NET ASSETS EXCLUDING PENSION LIABILITY		17,029,580	11,870,052	16,146,367	11,320,744
Defined benefit pension scheme asset (liability)	18	(411,000)	(411,000)	(456,000)	(456,000)
NET ASSETS INCLUDING PENSION (LIABILITIES) /ASSETS		16,618,580	11,459,052	15,690,367	10,864,774
FUNDS					
Unrestricted: general		16,884,202	11,841,906	15,966,750	11,292,496
pension reserve	18	(411,000)	(411,000)	(456,000)	(456,000)
	16	16,473,202	11,430,906	15,510,750	10,836,496
Restricted	16	117,232	-	151,369	-
Endowment	16	28,146	28,146	28,248	28,248
TOTAL FUNDS		16,618,580	11,459,052	15,690,367	10,864,744

The financial statements on pages 15 to 37 were approved by the Board on 07th December, 2020 and signed on its behalf by:

A.J. Cross

Director

M.R. Cashin

Director

Company registration No: 4492250

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL
CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Cash inflow from operating activities:			
Cash generated from operations	1	683,978	959,170
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities		683,978	959,170
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends interest and rents from investments		181,403	182,658
Proceeds from sale of fixed asset investments		924,827	747,278
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets		-	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(352,701)	(359,308)
Purchase of fixed asset investments		(1,156,605)	(1,170,837)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		(403,076)	(600,209)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		280,902	358,961
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		2,499,185	2,140,224
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		2,780,087	2,499,185

NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2020 £	2019 £
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	840,213	629,321
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	308,562	292,370
(Gains) on disposal of assets	-	-
(Gains) on investment	(235,972)	(83,759)
Pension fund non cash adjustment	43,000	58,000
Dividends interest and rents from investments	(181,403)	(182,658)
Decrease in debtors	20,748	105,522
(Decrease) increase in creditors	(111,170)	140,374
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	683,978	959,170

2. ANALYSYS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

The charity had no debt during the year

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The financial statements of the charitable group, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with the exception of investments which are included at market value.

1.2 GROUP ACCOUNTS

These financial statements consolidate the results of the charity, its wholly-owned subsidiary Novitas Services Limited and The Birkenhead School Foundation Trust (which is under common control) on a line by line basis. A separate statement of financial activities for the charity itself is not presented because the charity has taken advantage of the exemptions afforded by paragraph 397 of the SORP and of the Companies Act 2006.

1.3 INCOMING RESOURCES

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

1.4 FEES AND SIMILAR INCOME

Fees receivable and charges for services and use of premises are accounted for in the period in which the service is provided. Fees receivable are stated inclusive of contributions from assistance funds and before deduction of allowances and other remissions allowed by the school.

1.5 VOLUNTARY INCOME

Donations are recognised in the statement of financial activities as incoming resources when receivable except in so far as they are incapable of financial measurement.

1.6 RESOURCES EXPENDED

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity.

1.7 GRANTS PAYABLE

The School awards Scholarships and Bursaries to some pupils, which have the effect of reducing the fees payable by the parents of those pupils. Scholarships are awarded for academic merit and Bursaries are awarded in response to parental hardship. Awards are made using money from several sources, including that provided by The Birkenhead School Foundation Trust, the Old Birkonian Society and the School's own funds.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.8 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £2,000 are capitalised and included at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition. Depreciation is provided at annual rates in order to write off the cost of each asset over its estimated useful life as follows:

Land	Nil
Buildings	Straight line basis over 10 to 50 years
Furniture and equipment	Straight line basis over 2 to 10 years
Motor vehicles	Straight line basis over 5 years

1.9 OPERATING LEASES

Payments under operating leases are charged to the SOFA as incurred.

1.10 INVESTMENTS

Quoted investments are included in the financial statements at their market value at the balance sheet date. The investment properties are included at valuation.

Gains and losses arising on the disposal and revaluation of investments are calculated by reference to their book value, and credited or charged to the SOFA.

Dividends and interest thereon are included in the SOFA on a receivable basis.

The Trust's investment property was professionally revalued during the 2012-13 financial year.

1.11 PENSION SCHEMES

Retirement benefits to employees of the School are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS), the Merseyside Pension Fund (MPF) and a further workplace pension scheme (The People's Pension (TPP) with B&CE Insurance Limited). The TPS and MPF are defined benefit schemes which are externally managed and contracted out of the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme. Contributions to the schemes are charged to the income and expenditure account so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the School in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The MPF contributions are determined by independent, qualified actuaries on the basis of triennial valuations using the projected unit method. The TPS contributions are set as a matter of national government pay policy following regular reviews. The pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis 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 currency and 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 TPP was entered as a workplace scheme as a replacement to the Prudential stakeholder pension on 1st April, 2014 in order to reduce employees' pension management costs and to facilitate compliance with the auto-enrolment regulations. Both are defined contribution schemes for employees. The annual contributions payable are charged to the statement of financial activities. Differences between contributions payable in the year and contributions actually paid are shown as either accruals or prepayments in the balance sheet.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.12 FUND ACCOUNTING

Unrestricted funds, which have not been designated for other purposes, are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

Endowment funds are retained on trust for the benefit of the charity as a capital fund.

Donations received for the general purposes of the School are credited to unrestricted funds. Donations subject to specific wishes of the donors are carried to relevant restricted funds or to endowment funds, where the amount is required to be held as permanent capital.

1.13 GOVERNANCE COSTS

These comprise costs for the running of the charity itself as an organisation.

1.14 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised costs using the effective interest method.

2. VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Donations				
General donations	33,582	15,214	48,796	55,651
Government grants	157,243	-	157,243	-
Legacies	-	-	-	11,000
	190,825	15,214	206,039	66,651

3. SCHOOL FEES

	2020 £	2019 £
The school's fee income comprised:		
Gross fees	9,556,275	8,606,570
Less bursaries, scholarships and discounts	(1,329,561)	(806,296)
	8,226,714	7,800,274

4. TRADING INCOME

	2020 £	2019 £
School shop commission	15,345	13,665
Hire of facilities	31,531	24,878
Fundraising events	16,816	13,720
	63,692	52,263

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	2020 £	2019 £
Dividends	115,695	3,201	-	118,896	117,758
Bank interest	22,909	-	-	22,909	18,733
Common Investments Fund shares	-	-	433	433	810
Rental income (including recharges)	39,165	-	-	39,165	45,357
	177,769	3,201	433	181,403	182,658

6. EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS

	2020 £	2019 £
Publicity and marketing	73,342	76,195
Investment management costs	35,367	34,662
	108,709	110,857

7. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Staff costs £	Depreciation £	Other costs £	Support costs £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Charitable expenditure						
Grants awards and prizes	-	-	3,977	-	3,977	4,346
Teaching costs	5,230,152	151,209	445,505	618,955	6,445,821	6,034,047
Welfare	42,312	6,223	575,973	67,198	691,706	854,248
Premises	508,035	146,868	633,119	144,360	1,432,382	1,385,939
Activity courses	35,811	-	60,939	7,415	104,165	76,543
School trips	-	-	29,206	-	29,206	281,073
Total	5,816,310	304,300	1,748,719	837,928	8,707,257	8,636,196

8. ALLOCATION OF SUPPORT COSTS

The Charity apportions its support costs as shown in the table below. Support costs are allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

	Teaching £	Welfare £	Premises £	Activity courses £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Staff costs	382,546	41,118	84,816	4,580	513,060	485,343
Depreciation	-	662	3,600	-	4,262	4,718
Office costs	170,469	18,330	37,799	2,046	228,644	204,698
Recruitment, hospitality and presentations	7,366	792	1,633	88	9,880	13,631
Subscriptions and affiliations	6,660	716	1,477	80	8,932	8,800
Bank charges	5,469	588	1,212	65	7,334	6,260
Governance costs	46,445	4,992	13,823	556	65,816	41,643
	618,955	67,198	144,360	7,415	837,928	768,618

9. STAFF COSTS

	2020 £	2019 £
Wages and salaries	5,038,342	4,845,615
Social security costs	474,097	453,842
Pension contribution	849,461	621,095
Apprenticeship levy	9,833	7,711
	6,371,733	5,928,263

The directors have received no remuneration during the year or the previous year.

The average number of full time equivalent employees in the period, excluding directors, was:

	2020 No.	2019 No.
Teaching	72	71
Teaching support	11	7
Technical support	7	6
Estates support	20	20
Administration	13	14
Early years	25	24
Welfare	1	1
	149	143

The number of higher paid employees was:	2020 No.	2019 No.
£60,001 - £70,000	2	2
£70,001 - £80,000	1	1
£80,001 - £90,000	1	-
£90,001 - £100,000	-	-
£100,001 - £110,000	-	1
£110,001 - £120,000	1	-
	5	4

The key management personnel of the charity comprises the Headmaster, the Head of Prep, Bursar and three Deputy Heads (2 Seniors, 1 Prep) and their employee benefits total £606,630 (2019 : £538,025).

10. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2019 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and Legacies	2	45,602	21,049	-	66,651
Charitable activities					
Fees receivable	3	7,800,274	-	-	7,800,274
Catering income		553,975	-	-	553,975
Sports courses		91,316	-	-	91,316
School trips		278,439	-	-	278,439
Other income		135,252	-	-	135,252
Other trading activities	4	44,156	11,170	-	52,263
Investment income	5	177,883	3,965	810	182,658
Other income		125,696	-	-	128,759
Total		9,252,593	36,184	810	9,289,587
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	6	110,064	793	-	110,857
Charitable activities					
Grants awards and prizes		4,346	-	-	4,346
Teaching costs		6,033,237	-	810	6,034,047
Catering and welfare		854,248	-	-	854,248
Premises		1,385,939	-	-	1,385,939
Sports courses		76,543	-	-	76,543
School trips		281,073	-	-	281,073
Total	7	8,745,450	793	810	8,747,053
Net gains on investments		85,031	-	1,756	86,787
Net income		592,174	35,391	1,756	629,321

10. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (continued)

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds	Total 2019 £
Net income brought forward	592,174	35,391	1,756	629,321
Transfer between funds	96,436	(96,436)	-	-
	688,610	(61,045)	1,756	629,321
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension scheme	(420,000)	-	-	(420,000)
Net movement in funds	268,610	(61,045)	1,756	209,321
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	15,242,140	212,414	24,492	15,481,046
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	15,510,750	151,369	28,248	15,690,367

11. NET INCOME(EXPENDITURE)

	2020 £	2019 £
Resources expended include		
Operating lease payments	13,470	13,470
Auditors remuneration: for audit services	11,500	11,000
for accountancy services	6,338	6,335
Directors' liability insurance	6,945	6,350
Depreciation of owned fixed assets	308,562	295,398

12. **TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Land and Buildings £	Assets under Construction £	Furniture and equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Group					
At 1 September 2019	11,575,063	47,292	2,183,170	177,330	13,982,855
Additions	-	246,652	71,845	34,204	352,701
Transfers	-	(1,150)	1,150	-	
At 31 August 2020	11,575,063	292,794	2,256,165	211,534	14,335,556
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2019	879,812	-	1,917,602	111,559	2,908,973
Charge for period	203,071	-	78,795	26,696	308,562
At 31 August 2020	1,082,883	-	1,996,397	138,255	3,217,535
Net book value					
At 31 August 2020	10,492,180	292,794	259,768	73,279	11,118,021
At 31 August 2019	10,695,251	47,292	265,568	65,771	11,073,882
Company					
At 1 September 2019	11,370,063	47,292	2,145,904	177,330	13,740,589
Additions	-	246,652	71,845	34,204	352,701
Transfers	-	(1,150)	1,150	-	-
At 31 August 2020	11,370,063	292,794	2,218,899	211,534	14,093,290
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2019	864,237	-	1,880,998	111,559	2,856,794
Charge for period	199,471	-	78,132	26,696	304,299
At 31 August 2020	1,063,708	-	1,959,130	138,255	3,161,093
Net book value					
At 31 August 2020	10,306,355	292,794	259,769	73,279	10,932,197
At 31 August 2019	10,505,826	47,292	264,905	65,771	10,883,795

At 31 August 2020 land and buildings included £10,580,000 at valuations made in August 2014, which were professionally valued by Keppie Massie on an open market value basis, in accordance with guidelines issued by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

Land and buildings includes land amounting to £3,625,000 which is not depreciated. This asset is used for direct charitable purposes.

13. **FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS**

	2020 £	2019 £
Group		
Market value at 1 September 2019	4,994,088	4,325,685
Additions at cost	1,156,605	1,170,837
Disposals at opening market value	(999,351)	(758,801)
Revaluation changes	310,496	95,281
(Decrease) in deposits	(89,564)	161,087
Market value at 31 August 2020	5,372,274	4,994,089
Historical cost at 31 August 2020	4,549,466	4,407,507

The investments comprise:	2020 £	2019 £
UK Government stocks	208,568	214,710
UK equities and funds	1,733,435	2,390,413
Overseas equities and funds	2,822,648	1,689,360
Common Investment Funds	28,146	27,536
Cash awaiting investment	191,535	281,100
Investment property in Nantwich	332,918	332,918
Solar panels	55,024	58,052
	5,372,274	4,994,088

Company	2020 £	2019 £
Market value at 1 September 2019	27,536	25,780
Revaluation changes	610	1,756
Market value at 31 August 2020	28,146	27,536
Historical cost at 31 August 2020	12,366	12,366

The investments comprise:	2020 £	2019 £
Common Investment Fund shares	27,534	25,778
Investment in subsidiary company - see note 20(a)	2	2
	27,536	25,780

Shares in the Common Investment Fund have been valued by reference to prices quoted by the Fund Managers.

The investment property was revalued by Smith & Sons (property consultants) on 12th December 2012 in accordance with guidelines issued by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors at £330,000.

14. DEBTORS

	2020		2019	
	Group	Company	Group	Company
	£	£	£	£
Fees receivable	331,684	331,684	311,917	311,917
Other debtors	5,217	-	132,869	334
Prepayments and accrued income	186,471	186,471	98,745	98,745
Amounts due from subsidiary undertakings	-	529,097	-	530,699
Tax recoverable	9,372	-	9,961	-
	532,744	1,047,252	553,492	941,695

15. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2020		2019	
	Group	Company	Group	Company
	£	£	£	£
Fee payments in advance	1,272,631	1,272,631	1,127,413	1,127,413
Trade creditors	188,850	188,850	347,713	347,713
Other taxation and social security	113,388	113,149	121,469	121,469
Other creditors	758,983	758,983	847,412	847,412
Accruals and deferred income	248,159	237,709	249,174	237,692
	2,582,011	2,571,322	2,693,181	2,681,699

16. ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Balance at 1 September 2019	Income	Expenditure	Gains Losses and transfers	Balance at 31 August 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	15,966,750	9,387,430	(8,755,199)	285,221	16,884,202
Pension deficit	(456,000)	-	(43,000)	88,000	(411,000)
	15,510,750	9,387,430	(8,798,199)	373,221	16,473,202
Restricted funds					
Bursary funding	140,192	22,463	(4,056)	(46,831)	111,768
Restricted fundraising	11,177	6,853	(12,566)	-	5,464
Permanent endowment					
Prize and Scholarship Funds	28,248	433	(1,145)	610	28,146
Total funds	15,690,367	9,417,179	(8,815,966)	327,000	16,618,580

Funds are transferred from restricted funds to unrestricted funds within the Group (School and Trust) when they are applied for the intended purposes (e.g. bursary funding, prizes or other grants).

16. **ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENT IN FUNDS (Continued)**
Comparatives for the previous year

	Balance at 1 September 2018 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains Losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2019 £
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	15,220,140	9,252,593	(8,687,450)	181,467	15,966,750
Pension surplus (deficit)	22,000	-	(58,000)	(420,000)	(456,000)
	15,242,140	9,252,593	(8,745,450)	(238,533)	15,510,750
Restricted funds					
Bursary funding	211,614	25,014	-	(96,436)	140,192
Restricted fundraising	800	11,170	(793)	-	11,177
Permanent endowment					
Prize and Scholarship Funds	26,492	810	(810)	1,756	28,248
Total funds	15,481,046	9,289,587	(8,747,053)	(333,213)	15,690,367

17. **ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

Group	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	11,118,021	-	-	11,118,021
Investments	5,314,273	29,855	28,146	5,372,274
Cash and bank	2,433,781	154,771	-	2,588,552
Net current (liabilities)	(1,981,873)	(67,394)	-	(2,049,267)
Defined benefit pension asset	(411,000)	-	-	(411,000)
	16,473,202	117,232	28,146	16,618,580

Company	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	10,932,197			10,932,197
Investments	-	-	28,146	28,146
Cash and bank	2,433,779	-	-	2,433,779
Net current (liabilities)	(1,524,070)	-	-	(1,524,070)
Defined benefit pension asset	(411,000)	-	-	(411,000)
	11,430,906	-	28,146	11,459,052

18. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The School does not operate a pension for its employees but all employees have the opportunity to be part of either defined benefit schemes provided by approved bodies in the UK or the defined contribution workplace pension scheme – The People's Pension (operated by B&CE Insurance Limited).

(a) Merseyside Pension Fund (MPF)

Birkenhead School is an admitted body of the Merseyside Pension Fund, the local government pension scheme. Members contribute varying rates between 5.8% and 6.8% of pensionable salary and the School contributes at set rates agreed between the scheme's trustees and actuaries.

Accounts of the Merseyside Pension Fund are prepared up to 31 March annually and the Fund is subject to an actuarial valuation every three years. The findings of the 2017 valuation have been published and indicate a surplus to the Fund of £32,000 (101% funding level). In order to continue to meet the needs of future service, the employer's contributions have been set at the rate of 24.2% from 2017/18 to 2019/20 (previously 21.8%). No lump sums should be payable on this actuarial valuation (indeed refunds were predicted in the 31/03/17 valuation) although a guarantee may be required against the FRS 102 valuation which indicates a Fund deficit of £411,000.

This scheme is being accounted for under FRS102, as the projected unit actuarial cost method. Total employer contributions amounted to £29,722 (2019: £29,882).

Membership numbers at 31 August 2020	**2020**	**2019**
Active	4	4
Deferred	2	3
Pensioners	21	22
Widow	3	2

The actuarial assumptions underlying the assets and liabilities as at 31 August 2020 were:-

Assumptions	**2020**	**2019**
Rate of CPI inflation	2.4%	2.3%
Rate of salary increases	3.9%	3.8%
Rate of pension increases	2.5%	2.4%
Discount rate	1.7%	1.8%

The assets in the Fund and expected rate of return were:

	2020 £000's	**2019 £000's**
Equities	1,789	1,990
Government bonds	92	397
Other bonds	507	214
Property	331	351
Cash/liquidity	198	125
Other	757	818
Total market value of assets	3,674	3,895
Actuarial value of (liabilities)	(4,085)	(4,351)
Fund surplus/(deficit)	(411)	(456)

18. **Merseyside Pension Fund (continued)**

The amounts recognised in statement of financial activities are as follows:-

	31 August 2020 £000's	31 August 2019 £000's
Current service cost	50	40
Net interest cost	10	36
Administration expenses	1	1
Total included in employee expenses	61	77

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

Opening defined benefit obligation	4,351	3,756
Current/past service cost	52	76
Interest on pension liabilities	77	100
Members contributions	8	8
Actuarial (gains)losses on liabilities	(217)	568
Benefits/transfers paid	(186)	(157)
Benefit obligations at end of year	4,085	4,351

Changes in the fair value of plan assets are as follows:-

	2020 £000's	2019 £000's
Opening fair value of plan assets	3,895	3,778
Interest on pension plan assets	69	100
Remeasurements	(129)	148
Employer contributions	18	19
Members contributions	8	8
Benefits/transfers paid	(186)	(157)
Administration expenses	(1)	(1)
Fair value of plan assets at 31 August 2020	3,674	3,895

Statement of recognised gains and losses

Actuarial gains/(losses) recognised in the STRGL	88	(420)

18. **PENSION COMMITMENTS (continued)**

(b) **Teachers' Pension Scheme**

The School participates in the Teachers' Pension Scheme (England and Wales), (TPS) for its teaching staff. This is a multi-employer defined benefits pension scheme and it is not possible or appropriate to identify the assets and liabilities of the Scheme which are attributable to the School. Accordingly, the School accounts for its contributions as if the TPS were a defined contribution scheme. The charge for the year to 31 August 2020 was £ 723,893 : (2019 £476,127).

The latest actuarial valuation of the Scheme by the Government Actuary was issued on 5 March 2019 relating to the period to 31 March 2016

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 23.68% of pensionable pay including a 0.08% employer administration charge.
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date £218,100 million, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £196,100 million giving a notional past service deficit of £22,000 million
- the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 2.4% above the rate of CPI. The assumed real rate of return is 2.4% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.2%. The assumed nominal rate of return including earnings growth is 4.45%.

(c) **Stakeholder pension scheme**

The School started to operate a defined contributions pension scheme for employees in 2002 when The Merseyside Pension Fund was closed to new employees. Initially this provision was via the Prudential stakeholder pension scheme. On 1st April 2014, contributions were transferred to The People's Pension, operated by B & CE Insurance Limited. This has a lower management fee and is compliant with auto-enrolment pension regulations. The employers' contribution rate has remained at a maximum of 5% with an exception for the Bursar at 12.5% .

The pension charge for the year to 31 August 2020 was £66,293: (2019: £52,886)

19. OTHER FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

(i) Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows

	2020 £	2019 £
Within one year	1,951	-
Between two and five years	15,580	31,001
	17,531	31,001

(ii) The School has a (reviewable) commitment to partly fund the fees of a certain number of students who have been granted bursaries and scholarships during their school careers.

The Birkenhead School Foundation Trust has agreed to provide assistance to the School in respect of these fees both in this financial period and in future years.

20. SUBSIDIARY AND RELATED ENTITIES

(a) Novitas Services Limited

The Charity owns the whole of the issued share capital of Novitas Services Limited, a company registered in England and Wales. At 1 September 2009 the subsidiary ceased trading and its activities were absorbed by Birkenhead School.

A summary of the results of the subsidiary is shown on the following page, these expenses have been consolidated on a line by line basis in the SOFA.

20. **SUBSIDIARY AND RELATED ENTITIES (continued)**

(a) **Novitas Services Limited**

	2020 £	2019 £
Turnover	-	-
Cost of sales	-	-
Gross profit	-	-
Other income	-	-
Administrative expenses	(4,262)	(4,718)
Profit/(Loss)	(4,262)	(4,718)

The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:	2020 £	2019 £
Assets	185,825	190,087
Liabilities	(351,867)	(351,867)
	(166,042)	(161,780)
Share capital	2	2
Profit and loss account	(166,044)	(161,778)
	(166,042)	(161,780)

(b) **Birkenhead School Foundation Trust – connected charity**

The Birkenhead School Foundation Trust is a connected, but separately registered charitable trust (registration no. 1068650) established in 1998 with the object of applying its trust fund and income to assist the School further its charitable objects. It is under common control of the School.

A summary of the results for the Trust is shown below:

	2020 £	2019 £
Incoming resources	201,922	718,395
Resources expended	(102,145)	(225,081)
Gains on investments	238,390	85,031
Net movement in funds	338,167	578,345

20. **SUBSIDIARY AND RELATED ENTITIES (continued)**

(b) **Birkenhead School Foundation Trust – connected charity**

The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:

	2020 £	2019 £
Assets	5,513,489	5,177,717
Liabilities	(187,920)	(190,315)
	5,325,569	4,987,402
Unrestricted funds	5,208,337	4,836,033
Restricted funds	117,232	151,369
	5,325,569	4,987,402

(c) **Birkenhead School**

The surplus dealt with in the Statement of Financial Activities of the parent company was £ 594,308 (2019: Deficit £366,062).

21. **CONTINGENT LIABILITY**

On 5TH July 2018, Birkenhead School entered into a contract with Compass Contract Services (UK) Limited as the provider of catering and related services. The contract is for 10 years and may be terminated by either party on the first, third, fifth, or seventh anniversary of the Services Commencement date, being 1st August 2018. As part of the contract Compass Contract Services (UK) Limited provided capital investment into the catering facilities to the value of £350,000.

If the agreement is terminated by either party earlier than 31 July 2028 for whatever reason, Birkenhead School must pay the following, together with the value of any VAT chargeable thereon:

Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Liability (£)	312,857	275,714	238,571	201,429	164,286	127,143	90,000	60,000	30,000	0