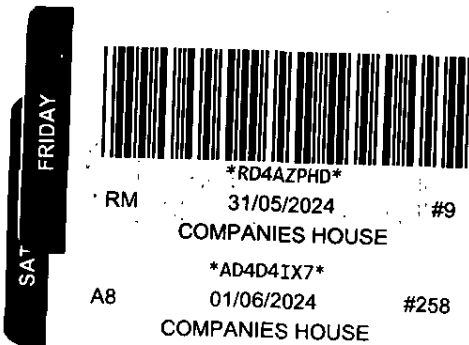


THE ELMS (COLWALL) LIMITED
(a company limited by guarantee)

REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2023



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THE ELMS (COLWALL) LIMITED

**CONTENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

	Page
Legal and Administrative information	1
Annual Report of the Trustees	2 - 6
Independent Auditor's Report	7 - 9
Statement of Financial Activities	10
Balance Sheet	11
Cash Flow Statement	12
Notes to the Financial Statements	13 - 22

THE ELMS (COLWALL) LIMITED

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

TRUSTEES

J Rose – Chairman
N Baldwin
B Evans
M Gilliat Smith
D Graham
A MacKinnon (resigned 02 December 2022)
Lady S J Mcfarlane
A Milliken
L Redvers
P Thomas (resigned 02 December 2022)
H Wall (appointed 02 December 2022)
C Whitworth (resigned 10 March 2023)

COMPANY SECRETARY

S Brandwood

CLERK TO THE TRUSTEES

S Brandwood

HEAD OF SCHOOL

E Lyddon

COMPANY NUMBER

00843499

CHARITY NUMBER

527252

REGISTERED AND PRINCIPAL OFFICE

The Elms School
Colwall
Malvern
Worcestershire
WR13 6EF

AUDITOR

Crowe U.K. LLP
Statutory Auditor
4th Floor, St James House
St James Square
Cheltenham
GL50 3PR

BANKERS

Lloyds Bank plc
8 High Town
Hereford
HR1 2AE

SOLICITORS

Harrison Clark Rickerbys Limited
Ellenborough House
Wellington Street
Cheltenham
GL50 1YD

Whatley Weston & Fox
15 & 16 The Tything
Worcester
WR1 1HD

THE ELMS (COLWALL) LIMITED

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The members of the Governing Body of The Elms (Colwall) Limited present their Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2023 under the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006, thus including the *Directors' Report and Strategic Report under the 2006 Act, together with the audited financial statements* for the year.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

CONSTITUTION AND OBJECTS

The Elms (Colwall) Limited is a charitable company founded in 1614, charity registration number 527252, company registration number 00843499 incorporated on 30 March 1965 with the liability of its members limited to £1 by guarantee. The registered office and principal address of the company is at The Elms, Colwall, Malvern, Worcestershire, WR13 6EF.

The company is governed by its Articles of Association adopted on 18 November 2012.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Aims

The object of the company, in accordance with its Articles of Association, is to seek to advance education of children up to and around the age of 13. In so doing this includes children of different levels of ability and requiring special educational needs achieved by fostering special talents from a variety of backgrounds and widening access to children whose parents cannot afford full fees.

Strategic Aim and Intended Effect.

The school's strategic aim to reach its annual objective is the attainment of good academic levels whilst allowing pupils to benefit from an extra-curricular programme. This aims to draw out their abilities, to develop wider interests in life and to prepare them for a successful outcome at their chosen senior school.

Objectives for the Year

The Board's main objective continued to be to educate all the school's pupils to a high standard as in previous years, so that they will be fully able to benefit from their chosen school for the completion of their education in due course. Our strategy for achieving this is to maintain as small class sizes as is operationally and economically possible with a high teacher-to-pupil ratio, tailoring our services as appropriate in each case to suit individual needs.

Principal Activity

The principal activity of The Elms (Colwall) Limited continues to be the provision of a boarding school. Additionally there is a nursery facility.

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Body

The Directors of the company, who also act as Governors of the school and Trustees of the charity, are elected at the Annual General Meeting of the company. A matrix is used to monitor whether the Board contains a full range of desirable skills. One third of the Directors are required to retire by rotation every year and are eligible for re-election. As a policy it has been agreed that Directors should serve

THE ELMS (COLWALL) LIMITED

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

for a maximum of nine years after which they are ineligible for re-election for one year. Directors may be elected from current parents in the school. For the reporting period under review A Milliken, James Rose, Dan Graham, Hannah Wall and Neil Baldwin are parents of children who were in the school during the financial year.

Trustees' Induction and Training

The Governors are aware that new Trustees should undergo an orientation day to brief them on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Articles of Association, the *committee and decision making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance of the charity*. During the induction day they meet key employees and other Trustees. All Trustees undergo annual Safeguarding training from a qualified individual. Trustees are encouraged to attend external training events where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Organisational Management

The Directors meet as a Board at least three times a year to determine the general policy of the company and review its overall management and control, for which they are legally responsible. The Board is supported by Committees covering Education, Finance, Governance, Safeguarding and Welfare, Marketing and New Pupils, and Estates which review practice in their respective fields, advise the Head and propose and review appropriate policies. The day to day running of the school is delegated to the Head and Bursar. They are also supported by their Senior Management Team and together this group are the key management personnel. Aspects of education, finance and welfare are subject to review by Committees. Remuneration is set by the Board. The Head and Bursar attend all meetings of the Governing Body's Committees.

Employment policy

The School will endeavour to recruit the most suitable staff for any post to ensure the highest standards are maintained throughout the school, both teaching and support staff. It also pursues policies as an equal opportunities employer. Full and fair consideration is given to job applications from disabled persons and due consideration is given to their training and employment needs. Communications with staff continues throughout the year with whole school inset briefings and after school staff meetings.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees (who are also directors of The Elms (Colwall) Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards).

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

THE ELMS (COLWALL) LIMITED

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions, disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and the provisions of the charity's constitution. 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.

Insofar as each of the Trustees of the School at the date of approval of this report is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the School's auditor is unaware. Each of the Trustees have each taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a Trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the School's auditor is aware of that information.

STRATEGIC REPORT

MISSION STATEMENT

The school's mission is to provide the necessary education to enable each pupil to develop their *individual talents in whatever sphere they might lie*, to foster genuine self-confidence and to matriculate successfully to their chosen schools upon leaving and be confident members of the larger society and effective contributors to it.

Our Vision

Our vision is to help each pupil to realise they are truly unique and possess gifts and talents which gives them unlimited potential. We wish to create an educational foundation whereby throughout their lives our pupils will always be ambitious for self-improvement and so develop beyond their perceived potential.

Our Mission

The school's mission is to:

- To provide excellent teaching, learning and pastoral care
- To provide a wealth of opportunities both curricular and extra-curricular
- To encourage pupils to be the best they can be so that we help them to develop their untapped potential

STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

With effect from 1 August 2022, the Directors are actively involved in the implementation of a five year business plan that will run from 2022 to 2027 and which supersedes the prior development plan. The plan, the result of a new energy garnered from within the parent group and local community, is focused on delivering a well-funded and growing school, run with greater efficiency, that understands the market in which it is operating and is confident about its offer into that market. The Accounts covered in this report cover the first year of this strategy, and reflect a reorganisation of staff numbers, along with a recognition of the current market trends and the optimisation of the school's infrastructure and offer in order to allow the school to flourish in the current market.

THE ELMS (COLWALL) LIMITED

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTESS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Review of achievements and performance for the Year:

The school has again had a successful year, attaining excellent academic achievement with all pupils reaching their chosen schools for completion of their education. There was success for the school in its full range of sporting activities in competitions with other schools. Cultural and rural activities form an important part of the school's curriculum. Performing arts continue to provide excellent results with frequent concerts and drama productions. Additionally, the farm and rural studies activities are proving extremely popular with the pupils and their parents.

The school has been able to achieve its mission and these results by continuing to retain its high quality of teaching staff.

The Board's commitment to maintaining the school's excellence has been reinforced by the capital expenditure programme.

Public Benefit

The school takes part in a wide variety of activities in order to carry out the school's aim for public benefit educating children in an environment not generally available to the state sector. The school has links with local state primary school and other local community organisations and provides its facilities free of charge. The school engages in a wide range of other charitable work with the local community.

Means tested financial assistance is available and during the year grants and other awards in the form of bursaries and allowances were made out of unrestricted funds thereby increasing access to the school and thus reducing the annual fee income by £438,782 (2022 - £552,762).

The Directors, as the charity Trustees, confirm that they have complied with their duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The results for the year which show a loss of £153,908 (2022 – surplus of £207,113) are set out in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 11.

Reserves Policy

According to the charities SORP definition, free reserves are calculated as total reserves excluding fixed assets, restricted and endowed funds. Using this definition, the Company would have free reserves of £580,635 (2022 - £724,040). These free reserves are within the parameters set by the Directors of retaining at least the estimated costs of running the charity for the forthcoming academic term and to meet immediate capital expenditure, thereby ensuring there are adequate resources in place to continue current operations.

Investment Policy

The school's surplus funds are invested at all times to obtain maximum protection and income at the same time being readily realisable to meet its commitments within acceptable levels of risk.

THE ELMS (COLWALL) LIMITED

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

FUTURE PLANS

The school's development plan is subject to an annual review by the Governors and the future plans for the school include:

- ensuring that the school and grounds are a safe and attractive environment for pupils, staff and visitors alike;
- provision of a happy and secure pastoral environment, suitable for both day and boarding pupils in which all pupils are offered opportunities for leadership and service to others;
- providing a stimulating learning environment in which pupils can develop their academic potential in full;
- increasing the capability of the school to offer education to children whose parents are unable to afford full fees;
- providing an enjoyable and appropriately challenging environment within which members of staff may develop their careers;
- ensuring that the school plays a significant part in the life of the local community, sharing facilities and seeking local partnerships wherever possible.

These aims underpin development plans so that the school continues to enhance its ability to provide first class education.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Governors have given consideration to the major risks to which the school is exposed. The Governors consider the affordability of fees by parents across the independent school sector, an affordability challenged in the recent past by the economic turbulence and facing the likelihood of a Government seeking to add VAT to the cost of school fees, to be the principal risks faced by the School. Safeguarding, Health and Safety are always significant areas for risk management. The Governing Body has ultimate responsibility for managing any risks faced by the school and has developed a Risk Management Plan. Detailed consideration of risks is delegated to the Welfare and Health and Safety committee which reports formally to the Governing Body. The structure of the committee comprises four members of the Governing Body assisted by senior management.

The risk management process and the resulting report identifies risks, assesses their impact and likelihood, and where necessary, recommends controls to mitigate and monitor those risks. The controls used by the school to minimise risk include:

- detailed terms of reference together with formal agenda;
- comprehensive budgeting and management accounting;
- established organizational structures and lines of reporting;
- formal written policies including clear authorization and approval levels;
- vetting procedures as required by law for the protection of the vulnerable.

The Governors regularly review the effectiveness of current plans and strategies for managing all identified major risks.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The Governing Body has considered the effects of the additional staff costs due to the increase in broad inflation and, for part of the year under review, the threat of Teachers' Pension contributions, as well as the removal of the second state pension in setting fee levels whilst remaining mindful of the effects of the economic situation in recent years.

THE ELMS (COLWALL) LIMITED

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Health and safety is always a significant area for risk management. The risks range from fire and infrastructure to personal risks (including when away from the school premises on trips and expeditions). The risks associated with all activities are minimized by thorough planning and risk assessment.

The Governing Body is satisfied that for all major risks identified appropriate controls have been put in place and maintained to minimize those risks adequately. It is recognised that systems can provide only reasonable but not absolute assurance that major risks have been managed.

AUDITOR

Crowe U.K have been auditor to the School since 2012. In accordance with the principles of good corporate governance, a resolution proposing that the School's external audit contract be put out for tender was passed at the Annual General Meeting on 1st December 2023.

In accordance with Section 485 of the Companies Act 2006, a resolution proposing the appointment of Cooper Parry as auditor to the School from 1st September 2023 was approved by the Trustees of The Elms (Colwall) Limited on 15th March 2024.

This Annual Report, prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006 (in accordance within the special provisions relating to small companies, subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006), was approved by the Trustees of The Elms (Colwall) Limited on 15th March 2024 including in their capacity as company directors approving the Strategic Report contained therein, and is signed as authorised on its behalf by:



J Rose
Chairman of the Trustees

THE ELMS (COLWALL) LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of The Elms (Colwall) Limited

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Elms (Colwall) Limited 'the charitable company' the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement 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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2023 and income and expenditure, for the 31 August 2023 then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company 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 Trustee's 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 charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other information

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

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether 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.

THE ELMS (COLWALL) LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' 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 light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and their 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 in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept; 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 Trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 3, 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 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.

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

We identified the greatest risk of material impact on the financial statements from irregularities, including fraud, to be with the override of controls by management. Our audit procedures to respond to these risks included enquiries of management, and the Audit and Risk Committee about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, sample testing on the posting of journals, reviewing accounting estimates for biases, reviewing regulatory correspondence with the Charity Commission, Independent Schools Inspectorate, Ofsted and reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.

THE ELMS (COLWALL) LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

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

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 auditor's report.

Use of our report

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



Guy Biggin
Senior Statutory Auditor
For and on behalf of
Crowe U.K. LLP
Statutory Auditor
4th Floor, St James House
St James Square
Cheltenham
GL50 3PR

Date: 30 May 2024

THE ELMS (COLWALL) LIMITED

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

		Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
	Notes				
INCOME FROM:					
Charitable activities					
School fees	2	2,440,162	-	2,440,162	2,346,370
Ancillary trading income	3	215,750	-	215,750	242,510
Investment income		12,410	-	12,410	1,280
Other trading activities	3	6,170	-	6,170	1,712
Government grant income	3	-	-	-	-
Local council funding		-	57,902	57,902	42,659
Donations		141,350	23,310	164,660	605,957
Profit on disposal of fixed assets		-	-	-	17,800
Total incoming resources		2,815,841	81,212	2,897,053	3,258,288
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Charitable activities					
Education and grant making		2,969,749	81,212	3,050,961	3,051,175
Total expenditure	5	2,969,749	81,212	3,050,961	3,051,175
Net movement on funds		(153,908)	-	(153,908)	207,113
Fund balances at 1 September 2022		3,623,585	49,601	3,673,186	3,466,073
Fund balances at 31 August 2023	11/12	3,469,677	49,601	3,519,278	3,673,186

All amounts relate to continuing operations.

The Statement of Financial Activities contains all the gains and losses recognised in the current and preceding year.

The notes on pages 13 to 22 form part of these financial statements.

THE ELMS (COLWALL) LIMITED**BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023
COMPANY NUMBER: 00843499**

	Notes	£	2023	£	£	2022	£
FIXED ASSETS							
Tangible assets	6		2,889,042			2,899,545	
CURRENT ASSETS							
Debtors	7	165,222			198,723		
Stock		10,065					
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>953,815</u>			<u>1,027,810</u>		
		1,129,102			1,226,533		
CREDITORS – amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>(427,884)</u>			<u>(384,887)</u>		
NET CURRENT ASSETS			701,218			841,646	
CREDITORS – amounts falling due after more than one year	9		<u>(70,982)</u>			<u>(68,005)</u>	
TOTAL NET ASSETS	10		<u>3,519,278</u>			<u>3,673,186</u>	
FUNDS							
Unrestricted funds	12		3,469,677			3,623,585	
Restricted funds	11		<u>49,601</u>			<u>49,601</u>	
TOTAL FUNDS	10		<u>3,519,278</u>			<u>3,673,186</u>	

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 15th March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:


J Rose
Chairman

The notes on pages 13 to 22 form part of these financial statements.

THE ELMS (COLWALL) LIMITED

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:				
Net outgoings for the year		(153,342)		207,113
Adjustments for:				
Investment income and bank interest received		(12,410)		(1,280)
Profit on disposal of tangible fixed assets		0		(17,800)
Purchase of uniform stock		(10,065)		
Depreciation charge		148,454		145,540
(Increase) in debtors		33,501		(96,931)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors		45,975		(53,619)
		52,112		183,023
Net cash from/(used) by operating activities				
Cash flows from investing activities				
Payments for tangible fixed assets	(138,517)		(5,680)	
Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed assets	0		17,800	
Investment income and bank interest received	12,410		1,280	
Net cash provided/(used) by investing activities		(126,108)		13,400
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(73,995)		196,423
<i>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year</i>		1,027,810		831,387
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		953,815		1,027,810

Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	953,815	1,027,810

Analysis of changes in net debt

	<i>At 1 September 2022</i>	Cash- flows	<i>At 31 August 2023</i>
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	1,027,810	(73,995)	953,815

The notes on pages 13 to 22 form part of these financial statements.

THE ELMS (COLWALL) LIMITED

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

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) **Charity Information**

The Elms (Colwall) Limited is a registered charity with the Charities Commission England and Wales (charity number: 527252) and was incorporated as a private company limited by guarantee (company number: 00843499) on 30 March 1965. The address of its registered office is The Elms School, Colwall, Malvern, Worcestershire, WR13 6EF.

b) **Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The Elms (Colwall) Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

c) **Going Concern**

The School has cash resources, that were significantly augmented by a successful fund-raising campaign in June 2022, and no requirement for external funding. The Trustees have reviewed the expected ongoing demand for places and cash flow forecasts, and have a reasonable expectation that the School has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. They continue to believe the going concern basis of accounting appropriate in preparing the annual financial statements.

d) **Fees and Other Income**

Fees receivable are stated after deducting allowances, scholarships and other remissions granted by the School.

All other income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the School has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Donation income is accounted for as and when entitlement arises and the amount can be reliably quantified.

Investment income from dividends and interest are accounted for in an accruals basis.

e) **Government Grant**

During the previous year, The Elms suspended certain functions in reaction to government directives aimed at reducing the spread of Covid-19 (coronavirus). This resulted in a number of staff being furloughed with their wages paid by the government. These wages are reflected in Notes 4 and 5 of the accounts. The repayment of their wages from the government is represented in unrestricted income in Note 3. The furlough scheme has not been utilised in the current year by The Elms and as a result no income has been recorded in the year.

During the current year, The Elms received grant funding from their local authority to support expenses incurred as well as a contribution towards fees for a pupil due to consideration for specialist learning support.

f) **Expenditure**

Expenditure is accrued as soon as a liability is considered probable, discounted to present value for longer-term liabilities. Expenditure is allocated to expense headings on a direct cost basis, with staff costs being allocated according to the estimated time spent by staff working in relevant departments. The irrecoverable element of VAT is included with the item of expense to which it relates.

THE ELMS (COLWALL) LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

g) Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is not provided on freehold land. On other assets depreciation is provided on cost in equal annual instalments over the estimated economic lives of the assets. The rates of depreciation are as follows:

Freehold buildings	2% straight line or the expected remaining life of the building
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	10% or 20% straight line
Motor vehicles	25% straight line

Expenditure on fixed assets is capitalised except for expenditure incurred on the replacement of assets of low value with a short life. Repair, renovation and replacement expenditure is written off as expenditure in the statement of financial activities. Individual items costing less than £5,000 are written off as an expense as acquired.

h) Investments

Investments are measured at market value with any change recognised in the Statement of financial activities.

i) Debtors

Short term debtors are initially measured at transaction price, less any impairment.

j) Cash

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions.

k) Creditors

Short term creditors are initially measured at the transaction price.

l) Financial instruments

The School 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.

m) Restricted Funds

Funds donated for purposes restricted by the wishes of the donor are taken to restricted funds, where these wishes are legally binding on the Trustees.

n) Recognition of Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation that commits the School to the obligation.

o) Pension Schemes

The School contributes to the Teachers' Pension Defined Benefits Scheme at rates set by the Scheme Actuary and advised to the Board by the Scheme Administrator. The scheme is a multi-employer pension scheme and it is not possible to identify the assets and liabilities of the scheme, which are attributable to the School. In accordance with FRS102 therefore, the scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme. The School also contributes to personal pension schemes for non-teaching staff and these contributions are accrued accordingly.

p) Taxation

The School is a registered charity, and as such is entitled to certain tax exemptions on surpluses on any trading activities carried on in furtherance of the charity's primary objectives.

THE ELMS (COLWALL) LIMITED

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

2. FEES RECEIVABLE

Income represents gross School fees invoiced less discounts and allowances.

	2023 £	2022 £
Gross School fees	2,855,634	2,885,822
Less: total scholarships, bursaries, grants and allowances:	<u>(438,782)</u>	<u>(552,762)</u>
	2,416,852	2,333,060
Add back: Bursaries and awards paid for by restricted funds	<u>23,310</u>	<u>13,310</u>
	<u>2,440,162</u>	<u>2,346,370</u>

3. OTHER INCOME

	2023 £	2022 £
Ancillary trading income		
Fee extras and school trips	206,493	238,215
Other trading income	<u>9,257</u>	<u>4,295</u>
	<u>215,750</u>	<u>242,510</u>

Non ancillary trading income

	2023 £	2022 £
Interest on overdue fees	3,124	604
Other income	<u>3,046</u>	<u>1,108</u>
	<u>6,170</u>	<u>1,712</u>

	2023 £	2022 £
Government grant income – furlough	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

4. STAFF COSTS

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	1,599,045	1,590,596
Social security costs	146,446	154,904
Pension contributions	<u>224,044</u>	<u>269,531</u>
	<u>1,969,535</u>	<u>2,015,031</u>

The average number of the School's employees during the year calculated on average head count was 61 (2022 – 61).

THE ELMS (COLWALL) LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

4. STAFF COSTS (continued)

The number of employees paid in excess of £60,000 during the year were as follows:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
£60,001 - £70,000	0	1
£80,001 - £90,000	0	1

Contributions to the Teachers' Pension Scheme were made for the benefit of none (2022 - two) higher paid employee. Payments made in the year for that member of staff into the Teachers' Pension Scheme totalled £0 (2022 - £29,888).

The Trustees received no remuneration in either year, and no expenses were paid on behalf of Trustees in either year.

During the year there were no redundancy or termination payments made (2022 - £7,500).

The remuneration of the Senior Management Team was:

	2023 £	2022 £
Senior Management Team Remuneration	387,495	563,643

5. ANALYSIS OF TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Staff Costs £	Other £	Depreciation £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Charitable activities:					
Education	1,396,167	313,170	71,949	1,781,286	1,870,283
Welfare	241,141	128,135		369,276	397,911
Premises	133,931	274,977	77,078	485,986	360,227
Marketing and publicity		57,873		57,873	42,563
Support costs	198,296	134,941		333,237	366,881
Grants, awards and prizes		23,310		23,310	13,310
Total	1,969,535	932,406	149,027	3,050,968	3,051,175

	2023 £	2022 £
Governance costs (included within support costs) comprise		
Auditor's remuneration – audit services	15,100	9,500

THE ELMS (COLWALL) LIMITED

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Land and buildings £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost				
<i>At 1 September 2022</i>	3,841,226	920,367	124,036	4,885,629
Additions	18,756	111,703	8,060	138,523
Disposal			(25,380)	(25,380)
At 31 August 2023	3,859,986	1,032,070	106,716	4,998,772
Depreciation				
<i>At 1 September 2022</i>	1,247,042	632,618	106,426	1,986,084
Charge for the year	77,078	56,619	15,330	149,027
Disposal			(25,380)	(25,380)
At 31 August 2023	1,324,120	689,237	96,373	2,109,731
Net book value				
At 31 August 2023	2,535,866	342,833	10,343	2,889,042
<i>At 31 August 2022</i>	<i>2,594,184</i>	<i>287,751</i>	<i>17,610</i>	<i>2,899,551</i>

7. DEBTORS	2023 £	2022 £
Net School fee debtors	57,772	47,107
Other debtors	25,349	96,695
Prepayments and accrued income	82,101	54,471
	165,222	198,273

8. CREDITORS - AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	31,650	29,674
Taxation and social security	37,026	65,229
Other creditors and accruals	31,553	20,802
Deferred income - fees received in advance of term	316,643	258,189
Deposits from parents	11,012	10,993
	427,884	384,887

THE ELMS (COLWALL) LIMITED

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

9. CREDITORS - AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Fee deposits	<u>70,982</u>	<u>68,005</u>
	Fee deposits	
	2023 £	2022 £
Repayable as follows:		
Due within one year	11,012	10,993
Due within 2-5 years	43,982	40,505
Due in more than 5 years	<u>27,000</u>	<u>27,000</u>
	<u>81,994</u>	<u>78,998</u>

Fee deposits represent amounts received on confirmation of a place. Monies will be repaid on leaving the School via a credit against the fee for the last term attended.

10. ALLOCATION OF THE NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Fixed Assets £	Net Current Assets £	Long term Liabilities £	Total £
Current year movement				
Restricted Funds (note 11)	-	49,601	-	49,601
Unrestricted Funds (note 12)	<u>2,889,042</u>	<u>651,617</u>	<u>(70,982)</u>	<u>3,469,677</u>
	<u>2,889,042</u>	<u>701,218</u>	<u>(70,982)</u>	<u>3,519,278</u>
Prior year movement				
	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds (note 11)	-	49,601	-	49,601
Unrestricted Funds (note 12)	<u>2,899,545</u>	<u>792,045</u>	<u>(68,005)</u>	<u>3,623,585</u>
	<u>2,899,545</u>	<u>841,646</u>	<u>(68,005)</u>	<u>3,673,186</u>

THE ELMS (COLWALL) LIMITED

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

11 RESTRICTED FUNDS

Current year movement	Balance 01/09/2022 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Balance 31/08/2023 £
Grocers donation – bursary	49,601	23,310	(23,310)	49,601
Specialist learning support	-	57,902	(57,902)	-
	<u>49,601</u>	<u>81,212</u>	<u>(81,212)</u>	<u>49,601</u>
Prior year movement	Balance 01/09/2021 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Balance 31/08/2022 £
Grocers donation – bursary	49,601	13,310	(13,310)	49,601
Specialist learning support	-	42,659	(42,659)	-
	<u>49,601</u>	<u>55,969</u>	<u>(55,969)</u>	<u>49,601</u>

The Grocers Company provides annual financial support for an identified pupil throughout their stay at the school.

The local authority has granted funding in relation to specialist learning support to cover related expenses.

12 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Current year movement	Balance 1/09/2022 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers £	Balance 31/08/2023 £
General Reserve	3,617,730	2,815,841	(2,969,749)	-	3,483,822
Designated Fund	5,855	-	-	-	5,855
	<u>3,623,585</u>	<u>2,815,841</u>	<u>(2,969,749)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,469,677</u>

Unrestricted funds represent accumulated income from the school's activities and other sources that are available for the general purposes of the school.

Designated funds have been set aside during the year for the refurbish of the tennis courts within the school grounds.

THE ELMS (COLWALL) LIMITED

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

Prior year movement	Balance 1/09/2021 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	£	Balance 31/08/2022 £
General Reserve	3,410,617	3,202,319	(2,995,206)	-	3,617,730
Designated Fund	5,855	-	-	-	5,855
	<u>3,416,471</u>	<u>3,202,319</u>	<u>(2,995,206)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,623,585</u>

13. PENSIONS

Teachers Pension Scheme:

The School participates in the Teachers' Pension Scheme ("the TPS") for its teaching staff. The pension charge for the year includes contributions payable to the TPS of £109,133 (2022: £241,517) and at the year-end £Nil (2022 - £Nil) was accrued in respect of contributions to this scheme.

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

The employer contribution rate is set by the Secretary of State following scheme valuations undertaken by the Government Actuary's Department. The most recent actuarial valuation of the TPS was prepared as at 31 March 2016 and the Valuation Report, which was published in March 2019, confirmed that the employer contribution rate for the TPS would increase from 16.4% to 23.6% from 1 September 2019. Employers are also required to pay a scheme administration levy of 0.08% giving a total employer contribution rate of 23.68%.

The 31 March 2016 Valuation Report was prepared in accordance with the benefits set out in the scheme regulations and under the approach specified in the Directions, as they applied at 5 March 2019. However, the assumptions were considered and set by the Department for Education prior to the ruling in the 'McCloud/Sargeant case'. This case has required the courts to consider cases regarding the implementation of the 2015 reforms to Public Service Pensions including the Teachers' Pensions.

The TPS is subject to a cost cap mechanism which was put in place to protect taxpayers against unforeseen changes in scheme costs. The Chief Secretary to the Treasury, having in 2018 announced that there would be a review of this cost cap mechanism, in January 2019 announced a pause to the cost cap mechanism following the Court of Appeal's ruling in the McCloud/Sargeant case and until there is certainty about the value of pensions to employees from April 2015 onwards. The pause was lifted in July 2020, and following a public consultation in 2021 the Government have accepted three key proposals recommended by the Government Actuary, and are aiming to implement these changes in time for the 2020 valuations.

The 2016 cost control valuations were completed in January 2022, and the results indicated that there would be no changes to benefits or member contributions required. The results of the cost cap valuation are not used to set the employer contribution rate, and HM Treasury has indicated that any changes to the employer contribution rate resulting from the 2020 valuations will take effect in April 2024.

THE ELMS (COLWALL) LIMITED

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

Until the 2020 valuation is completed it is not possible to conclude on any financial impact or future changes to the contribution rates of the TPS. Accordingly no provision for any additional past benefit pension costs is included in these financial statements.

APTIS:

From 1st April 2023 the School has participated in the Aviva Pension Trust for Independent Schools (APTIS) for its teaching staff. The pension charge for the year includes contributions payable to APTIS of £98,643 (2022: £Nil) and at the year-end £Nil (2022 - £nil) was accrued in respect of contributions to this scheme.

Aviva Pension Trust for Independent Schools (APTIS) is a defined contributions pension scheme available for all member schools of the Independent Schools' Bursary Association (ISBA).

14. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

	2023 £	2022 £
Financial assets		
Financial assets measured at amortised cost	<u>1,036,969</u>	<u>1,077,352</u>
Financial liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	<u>432,130</u>	<u>344,537</u>

Financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise of cash at bank, fee debtors and other debtors.

Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost comprise of trade creditors, other creditors, deposits and fees in advance.

15. OPERATING LEASES

At 31 August 2023 the total of the School's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts payable:		
Less than 1 year	31,371	7,499
Between 1 and 2 years	7,698	7,499
Between 2 and 5 years	<u>301</u>	<u>4,815</u>
	<u>39,370</u>	<u>19,814</u>

16. RELATED PARTIES TRANSACTIONS

A company which is owned by a relative of A Milliken, Director, was paid £1,608 (2022 - £2,811) for landscape services provided to the school. £Nil (2022 - £Nil) was owned to that company at 31 August 2023.

THE ELMS (COLWALL) LIMITED

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

A company of which J Rose is a Director was paid £1,800 (2022- £Nil) for advisory services provided to the school. £Nil (2022 - £Nil) was owed to that company at 31 August 2023.

Five Trustees are parents of children who were in the school during the financial year.

The School had no other related party transactions during the financial year.

17. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES – Comparative figures by fund-type

		Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
	Notes			
INCOME FROM:				
Charitable activities				
School fees	2	2,346,370	-	2,346,370
Ancillary trading income	3	242,510	-	242,510
Investment income		1,280	-	1,280
Other trading activities	3	1,712	-	1,712
Government grant income	3	-	-	-
Local council funding		-	42,659	42,659
Donations		592,647	13,310	605,957
Profit on disposal of fixed assets		17,800	-	17,800
<hr/>				
Total incoming resources		3,202,319	55,969	3,258,288
<hr/>				
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Charitable activities				
Education and grant making		2,995,206	55,969	3,051,175
<hr/>				
Total expenditure	5	2,995,206	55,969	3,051,175
<hr/>				
Net movement on funds		207,113	-	207,113
Fund balances at 1 September 2021		3,416,472	49,601	3,466,073
<hr/>				
Fund balances at 31 August 2022	11/12	3,623,585	49,601	3,673,186



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