



Lostock Hall Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

Lostock Hall Academy Trust
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year Ended 31st August 2024

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Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Reference and Administrative Details

Year Ended 31st August 2024

Members

Mrs A Boardman (appointed 6th March 2024)
Mrs S Clemson (appointed 6th March 2024)
Mr I Crook (appointed 6th March 2024)
Mr W Pitcher (appointed 6th March 2024)
Mrs M Scrivens
Mr B Burke (resigned 6th March 2024)
Cllr C Hughes (resigned 6th March 2024)

Trustees

Mrs A Ashworth
Mr I Boot (appointed 10th July 2024)
Mrs G Bruce
Mr B Burke
Miss A Earnshaw (appointed 7th March 2024)
Mrs D McNally
Mr B Pilkington
Mrs M Scrivens
Mrs T Slater

Mrs G F Gorman (ex officio)

Secretary

Mrs T Jones

Senior Leadership Team

Mrs J Butterworth
Mr N Clitheroe
Mrs T Jones
Mrs G F Gorman
Mr S Sloan
Mrs N Tucker
Mr J Doyle

Principal and Registered Office

Todd Lane North
Lostock Hall Preston
PR5 5UR

Company Registration Number

07657427 (England & Wales)

Independent Auditor

CWR Chartered Accountants
20 Mannin Way
Lancaster Business Park
Caton Road
Lancaster
LA1 3SW

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Reference and Administrative Details

Year Ended 31st August 2024

Bankers

Lloyds Bank PLC
Fishergate
Preston
PR1 2JB

Solicitors

Forbes Solicitors
Ground Floor Oak House
28 Sceptre Way
Walton Summit
Preston
PR5 6AW

Actuary

Mercer Limited
Mercury Court
Tithebarn Street
Liverpool L2 2QH

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 31st August 2024

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the period from the 1st September 2023 to the 31st August 2024. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report including a strategic report under company law.

The trust operates an academy for students aged 11 to 16 serving a general priority area mainly in the South Ribble District Council of Lancashire.

1. Structure, Governance and Management

1.1 Constitution

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust. The trustees of Lostock Hall Academy Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as Lostock Hall Academy Trust.

Details of the trustees who served throughout the year except as noted are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 2.

1.2 Members' Liability

Each Member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the charitable company in the event of it being wound up while they are a Member, or within one year after they cease to be a Member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10, for the debts and liabilities contracted before they ceased to be a Member.

1.3 Trustees' Indemnities

The Academy has purchased indemnity insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising in connection with Academy business. The insurance provides cover of up to £5,000,000 on any one claim.

1.4 Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

The trustees are appointed by the following:

Member appointed trustees	Elected by members
Parent trustees	Elected by parents of the students attending the Academy
Co-opted trustees	Appointed by the Trust Board

No more than one third of the trustees may be employees of the Academy.

1.5 Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees.

Induction and ongoing training are provided by Lancashire County Council Governor Training and Development Service. The trustees also have access to online training and webinars provided by the NGA Learning Link, Governors for Schools and Governor Hub. They also benefit from school based training delivered throughout the year.

1.6 Organisational Structure

The Academy is governed by its Trust Board, whose members are directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 and trustees for the purposes of charity legislation. The organisational structure of the Academy consists of 4 levels: The Trust Members, the Trust Board, the Principal, and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

The Trust Board is responsible for

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 31st August 2024

- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its students, and the performance management of staff
- Overseeing and ensuring effective financial performance

The trustees apply the highest standards of conduct and ensure robust governance. They follow the Governance Handbook published by the Department for Education and Academy Handbook.

They comply with the trust's charitable objectives, with company and charity law, and with their contractual obligations under the funding agreement.

The trustees ensure regularity and propriety in use of the trust's funds, to ensure value for money is achieved as well as taking ownership of the trust's financial sustainability and its ability to operate as a going concern.

Certain elements of these responsibilities are delegated to the following sub committees who make recommendations to the full Trust Board:

Governance Structure 2023-24

Academic Achievement & Student Welfare Committee
Finance, Risk and Staff Welfare Committee
Pay Committee

The Principal is also the Accounting Officer and has responsibility for ensuring that grant income is spent in line with the funding agreement.

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) comprises:

Principal	Mrs G F Gorman
Senior Assistant Principal	Mr N Clitheroe
Senior Assistant Principal	Mrs N Tucker
Assistant Vice Principal	Mrs J Butterworth
Assistant Vice Principal	Mr S Sloan
Assistant Vice Principal - Director of Business/Finance	Mrs T Jones
Senior Leader – Head of Faculty	Mr J Doyle

1.7 Arrangements for Setting Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

The Trust Board has adopted a whole academy pay policy which will be reviewed on an annual basis. It has been developed to comply with the current School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document and is in line with the Guidance on School Teachers' Pay and Conditions. Pay scales for senior staff are set and reviewed in accordance with this policy. Pay decisions are overseen by the Trust Board who will act with integrity, confidentiality, objectivity, and honesty in the best interests of the Academy.

Support staff are covered by the National Joint Council (NJC) scheme conditions of service and the Academy has adopted the Lancashire County Council's pay and grading structure under the NJC scheme of conditions of service.

Trustees are volunteers and receive no pay or remuneration.

1.8 Related Parties and Other Connected Charities and Organisations

There are no connected organisations in the year related party transactions are disclosed in note 26 to the accounts.

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Trustees' Report

Year Ended 31st August 2024

2. Objectives and Activities

2.1 Objects and Aims

Lostock Hall Academy Trust was set up on the 1st August 2011. Its principal objective is the operation of Lostock Hall Academy (LHA) which is a non-selective academy, providing education for 11-16 year olds of different abilities, mainly in the South Ribble District Council area of Lancashire. Students are drawn from the general priority area, in accordance with the Academy's admissions criteria. Prior to conversion LHA was a Specialist Arts, Maths and Computing College.

The principal objectives of LHA are: -

- To conduct its business to the highest possible standards, integrity, and openness.
- To comply with all statutory legislation and curriculum requirements.
- To ensure that every student, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, disability, or social background, achieves the best possible outcomes.
- To improve its overall effectiveness by continuous self-evaluation and improvement.
- To provide value for money.
- To maintain and build on the close links with the local community and business.
- LHA aims to provide an outstanding education for all its students in a caring, supporting environment.

We aim to achieve this by providing: -

- Well-planned learning opportunities for all students, in order that they achieve in line with or exceed expectations in Key Stages 3 and 4.
- A broad, balanced, and personalised curriculum that is fully inclusive and meets the social and academic needs of all our students.
- Our students with the knowledge, tolerance, and skills necessary for them to succeed in and contribute to life in modern Britain, equipping them for life beyond Lostock Hall Academy, to the next phase of their education or training.
- An extensive programme of extra-curricular activities to enhance the taught curriculum provided.
- Professional development opportunities for all staff, including succession planning, targeted support, and annual appraisals, in order that high standards are maintained.
- Activities available to all students to enhance and improve their leadership and support of others.
- Appropriate cross-phase (primary and tertiary) transition learning and activities.

Equal Opportunities

The Academy Trust aims to establish equal opportunity in all areas of its activities to develop a working environment where everyone's contribution is valued. The Academy fully supports the requirements and legislation of the Equality Act 2010.

Lostock Hall Academy Vision 2023-24

LHA will be the local secondary provider of choice. We will equip all our learners with the knowledge, skills, values, and behaviours to achieve their full potential in a safe, stimulating, and supportive environment. Educating the future, Academy students will be proud to achieve a successful career path through transition into work or training in all walks of adult life.

Academy Key Priorities

- To ensure the highest standards of leadership and management through reflective governance and the provision of developmental opportunities for staff at all levels.
- To provide a safe and secure learning environment, that supports the social and emotional wellbeing of all students and staff.
- To raise aspirations, build resilience, ensure enjoyment and independence in learning for all students.
- To continually develop, teach and review a high quality, engaging broad and balanced curriculum through a research-based approach to teaching and learning in an inclusive and dynamic environment.

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 31st August 2024

- To work collaboratively as part of a professional learning community and in partnership with parents/carers to ensure all students achieve through personalised learning, pastoral, and health programmes.
- To maintain high levels of punctuality and attendance of students ensuring excellence for all.
- To ensure a positive image based on the strengths of the Academy is shared across the community to increase student recruitment.
- To provide a range of meaningful experiences linked to the labour market, along with encounters with further and higher education to support personalised career paths.

2.2 Public Benefit

The trustees have considered the Charities Commission guidance on Public Benefit. The key public benefit delivered by Lostock Hall Academy is the maintenance and development of the high-quality education provided by the academy to the young people of South Ribble.

Strategic report

3. Achievements and Performance

3.1 Key Performance Indicators

The Academy monitors its performance on the examination results and Ofsted reports it receives. The Academy operates in line with the requirements of its Funding Agreement with the Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and manages its reserves in line with the policies set out below.

GCSE Results 2024

2024 has proved to be another successful year for the students of Lostock Hall Academy despite challenges over the last few years.

The continued success and drive for excellence at Lostock Hall Academy, can be seen through the broad range of subjects that achieved top marks for their students. These not only include the core subjects of English and maths, but the more creative subjects that reflect the importance we continue to place on this side of the curriculum, as well as the career opportunities open to all our students in the world of media, IT and computer science, engineering and business.

Key Headline Data 2024

Given the uneven impact of the pandemic on school and college performance data, the government has said there should be no direct comparisons between the performance data for one school or college and another, or to data from previous years. However, comparisons to National and the Local Authority (LA) data show that the academy is in line with or above average for all of the key headline measures, except Ebacc entry and Ebacc APS.

Progress 8 :	+0.01 (provisional, better than National and LA)
Attainment 8 :	46.47 (in line with National and better than LA)
EBacc Entered :	27% (below National and just below than LA)
APS Ebacc :	3.98 (slightly below National and the LA)
Basics (9-5 in English & in Maths) :	47% (slightly better than National and better than LA)

Attendance remained strong and above national figures and we continue to work hard to further improve this engaging with stakeholders to secure very high levels of attendance.

Demand for student places remained high and again the academy agreed to temporarily exceed its Published Admission Number (PAN) to support the local authority.

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Trustees' Report

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3.2 Review of external provision for our most able students

Over the course of the 2023-24 academic year further links were developed with external partners that enabled (a) events to be organised onsite and (b) external visits to take place.

The first major event of the year took place in partnership with UCLAN in September with a group of students from Years 10 and 11 being given the opportunity to visit the Science centre/work with University staff to access the laboratories.

Two dedicated Engineering visits took place over the course of the year. The first one took place in February and involved Year 9 and 10 students visiting the Leyland Trucks site (guided tour and apprenticeship/careers talk).

The second visit involved Year 9 girls visiting Runshaw College to take part in an Engineering 'Masterclass'. The visit was designed to encourage more female students to consider following a STEM/Engineering pathway. The students involved worked alongside Runshaw students to construct model bridges before presenting to the group.

In April, a group of Year 10 students visited the Lancaster University School Of Maths (LUSOM) centre where they attended a series of presentations by staff and a keynote speaker.

Finally, girls from Years 8 and 9 participated in a 'Girls Active' day at Westview Leisure Centre. The event was coordinated by PE staff working with the South Ribble Active Health team.

Year 10 students participated in a number of Runshaw 'Horizons' visits that are designed to stimulate interest in and aspirations for college level education. The sessions are outlined below:

- Surprising Science event
- English Challenge event
- Business Ethics event
- English Challenge Event

The Academy continued to be the nominated lead school for the Endeavour Learning Trust 'Able and Ambitious' working group. This group is designed to review provision for more able students and share resources/new approaches to teaching and learning for *more able* students. Online meetings were conducted over the course of the 2023/24 academic year and minutes shared across all schools within the Teaching Alliance.

3.3 Student Leadership and Wellbeing at Lostock Hall Academy

The Behaviour for Learning team consolidated the LHA Character Advancement Programme (CAP) in 2023/24 which recognises student attendance, punctuality, effort and progress. Each term student performance is recognised through the LHA core values with students able to gain Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum awards that also link into the Year 11 Prom and the Year 7-10 reward visit.

The Duke of Edinburgh award was introduced in 2023-24 with priority given to students who achieve their CAP awards in the previous academic year. 30 students followed the D of E programme, successfully gaining their Bronze Award. The achievement criteria for the CAP awards is reviewed and amended each year to support student personal development within school.

Following on from the DfE funded senior mental health lead training programme, the SLT lead is now further supported by one Educational Mental Health Practitioner who works in the academy one day a week leading group and 1:1 sessions with students to develop resilience and support students with anxiety concerns. Additionally, we continued to work closely with UCLan to support new trainee counsellors within the academy. We had 4 trainees working closely with the safeguarding team throughout the academic year.

The development of leadership skills through PE lessons continued to be a focus. Students took a more active role in terms of helping to set up lessons and taking a more active role within. Working alongside the South Ribble 'Active Health' team, students also completed internal leadership training and then helped to organise a number of primary

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school events which took place onsite at the Academy. Students from Year 8 and 9 were present at every event helping to organise and officiate.

3.4 Extra-curricular sports provision

Over the course of the 2023-24 academic year students were given a wide range of opportunities to participate in (a) intra-school clubs and competitions and (b) external inter-school fixtures/events. Teams competed in football & netball leagues/cups, badminton & table tennis events and indoor/outdoor athletics events.

A number of students (boys and girls) represented the District of South Ribble in athletics, cross country and football.

Alongside providing extra-curricular PE opportunities for Year 7-11 students, PE staff worked with the South Ribble Health team to organise a considerable number of primary school events (both inclusion based and competitive). Lostock Hall Academy young leaders helped to organise and officiate at these events.

The PE Department at the Academy achieved the School Games 'Gold' standard for the third consecutive year, based on the excellent level of provision for PE and School Sport offered across each term.

Students from Years 7-10 completed the 'Active Lives' survey (Active Lancashire/Sport England) which aims to gain a picture of activity levels and wellbeing of young people across the county. Active Lives data provides insights into the physical activity levels of residents in specific areas. Local authorities then use this information to shape policies related to health, recreation, and sports. By understanding activity patterns, they can design targeted interventions to promote physical activity, combat sedentary lifestyles, and improve overall health.

Linked to this, the Year 7 student council met to discuss the range and quality of enrichment events/clubs that have been available/attended. The responses provided by the students will be used to further improve provision for extra-curricular provision at the Academy.

3.5 Type B Visits (LCC approved)

The academy continues to put great emphasis on enrichment outside of the classroom. We endeavour to provide opportunities for all students to visit museums, art galleries, theatres, field trips, outdoor adventure visits, and visits to Further Education institutions. The academy launched the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award to students studying in years 9 and 10. The programme included 2 successful overnight expeditions. We were also pleased to be able to offer a range of overseas visits to further the experiences of our young people. The wide variety of visits allowed all year groups to access, and all students had the opportunity to attend a rewards visit to Blackpool Pleasure Beach at the end of the academic year.

3.6 ICT Strategy

Digital literacy has continued to embed in our curriculum as we prepare students for their continued education and careers beyond LHA. New students to the academy are equipped with laptops in lessons as part of our device scheme.

The continuous increased demand forecast on our IT infrastructure has resulted in a strategic development programme to upgrade the architecture and futureproof the provision in line with the Department for Education's 'Meeting digital and technology standards in schools and colleges' guidance for schools. An investment project has seen the upgrade of IT infrastructure to ensure continuity of digital provision in the classroom and the business and also better safeguards to mitigate cyber risks.

3.7 SEND Update

The Academy continues to take direction from the government's national review of SEND (Green Paper: Right support, right place, right time) which outlines standards regarding:

- Early, robust identification of need
- A standardised and digitalised Education and Health Care Plan process (EHCP)
- High-quality teaching and learning

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 31st August 2024

- Prompt access to targeted support
- Improved teacher training and development
- Use of a 'what works' evidence programme
- Sharing of best practice amongst schools
- Improved transition into further education through a shared digital system
- Accountability at every level
- Better use of data within SEND systems
- Greater access to alternative provision

In particular, within the next academic year 2024-2025, the Academy will focus on improving the communication of SEND data and interventions within an aspect of Synergy known as the student 'Referral, Plan and Review' document. The purpose of this document is to ensure that all staff coordinate effectively when deciding upon provision for a SEND learner. This system will support the academy in making effective provision for SEND learners, including Nurture teaching when appropriate.

4. Financial Review

4.1 Operating and Financial Review

The Academy's total incoming resources during the year were £5,469,000.

Most of the Academy's income derives from central government funding via the Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), in the form of current grants. Total funding received for the Academy's educational operations from the ESFA/DfE, in the year was £5,058,000 and further details are provided in note 3 to the accounts.

Total outgoing resources for the year were £5,246,000 the majority of which related to the direct provision of educational operations.

At the year end the Academy's total reserves were £9,449,000 including unrestricted funds of £281,000 and restricted funds of £9,168,000. Restricted funds include fixed assets of £7,994,000, less the LGPS scheme surplus of £456,000. The remaining balance on restricted funds of £718,000 relates to funding received in the year which is due to be spent in 2024/25 in accordance with the terms of funding. Further detail is provided in note 16.

Total restricted general funds and unrestricted funds amounted to £999,000 at 31st August 2024.

At the 31st August 2024 all assets shown in the accounts were used exclusively for providing education and associated support services to students of the Academy.

4.2 Reserves Policy

Restricted GAG reserves - The Trustees have considered the level of GAG reserves which they believe will provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between the spending and receipt of grants and unexpected or planned future revenue and capital costs. The Trustees believe that, under normal circumstances, the appropriate level of GAG reserve should be between 2% and 10% of GAG income and aim to keep the reserve within these parameters.

At the 31st August 2024, the academy held GAG reserves of £705,000.

Unrestricted reserves - In addition to the GAG reserve, which can only be utilised for the restricted purposes set out in the Funding Agreement, the academy holds unrestricted free reserves, which provide additional working capital and are not committed or designated. It is the Trustees' policy to aim to hold approximately 3 months' expenditure in unrestricted reserves, to provide an additional cushion over and above the restricted GAG reserve.

At the 31st August 2024, the level of unrestricted reserves held was £281,000.

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 31st August 2024

4.2 Reserves Policy (continued)

Trustees are aware the academy is holding reserves above the academy's normal parameters. This is a result of the academy expanding its school places and the associated support funding from the local authority to do so to meet the place demands in the local area. The trustees are constantly reviewing the academy infrastructure and staffing due to the expanding roll alongside the lag funding and are working with external advisors to help define future capital plans.

4.3 Investment Policy

All investments are agreed by the Trust Board, which has regard to the Charity Commission guidance in relation to charity investment policy. The academy not currently hold any investments other than cash, which is held for its normal operations. The Trust Board has adopted a low-risk strategy to its cash holdings. Surplus cash is held in an instant access deposit account to ensure that there is always access to sufficient cash to meet short and medium term requirements.

4.4 Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The trustees have considered the principal risks and uncertainties that the Academy may be exposed to. A risk register has been completed and appropriate procedures put in place to mitigate the risks. A critical incident plan is also in place. The risks covered include consideration of the academy estate with particular regard to the statutory compliance, maintenance planning and medium term estate strategy and well as all aspects of health and safety regulations.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Academy is exposed, those relating to teaching, public profile, health and safety, educational off site visits, child protection, finances, staffing issues, and trustees. These risks are reviewed on an annual basis by the board of trustees and the Senior Leadership Team.

The internal financial systems are based on the Academies Handbook and are documented in the financial procedures. The systems are based on a framework of segregation of duties and schemes of delegation which include authorisation and approval. Financial management information is provided to the Trustees monthly and is reviewed on a termly basis or more.

The financial information provided to the Finance, Staffing and Risk Committee members is further enhanced by Responsible Officer reports compiled by internal auditor appointed by the Board of Trustees. No major issues have been identified. All recommendations for the improvements to systems and procedures are being implemented.

4.5 Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Academy Trust 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 Accounting Policies note of the financial statements.

5. Plans for Future Periods

The academy will continue to aim to provide a safe, happy, and challenging environment for its students whilst ensuring that it meets the objectives for ensuring students: -

- Feel safe secure and supported
- Celebrate learning and achievement
- Contribute to the community
- Prepare for choice and opportunities

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 31st August 2024

6. Auditor

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- 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 auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 18th December 2024 and signed on the board's behalf by:

Mrs M E Scrivens
Chair of Trustees

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Governance Statement

Year Ended 31st August 2024

7.1 Scope of Responsibility

As trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Lostock Hall Academy Trust has an effective and appropriate system of control, financial and otherwise. However, such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives, and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

As trustees, we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in DfE's Governance Handbook and Competency Framework for Governance.

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Principal, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Lostock Hall Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

7.2 Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Trust Board has formally met 9 times during the year. Following the national lockdown, and an increase in the use of online secure platforms, the trustees adopted a flexible hybrid approach to meetings. Some were held in person and some online.

Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Mrs A Ashworth	4/7
Mr I Boot	0/1
Mrs G Bruce	5/6
Mr B Burke	5/6
Miss A Earnshaw	2/3
Mrs D McNally	5/7
Mr B Pilkington	7/8
Mrs M Scrivens	9/9
Mrs T Slater	1/6
Mrs G F Gorman (ex officio)	7/9

The Finance, Risk and Staff Welfare Committee is a committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to monitor the finances of the academy, staff welfare and manage resources and risk.

The Academic Achievement & Student Welfare Committee is a committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to review and update the curriculum and monitor progress and achievement. A number of lead Trustees report to this Committee.

7.3 Review of Value for Money

As Accounting Officer, the Principal has responsibility for ensuring that the Academy Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes, as well as estates safety and management, achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The Accounting Officer considers how the Academy Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the Board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where available. The Accounting Officer for the Academy Trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Governance Statement

Year Ended 31st August 2024

Improving educational results:

Improving educational results for our students remains our key purpose and focus. We have ensured that resources are directed where they are most needed and most effective in improving outcomes for all our students. Our success in doing this is reflected in three consecutive years of improved attainment and progress.

- We regularly review our staffing structure to ensure that staff are deployed efficiently. Staff are appropriately qualified and experienced specialists in their curriculum area.
- The academy's appraisal system and the monitoring of teaching and learning identify weaknesses in teaching. These weaknesses are swiftly dealt with through the academy's capability procedures.
- Our curriculum model is reviewed each year to ensure that it meets the needs of all students. The size and number of teaching groups is adapted to reflect the size of the student population.
- Judicious use of pupil premium funding has led to improved learning for individual students. Gaps in performance between disadvantaged students and their peers have narrowed.
- The needs of students with Special Educational Needs and Disability are met by careful management of SEN funding and effective deployment of teaching assistants to curriculum areas.
- The academy has invested in packages to support children with literacy difficulties including Reading Plus. These are bringing about rapid improvements in reading for these children.
- Additional teaching staff support English and Maths to deliver 1 to1 tuition to students working below Level 4 on entry from KS2. There is a clear impact showing improvement in outcomes for these students.
- An effective and robust tracking systems in place to record all aspects of student progress and to ensure that intervention is specifically targeted at those students in most need.
- The Academy Development Plan and associated Faculty Development Plans identify priorities for improvement which are directly related to improving outcomes for students. Each action in these plans is carefully budgeted for and departmental capitation reflects these priorities.

Financial governance and oversight:

The Board of Trustees approve the annual budget following confirmation of the levels of income from the ESFA. The Chairs' Committee members receive monthly financial reports prepared by the Director of Business and Finance and questions raised thereon are dealt with at the termly meetings as recorded in the minutes. The Trustees are informed of all actions at the full Trust Board meetings.

Better purchasing:

Examples of steps taken to ensure value for money when purchasing include:

Economies of scale / fitness for purpose and benchmarking are all included in examples below:

- Membership of the Crescent Purchasing Consortium enabling access to discounts on many goods and services as well as access to assistance re tendering processes for e.g., Academy insurance.
- Membership of the Crown Commercial Service supported by the Department for Education.
- Information gathered from other academy colleagues regarding suppliers and services contracted by them.
- Energy costs secured through a broker at discounted rates for educational establishments.

All efforts are made to ensure that all goods and services are secured in the most economic, efficient, and effective way.

Better income generation:

- The academy has taken responsibility for the lettings in-house using academy staff during this fluctuating period but continue to look for alternative solutions. All income generated therefrom is continually monitored to ensure all costs associated with this operation are met from the income generated. New ways to increase the income stream are also considered on an on-going basis. The academy has commenced a programme to upgrade its dilapidated external sports facilities. This will continue in the next academic year, subject to the receipt of funding. It is anticipated that as well as providing better facilities for the academy to deliver the curriculum to students, it will provide sports opportunities for the local community to access sports facilities closer to home. This approach also supports the local district council agenda to improve activity and access to facilities for local people.

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Governance Statement

Year Ended 31st August 2024

Reviewing controls and managing risks:

- The academy uses the HCSS budgeting and accounting system to process all its financial activities. This system has built in checks, set by the Director of Business & Finance to ensure capitation spend does not exceed that set within the budget and different levels of authorisation of documentation are set.
- Each faculty head is issued with monthly financial reports to ensure they are aware of spending within their departments.
- The Internal Financial regulations describe the procedures in place for the separation of duties on the finance front.
- The academy has taken out full and comprehensive insurance cover through Zurich Insurance.
- A risk register has been developed and is updated on an annual basis by each Committee and the full Trust Board.
- HR services are purchased through an educational HR legal company.
- Effectively delivering CAPEX projects aimed at ensuring the trust's estate is safe, well-maintained and complies with regulations. Notably this year investment has been made in both electrical and fire safety projects.

Future Objectives:

We recognise the need to annually review the curriculum and staffing levels considering varying roll numbers and associated increases in staffing plus other operational costs in order to continue the implementation of the vision for the academy estate.

7.4 The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Academy Trust's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Lostock Hall Academy Trust for the year ended 31st August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

7.5 Capacity to Handle Risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year ended 31st August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

7.6 The Risk and Control Framework

The Academy Trust's system of internal control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular, it includes:

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Trustees
- regular reviews by the finance and general purposes committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines
- identification and management of risks.

The Board of Trustees has decided to buy-in an internal audit service from SBM Services.

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Governance Statement

Year Ended 31st August 2024

The reviewer's role includes giving advice on financial and other matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy Trust's financial and other systems.

The reviewer reports to the Board of Trustees, on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities and prepares an annual summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

7.7 Review of Effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, the Principal has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

- the Board;
- the Responsible Officer;
- the work of the Chairs Committee within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- external audit;

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Finance, Risk and Staff Welfare Committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 18th December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Mrs M E Scrivens
Chair of Trustees

Mrs G F Gorman
Accounting Officer

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

Year Ended 31st August 2024

As Accounting Officer of Lostock Hall Academy Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust Board of Trustees and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management, received by the Academy Trust, under the funding agreement in place between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2023, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

I confirm that I and the Academy Trust Board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the Academy Trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Academy Trust's funding agreement and the Academy Trust Handbook 2023.

I confirm that no instances of material irregularity, impropriety or funding non-compliance have been discovered to date. If any instances are identified after the date of this statement, these will be notified to the Board of Trustees and ESFA.

Mrs G F Gorman
Accounting Officer

Date: 18th December 2024

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Year Ended 31st August 2024

The trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report (including the Strategic Report and Directors' Report) and the financial statements in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction published by the Education & Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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 its income and expenditure. 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 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and 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. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the charitable company applies financial and other controls which conform to the requirements both of propriety and good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring that grants received from the Education & Skills Funding Agency and Department for Education have been applied for the purposes intended.

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 18th December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Mrs M E Scrivens
Chair of Trustees

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Year Ended 31st August 2024

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Lostock Hall Academy Trust (the 'Academy Trust') for the year ended 31st August 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by the Education & Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Academy Trust's affairs as at the 31st August 2024, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by the Education & Skills Funding Agency.

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 Academy Trust 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 Academy Trust'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 trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. 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.

(Continued)

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Year Ended 31st August 2024

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' report which includes the strategic report and the directors' 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 our knowledge and understanding of the Academy Trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report and the directors' 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 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 directors' 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 18, the trustees (who are also the directors of the Academy Trust 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 Academy Trust'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 Academy Trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

(Continued)

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Year Ended 31st August 2024

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

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.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

The extent to which the audit was capable of detecting irregularities including fraud

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

- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the academy from our knowledge and experience of the academy sector.
- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence and skills to identify non compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations through making enquiries of management and reviewing legal correspondences.
- we reviewed minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- we assessed the risk of management override of controls, including through journal testing and other adjustments for appropriateness.
- we reviewed the reports of the internal auditor appointed by the school in the accounting period.
- we reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested to supporting documentation to assess compliance with laws and regulations.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements in the financial statements may not be detected, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with the ISAs (UK). For instance, the further removed non compliance is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the auditor is to become aware of it or to recognise the non compliance. Also the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment 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.

(Continued)

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Year Ended 31st August 2024

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Academy Trust'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 Academy Trust'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 Academy Trust and the Academy Trust's Members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Mr Robert Mitchell FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of CWR Chartered Accountants
20 Mannin Way
Lancaster Business Park
Caton Road
Lancaster
LA1 3SW

Date: 20th December 2024

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Lostock Hall Academy Trust and the Education & Skills Funding Agency

Year Ended 31st August 2024

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 31st August 2024 and further to the requirements of the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Lostock Hall Academy Trust during the year from the 1st September 2023 to the 31st August 2024 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to Lostock Hall Academy Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Lostock Hall Academy Trust and ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Lostock Hall Academy Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Lostock Hall Academy Trust's Accounting Officer and the reporting accountant

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of Lostock Hall Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1st September 2023, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the year from the 1st September 2023 to the 31st August 2024 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountant of Academy Trusts issued by ESFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

The objective of a limited assurance engagement is to perform such procedures as to obtain information and explanations in order to provide us with sufficient appropriate evidence to express a negative conclusion on regularity.

A limited assurance engagement is more limited in scope than a reasonable assurance engagement and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in a reasonable assurance engagement. Accordingly, we do not express a positive opinion.

Our engagement includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the regularity and propriety of the Academy Trust's income and expenditure.

The work undertaken to draw our conclusions includes:

- Obtaining evidence including those tests relevant to the circumstances of the Academy Trust as prescribed in Section 4 of the Guide For External Auditors section of the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by the ESFA; and
- Planning and performing any additional tests we deemed necessary to express and opinion on regularity.

(Continued)

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Lostock Hall Academy Trust and the Education & Skills Funding Agency

Year Ended 31st August 2024

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year from the 1st September 2023 to the 31st August 2024 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Mr Robert Mitchell FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of CWR Chartered Accountants
20 Mannin Way
Lancaster Business Park
Caton Road
Lancaster
LA1 3SW

Date: 20th December 2024

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Statement of Financial Activities incorporating Income & Expenditure Account

Year Ended 31st August 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	2	-	148	76	224	539
Charitable activities:						
Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations	3	-	5,058	-	5,058	4,317
Other trading activities	4	172	15	-	187	161
Total		172	5,221	76	5,469	5,017
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
Academy trust's educational operations	5/6	160	4,852	234	5,246	4,456
Total		160	4,852	234	5,246	4,456
Net income/(expenditure)		12	369	(158)	223	561
Transfers between funds	14	-	(137)	137	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension schemes	14, 25	-	(16)	-	(16)	608
Net movement in funds		12	216	(21)	207	1,169
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	14	269	958	8,015	9,242	8,073
Total funds carried forward	14	281	1,174	7,994	9,449	9,242

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

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

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Balance Sheet

Year Ended 31st August 2024

	Notes	2024 £000	2024 £000	2023 £000	2023 £000
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10		7,994		7,970
Current assets					
Debtors	11	207		517	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>1,501</u>		<u>1,268</u>	
		1,708		1,785	
Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	12	<u>(484)</u>		<u>(674)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>1,224</u>		<u>1,111</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			9,218		9,081
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	13		(225)		(258)
Net assets excluding pension liability			<u>8,993</u>		<u>8,823</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme asset	25		456		419
Net assets including pension liability			<u>9,449</u>		<u>9,242</u>
Funds of the Academy Trust:					
Restricted funds					
Fixed asset fund	14	7,994		8,015	
Restricted income fund	14	718		539	
Pension reserve	14	<u>456</u>		<u>419</u>	
Total restricted funds			9,168		8,973
Unrestricted income funds	14		281		269
Total funds			<u>9,449</u>		<u>9,242</u>

The financial statements on pages 25 to 49 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on the 18th December 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:

Mrs M E Scrivens
Chair of Trustees

Company Limited by Guarantee
Registration Number: 07657427

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Statement of Cash Flows

Year Ended 31st August 2024

	Notes	2024 £000	2023 £000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	18	437	574
Cash flows from investing activities	20	(182)	(801)
Cash flows from financing activities	19	(22)	77
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		<u>233</u>	<u>(150)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1st September 2023		1,268	1,418
Cash and cash equivalents at 31st August 2024	21/22	<u>1,501</u>	<u>1,268</u>

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

1 Accounting policies

General information and basis of preparation

Lostock Hall Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England. The address of the registered office is given in the Reference and Administrative Details given on page 2 of these financial statements and the principal place of business is Todd Lane North, Lostock Hall, Preston, PR5 5UR. The nature of the Academy Trusts operations and principal activities are set out in the Trustees' Report on page 4.

The financial statements of the Academy Trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the 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) 2019), the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

A summary of the principal accounting policies adopted (which have been applied consistently, except where noted), judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty, is set out below.

Going concern

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Academy Trust to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Income

All incoming resources are recognised when the Academy Trust has entitlement to the funds, the receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably.

- **Grants receivable**

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of meeting any performance-related conditions there is not unconditional entitlement to the income and its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income until the performance-related conditions are met. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

Capital grants are recognised when there is an unconditional entitlement to the grant. Unspent amounts of capital grant are reflected in the balance in the restricted fixed asset fund. Capital grants are recognised when there is entitlement and are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended.

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Income (continued)

- **Donations**

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis (where there are no performance-related conditions) where the receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

- **Other income**

Other income, including the hire of facilities, is recognised in the period it is receivable and to the extent the Academy Trust has provided goods or services.

- **Donated goods, facilities and services**

Goods donated for resale are included at fair value, being the expected proceeds from sale less the expected costs of sale. If it is practical to assess the fair value at receipt, it is recognised in stock and "Income from other trading activities". Upon sale, the value of the stock is charged against "Income from other trading activities" and the proceeds are recognised as "Income from other trading activities". Where it is impractical to fair value the items due to the volume of low value items they are not recognised in the financial statements until they are sold. This income is recognised within "Income from other trading activities".

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Expenditure (continued)

- **Expenditure on raising funds**

This includes all expenditure incurred by the Academy Trust to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

- **Charitable activities**

These are costs incurred on the Academy Trust's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the Academy Trust apportioned to charitable activities.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Tangible fixed assets

Assets costing £3,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the Balance Sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. Where there are specific restrictions attached to the funding requiring the continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities and carried forward in the Balance Sheet. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land and assets under construction, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

Leasehold buildings	2% straight line
Furniture and equipment	10-25% straight line
Computer equipment	25% straight line
Motor vehicles	20% straight line

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use and reclassified to freehold or leasehold land and buildings.

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of any fixed asset may not be recoverable. Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts are recognised as impairments. Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Assets on conversion represent the transfer of leasehold assets, initially valued at £4,599,000 per the 2011 ESFA valuation, into the Academy on conversion to academy status in 2011 depreciated over a 50 year period.

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Academy Trust anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Academy Trust has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event which it is probable will result in the transfer of economic benefits and the obligation can be estimated reliably.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

Leased assets

Rentals under operating leases are charged on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Financial instruments

The Academy Trust only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the Academy Trust and their measurement basis are as follows:

Financial assets – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 11. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Financial instruments (continued)

Cash at bank – is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

Financial liabilities – trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes 12 and 13. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

Taxation

The Academy Trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Academy Trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Part 11, Chapter 3 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Pensions Benefits

Retirement benefits to employees of the Academy Trust are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ('TPS') and the Local Government Pension Scheme ('LGPS'). These are defined benefit schemes.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Academy Trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary based on quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently the TPS is treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the Academy Trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to net operating income/(expenditure) are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses.

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted income funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the Academy Trust at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by funders where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received with restrictions imposed by the funder/donor and include grants from the Department for Education Group.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

The Academy Trust makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below:

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 25, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31st March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31st August 2024. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

2 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
Capital grants	-	16	16	245
Donated fixed assets	-	60	60	200
Trips and other non public funds	-	148	148	94
	<u>-</u>	<u>224</u>	<u>224</u>	<u>539</u>

Income from donations and capital grants was £224,000 (2023 - £539,000) of which £nil (2023 - £nil) was attributable to unrestricted funds, £148,000 (2023 - £94,000) was attributable to restricted general funds and £76,000 (2023 - £445,000) was attributable to restricted fixed asset funds.

£16,000 (2023 - £245,000) of government grants were received for capital and maintenance works.

3 Funding for Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
DfE/ESFA grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	4,291	4,291	3,899
Other DfE Group grants:				
Pupil Premium	-	133	133	113
Supplementary grant	-	-	-	116
Teacher Pay/Pension grant	-	121	121	-
Mainstream Schools Additional grant	-	151	151	63
Rates grant	-	17	17	16
Other grants	-	3	3	3
	<u>-</u>	<u>4,716</u>	<u>4,716</u>	<u>4,210</u>
Other Government grants				
Local Authority grants	-	101	101	60
Other Government Grants	-	200	200	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>301</u>	<u>301</u>	<u>60</u>
Exceptional Government funding				
Coronavirus Catch-up Premium	-	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA Covid-19 funding	-	41	41	47
Other non DfE/ESFA Covid-19 funding	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>47</u>
Total	<u>-</u>	<u>5,058</u>	<u>5,058</u>	<u>4,317</u>

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

3 Funding for Academy Trust's educational operations (continued)

Funding for Academy Trust's educational operations was £5,058,000 (2023 - £4,317,000) of which £nil (2023 - £nil) was attributable to unrestricted funds, £5,058,000 (2023 - £4,317,000) was attributable to restricted general funds and £nil (2023 - £nil) was attributable to restricted fixed asset funds.

£5,058,000 (2023 - £4,317,000) of government grants were received for the purposes of the day to day running costs of the Academy and its charitable objectives.

4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
Hire of facilities	38	-	38	43
Sale of educational goods and services	12	-	12	12
Supplies of staff	5	-	5	6
Laptop income	96	-	96	71
Insurance claim	-	15	15	-
Transport income	21	-	21	29
	<u>172</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>187</u>	<u>161</u>

Income from other trading activities was £187,000 (2023 - £161,000) of which £172,000 (2023 - £161,00) was attributable to unrestricted funds, £15,000 (2023 - £nil) was attributable to restricted general funds and £nil (2023 - £nil) was attributable to restricted fixed asset funds.

5 Expenditure

	Staff Costs £000	Non Pay Expenditure		Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
		Premises £000	Other Costs £000		
Academy Trust's educational operations					
Direct costs	3,621	37	510	4,168	3,460
Allocated support costs	394	384	300	1,078	996
	<u>4,015</u>	<u>421</u>	<u>810</u>	<u>5,246</u>	<u>4,456</u>

£160,000 (2023 - £149,000) of the above expenditure on the Academy Trust's educational operations was attributable to unrestricted funds, £4,852,000 (2023 - £4,120,000) was attributable to restricted general funds and £234,000 (2023 - £187,000) was attributable to restricted fixed asset funds.

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

5 Expenditure (continued)

Net income/expenditure for the year includes:

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Operating lease rentals	95	58
Depreciation	234	187
Fees payable to the auditor for:		
Audit	4	4
Other services	8	7
	<u>341</u>	<u>256</u>

No additional transactions have taken place under Section 5.2 of the 2023 Academies Financial Handbook which require additional disclosure.

6 Charitable activities

	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
Direct costs – educational operations	4,168	3,460
Support costs – educational operations	<u>1,078</u>	<u>996</u>
	<u>5,246</u>	<u>4,456</u>

Analysis of direct costs	Educational operations £000	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
Direct staff costs	3,621	3,621	3,056
Learning resources	142	142	123
ICT costs	75	75	84
Pupil laptop programme	88	88	49
Examination fees	62	62	41
School trips and visits	128	128	86
Depreciation	37	37	13
Other direct costs	15	15	8
Total direct costs	<u>4,168</u>	<u>4,168</u>	<u>3,460</u>

Analysis of support costs	Educational operations £000	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
Support staff costs	394	394	406
Depreciation	197	197	174
Premises costs	187	187	169
Catering contract	47	47	48
Transport costs	57	57	57
Other support costs	179	179	126
Governance costs	17	17	16
Total support costs	<u>1,078</u>	<u>1,078</u>	<u>996</u>

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

7 Staff

(a) Staff costs

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Staff costs during the period were:		
Wages and salaries	2,988	2,591
Social security costs	300	253
Pension costs	659	597
	<u>3,947</u>	<u>3,441</u>
Agency staff costs	68	21
Staff restructuring costs	-	-
	<u>4,015</u>	<u>3,462</u>
Staff restructuring costs comprise:		
Redundancy payments	-	-
Severance payments	-	-
Other restructuring costs	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

(b) Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed by the Academy Trust during the year, and the full-time equivalents, was as follows:

	2024	2024	2023	2023
	Number	Full-time equivalent	Number	Full-time equivalent
Teachers	43	39	40	34
Administration and support	39	28	34	23
Management	6	6	6	6
	<u>88</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>63</u>

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

7 Staff (continued)

(c) Higher paid staff

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

	2024 No.	2023 No.
£60,001 - £70,000	2	4
£70,001 - £80,000	2	-
£80,001 - £90,000	-	-
£90,001 - £100,000	-	-
£100,001 - £110,000	-	1
£110,001 - £120,000	1	-
	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>

(d) Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the trustees and the senior leadership team as listed on page 2. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £632,000 (2023: £576,000).

8 Related party transactions - Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more trustees have been paid remuneration or have received other benefits from employment with the Academy Trust. The Principal and other staff trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of Principal and staff members under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their role as trustees. The value of trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

Mrs G F Gorman (Principal and trustee):

Remuneration	£110,000 - £115,000. (2023: £105,000 - £110,000)
Employers' pension contributions	£25,000 - £30,000. (2023: £20,000 - £25,000)

During the year ended 31st August 2024, no travel and subsistence expenses were reimbursed or paid directly to trustees (2023: £nil).

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 26.

9 Trustees' and officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Academy Trust has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy Trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £10,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the period ended 31st August 2024 was £15,000 (2023: £15,000). The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold Land and Buildings £000	Furniture and Fixtures £000	Computer Hardware £000	Motor Vehicles £000	Total £000
Cost					
At 1 st September 2023	9,065	94	153	6	9,318
Additions	40	80	103	35	258
At 31 st August 2024	<u>9,105</u>	<u>174</u>	<u>256</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>9,576</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 st September 2023	1,150	61	131	6	1,348
Charged in period	163	27	37	7	234
At 31 st August 2024	<u>1,313</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>168</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>1,582</u>
Net book values					
At 31 st August 2023	7,915	33	22	-	7,970
At 31 st August 2024	<u>7,792</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>7,994</u>

11 Debtors

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Trade debtors	6	5
VAT recoverable	41	31
Other debtors	94	423
Prepayments and accrued income	66	58
	<u>207</u>	<u>517</u>

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Trade creditors	174	151
Other taxation and social security	-	-
Other creditors	205	202
Accruals and deferred income	105	321
	<u>484</u>	<u>674</u>

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

13 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Loans	225	258
	<u>225</u>	<u>258</u>

Loans related to a mixture of Salix and CIF loans received to fund capital based projects in the Academy funded via ESFA. Loan repayments are generally over an 8/10 year period from the inception of the loan. Loans also include a 10 year interest free loan via South Ribble Borough Council for the Sports Facilities Project.

The total repayable after more than five years is £69,000.

14 Funds

	Balance at 1 st September 2023 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Gains, Losses and Transfers £000	Balance at 31 st August 2024 £000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	513	4,291	(3,962)	(137)	705
Pupil premium grant	-	133	(133)	-	-
Teacher Pay/Pension grant	-	121	(121)	-	-
Rates grant	-	17	(17)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	3	44	(47)	-	-
Mainstream Additional grant	-	151	(151)	-	-
Local Authority grants	7	301	(301)	-	7
Other restricted funds	16	163	(173)	-	6
Pension reserve	419	-	53	(16)	456
	<u>958</u>	<u>5,221</u>	<u>(4,852)</u>	<u>(153)</u>	<u>1,174</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE/ESFA capital grants	45	16	-	(61)	-
Donated assets	-	60	-	(60)	-
Capitalised assets post conversion	4,249	-	(161)	258	4,346
ESFA building valuation	3,721	-	(73)	-	3,648
	<u>8,015</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>(234)</u>	<u>137</u>	<u>7,994</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>8,973</u>	<u>5,297</u>	<u>(5,086)</u>	<u>(16)</u>	<u>9,168</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>269</u>	<u>172</u>	<u>(160)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>281</u>
Total funds	<u>9,242</u>	<u>5,469</u>	<u>(5,246)</u>	<u>(16)</u>	<u>9,449</u>

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

The General Annual Grant (GAG) must be used for the normal running costs of the Academy. At the year end the carry forward of GAG funding was £705,000.

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

14 Funds (continued)

Other DfE/ESFA Grants include monies received outside GAG funding. At the year end the carry forward of these funds was £nil.

Local Authority grants represent amounts payable to the Academy predominantly from Lancashire County Council. At the year end the carried forward on these funds was £7,000.

Other restricted funds include monies from educational visits & non-public funds, catering and donations. The donations received are for restricted purposes and as at the year-end £6,000 of the income received in this fund remained unspent.

The pension reserve represents the value of the School's share of the surplus in the Local Government Pension Scheme. The value of the surplus was £456,000 at the 31st August 2024.

DfE/ESFA capital grants represent capital monies received during the period from the ESFA. The funds received are restricted for specific capital projects and this was all spent during the year.

Capitalised assets post conversion represents the value of assets purchased since conversion to academy status. These will be depreciated in line with the accounting policies set out in note 1.

Assets on conversion represent the transfer of leasehold assets, initially valued at £4,599,000 per the 2011 ESFA valuation into the Academy on conversion to academy status in 2011 depreciated over a 50 year period.

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

14 Funds (continued)

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

	Balance at 1 st September 2022 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Gains, Losses and Transfers £000	Balance at 31 st August 2023 £000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	620	3,899	(3,611)	(395)	513
Pupil premium grant	-	113	(113)	-	-
Rates grant	-	16	(16)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	50	(47)	-	3
Supplementary grant	-	116	(116)	-	-
Mainstream Additional grant	-	63	(63)	-	-
Local Authority grants	9	60	(62)	-	7
Other restricted funds	8	94	(86)	-	16
Pension reserve	(183)	-	(6)	608	419
	454	4,411	(4,120)	213	958
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE/ESFA capital grants	451	45	-	(451)	45
SRBC capital grant	-	200	-	(200)	-
Donated assets	-	200	-	(200)	-
Capitalised assets post conversion	3,117	-	(114)	1,246	4,249
ESFA building valuation	3,794	-	(73)	-	3,721
	7,362	445	(187)	395	8,015
Total restricted funds	7,816	4,856	(4,307)	608	8,973
Total unrestricted funds	257	161	(149)	-	269
Total funds	8,073	5,017	(4,456)	608	9,242

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31st August 2024 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000	Total Funds £000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	7,994	7,994
Current assets	281	1,427	-	1,708
Current liabilities	-	(484)	-	(484)
Non-current liabilities	-	(225)	-	(225)
Pension scheme asset	-	456	-	456
Total net assets	<u>281</u>	<u>1,174</u>	<u>7,994</u>	<u>9,449</u>

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000	Total Funds £000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	7,970	7,970
Current assets	269	1,471	45	1,785
Current liabilities	-	(674)	-	(674)
Non-current liabilities	-	(258)	-	(258)
Pension scheme asset	-	419	-	419
Total net assets	<u>269</u>	<u>958</u>	<u>8,015</u>	<u>9,242</u>

16 Capital commitments

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements	<u>-</u>	<u>30</u>

17 Commitments under operating leases

Operating leases

At 31st August 2024 the total of the Academy Trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Amounts due within one year	53	53
Amounts due between one and five years	48	42
Amounts due after five years	-	-
	<u>101</u>	<u>95</u>

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

18 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash inflow from operating activities

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Net income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	223	561
Adjusted for:		
Depreciation (note 10)	234	187
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(76)	(445)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable (note 25)	(26)	2
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost (note 25)	(27)	4
Decrease in debtors	310	97
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(201)	168
Net cash provided by operating activities	437	574

19 Cash flows from financing activities

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Repayments of borrowing	(22)	(23)
Cash inflows from borrowing	-	100
Net cash (used in)/provided by financing activities	(22)	77

20 Cash flows from investing activities

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(258)	(1,246)
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA	16	45
Capital funding received from others	60	400
Net cash (used in) investing activities	(182)	(801)

21 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Cash at bank and in hand	1,501	1,268
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,501	1,268

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

22 Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 st September 2023	Cash flows	Acquisition / disposal of subsidiaries	Finance leases	Other non-cash changes	At 31 st August 2024
Cash	1,268	233	-	-	-	1,501
Cash equivalents	-	-	-	-	-	-
Overdraft facilities repayable on demand	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1,268	233	-	-	-	1,501
Loans falling due within one year	(28)	(10)	-	-	-	(38)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(258)	33	-	-	-	(225)
Finance lease obligations	-	-	-	-	-	-
	(286)	23	-	-	-	(263)
Total	982	256	-	-	-	1,238

23 Contingent Liabilities

During the period of the funding agreement, in the event of the sale or disposal by other means of any capital asset for which a Government Capital grant was received, the School is required to either re-invest the proceeds or to repay the Secretary of State for Education the same proportion of the proceeds of the sale or disposal as equates with the proportion of the original cost met by the Secretary of State, as the Secretary of State may require.

24 Members' Liability

Each Member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up while he/she is a Member, or within one year after he/she ceases to be a Member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10 for the debts and liabilities contracted before he/she ceases to be a Member.

25 Pension and similar obligations

The Academy Trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff, and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by Lancashire County Pension Fund. Both are multi-employer defined-benefit schemes.

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31st March 2020 and of the LGPS to the period ended 31st March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £84,000 (2023: £66,000) were payable to the schemes at 31st August 2024 and are included within creditors.

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

25 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for teachers in academy trusts. All teachers have the option to opt out of the TPS following enrolment.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme to which both the member and employer makes contributions, as a percentage of salary – these contributions along with those made by employers are credited to the Exchequer. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to ensure scheme costs are recognised and managed appropriately and the review specifies the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31st March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 27th October 2023 with the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, applying a notional investment return based on 1.7% above the rate of CPI. The key elements of the valuation outcome are:

- employer contribution rates set at 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy) this is an increase of 5% in employer contributions and the cost control result is such that no change in member benefits is needed.
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262,000 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222,200 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £39,800 million.

The result of this valuation will be implemented from 1st April 2024. The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1st April 2028.

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £485,000 (2023: £426,000).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the [Teachers' Pensions website](#).

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The Academy Trust is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the plan. Accordingly, the Academy Trust has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS102 and has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The Academy Trust has set out above the information available on the scheme.

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

25 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31st August 2024 was £205,000 (2023: £182,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £157,000 (2023: £144,000), and employees' contributions totalled £48,000 (2023: £38,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 19.7% for employers and the rate for employees remains dependant on the earnings of the employee.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of an Academy Trust closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18th July 2013 and on 21st July 2022 the Department for Education reaffirmed its commitment with a parliamentary minute published on gov.uk.

As described in note 1 the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the Academy Trust, who were the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who were eligible to, and did, join the Scheme in the period. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the Academy Trust at the balance sheet date.

Principal Actuarial Assumptions

	At 31 st August 2024	At 31 st August 2023
Rate of increase in salaries	4.1%	4.3%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	2.7%	2.9%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.0%	5.4%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.6%	2.8%

The current mortality assumptions include sufficient allowance for future improvements in mortality rates. The assumed life expectations on retirement age 65 are:

	At 31 st August 2024	At 31 st August 2023
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	21.0	21.0
Females	23.5	23.4
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.2	22.2
Females	25.3	25.2

Sensitivity analysis

	Sensitivity 1	Sensitivity 2	Sensitivity 3	Sensitivity 4
Central £000	+0.5% pa discount rate £000	+0.25% pa inflation £000	+0.25% pa pay growth £000	1 year inc in life expectancy £000
Liabilities	3,606	3,315	3,761	3,687
Assets	(4,062)	(4,062)	(4,062)	(4,062)
Surplus	(456)	(747)	(301)	(375)
Projected service cost	133	116	142	136
Projected net interest	(27)	(46)	(19)	(23)

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

25 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme (continued)

The Academy Trust's share of the assets in the scheme was:

	Fair value at 31 st August 2024	Fair value at 31 st August 2023
Equities	1,938	1,777
Gilts	4	15
Property	345	349
Cash and other liquid assets	57	22
Other	1,718	1,510
Total market value of assets	4,062	3,673

The actual return on scheme assets was £278,000 (2023: £83,000).

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Current service cost (net of employer contributions)	31	2
Interest income	201	159
Interest expense	(174)	(163)
Benefit changes, gain/(loss) on curtailment and gain/(loss) on settlement	-	-
Admin expenses	(5)	(4)
Total operating credit/(charge)	53	(6)

Lostock Hall Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

25 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme (continued)

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

	2024 £000	2023 £000
At 1st September	3,254	3,760
Current service cost	126	142
Past service cost	-	-
Interest cost	174	163
Employee contributions	48	38
Actuarial loss/(gain)	94	(888)
Benefits paid	(90)	39
Losses or gains on curtailments	-	-
Past service costs	-	-
Unfunded pension payments	-	-
Effect of non-routine transactions	-	-
At 31st August	<u>3,606</u>	<u>3,254</u>

Changes in the fair value of Academy Trust's share of scheme assets:

	2024 £000	2023 £000
At 1st September	3,673	3,577
Interest income	201	159
Return on plan assets (excluding interest income)	-	-
Assets distributed on settlements	-	-
Actuarial gain/(loss)	78	(280)
Employer contributions	157	144
Employee contributions	48	38
Benefits paid	(90)	39
Administration expenses	(5)	(4)
Effect of non-routine settlements	-	-
At 31st August	<u>4,062</u>	<u>3,673</u>

26 Related Party Transactions

Owing to the nature of the Academy Trust's operations and the composition of the Board of Trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trustees have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook, including notifying the ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1st April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the Academy Trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

No related party transactions took place in the period of account, other than certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 8.