



Academy
Oldbury

Learn Today **LEAD TOMORROW!**

TRUST MEMBERS

G Hunjan (Chair), Dr N Griggs, L Harvey, D Fereday, A Hughes.

GOVERNING BODY

S Harvey (Chair), Dr N Griggs, (Vice Chair), P Shackleton (HT) M Parsons, S Okunnu, J Gowing, A Wilden, I King, C Casey.

AGM REPORT

FINANCE

Once again this has been a year dominated by the well publicised but never the less very real concerns about school finance. This is a borough wide difficulty with many schools facing increased financial constraints.

There are numerous reasons why our budget remains in deficit despite our best efforts to counteract. A reduction in income, but increase in overheads tells its own story. However, we remain convinced that we can overcome these difficulties and achieve a balanced budget whilst not diluting our commitment to offer a quality education to our students.

In order to attempt to address our financial difficulties we continue with our VFM cost cutting exercises and savings have been made in a number of areas:-

- All Governor Committees were charged with continuing to identify savings in expenditure. Our Head Teacher & Business Manager, met frequently to monitor, discuss and implement proposed cost cuts.
- There was a continuous review of staff, and all appointments both teaching and non-teaching are scrutinized rigorously.
- All budget holders were required to continue to reduce expenditure by 10%.

I am pleased to inform you that although we still have an in year deficit, there has been further savings across the board. The ESFA have approved

our financial plans for moving towards a balanced budget in the future, and we shall continue to monitor this area stringently.

There have been no significant concerns raised by external audit. A further level of external scrutiny has been introduced this year and further measures have been introduced to ensure financial compliance.

Our annual accounts are always presented within the required timescale and are uploaded onto our website once approved.

SCHOOL PRIORITIES

All school policies have been reviewed within the required timescale and all statutory policies are visible on our website.

The school priorities following on from our last OFSTED inspection continue to form an area for focus and remain integral within our School Improvement Plan.

- Pupil Premium gap
- Literacy
- Boys underachievement

Due to considerable disruption to learning caused by the pandemic and the constraints this has placed on all educators, as yet we have not achieved enough improvement, although some progress has been apparent and significant strides have been made. Staff continue to work diligently to ensure that we reach our goals, this is despite the numerous challenges that all staff and students have faced

The governors' task force, established to ensure rigorous monitoring, meets regularly (remotely). All governors have been re-designated link areas on the School Improvement Plan with ownership and scrutiny being more rigorous.

Examination results continue to improve steadily and our assessment data which was used to formulate this year's results predicted a continuation of this improvement. The layers of rigour executed, to ensure that assessments were accurate and fair, was an excellent reflection of the dedicated teams across all Faculties. All are working tirelessly towards our aim of bettering the national average in all areas.

Based on the recent exam results, the overall headline figure of progress 8 has increased quite significantly from -0.19 to -0.05, showing improvements in a number of the different areas. The English basket has improved from -0.41 to -0.28, with maths also improving from -0.22 to -0.02. The Ebacc element has improved from -0.33 to -0.23 and the open basket has shown significant improvement, moving from 0.07 to 0.22. There is still much work to be done in English and science, along with Geography and Drama, to move towards national indicators. English attainment grades 4-9 (standard pass) has improved on the previous year from 66% to 72% and grades 5-9 (strong pass) from 48% to 47%. Maths attainment grades 4-9 (standard pass) were

72% and 5-9 (strong pass) were 51%. There were no Improvements in Combined Science, with subject SPI moving from -0.14 to -0.23. However, triple Science remains very strong.

The gap between disadvantaged students will be measured against that of those who are non-disadvantaged nationally. This data is not available at this point. However, the in-school gap and performance of disadvantaged students is as follows: P8 for disadvantaged students has significantly improved from -0.52 to -0.23. There has been an improvement for disadvantaged students across all baskets of progress 8 with the most significant improvement coming in the open basket, moving from -0.24 to 0.13. English 4-9 attainment gap 14%, English 5-9 gap 21%. Maths 4-9 gap 18%, Maths 5-9 gap 18%. Even though the gap is reducing from the previous year, there is still much work to be carried out within the academy to reduce the Pupil Premium gap.

The constraints of the Pandemic meant that our students were in the main unable to continue their work within our local community, sadly we were unable to complete our annual visit to a local nursing home to entertain the residents. Nor were we able to invite our neighbours from Barlow Homes into school for their usual Christmas dinner where our students excel with their care and attention.

It is a sincere hope that it won't be too long before our students are once again able to continue with their community work and showcase our CARE ethos as the great ambassadors that they are.

The planned Fund Raising activities were also curtailed.

A special mention should go to our staff who were pivotal within our community throughout lockdown ensuring that food parcels were collected and distributed and that all of our most vulnerable students were contacted regularly to ensure their well-being. The Sikh Community Centre in Handsworth made a generous contribution to our efforts.

The National Weightlifting competition which had been reintroduced to our school in readiness for the Commonwealth games, was of course cancelled, but our commitment to host National competitions remains, and again it is hoped that we shall soon be able to host events and witness future champions in action.

PANDEMIC

It is with pride that we report that despite so many challenges and genuine setbacks our school has, where possible remained open. All students have been offered devices to ensure that learning can continue externally. Where possible when students have had to remain at home remote learning has taken place with attendance relatively high in most subjects. We have had a small number of staff succumb to the virus, most have recovered well. Our thoughts and best wishes are with those colleagues who are still to recover.

Our staff absences in the main, have been caused by the requirement to self-isolate, but where this has been the case staff have worked from home and disruption to learning minimised.

Finally, can we thank all stake holders for their continued support, the numerous thank you letters, expression of support and general good wishes to our staff that we have received in school have been genuine and very much appreciated.

Together we make our school better and stronger, we are proud of our achievements and we hope that you are too.

Our commitment to offering a quality education in a caring and forward thinking environment remains, as we look forward to further strengthening our Improvement agenda and our reputation, in the year ahead.

Sally Harvey
Chair of Governors