Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

BOLTON SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR
1st AUGUST 2024 to
31st JULY 2025

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

Page No	Contents
3	Reference and Administrative Details
4 – 9	Strategic Report
10 – 15	Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control
16	Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance
17	Statement of Responsibilities of the Members of the Governing Corporation
18 – 21	Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements
22 - 23	Independent Reporting Accountant's Report on Regularity
24	Statement of Comprehensive Income & Expenditure
25	Statement of Changes in Reserves
26	Balance Sheet as at 31 July 2025
27	Statement of Cash Flows
28 – 43	Notes to the Financial Statements

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

Reference and Administrative Details

Board of Governors
A full list of Governors is given on page 11 of these financial statements

Clerk/Company Secretary
Ms Tracy Tunstall

Key Management Personnel
Key management personnel are defined as members of the College Senior Leadership Team and were represented by the following in 2024/25:

Stuart Merrills – Principal and CEO: Accounting Officer
Lesley Hart – Deputy Principal and CFO
Sandra McManus - Deputy Principal (Curriculum, Quality & Students) – Resigned 13th September 2024
Joanne Smith – Vice Principal (Curriculum, Quality & Students) – Appointed 2nd September 2024
Sarah Ball – Assistant Principal
Mark Goodwin - Assistant Principal
Nicola Sodano - Assistant Principal

Principal and Registered Office
Deane Road
Bolton
BL3 5BU

Professional Advisers

Financial statements auditors and reporting accountant:
Wbg (Audit) Limited
168 Bath Street
Glasgow
G2 4TP

Bankers:
Barclays Bank Plc
1 Market Street
Victoria Square
Bolton
BL1 1BU

Solicitors
Eversheds LLP
70 Great Bridgewater Street
Manchester
M1 5ES

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

Strategic Report
Report of the Governing Body

OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES:

The governing body present their report together with the financial statements and auditor's report for Bolton Sixth Form College the year ended 31 July 2025.

Legal Status

The Corporation was established under the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 for the purpose of conducting Bolton Sixth Form College. The college is an exempt charity for the purposes of Part 3 the Charities Act 2011.

The Legal name of the college is Bolton Sixth Form College, however, the college has rebranded and uses the name 'The Sixth Form Bolton' for marketing and schools liaison purposes to strengthen its identity.

Mission, Vision, Strategy and Objectives

The College's mission as approved by its members is:

'To provide educational excellence which releases potential and promotes individual achievement in an environment where diversity is valued and students and staff are supported, challenged and encouraged to reach for their personal best in everything they do'

Implementation of Strategic Plan

The College adopted a Strategic Development Plan for the period 1 August 2024 to 31 July 2025. This strategic plan included property and financial plans. The Corporation monitors the performance of the College against these plans. The plans are reviewed and updated each year.

The College's continuing strategic objectives are to:

- Quality – to deliver high quality education and support with the ambition for our students to make progress and achieve excellent outcomes,
- Culture and Ethos – to foster a culture where staff and students feel supported, listened to, and encouraged to work hard and enjoy their time with us. To prioritise positive mental health and wellbeing for all,
- Financial Security – to practice ethical and prudent financial management to ensure integrity, so that we retain strong financial health and the stability to invest in inspiring facilities and innovative education for all learners,
- People – to be the place where people want to work, feel valued and share a passion to help our learners succeed. To support and inspire every learner and member of staff to make the most of their talents, skills and opportunities,
- Innovation – to actively search for novel ideas, leading technologies and the most effective ways of working that benefit our students, staff and employers,
- Sustainability – to be a resilient organisation which takes positive action to address climate change, creating a better environment for our learners, our people and future generations

The College's specific objectives for 2024/25 and achievement of those objectives is addressed below.

Financial Objectives

The College's financial objectives are:

- Achieve a performance ratio (EBITDA) of greater than 9%
- Maintain the financial viability of the college by maintaining cash days in hand of a minimum of 62
- Staffing costs as a % of income 75%
- A minimum current ratio of 2:1
- Generate sufficient levels of income to support the asset base of the College
- Fund continued capital investment.
- To maintain a minimum financial level of 'Good'
- To comply with the Bank Loan Covenants

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

Curriculum Objectives

- *Achieve a student body of*
  1,850 enrolled full-time equivalents 2025/26 [Funded 2026/27]
  1,850 enrolled full-time equivalents 2026/27 [Funded 2027/28]
- *Overall achievement rates as follows*
  2026 – 88%
  2027 – 88%
- Quality of Education - Ensure a high-quality, consistent curriculum that enhances teaching and learning and enables all students to reach their full potential
- Culture and Ethos - Embed a culture of excellence, ambition, inclusion, and shared college values that drive behaviour, relationships, and decision-making across all aspects of college life.
- Invest in technology, and reinvestment in high-quality facilities that support teaching and learning.
- Advance the Digital Strategy and staff development to enhance skills and promote innovative teaching and learning practices.

A series of performance indicators have been agreed to monitor the successful implementation of the objectives.

Resources

The College has various resources that it can deploy in pursuit of its strategic objectives.

The College employs 177 people, of whom 93 are teaching staff.

The College enrolled 1,860 students in August 2025 (Funded 2026/27) against the target of 1,850.

The College has £2,361k of net current assets (2024 - £3,707k).

The College has a good reputation locally and nationally, establishing itself as the only sixth form college in Bolton, with continuing growth in student numbers.

Stakeholder Relationships

The college has many stakeholders including:

- Current, future and past students
- Staff and their trade unions
- Partner Schools and Universities
- Employers and partners, including Microsoft and Peel Holdings
- The local borough council, combined authority and Local Enterprise Partnership
- The local and wider college community

The College recognises the importance of these relationships and engages in regular communication with them through the College Internet Site, Staff/Student/Parent Portals, Written Communication, Telephone Conversations and Meetings.

Public Benefit

Bolton Sixth Form College is an exempt charity under Part 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is regulated by the Secretary of State for Education. The members of the Governing Body, who are trustees of the charity, are disclosed on page 11. In setting and reviewing the College's strategic objectives, the Governing Body has had due regard for the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and particularly upon its supplementary guidance on the advancement of education. The guidance sets out the requirement that all organisations wishing to be recognised as charities must demonstrate, explicitly, that their aims are for the public benefit.

In delivering its mission, the College provides the following identifiable public benefits through the advancement of education:

- High-quality teaching
- Widening participation and tackling social exclusion
- Excellent progression to higher education and employment
- Strong student support systems
- Links with employers, industry and commerce.

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

Development and Performance

Financial Review

The college generated a surplus before other gains and losses in the year of £1,560k (2023/24 – £968k), with a total comprehensive income of £1,270k (2023/24 – £801k).

The College has accumulated reserves of £13,960k and cash and short-term investment balances of £4,895k. The College has accumulated reserves and cash balances in order to create a contingency fund and to enable future capital developments.

Tangible fixed asset additions during the year amounted to £3,431k and is split between the capital project (£2,679k), building improvements (£54k) and the purchase of equipment (£698k).

The College has significant reliance on the education sector funding body for its principal funding source, largely from recurrent grants. In 2024/25 the FE funding bodies provided 97.5% of the College's total income.

The net cash inflow was £355k (2023/24 £849k), the net cash inflow resulted from increased investment income from surplus cash balances and reductions to energy costs following the installation of additional solar panels.

Liquid resources include sums on short term deposits with recognised banks, building societies and government securities.

Future Prospects

Future Developments

The College will build on its strengths and continue its commitment to a multi-racial harmonious and high achieving environment. The major future developments for the College need to be placed in the context of provision in Bolton. The College remains committed to provision, which is predominantly at Level 3, reflecting the key role that it plays in offering opportunities to students, which are denied elsewhere.

The demographic data shows the number of year 11 students leaving school in Bolton over the next five years rises sharply, by 2028/9 there will be an additional 158 students in Year 11. The college currently attracts circa 50% of the eligible market share which has been growing over recent years as the College's reputation increases. This could result in 50 more students per year, a significant factor to consider in future planning. This is in addition to a trend in increasing recruitment from a wider geographic area.

Curriculum Developments

The College aims to provide a broad and inclusive curriculum designed to attract and engage students and to provide access to higher education and employment. The focus is at level 3, advanced level, the proportion being A-Level 34%, Mixed Programmes 27% and general vocational provision 39%.

The College will continue to develop and revise its curriculum offer in light of:

- The requirements of the Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022
- The impact of intended T Levels and subsequent position of current vocational programmes
- Labour Market Intelligence
- Trends in post-16 choices influenced by school curriculum offers, pre-16 IAG and DfE initiatives
- Post-18 landscape and the range of providers, pathways and variety of opportunities that would continue to lead to meaningful progressions
- Financial viability.

The enrichment programme, provides a varied and rich schedule of events, activities, clubs and societies to allow opportunities for all students to participate in skills development outside their study programme.

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

Financial Plan
The Governors approved a financial plan in July 2024 which sets out the following objectives for the period to July 2027. College's financial health remains as a minimum of 'Good' throughout the Strategic Development Plan period.

Treasury Policies and Objectives
The college has treasury management arrangements in place to manage cash flows, banking arrangements and the risks associated with those activities

Reserves Policy
The College has no formal Reserves Policy but recognises the importance of reserves in the financial stability of any organisation, and ensures that there are adequate reserves to support the College's core activities. The College does not have any restricted reserves and as at the balance sheet date the Income and Expenditure reserves stands at £13,960k (2024 £12,690k). It is the Corporation's intention to maintain reserves over the life of the Strategic Plan.

PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES
The College has well developed strategies for managing risk and strives to embed risk management in all that it does. Risk management processes are designed to protect the College's assets, reputation and financial stability. The governing body has overall responsibility for risk management and its approach to managing risks and internal controls is explained in the Statement on Corporate Governance.

A risk register is maintained at the College which is reviewed at least annually by the Risk and Audit Committee and more frequently where necessary. The risk register identifies the key risks, the likelihood of those risks occurring, their potential impact on the College and the actions being taken to reduce and mitigate risks. Risks are prioritised using a consistent scoring system.

Outlined below is a description of the principal risk factors that may affect the College. Not all the factors are within the College's control

1. Government funding

The College has considerable reliance on continued government funding through the further education sector funding bodies. In 2024/25, 97.5% of the College's revenue was ultimately public funded and this level of requirement is expected to continue. There can be no assurance that government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms.

The College is aware of the following issues which may impact on future funding:

- Defunding of some Level 3 Vocational Provision
- Uncertainty of the per capita funding rate beyond 2026/27
- Limitations by the Local Authority to fund High Needs Students

The risk is mitigated in a number of ways:

- Close monitoring of the Level 3 Vocational Provision funding position
- Considerable focus and investment is placed on maintaining and managing key relationships with the college's funding body and Local Authority, with regular dialogue

2 Accommodation Strategy.

The College operates from a single campus in the town centre of Bolton however this campus is land locked and has limited scope for expansion, the college is operating at full capacity in most curriculum areas. The campus does not have its own sports fields and sports hall.

The risk is mitigated in a number of ways

- The college uses the excellent sports facilities owned by Bolton Lads and Girls Club which is a very short walking distance from the main campus building
- The timetable blocking pattern facilitates a high utilisation rate

3 Maintain adequate funding of pension liabilities

The financial statements report the share of the Local Government Pension Scheme surplus/deficit on the College's balance sheet in line with the requirements of FRS102. The latest pension scheme valuation was undertaken at 31 March 2022, which shows a surplus on an ongoing basis of £1,021,000 which is 104% funded.

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

This reduces the risk in comparison to the FRS102 reported figures, and the College is mitigating the remaining risk through its holding and close management of cash reserves. The results of the latest pension scheme valuation undertaken at 31 March 2022 dictate the level of employer contribution required in the 3 years to 31 March 2026, while future financial planning includes prudent assumptions regarding future contribution rates.

4 Failure to maintain the financial viability of the College

The College's current financial health is classified as "Outstanding" as described above. Notwithstanding this, the continuing challenge to the College's financial position remains the constraint on further education funding together with increasing staffing, energy and overhead costs whilst maintaining the student experience. This risk is mitigated in a number of ways:

- By rigorous budget setting procedures and sensitivity analysis
- Regular in year budget monitoring
- Robust financial controls
- Exploring ongoing procurement efficiencies

Key Performance Indicators

Performance Indicator	Actual 2024/25	Target 2025/26
Funded Student Numbers	1858	1800
Performance Ratio (EBITDA)	13.6%	>= 8%
Cash Days in Hand	921	62 minimum
Staffing as a % of Income	73%	74%
Current Ratio	2.3 : 1	>= 2:1
DfE Annual Financial Health Score	Outstanding	Good
Borrowing as a % of Income	12%	13%
Debt Service Cover	9	4

Student Numbers

In 2024/25 the College has delivered activity that has produced £11,731k in funding body main allocation funding (2023/24 - £10,922k) The College had 1,858 funded and 0 unfunded students

Student Achievements

The College's curriculum continues to develop in line with the broad strategic objectives and the College continues to develop provision specific to its place in the post 16 environment in Bolton and addressing the requirements of the Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022.

Students continue to prosper at the College with achievement rates continuing to be above National Average. The achievements of 2024/25 are fully evaluated by the Corporation in the self assessment report. In summary these are:

- A Level pass rates were 97%
- Vocational level 3 pass rates were 99%
- Vocational level 2 pass rates were 100%

The overall college achievement rate was 88%.

Payment Performance

The Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998, in the absence of agreement to the contrary requires organisations to make payments to suppliers within 30 days of either the provision of goods or services or the date on which the invoice was received. The target set by the Treasury for payment to suppliers within 30 days is 95%. During the accounting period 1 August 2024 to 31 July 2025, the College paid 99.95% of its invoices within 30 days. The College incurred no interest charges in respect of late payment for this period.

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting

The college is committed to reducing its carbon emissions and has taken the following measures in the year to improve energy efficiency.

- Formation of a Sustainability Group and appointment of a Sustainability Consultant
- Development and Implementation of a Sustainability Strategy
- Installation of additional solar panels
- Completions of LED lighting replacement programme
- Implementation of 'Switch Off' initiative

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The College is committed to ensuring the promotion of equality of opportunity for all members of the college community. We are determined to create a culture where all forms of discriminatory behaviour are challenged and diversity is celebrated. We demonstrate mutual respect and we are unbiased to those with differing faiths and beliefs. Our culture is that all staff and students are encouraged to be curious, to flourish and achieve their full potential both academically and personally. The college is keen to advance equity of opportunity for all (in particular, between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not) and ensure that it underpins all policies, valuing all members of the college community equally and without prejudice.

The College is a 'Positive about Disabled' employer and has committed to the principles and objectives of the Positive about Disabled standard. The College considers all applications for employment from disabled persons, bearing in mind the aptitudes of the individuals concerned, and guarantees an interview to any disabled applicant who meets the essential criteria for the post. Where an existing employee becomes disabled, every effort is made to ensure that employment with the College continues. The College's policy is to provide training, career development and opportunities for promotion, which are, as far as possible, providing identical opportunities to those of non-disabled employees.

Disability Statement

The College seeks to achieve the objectives set down in the Equality Act 2010:

- There is a list of specialist equipment and assistive technology which the college can make available for use by staff and students
- The admissions policy for all students is described in the College prospectus. Appeals against a decision not to offer a place are dealt with under the complaints policy
- The College has made significant investment in the appointment of specialist staff to support students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. There are a number of student support assistants who can provide a variety of support for learning. There is a continuing programme of staff development to ensure the provision of a high level of support for students who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities
- Counselling and welfare services are described in the College Student Handbook which is issued to students together with the Complaints and Disciplinary information.

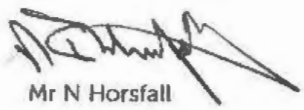
Going Concern

- After making appropriate enquiries, the Corporation considers that the College has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Disclosure of Information to Auditors

The members who held office at the date of approval of this report confirm that, so far as they are each aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the College's auditor is unaware, and each member has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the College's auditor is aware of that information.

Approved by order of the members of the Corporation on 17th December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr N Horsfall
Chairman

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control

The following statement is provided to enable readers of the annual report and accounts of the College to obtain a better understanding of its governance and legal structure. This statement covers the period from 1st August 2024 to 31st July 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

The College endeavours to conduct its business:

I In accordance with the seven principles identified by the Committee on Standards in Public Life (selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership),

II In full accordance with the guidance to colleges from the Association of Colleges in the Code of Good Governance for English Colleges ("the Code"); and

III Having due regard to the UK Corporate Governance Code 2018 insofar as it is applicable to the further education sector

The College is committed to exhibiting best practice in all aspects of corporate governance and in particular the College has adopted and complied with the Code. We have not adopted and therefore do not apply the UK Corporate Governance Code. However, we have reported on our Corporate Governance arrangements by drawing upon best practice available, including those aspects of the UK Corporate Governance Code we consider to be relevant to the further education sector and best practice.

In the opinion of the Governors, the College complies with all the provisions of the Code and it has complied throughout the year ended 31 July 2025 and the period to the date of the signing of these financial statements. This opinion is based on an external review of Governance reported to the board on 22 January 2024. This external review was undertaken by Stone King LLP. The Governing Body recognises that, as a body entrusted with both public and private funds, it has a particular duty to observe the highest standards of corporate governance at all times.

The College is an exempt charity within the meaning of Part 3 of the Charities Act 2011. The Governors, who are also the Trustees for the purposes of the Charities Act 2011, confirm that they have had due regard for the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and that the required statements appear elsewhere in these financial statements.

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

The Corporation

The members who served on the Corporation during the year and up to the date of signature of this report were as listed in the table below.

Name	Date of Appoint-ment	Term of Office	Date of Resignation	Status of Appoint-ment	Committees served	Attendance %
Mr S Merrills	01.06.2017	N/A		Principal	Finance & Personnel, Curriculum & Quality, Governance & Search, Student Affairs	100
Mr N Horsfall	12.11.2022	4 Years		External	Chair – Governance & Search, Finance & Personnel, Student Affairs	100
Mr M Rigby	26.09.2024	4 Years		External	Chair – Risk & Audit Governance & Search	60
Mr B Shama	26.09.2024	4 Years		External	Chair - Curriculum & Quality, Governance & Search	60
Mrs C Swarbrick	12.11.2022	4 Years		External	Risk & Audit, Governance & Search, Student Affairs	40
Mr S Jackson	11.07.2023	4 Years		External	Curriculum & Quality	60
Mr Z Tapas	12.12.2024	4 Years		External	Curriculum and Quality	100
Mrs G Hughes	28.04.2022	4 Years		External	Finance & Personnel	60
Ms C Davies	21.09.2021	4 Years		External	Chair – Finance & Personnel Governance & Search	100
Mrs S Wright	28.04.2022	4 Years		External	Curriculum & Quality Student Affairs	20
Mr S Bamber	01.03.2024	4 Years		External	Risk & Audit	100
Cllr K Hon	12.12.2024	4 Years		External	Risk & Audit	66.6
Mrs A Watters	12.12.2024	4 Years		External	Finance & Personnel	66.6
Mr A Ashraf	02.04.2025	4 Years		External	Curriculum & Quality	100
Mrs M Muneeb	02.04.2025	4 Years		External	Finance & Personnel	50
Mrs R Aftab	02.04.2025	4 Years		External	Risk & Audit	50
Mr R Coyle	28.04.2022	4 Years		Staff	Curriculum & Quality	100
Mrs N Blackwood	09.07.2025	4 Years		Staff	Risk & Audit	100
Mr A Lythgoe	15.12.2021	4 Years	09.07.2025	Staff	Curriculum & Quality	100
Mr M Cox	10.07.2022	4 Years	28.11.2024	External	Risk & Audit, Curriculum & Quality	N/A
Mr A Hughes	21.09.2021	4 Years	25.09.2024	External	Finance & Personnel	N/A
Ms B Ismail	15.03.2021	4 Years	26.09.2024	External	Risk & Audit	N/A
Miss E Quinton	12.12.2023	2 Years		Student		100
Miss R Zafar	12.12.2024	2 Years		Student		100

It is the Corporation's responsibility to bring independent judgement to bear on issues of strategy, performance, resources and standards of conduct.

The Corporation is provided with regular and timely information on the overall financial performance of the College together with other information such as performance against funding targets, proposed capital expenditure, quality matters and personnel related matters such as health and safety and environmental issues. The Corporation meets each term.

The Corporation conducts its business through a number of committees. Each committee has terms of reference, which have been approved by the Corporation. These committees are Governance and

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

Search, Finance and Personnel, Curriculum and Quality, Student Affairs and Risk and Audit. Full minutes of all meetings, except those deemed to be confidential by the Corporation, are available from the clerk to the Corporation at:

Bolton Sixth Form College
Town Centre Campus
Deane Road
Bolton
BL3 5BG

The Clerk to the Corporation maintains a register of financial and personal interests of the governors. The register is available for inspection at the above address.

All governors are able to take independent professional advice in furtherance of their duties at the College's expense and have access to the Clerk to the Corporation, who is responsible to the Board for ensuring that all applicable procedures and regulations are complied with. The appointment, evaluation and removal of the Clerk are matters for the Corporation as a whole.

Formal agendas, papers and reports are supplied to governors in a timely manner, prior to Board meetings. Briefings are also provided on an ad-hoc basis.

The Corporation has a strong and independent non-executive element and no individual or group dominates its decision-making process. The Corporation considers that each of its non-executive members is independent of management and free from any business or other relationship, which could materially interfere with the exercise of their independent judgement. There is a clear division of responsibility in that the roles of the Chairman and Principal are separate.

Appointments to the Corporation

Any new appointments to the Corporation are a matter for the consideration of the Corporation as a whole. The Corporation has a search committee, which is responsible for the selection and nomination of any new member for the Corporation's consideration. The Corporation is responsible for ensuring that appropriate training is provided as required.

Members of the Corporation are appointed for a term of office not exceeding four years.

Corporation Performance

The corporation carried out a self-assessment of its own performance for the year ended 31 July 2025 and graded itself as "Good" on the Ofsted scale.

The governing body is committed to development, new Governors attended a range of induction sessions covering strategic planning, curriculum, quality, finance and HR. All Governors are able to access a range of development sessions delivered by the Sixth Form College's Association (SFCA).

Remuneration Committee

Throughout the year ending 31 July 2025, the College's Remuneration Committee comprised four members. The committee's responsibilities are to make recommendations to the Board on the remuneration and benefits of the Accounting Officer and other key management personnel.

Details of remuneration for the year ended 31 July 2025 are set out in note 5 to the financial statements.

Audit Committee

The audit committee comprises four members of the Corporation (excluding the Accounting Officer and Chair). The committee operates in accordance with written terms of reference approved by the Corporation.

The Audit Committee meets on a termly basis and provides a forum for reporting by the College's external auditors, who have access to the Committee for independent discussion, without the presence of college management. The Committee also receives and considers reports from the main FE funding bodies as they affect the College's business.

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

The Risk and Audit Committee monitors the systems of internal control, risk management controls and governance processes in accordance with an agreed plan of input and reports their findings to the Governing Corporation.

Management is responsible for the implementation of agreed recommendations and undertake periodic follow up reviews to ensure such recommendations have been implemented.

The Risk and Audit Committee also advises the Corporation on the appointment of external auditors and their remuneration for both audit and non-audit work as well as reporting annually to the Corporation.

To ensure the College has an adequate and effective framework for governance, risk management and control and has fulfilled its statutory responsibility for "the effective and efficient use of resources, the solvency of the institution and the body and the safeguarding of their assets", the College has a very detailed Risk Register which it uses to identify and monitor key risks and the systems in place to control these risks. The Risk Register is presented to each Full Governing Corporation Meeting and is also reviewed at least once each half term by the Senior Leadership Team.

Internal Control

Scope of responsibility

The Corporation is ultimately responsible for the College's system of internal control and for reviewing its effectiveness. 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.

The Corporation has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Principal, as Accounting Officer for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of the College's policies, aims and objectives whilst safeguarding the public funds and assets for which he is personally responsible, in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to him in the Financial Memorandum between the College and the funding bodies. He is also responsible for reporting to the Corporation any material weaknesses or break-downs in internal control.

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 college 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 Bolton Sixth Form College for the year ended 31 July 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to handle risk

The Corporation has reviewed the key risks to which the College is exposed, together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Corporation is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the College's significant risks that has been in place for the period ending 31 July 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Corporation.

The risk and control framework

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

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

- Comprehensive budgeting systems with an annual budget which is reviewed and agreed by the Corporation
- Regular reviews by the Corporation of periodic and annual financial reports which indicate financial performance against forecasts
- Setting targets to measure financial and other performance
- Clearly defined capital investment control guidelines
- The adoption of formal project management disciplines, where appropriate.

Bolton Sixth Form College has not appointed an internal audit service for the year ended 31 July 2025 For that year, the College Management and Governors have assessed the internal controls and have devised an annual internal control review plan which is informed by an analysis of the risks to which the College is exposed The analysis of risks and the internal control review plans are endorsed by the Corporation on the recommendation of the Risk and Audit Committee

Risks faced by the corporation
The corporation has several mechanisms for identifying, evaluating and managing risk Including an impact and likelihood evaluation of key operational, financial and other risks
These are:

- Annual Governor Strategy event including presentations from DfE representatives to brief on relevant Government, Regional and National strategies which determine the priorities of the college
- Governor attendance at external meetings delivered by DfE/SFCA/AoC
- Contribution to the formulation and regular monitoring of the Strategic Risk Register

Responsibilities under the accountability agreements
The college has reviewed its policies, procedures and approval processes in line with the 2024/25 college finance handbook and its accountability agreement with DfE to ensure there are systems in place to identify and handle any transactions for which DfE approval is required

Statement from the Risk and Audit Committee
The Risk and Audit committee has advised the board of governors that the Corporation has an effective framework for governance and risk management in place The Risk and Audit committee believes that the Corporation has effective internal controls in place

The specific areas of work undertake by the Risk and Audit committee in 2024/25 and up to the date of the approval of the financial statements are.

- Cyber Security – minimizing the risk of a breach of the IT Network, concluding that the current systems provided a strong level of protection which will continue to be reviewed and enhanced as appropriate
- Curriculum Risk Management – high risk learning environments, concluding that sufficient measures were in place to manage risk
- Health and Safety – a review of policies and procedures concluding that the procedures are effective and the policy fully complies with legislation.

Review of effectiveness
As Accounting Officer, the Principal has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. The Principal's review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by:

- The work of the executive managers within the College who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework
- Comments made by the College's financial statements auditors and the reporting accountant for regularity assurance, in their management letters and other reports
- The regularity self-assessment questionnaire.

The Accounting Officer has been advised on the implications of the result of his review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control by the Risk and Audit Committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

The Senior Leadership Team receives reports setting out key performance and risk indicators and considers possible control issues brought to their attention by early warning mechanisms, which are embedded within the departments and reinforced by risk awareness training.

The Risk and Audit Committee's role in this area is confined to a high-level review of the arrangements for internal control. The Corporation's agenda includes a regular item for consideration of risk and control and receives reports thereon from the Senior Leadership Team and the Risk and Audit Committee. The emphasis is on obtaining the relevant degree of assurance and not merely reporting by exception. At its October 2025 meeting, the Corporation carried out the annual assessment for the year ended 31 July 2025 by considering documentation from the Senior Leadership Team and taking account of events since 31 July 2025.

Based on the advice of the Risk and Audit Committee and the Principal, the Corporation is of the opinion that the College has an adequate and effective framework for governance, risk management and control and has fulfilled its statutory responsibility for "the effective and efficient use of resources, the solvency of the institution and the body and the safeguarding of their assets"

Approved by order of the members of the Corporation on 17th December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Mr N Horsfall
Chairman

Mr S Merrills
Principal

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

As accounting officer of the corporation of Bolton Sixth Form College I confirm that I have had due regard to the framework of authorities governing regularity, propriety and compliance, including the College's accountability agreement with the DfE, and the requirements of the College Financial Handbook. I have also considered my responsibility to notify the Corporation's board of governors and DfE of material irregularity, impropriety and noncompliance with terms and conditions of all funding.

I confirm that I, and the Board of Governors, are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the Corporation, or material non-compliance with the framework for authorities.

I confirm that no instances of material irregularity, impropriety or 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 governors and the DfE.

S Merrills

Mr S Merrills
Accounting Officer
17th December 2025

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

Statement of the Responsibilities of the Members of the Corporation

The members of the corporation are required to present audited financial statements for each financial year.

Within the terms and conditions of the college's accountability agreement, funding agreements and contracts with the ESFA and DfE, the corporation is required to prepare financial statements which give a true and fair view of the financial performance and position of the corporation for the relevant period. Corporations must also prepare a strategic report which includes an operating and financial review for the year. The bases for the preparation of the financial statements and strategic report are the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting for Further and Higher Education, DfE's College Accounts Direction and the UK's Generally Accepted Accounting Practice. In preparing the financial statements the Corporation is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and 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
- assess whether the corporation is a going concern, noting the key supporting assumptions qualifications or mitigating actions as appropriate
- prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume the College will continue in operation.

The Corporation is also required to prepare a Strategic Report, in accordance with paragraphs 3.23 to 3.27 of the FE and HE SORP, which describes what it is trying to do and how it is going about it, including information about the legal and administrative status of the Corporation.

The Corporation is responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the College and to enable it to ensure that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with the relevant legislation including the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 and Charities Act 2011 and relevant accounting standards. It is responsible for taking such steps that are reasonably open to it to safeguard its assets and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The corporation is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of its website; the work carried out by the auditors does not involve consideration of these matters and, accordingly, the auditors accept no responsibility for any changes that may have occurred to the financial statements since they were initially presented on the website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Members of the Corporation are responsible for ensuring that expenditure and income are applied for the purposes intended and that the financial transactions conform to the authorities that govern them. In addition, they are responsible for ensuring that funds from the ESFA, DfE and any other public funds are used only in accordance with the accountability agreement, funding agreement and contracts and any other conditions, that may be prescribed from time to time by the DfE or any other public funder, including that any transactions entered into by the corporation are within the delegated authorities set out in College Financial Handbook. On behalf of the Corporation, the Chair of the Board of Governors is responsible for discussing the accounting officer's statement of regularity, propriety and compliance with the accounting officer.

Members of the Corporation must ensure that there are appropriate financial and management controls in place to safeguard public and other funds and ensure that they are used properly. In addition, members of the Corporation are responsible for securing the economic, efficient and effective management of the Corporation's resources and expenditure, so that the benefits that should be derived from the application of public funds from the DfE, ESFA and other public bodies are not put at risk.

Approved by order of the members of the Corporation on 17th December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Mr N Horsfall
Chair

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

Independent auditor's report to the Corporation of Bolton Sixth Form College for the year ended 31 July 2025

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Bolton Sixth Form College (the 'College') for the year ended 31 July 2025 which comprise the Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Statement of Changes in Reserves, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the College's affairs as at 31 July 2025, and of its income and expenditure, gains and losses and changes in reserves, and cash flows for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting for Further and Higher Education; and
- meet the requirements of the Accounts Direction issued by the Office for Students ('the OfS Accounts Direction).

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 College 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 Corporation's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the College'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 Corporation with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report and Financial Statements, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Corporation is 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.

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Colleges issued by the Department for Education requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Regulatory Advice 9: Accounts Direction issued by the Office for Students requires us to report to you if, in our opinion.

- where applicable, funds from whatever source administered by the provider for specific purposes have not been properly applied to those purposes and managed in accordance with relevant legislation; or
- where applicable, funds provided by the OfS, UK Research and Innovation (including Research England), the Department for Education have not been applied in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions; or
- the requirements of the OfS' accounts direction have not been met; or
- the provider's grant and fee income, as disclosed in the note to the accounts, has been materially misstated, or
- the College's expenditure on access and participation activities for the financial year has been materially misstated

Responsibilities of the Corporation

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities of the Members of the Corporation, the Corporation is responsible for the preparation of financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Corporation 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 Corporation is responsible for assessing the College'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 Corporation either intend to liquidate the College or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and with ISAs (UK). Those standards require us to comply with the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

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.

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

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

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

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures response to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

In identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations we considered the following;

- The nature of the College, the environment in which it operates and the control procedures implemented by management and the Corporation; and
- Our enquiries of management and the Corporation about their identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities.

Based on our understanding of the College and the sector we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to, but were not limited to;

- Regulations and legislation pertinent to the College's operations;
- Compliance with the Framework and guide for external auditors and reporting accountants of colleges 2024 to 2025;
- Compliance with the requirements of the Department for Education and the Office for Students; and
- Compliance with the requirements of the Office for Standards in Education

We considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material impact on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations which have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements, such as the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting for Further and Higher Education 2019 and the Framework and guide for external auditors and reporting accountants of colleges 2024 to 2025.

We evaluated management and trustees' incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of management override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to;

- Posting inappropriate journal entries.

Audit response to the risks identified

Our procedures to respond to the risks identified included the following;

- Gaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the College and the sector in which it operates;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- Enquiring of management and the audit committee, concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with the Department for Education, the Office for Students; and
- In addressing the risk of fraud as a result of management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; evaluating rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

We scrutinised the general ledger for the following:

- Duplicate journal entries,
- Unbalances journal entries, and
- Journals with detail which included key phrases or words.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Corporation, as a body, in accordance with the Funding Agreement published by Department for Education and our engagement letter.
Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Corporation, as a body, 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 Corporation, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Signed by:

Wbg (Audit) Limited

2A4E408DA5B14D1...

Wbg (Audit) Limited
Statutory Auditor
168 Bath Street
Glasgow
G2 4TP

Date: 17 December 2025

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity

To: The Corporation of Bolton Sixth Form College and Secretary of State for Education acting through the Department for Education (DfE)

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter and further to the requirements of the Department for Education (DfE), as included in the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Colleges, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether anything has come to our attention that would suggest that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received by Bolton Sixth Form College during the period 1 August 2024 to 31 July 2025 have not been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to the corporation of Bolton Sixth Form College and the Secretary of State for Education in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the corporation of Bolton Sixth Form College and the Secretary of State 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 the corporation of Bolton Sixth Form College and the Secretary of State for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the Accounting Officer of Bolton Sixth Form College and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of the corporation's accountability agreement with the Secretary of State for Education and the College Financial Handbook, 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 extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Colleges. 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 period 1 August 2024 to 31 July 2025 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 Accountants of Colleges issued by the DfE, which requires a limited assurance engagement, as set out 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 corporation's income and expenditure.

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

The work undertaken to draw our conclusion included:

- Documenting the framework of authorities which govern the activities of the College;
- Undertaking a risk assessment based on our understanding of the general control environment and any weaknesses in internal controls identified by our audit of the financial statements;
- Reviewing the self-assessment questionnaire which supports the representations included in the Chair of Governors and Accounting Officer's statement on regularity, propriety and compliance with the framework of authorities;
- Testing transactions with related parties;
- Confirming through enquiry and sample testing that the College has complied with its procurement policies and that these policies comply with delegated authorities; and
- Reviewing any evidence of impropriety resulting from our work and determining whether it was significant enough to be referred to in our regularity report

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 period 1 August 2024 to 31 July 2025 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Signed by:

Wbg (Audit) Limited

2A4E408DA5B14D1...

Alexander Hogg
Reporting Accountant
Wbg (Audit) Limited
168 Bath Street
Glasgow
G2 4TP

Date: 17 December 2025

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	Notes	2025 £'000s	2024 £'000s
Income			
Funding Body Grants	2	12,918	11,634
Other Operating Income	3	111	72
Investment Income	4	328	303
Total Income		13,357	12,009
Expenditure			
Staff Costs	5	8,871	8,262
Other Operating Expenses	6	1,822	1,879
Depreciation	9	1,029	794
Interest and other finance costs	7	111	128
Total Expenditure		11,833	11,063
Surplus on continuing operations after depreciation of tangible fixed assets at valuation and before exceptional items and tax		1,524	946
Profit on Disposal of Fixed Assets		36	22
Surplus on continuing operations after depreciation of assets at valuation and exceptional items but before tax		1,560	968
Taxation	8	0	0
Surplus for the year		1,560	968
Actuarial gain in respect of pension schemes	17	1,862	597
Restriction on pension surplus	17	(2,152)	(764)
Total Comprehensive Income for the year		1,270	801

The statement of comprehensive income is in respect of continuing activities.

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN RESERVES

	Income and Expenditure Account	Restricted Reserves	Total
	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s
Balance at 1 August 2023	**11,889**	**0**	**11,889**
Surplus from the income and expenditure account	801	0	801
Other comprehensive income	0	0	0
Transfers between revaluation and income and expenditure reserves	0	0	0
Balance at 31 July 2024	**12,690**	**0**	**12,690**
Surplus from the income and expenditure account	1,270	0	1,270
Other comprehensive income	0	0	0
Transfers between revaluation and income and expenditure reserves	0	0	0
Balance at 31 July 2025	**13,960**	**0**	**13,960**

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 July 2025

	Notes	2025 £'000s	2024 £'000s
Non Current Assets			
Tangible Fixed assets	9	23,624	21,222
		23,624	21,222
Current Assets			
Stocks		1	0
Trade and other receivables	10	368	460
Investments	11	0	1,650
Cash at bank and in hand	15	4,895	2,890
		5,264	5,000
Less: Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	12	(2,903)	(1,293)
Net current assets		2,361	3,707
Total assets less current liabilities		25,985	24,929
Creditors - amounts falling due after more than one year	13	(11,547)	(11,801)
Provisions			
Defined benefit obligations	17	0	0
Other provisions	14	478	438
Total net assets		13,960	12,690
Unrestricted Reserves			
Income and Expenditure Account		13,960	12,690

The Financial Statements on pages 24 to 43 were approved by the Corporation on 17th December 2025 and were signed on its behalf by.

Mr N Horsfall
Chairman

Mr S Merrills
Principal

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

	Note	2025 £'000s	2024 £'000s
Cash flow from operating activities			
Surplus for the year		1,560	968
Adjustment for non-cash items			
Depreciation		1,029	794
Profit on Disposal of Non-Current Assets		(36)	(22)
(Increase) in Stocks		(1)	0
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors		92	(34)
Increase in creditors due within one year		160	502
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors due after one year		1,296	(283)
Increase/(Decrease) in provisions		40	(37)
Pension costs less contributions payable		(290)	(167)
Adjustment for investing or financing activities			
Interest receivable		(204)	(303)
Interest payable		111	128
Net cash flow from operating activities		3,757	1,546
Cash flows from investing activities			
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets		36	22
Investment income		204	303
Payments made to acquire fixed assets		(3,431)	(794)
		(3,191)	(469)
Cash flow from financing activities			
Interest paid		(111)	(128)
Repayment of amounts borrowed		(100)	(100)
		(211)	(228)
Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year		355	849
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	15	4,540	3,691
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year	15	4,895	4,540

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the financial statements.

Basis of Preparation
These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting for Further and Higher Education 2019* (the 2019 FE HE SORP), *the College Accounts Direction for 2020/21* and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 – *'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS102)'* The College is a public benefit entity and has therefore applied the relevant public benefit requirements of FRS102.

The preparation of financial statements in compliance with FRS102 requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates It also requires management to exercise judgement in applying the College's accounting policies.

Basis of Accounting
These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention as modified by the use of previous valuations as deemed cost at transition for certain non-current assets.

Going Concern
The activities of the College, together with the factors likely to affect its future development and performance are set out in the Operating and Financial Review The financial position of the College, its cashflow, liquidity and borrowings are described in the Financial Statements and accompanying Notes

Accordingly, the College has a reasonable expectation that it has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, and for this reason will continue to adopt the going concern basis in the preparation of its Financial Statements.

Recognition of Income
Revenue Grant Funding
The recurrent grant from the DfE is that receivable as determined by the results of the funding audit undertaken The recurrent grant from the DfE represents the funding allocation attributable to the current financial year and is credited to the statement of comprehensive Income account.

Capital Grant Funding
Government capital grants are capitalised, held as deferred income and recognised in income over the expected useful life of the asset, under the accrual method as permitted by FRS102.

Other Grant Income
Other discrete DfE funds received during the year are taken to income as expenditure is incurred in line with the specific terms and conditions attached to each fund by the DfE

Where the College receives and disburses funds in which it has no direct beneficial interest, such funds are excluded from the statement of comprehensive Income account on the grounds that the College does not have direct control over the future economic benefits derived from these funds. The college has applied this policy to certain funds received during the year from the DfE (see note 20)

Income from grants, contracts and other services rendered is included to the extent of the completion of the contract or service concerned.

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

Investment Income
All income from short-term deposits is credited to the statement of comprehensive income account in the period in which it is earned.

Accounting for Post-Employment Benefits
Post-employment benefits to employees of the College are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) and the Greater Manchester Pension Scheme (GMPS). These are defined benefit schemes, which are externally funded and contracted out of the State Second Pension.

Contributions to the schemes are charged to the statement of comprehensive income account so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the College in such a way that the pension is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll.

The contributions are determined by qualified actuaries on the basis of triennial valuations using the projected unit method for the GMPF and quinquennial valuations using prospective benefit method for the TPS.

Short term Employment Benefits
Short term employment benefits such as salaries and compensated absences (holiday pay) are recognised as an expense in the year in which the employees render service to the College. Any unused benefits are accrued and measured as the additional amount the College expects to pay as a result of the unused entitlement.

Enhanced Pensions
The actual cost of any enhanced ongoing pension to a former member of staff is paid by the college annually. An estimate of the expected future cost of any enhancement to the ongoing pension of a former member of staff is charged in full to the college's statement of comprehensive income account in the year that the member of staff retires. In subsequent years a charge is made to provisions in the balance sheet using the enhanced pension spreadsheet provided by the funding bodies.

Non-current Assets - Tangible Fixed Assets
(a) Land and Buildings
Long Leasehold land is not depreciated. Long Leasehold buildings are depreciated over their expected useful life to the College of between 15 and 50 years. The College has a policy of depreciating major adaptations to buildings over the period of their useful economic life.

Where land and buildings are acquired with the aid of specific grants, they are capitalised and depreciated as above. The related grants are credited to a deferred capital grant account and are released to the statement of comprehensive income account over the expected useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the depreciation policy.

Finance costs, which are directly attributable to the construction of land and buildings, are not capitalised as part of the cost of those assets.

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of any fixed asset(s) may not be recoverable.

On adoption of FRS102, the College followed the transitional provision to retain the book value of land and buildings, which were valued in 2010, but not to adopt a policy of revaluations of these properties in the future.

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

Subsequent expenditure on existing fixed assets
Where significant expenditure is incurred on tangible fixed assets it is charged to the statement of comprehensive Income account in the period it is incurred, unless it meets one of the following criteria, in which case it is capitalised and depreciated on the relevant basis:

- Market value of the fixed asset has subsequently improved
- Assets capacity increases
- Substantial improvement in the quality of output or reduction in operating costs
- Significant extension of the assets life beyond that conferred by repairs and maintenance

(b) Furniture and Equipment
Equipment costing less than £300 per individual item is written off to the Statement of comprehensive Income Account in the period of acquisition. All other furniture and equipment is capitalised at costs and written off to the Statement of comprehensive Income Account over its useful economic life as follows:

Computer Equipment	3 years
IT Network Equipment	5 years
Electrical Equipment	3 years
Furniture and other Equipment	7 years

Where equipment is acquired with the aid of specific grants, it is capitalised and depreciated in accordance with the above policy. The related grant is credited to a deferred capital grant account and released to the Statement of comprehensive Income Account over the expected useful economic life of the related equipment.

(c) Leased Assets
Costs in respect of operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term. Leasing agreements, which transfer to the College substantially all the benefits and risks of ownership of an asset, are treated as if the asset had been purchased outright. The relevant assets are capitalised at their fair value at the inception of the lease and depreciated over the shorter of the lease term of the useful economic lives of equivalently owned assets. The capital element outstanding is shown as obligations under finance leases.

The finance charges are allocated over the period of the lease in proportion to the capital element outstanding. Where finance lease payments are funding in full from funding council capital equipment grants, the associated assets are designated as grant-funded assets.

Assets, which are held under hire purchase contracts, which have the characteristics of finance leases, are depreciated over their useful lives.

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

Cash
Cash for the purposes of the cash flow statement comprises cash in hand and deposits repayable on demand.

Taxation
The College is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the College is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by sections 478-488 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.

The College receives no similar exemption in respect of value added tax. For this reason the College is unable to recover input VAT it suffers on goods and services purchased. Overhead expenditure is therefore shown inclusive of VAT.

Provisions
Provisions are recognised when the College has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event. It is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

Agency Arrangements
The College acts as an agent in the collection and payment of discretionary bursary funds. Related payments received from the main funding body and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the statement of comprehensive income account and are shown separately in note 20, except for the 5% of the grant received, which is available to the College to cover administration costs relating to the grant. The College employs 5 members of staff who contribute significantly to the administration of Bursary Fund applications and payments.

Judgements in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty

Judgments in applying accounting policies
In preparing these financial statements, management have made the following judgements:

- Determine whether there are indicators of impairment of the college's tangible assets. Factors taken into consideration in reaching such a decision include the economic viability and expected future financial performance of the asset.

Other key sources of estimation uncertainty

- Tangible fixed assets are depreciated over their useful lives taking into accounts residual values where appropriate. The actual lives of the assets and residual values are assessed annually and may vary depending on a number of factors. In reassessing assets lives, factors such as technological innovation and maintenance programmes are taken into account. Residual value assessments consider issues such as the remaining life of the assets and projected disposal values.

- The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit position 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 17, will impact the carrying amount of the pension position. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 July 2025. 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.

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

2. FUNDING BODY GRANTS

	2025 £'000s	2024 £'000s
ESFA Recurrent Grant	11,731	10,922
Release of deferred capital grant in respect of disposals		
• Equipment	0	0
• Land and Buildings	0	0
Release of deferred capital grant		
• Equipment	198	75
• Land and Buildings	290	279
Teacher Pension Scheme contribution grant	506	358
Pay Award and National Insurance Increase grant	193	0
	12,918	11,634

3. OTHER OPERATING INCOME

	2025 £'000s	2024 £'000s
Other Income	111	72

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2025 £'000s	2024 £'000s
Other interest receivable	328	303

5. STAFF NUMBERS AND COSTS

The average number of persons (including senior post holders) employed by the College during the period, expressed as full-time equivalents, was.

	2025 No.	2024 No.
Teaching Staff	85	88
Other Staff	84	81
	169	169

Staff costs for the above persons.

	2025 £'000s	2024 £'000s
Wages and salaries	6,575	6,284
Social security costs	754	648
Other pension costs	1,542	1,314
Redundancy Costs	0	16
	8,871	8,262

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

Key management personnel

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the College and are represented by the Senior Management Team which comprises the Principal, Deputy Principal, Deputy Principal (Curriculum) and Assistant Principals.

Staff costs include compensation paid to key management personnel for loss of office.

Emoluments of Key management personnel, Accounting Officer and other higher paid staff

	2025 No.	2024 No.
The number of key management personnel including the Accounting Officer was:	7	6

The number of key management personnel and other staff who received emoluments, excluding Pension Contributions but including benefits in kind, in the following ranges, was:

	2025 Number of Key Management Personnel	2024 Number of Key Management Personnel
£60,001 - £65,000	4	3
£65,001 - £70,000	4	2
£70,001 - £75,000	1	0
£75,001 - £80,000	1	0
£80,001 - £85,000	0	0
£85,001 - £90,000	0	0
£90,001 - £95,000	0	0
£95,001 - £100,000	0	0
£100,001 - £105,000	0	1
£105,001 - £110,000	0	1
£110,001 - £115,000	1	0
£115,001 - £120,000	0	0
£120,001 - £125,000	0	0
£125,001 - £130,000	0	1
£130,001 -£135,000	1	0

Key management personnel emoluments are made up as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Salaries	607,990	642,139
Pension contributions	164,946	160,813
Total emoluments	772,936	802,952

During the year, the Senior Leadership Team was expanded to include one additional Assistant Principal. There were no amounts due to key management personnel that were waived in the year, nor any salary sacrifice arrangements in place.

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

The above emoluments include amounts payable to the Accounting Officer (who is also the highest paid officer) of:

	2025 £	2024 £
Salary	130,326	126,135
Benefits in kind	0	0
Pension contributions	37,378	31,960

The pension contributions of the Principal and senior post-holders are in respect of employer's contributions to the Teachers' Pension Scheme and the Greater Manchester Pension Fund and are paid at the same rate as for other employees.

The remuneration package of Key management staff, including the Principal, is subject to annual review by the Remuneration Committee of the governing body who use benchmarking information to provide objective guidance.

The Principal reports to the Chair of the Governing Corporation, who undertakes an annual review of his performance against the college's overall objectives using both qualitative and quantitative measures of performance.

Relationship of Principal pay and remuneration expressed as a multiple

	2025	2024
Principal's basic salary as a multiple of the median of all staff	3.3	3.5
Principal's total remuneration as a multiple of the median of all staff	3.4	3.6

The members of the Corporation other than the Principal and staff members, did not receive any payments from the College during the year

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

6. OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES

	2025 £'000s	2024 £'000s
Teaching Costs	179	162
Administration & Central Services	1,157	1,029
Premises Costs	486	688
	1,822	1,879

Included in other Operating Expenses are

	2025 £'000s	2024 £'000s
Auditors' remuneration – external audit	18	18
Operating Lease – Hire of Photocopiers	9	9

The Auditors remuneration is exclusive of VAT

7. INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCE COSTS

	2025 £'000s	2024 £'000s
On bank loans, overdrafts and other loans repayable within 5 years, not by instalments	111	128
	0	0
Pension Finance Costs	0	0
Total Interest and Other Finance Costs	111	128

8. TAXATION

The corporation does not believe the College was liable for any Corporation Tax arising out of its activities during the period.

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Assets Under Construction £'000s	Leasehold Land and Buildings £'000s	Equipment £'000s	Total £'000s
Cost or Valuation				
At 1 August 2024	130	25,836	2,603	28,569
Additions	2,679	54	698	3,431
Transfers	(2,809)	651	2,158	0
Disposals	0	0	(735)	(735)
At 31 July 2025	0	26,541	4,724	31,265
Depreciation				
At 1 August 2024	0	5,817	1,530	7,347
Charge for period	0	570	459	1,029
Transfer		(17)	17	0
Eliminated in respect of disposals	0	0	(735)	(735)
At 31 July 2025	0	6,370	1,271	7,641
Net Book Value				
At 31 July 2025	0	20,171	3,453	23,624
At 31 July 2024	130	20,019	1,073	21,222

Fixed assets include land and buildings with a net book value of £9,837k which have been funded by a grant from the DfE. Should these assets be sold, the College may be liable, under the terms of the accountability agreement, to surrender the proceeds.

Long leasehold land and buildings includes the following properties: Town Centre Campus – 999 year lease – started September 2010

10. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	2025 £'000s	2024 £'000s
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade receivables	26	114
Prepayments and accrued income	338	319
Other Debtors	4	27
	368	460

There were no amounts due in more than one year at 31 July.

11. CURRENT INVESTMENTS

	2025 £'000s	2024 £'000s
Short term deposits	0	1,650

Deposits are held with banks licensed by the Financial Conduct Authority with more than three months maturity at the balance sheet date.

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025 £'000s	2024 £'000s
Bank Loan and Overdrafts	1,550	100
Trade creditors	251	75
Accruals	283	284
Other creditors	193	205
Deferred income - government capital grants	626	629
Total	2,903	1,293

13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR

	2025 £'000s	2024 £'000s
Bank Loan	0	1,550
Deferred income - government capital grants	11,547	10,251
Total	11,547	11,801

14. PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES AND CHARGES

	Defined Benefit Obligation £'000s	Enhanced £'000s	Total £'000s
At 1 August 2024	0	438	438
Expenditure for the period	0	(61)	(61)
Transferred from Income and Expenditure Account	0	101	101
At 31 July 2025	0	478	478

Defined Benefit Obligations relate to the liabilities under the College's membership of the Greater Manchester Pension Fund. Further details are given in Note 17.

The enhanced pension provision relates to the cost of staff who have already left the College's employment, this provision has been recalculated in accordance with guidance issued by the funding bodies.

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

15. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	At 31 July 2024 £'000s	Cashflows £'000s	At 31 July 2025 £'000s
Cash in hand	4,540	355	4,895
Total	4,540	355	4,895

16. CAPITAL AND OTHER COMMITMENTS

	At 31 July 2025 £'000s	At 31 July 2024 £'000s
Commitments contracted for at 31 July	0	2,763

17 DEFINED BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

College employees belong to two principal pension schemes, the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

The total pension cost for the year

	2024/25 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Teachers' Pension Scheme: contributions paid	1,127	945
Greater Manchester Pension Scheme: Contributions paid	479	429
NEST Pension Scheme: Contributions Paid	1	1
FRS 102 (28) charge	(166)	(83)
Charge to the Statement of Comprehensive Income	1,441	1,292
Enhanced pension charge to Statement of Comprehensive Income	101	22
Total Pension Cost for the Year within staff costs	1,542	1,314

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

The Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS or scheme) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pensions Regulations 2014 These regulations apply to teachers in schools, college and other educational establishments. Membership is automatic for teachers and lecturers at eligible institutions. Teachers and lecturers are able to opt out of the TPS.

The Teachers' Pensions Budgeting and Valuation Account

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a 'pay as you go 'basis – contributions from members, along with those made by employers, are credited to the Exchequer under arrangements governed by the above Act. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102 (28 11), the TPS is a multi-employer pension plan The college is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the plan

Accordingly, the college has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS102 and has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution plan The college has set out above the information available on the plan and the implications for the college in terms of the anticipated contribution rates.

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The latest actuarial review of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020 The valuation report was published by the Department for Education (the Department) on 26 October 2023. The valuation reported total scheme liabilities (pensions in payment and the estimated costs of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262 billion, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222 billion giving a notional past service deficit of £40 billion (compared to £22billion in the 2016 valuation).

As a result of the valuation employer contribution rates were set at 28 68% of pensionable pay from April 2024 onwards (compared to 23 68% from 2019-20). DfE has agreed to pay a teacher pension contribution grant to cover the additional costs during the 2024-25 academic year.

A full copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation can be found on the Teachers' Pension Scheme Website.

The pension costs paid to the TPS in the year amounted to £1,127,281 (2024 - £944,488)

Greater Manchester Pension Scheme

The scheme available to support staff is the Greater Manchester Pension Fund (GMPF). The GMPF is a defined benefit scheme, the assets of the scheme being held in separate funds administered by Tameside Borough Council. The agreed employer contribution rate was 23.4% and will remain at this rate up to 31 March 2026. The tiered employee contribution rate ranges from 5 5% to 12 5%

The pension cost is assessed every three years in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuary The latest actuarial valuation of the scheme was at 31 March 2022 The assumptions and other data that have the most significant effect on the determination of the contribution levels are as follows

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

Principal Actuarial Assumptions

The following information is based on a full actuarial valuation of the fund at 31 July 2025 by a qualified independent actuary.

	At 31 July 2025	At 31 July 2024
Rate of increase in salaries	3.55%	3.5%
Future pension increases	1.7%	6.7%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.8%	5.0%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.75%	2.7%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	50%	50%

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

	At 31 July 2025 Years	At 31 July 2024 Years
Retiring today		
Males	19.1	18.9
Females	23.8	23.8
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	20.9	20.7
Females	24.9	24.8

The College's share of the assets in the plan at the balance sheet date and the expected rates of return were:

	Long-term rate of return expected at 31 July 2025	Fair Value at 31 July 2025 £'000	Long-term rate of return expected at 31 July 2024	Fair Value at 31 July 2024 £'000
Equity instruments	1.5%	8,626	1.5%	8,238
Debt instruments	1.5%	2,256	1.5%	1,791
Property	1.5%	1,194	1.5%	955
Cash	1.5%	1,194	1.5%	955
Total fair value of plan assets		13,270		11,939
Weighted average expected long-term rate of return	1.5%		1.5%	
Actual return on plan assets		400		479

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

The amount included in the balance sheet in respect of the defined benefit pension plan and enhanced pensions benefits is as follows:

	At 31 July 2025 £'000	At 31 July 2024 £'000
Fair value of plan assets	13,270	11,939
Present value of plan liabilities	(8,635)	(9,456)
Present value of unfunded liabilities	(82)	(82)
Restriction on pension surplus at 31 July 2022	(58)	(58)
Restriction on pension surplus at 31 July 2023	(1,579)	(1,579)
Restriction on pension surplus at 31 July 2024	(764)	(764)
Restriction on pension surplus at 31 July 2025	(2,152)	0
Net pensions liability	0	0

Amounts recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income in respect of the plan are as follows:

	At 31 July 2025 £'000	At 31 July 2024 £'000
Amounts included in staff costs		
Current service cost	(321)	(312)
Past service costs	0	(46)
Total	(321)	(358)
Amounts included in investment income		
Net interest income	124	84

	At 31 July 2025 £'000	At 31 July 2024 £'000
Amount recognised in Other Comprehensive Income		
Return on pension plan assets	400	479
Experience gains/(losses) arising on defined benefit obligations	86	(284)
Changes in assumptions underlying the present value of plan liabilities	1,418	383
Changes in demographic assumptions	(42)	19
Amount recognised in Other Comprehensive Income	1,862	597

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

Movement in net defined benefit (liability)/asset during year	At 31 July 2025 £'000	At 31 July 2024 £'000
Net defined (liability) in scheme at 1 August	0	0
Movement in year:		
Current service cost	(321)	(312)
Employer contributions	487	441
Past service cost	0	(46)
Net interest on the defined (liability)/asset	124	84
Actuarial gain or loss	1,862	697
Restriction on pension surplus	(2,152)	(764)
Net defined benefit (liability) at 31 July	0	0

Asset and Liability Reconciliation

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations	At 31 July 2025 £'000	At 31 July 2024 £'000
Defined benefit obligations at start of period	9,538	9,013
Current service cost	321	312
Interest cost	481	460
Contributions by Scheme participants	135	122
Experience gains and losses on defined benefit obligations	(86)	284
Changes in financial assumptions	(1,418)	(383)
Changes in demographic assumptions	42	(19)
Estimated benefits paid	(296)	(297)
Past Service cost	0	46
Curtailments and settlements	0	0
Defined benefit obligations at end of period	8,717	9,538

Changes in fair value of plan assets	At 31 July 2025 £'000	At 31 July 2024 £'000
Fair value of plan assets at start of period	11,939	10,650
Interest on plan assets	605	544
Return on plan assets	400	479
Employer contributions	469	425
Contributions by scheme participants	135	122
Experience gains and losses on defined benefit obligations	0	0
Estimated benefits paid	(278)	(281)
Fair value of plan assets at end of period	13,270	11,939

Docusign Envelope ID: E374B7E0-A83B-4350-A2F2-A889DC0A5171

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

18. FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

At 31 July, the College had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2025 Other £'000s	2024 Other £'000s
Expiring within one year	9	9
Expiring between two and five years inclusive	8	17
Expiring in over five years	0	0
	17	26

19. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Due to the nature of the college's operations and the composition of the board of governors (being drawn from local public and private sector organisations) it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a member of the board of governors may have an interest. All transactions involving organisations in which a member of the board of governors may have an interest are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the college's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

During 2024/25 the College has been a member of the Greater Manchester Colleges Group. This organisation contains member Colleges from the Greater Manchester Local Authority area and its remit is to secure value-for-money on procurement for the member Colleges. During the period 1 August 2024 to 31 July 2025 Tameside College acted as a paying agent for this organisation

Transactions with the DfE are detailed in notes 2, 12 and 13

20. AMOUNTS DISBURSED AS AGENT

BURSARY / LEARNER SUPPORT FUNDS

	2025 £'000s	2024 £'000s
Funding body grants:		
Bursary support	572	570
Discretionary learner support	10	14
	582	584
Disbursed to Students	(474)	(509)
Administration Fees	(24)	(23)
Balance Unspent at 31 July	84	52

The college distributes 16-19 discretionary and vulnerable bursaries and free meals in further education (FEFM) funds to students as an agent for DfE.

In the accounting period ended 31 July 2025, the college received a total of £530k and disbursed £474k from DfE 16-19 discretionary and vulnerable bursaries and FEFM funding after charging £24k for administration costs.

As at 31 July 2025, the cumulative unspent 16-19 discretionary and vulnerable bursary funds and FEFM funding is £84k of which £84k relates to funds that are in scope to be returned to DfE in March 2026

Comparatives for the accounting period ended 31 July 2024 are £517k received from DfE, £509k disbursed to learners after charging £23k for administration costs, and total cumulative unspent funds of £52k, of which £0k was repaid