



LORETO COLLEGE

Report and Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

LORETO COLLEGE

Key Management Personnel, Board of Governors and Professional advisers

Key management personnel

Key management personnel are defined as members of the college's Senior Leadership Team and were represented by the following in 2022/23:

Mr M Jaffrain, Principal and Accounting Officer
Mrs A Pritchard, Deputy Principal
Mrs T Livesey, Vice Principal – Planning & Resources
Mrs C Carr, Vice Principal - Curriculum & Quality

Board of Governors

A full list of Governors is given on page 17 of these financial statements.

During 2022/23 the Clerk to the Board of Governors role was carried out by Ms Alison Gould.

Financial Statement and Regularity Auditors:

RSM UK Audit LLP
Bluebell House
Brian Johnson Way
Preston
PR2 5PE

Internal Auditors:

Wylie and Bisset LLP
168 Bath Street
3 Hardman Street
Glasgow
G2 4TP

Bankers:

Barclays Corporate Bank plc
3 Hardman Street
1st Floor
Manchester
M3 3HF

Solicitors:

Browne Jacobson LLP
18-22 Bridge Street
Manchester
M3 3BZ

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Report of the Governing Body for the year ended 31 July 2023

The Board present their report and audited financial statements for Loreto College ("the College") for the year ended 31 July 2023.

Legal Status

The Governing Body was established under The Further and Higher Education Act 1992 for the purpose of conducting Loreto College. The majority of the Governing Body is appointed by the Trustees of the College, the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The College is an exempt charity for the purposes of Part 3 of the Charities Act 2011.

Mission

Governors reviewed and adopted the following mission statement for the College at the meeting of the Board of Governors on 4 July 2023.

Our Vision

Loreto College is centred in God, rooted in Christ and animated by the spirit of Mary Ward, the founder of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Our vision is that it will be an educational community where each person has the experience of being loved and valued as a sacred individual created by a loving God; a community where students enjoy an enriching and liberating education that helps them grow into the fullness of life and empowers them to be men and women of courage who are alive to the needs of humanity and committed to making a better world.

Statement of Purpose

Loreto College is part of the 3-19 continuum of Catholic education in Manchester and it exists to respond to the educational needs of young people from its partnership high schools and special schools in Manchester and surrounding areas. Its primary purpose is to guide these learners to success by challenging them to achieve academic and human excellence and by supporting them in the pursuit of this excellence. The college will work with other FE Providers to support students from its partnership high schools who wish to access the full range of vocational & occupational courses. In addition, it will be proactive in identifying and responding to the needs of other learners from the Catholic, local and wider communities where they are consonant with the college's core values.

Context

Loreto College is part of an international network of Catholic colleges run by the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a religious order founded in the seventeenth century by the Englishwoman Mary Ward. It has provided education in Manchester since 1851 and was established as a sixth form college in 1977 as part of the re-organisation of Catholic secondary education in the city. Since April 1993 it has been a designated college under the 1992 Further and Higher Education Act.

Aims

Loreto College aims to be an educational community which:

- recognises that God can be found in all things;
- is guided by the teaching of Christ and the Roman Catholic Church and in turn guides its Catholic young people in their faith journey and provides all its members with the opportunity of living, working and worshipping in a Christian community;
- gives expression to the core values of Mary Ward - freedom, justice, sincerity, truth, joy, excellence and internationality - and encourages "seekers of truth and doers of justice" who are able to challenge accepted notions and modes of society;
- values all its students as individuals and values all types of learning as it responds to the changing needs of individuals and society in the 21st century;

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Report of the Governing Body for the year ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

- has the highest expectations of personal and academic excellence;
- encourages active student involvement in their own learning and lifelong learning and fosters respect for intellectual questioning and debate in an atmosphere of freedom and respect for the dignity of each individual;
- works in partnership with parents and carers, recognising that they are the primary educators of our students;
- contributes to the educational, religious, cultural and economic well-being of Manchester and its environs.

Public Benefit

Loreto College is an exempt charity under Part 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and following the Machinery of Government changes in July 2016 is regulated by the Secretary of State for Education. The members of the Governing Body are disclosed on page 17.

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 employment record for students
- Strong student support systems
- Links with employers, industry and commerce

Implementation of strategic plan

In July 2022 the College adopted a strategic plan for the period 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2025. This strategic plan includes property and financial plans. The Governing Body monitors the performance of the College against these plans. The plans are reviewed and updated each year.

The College's strategic objectives for 2022-2025 are:

Objective 1: To sustain the College's vision to be an educational community where each person has the experience of being loved and valued as a sacred individual created by a loving God.

Objective 2: To make sure that all students and staff are fully supported following the Pandemic and thrive, both in terms of their development and their mental well-being.

Objective 3: To maintain student recruitment in line with the College's Admissions Policy and retain the balance and mix of enrolments to ensure continued access for:

- 16 year old learners from Partnership High Schools who achieve fewer than 5 GCSEs at grades 9 – 4
- Learners with learning difficulties and disabilities
- Learners from the local community

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Report of the Governing Body for the year ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

Objective 4: To sustain and improve standards and promote excellence throughout the curriculum at all levels of academic and vocational endeavour.

Objective 5: To utilise the Enabling Departments of the College to ensure that we manage our staff, estate, resources and processes to enable the pursuit of our educational objectives effectively and efficiently.

Objective 6: To work collaboratively with the Loreto Education Trust, the Manchester Catholic Education Partnership (MANCEP), Teach Manchester Teaching School Alliance and other groups within the College's local and extended community in support of the College's goals.

Objective 7: To maintain the College's outstanding financial health in order to implement our College Development Plan and Building strategy and protect the future of the College.

The College is on target for achieving these objectives.

In 2022/23 the College carried out its key activities to address these objectives:

- External examinations without mitigations took place in May/June 2023. National results were adjusted to reflect 2019 grade profiles.
- The College's overall pass rate for all 16-18 year olds on Level 3 was 99.3% which is 2.2% pts above the 2019 national benchmark;
- The College's ALPS (Advanced Level Performance System) three-year value added T score* continues to be outstanding and for 2022/23 was a grade 1 which is described as outstanding. The single year T score is grade 3, described as excellent.
- A significant number of Students with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities were enrolled with 100% pass rates on the NOCN Certificate in Using Employability Skills
- The Greater Manchester High Achievers Partnership programme offered a wide range of challenging events to high achieving pupils in local schools. Virtual events were held throughout the year for both year 10 and year 11 students.
- Internal teaching and learning ambassadors were actively helping with the dissemination of good practice and the transition to linear A levels and the continued development of teaching and learning to support students. Staff at all levels were focussed on supporting learners who were impacted by the pandemic whilst at school and had received Teacher Assessment Grades (TAGs) for their GCSEs;
- The College continued to support other institutions through the Teach Manchester Alliance.
- The College underwent a full Ofsted inspection in December 2022 and was judged Outstanding in all areas
- The College Financial Health Status for 2021/22 was rated Outstanding.

*T Score is a measure of the overall quality of provision of an institution

In July 2022 governors approved the three year strategic plan 2022-2025. The plan outlines the College's aims to deliver local and national agendas by:

- Fulfilling our Mission as a Catholic college in the Christian tradition, following the charisma of the Loreto founder Mary Ward working with the support of the Trust Board.
- Supporting our Loreto Community's well-being following the global pandemic.
- Providing a range of courses that offer progression from entry level to level 3.
- Continuing to raise its academic standards so that students can feel certain that their potential will be fulfilled, whatever their academic ability.

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Report of the Governing Body for the year ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

- Maintaining and improving success rates across all courses – together with high levels of Achievement, Retention, Value-added, Progression
- Providing the support systems which will enable students to grow, develop, acknowledge their strengths and weaknesses and fulfil realistic aspirations.
- Removing barriers to enable each individual to realise their potential within and environment of mutual respect and positive encouragement.
- Acquiring the necessary funding to ensure that the College can remain competitive in attracting and retaining well-qualified staff and providing them with appropriate resources.
- Working with other colleges and schools to develop productive educational partnerships
- Listening attentively to the learner voice and acting appropriately in response.
- Providing a secure, safe and caring environment where students and staff flourish and enjoy mutual respect
- Seeking to provide the necessary transport support to ensure access for all who wish to attend the College
- Improving the basic skills of all students across all College courses
- Provide enhanced Additional Learning Support for students with specific learning difficulties and physical disabilities
- The College was a designated teaching school in the alliance Teach Manchester. Although teaching schools no longer exists, Loreto College is now part of the Teach Manchester Alliance and will continue to work to support Manchester schools as appropriate to offer CPD, support the School Direct initiative and improve outcomes, for young people in Manchester.

Financial objectives

A series of performance indicators have been agreed to monitor these objectives and the Governors receive termly reports on the progress made in achieving the financial objectives set. Good progress has been made with all the objectives set, as evidenced by the college's solid surplus, good cash reserves and the maintenance to date of its financial health.

- Maintaining our "Outstanding financial" status is a prime financial objective for the college.
- The College will give careful consideration to the prudent use of its cash reserves with a view to maintaining:
 - (i) a contingency fund sufficient to:
 - meet any shortfall in funding which results from the volatile market in which we operate;
 - meet any unforeseen operational costs;
 - implement planned projects in the event of failure to attract outside funding;
 - enable reductions in staffing and other costs to be implemented with the minimum of disruption.
 - (ii) a capital reserve to ensure that essential capital developments can take place.
- The College also wishes to raise the awareness of college staff of the financial environment under which it operates.
- The College wishes to maintain the confidence of funders, bankers and auditors.

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Report of the Governing Body for the year ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

Performance indicators

The College is committed to observing the importance of sector measures and indicators and uses the FE Choices data available on the GOV.UK website which looks at measures such as achievement rates and learner destinations. The College is required to complete the annual Finance Record for the Education and Skills Funding Agency ("ESFA"). The College is assessed by the ESFA as having an "Outstanding" financial health grading.

Performance Measure	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21
Surplus as % of income excluding release of capital grants and net return on pension scheme	7%	2%	10%
Underlying staff costs as % of total income including contract tuition, excluding pensions adjustment, excluding restructuring	61%	65%	61%
Reliance on funding body income	95%	97%	99%
Reliance on ESFA Funding (excl Local Authority High Needs funding)	92%	94%	96%

FINANCIAL POSITION

Financial results

The College generated a surplus of £1,656,000 (2021/22 £337,000) before inclusion of the actuarial gain/(loss) on the local government defined benefit pension scheme. Total comprehensive income for the year was £2,125,000 surplus due to the actuarial gain on the Local Government Pension Scheme (2021/22 £6,095,000 surplus with an actuarial gain). As at 31 July 2023, the College had positive reserves of £26,049,000 (2021/22 £23,924,000) with a cash balance of £16,821,000 (2021/22 £14,348,000).

Tangible fixed asset additions during the year amounted to £1,230,000. £512,000 was attributable to buildings, and £718,000 of this was attributable to equipment purchased.

The College has significant reliance on the education sector funding body for its principal funding source, largely from recurrent grants. In 2022/23 the funding bodies provided 92% of the College's total income.

Energy costs and inflationary pressures, particularly on food for the catering service, continued to cause concern.

Treasury policies and objectives

Treasury management is the management of the College's cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks. As at 31 July 2023 the college has a balance of £16,819,000 held in across a flexible interest-bearing current account and three notice deposit accounts with Barclays Bank. All borrowing requires the authorisation of the Governing Body.

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Report of the Governing Body for the year ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

Cash flows and liquidity

As shown on page 31, net cash inflows were £2,473,000 (2021/22: net cash inflows of £1,285,000), resulting from operating activities of £2,282,000 less capital expenditure of £1,230,000, net of returns on investment of £539,000 and deferred capital grant receipts of £882,000.

Reserves Policy

The College's reserves have been achieved through careful management of both pay and non-pay expenditure and through steady growth in student numbers to ensure funding increases through the lagged funding principle.

The rationale behind this was to protect the college against anticipated funding cuts and to ensure the College remained in a strong financial position when dealing with inflationary increases to pay and non-pay costs to provide resilience for the College during such periods of financial uncertainty. To ensure continuity of the day to day operation it has been agreed that the minimum level of reserves should not fall below two months' worth of the annual income for the College.

Reserves will be used to fund further capital developments to the site when the opportunities arise and to fund the maintenance of the accommodation in order to support students and ensure continued effective delivery of the curriculum.

In May 2023 the College learned that it had been successful in its application for funding through the Post 16 Capacity Fund to support the expansion of the College estate. The College is in the process of purchasing an area of land adjacent to the college, with a view to the construction of a new building incorporating an additional 20 classrooms, study centre and theatre space. This will provide much needed additional capacity whilst also allowing the college to accommodate an additional 600 students by 2027. To support this growth strategy in August 2023 the College also purchased the nine temporary classrooms that it had leased since 2020.

CURRENT AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Financial Health

The College has been graded by the ESFA financial plan as having outstanding financial health through to 2023/24 based on the College's financial return, which was submitted to the ESFA in July 2023. The grade for 2024/25 is assessed as Good, however this was prior to the announcement of an increase to the funding rate in August 2023 which will improve future forecasts. The College has healthy cash reserves to fund future capital developments.

Student numbers

In 2022/23 the College has delivered activity that has produced £19,623,000 in funding body main allocation funding (2021/22 – £17,927,000). The College had 3,592 ESFA-funded students.

Student Achievements

Students sat external examinations in Summer 2023 which saw a return nationally to grade profiles in line with 2019 outcomes. Overall the Achievement rate for Level 3 courses was 84.5% (0.3% pts above 2019 benchmark); For Level 2 courses 88.8% (1.1% pts above the 2019 benchmark) and for Level 1/Entry Level 88.6% (3.0% pts above the benchmark).

Report of the Governing Body for the year ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

Curriculum Developments

Methods of teaching and learning are under continuous review and development to ensure that the needs of students are met. Additionally, the curriculum provision is being developed in relation to the College's aims to widen participation in further education. A team of Teaching and Learning Ambassadors continue to develop and promote innovative teaching and learning strategies. Over the years, the college's outstanding contribution to raising achievement and aspiration has been recognised by various bodies: the prestigious AoC President's Gold Medal; the DFE's award for the provision of Level 3 courses and of course the Queen's Anniversary Prize. A new enrichment activity, 'Aspire to Teach', was introduced in 2022-23 to support students who are interested in teaching as a career. The programme was shortlisted for an award by the Sixth Form College Association. The College underwent its most recent Ofsted inspection in December 2022 and was judged 'Outstanding' in all areas. The College has developed good links with Oxbridge Colleges and has developed specialist provision to prepare students for entry to the Oxbridge Colleges: 17 students fulfilled their offers for Oxford or Cambridge. The College also has specialist support for students applying for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary courses. Pleasingly there were 64 successful applicants for these courses in 2023.

Payment performance

The Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998, which came into force on 1 November 1998, requires colleges, in the absence of agreement to the contrary, 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 per cent. During the accounting period 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023, the College paid 77.4% of its invoices within 30 days.

Future Developments

The College is in a strong position financially and academically with both the Financial Health and the Ofsted grading being Outstanding. The approved recommendation is that Loreto should continue as a standalone sixth form college with the option to convert to academy status in the future depending on college circumstances.

RESOURCES

The College has various resources that it can deploy in pursuit of its strategic objectives. Tangible resources include the accommodation and facilities which are maintained and updated to ensure student needs are met.

Financial

The College has £26 million of net assets including cash balances of £16.8 million.

People

The College employs 329 people (269 full time equivalent), of whom 201 (174 fte) are teaching staff.

Reputation

The College has an excellent reputation locally and nationally. Maintaining this reputation is essential for the College's success at attracting students and building external relationships.

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Report of the Governing Body for the year ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The College continues to embed the system of internal control, including financial, operational and risk management which is designed to protect the College's assets and reputation.

The Risk Management Group undertakes a comprehensive annual review of the risks to which the College is exposed. They identify systems and procedures, including specific preventative actions which should mitigate any potential impact on the College. In addition to the annual review, the Risk Management Group will also consider any risks which may arise as a result of a new area of work being undertaken by the College. The Principal, who is the Accounting Officer, includes a detailed report on Risk Management in his termly report to the Governing Body.

A risk register is maintained at the College level which is reviewed at least annually by the Audit Committee, the Finance & General Purposes Committee and the Governing Body. 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 the risks. Risks are prioritised using a consistent scoring system and higher level risks are clearly indicated on the register.

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. Other factors besides those listed below may also adversely affect the College.

- Fluctuation in student numbers, both under-recruitment and the impact on finances and over-recruitment and the impact on quality of provision
- Staff recruitment & retention
- Changes in funding methodology
- Cyber attack
- The impact of inflation and rising cost of living
- Development of the college estate

1. Government funding

The College has considerable reliance on continued government funding through the education sector funding bodies. In 2022/23, 95% of the College's revenue was government 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 several issues which may impact on future funding:

- Following a period of high inflation and economic uncertainty throughout 2022/23, the government announced increases in funding rates to support the pay award in 2023/24. The detail of these announcements was not released until after submission of the Financial Plan to the ESFA in July 2023 and is therefore not reflected in it.
- The demographic changes in the 16-18 population
- The widespread introduction of Academies with Sixth Forms of their own and the subsequent impact on student recruitment
- Future pay awards, dependent on future funding decisions
- Significant increase in employer contributions to Teachers' Pension Scheme – the current increase due in April 2024 will be funded

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Report of the Governing Body for the year ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

These risks are mitigated in a number of ways:

- By ensuring the College is rigorous in delivering high quality education and training
- By ensuring that new opportunities for recruitment are explored
- Maintaining tight control of costs including staffing costs and staff utilisation

2. Energy and general inflation

Energy costs and general inflation are starting to improve however there is still considerable uncertainty due to global economic situations. The electricity contract has been retendered by Manchester City Council and this should mitigate cost increases during the current year. College will endeavour to mitigate usage and costs wherever possible.

3. Maintain adequate funding of pension liabilities

The financial statements report the share of the Local Government Pension Scheme deficit on the College's balance sheet in line with the requirements of FRS 102.

4. Failure to maintain the financial viability of the College

The College's current financial health grade is classified as "outstanding" as described above. This is largely the consequence of careful financial planning and sound management of staffing costs. Notwithstanding that, the continuing challenge to the College's financial position remains the constraint on further education funding arising from cuts in public sector spending and inflationary pressures 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

STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIPS

In line with other colleges and with universities, Loreto College has many stakeholders. These include:

- Students;
- Parents;
- Education sector funding bodies;
- Sixth Form College Commissioner;
- Staff;
- Local employers (with specific links);
- Local Authorities;
- Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs);
- The local community;
- Other FE institutions;
- Trade unions;
- Professional bodies.

The College recognises the importance of these relationships and engages in regular communication with them through the College Internet site and by meetings.

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Report of the Governing Body for the year ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

Equality

The College is committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for all who learn and work here. We respect and value positively differences in race, gender, learning styles and ability. We strive vigorously to remove conditions which place people at a disadvantage and we will actively combat bigotry. This policy is resourced, implemented and monitored on a planned basis.

The College's Equality Policy is published on the College's Intranet site. The College conducts an annual self-assessment to ensure compliance with all relevant equality legislation including the Equality Act 2010.

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 employment applications 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, as far as possible, provide identical opportunities to those of non-disabled employees.

Disability statement

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

- a) As part of its accommodation strategy the College updated its access audit. Experts in this field conducted a full access audit and the results of this were incorporated into all its capital projects and all buildings now allow total access to people with a disability.
- b) There is extensive specialist equipment, such as radio aids, which the College can make available for use by students and a range of assistive technology is available in the study centre.
- c) The admissions policy for all students is published on the college website.
- d) The College has made a significant investment over the years 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 appropriate support for students who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities.
- e) Details of the Specialist Pathways programme for students with moderate/severe learning difficulties are available in the college prospectus.
- f) Counselling and welfare services are described in the College Student Guide, which is issued to students together with the Complaints and Disciplinary Procedure leaflets at induction.

Staff and Student Involvement

The College is committed to the involvement of all staff and students in the life of the College. The student body is represented on the Student Council and the Board of Governors. Staff are able to meet regularly with the Principal and air their views on matters of concern.

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Report of the Governing Body for the year ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

Trade union facility time

The Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017 require the College to publish information on facility time arrangements for trade union officials at the College:

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the period	FTE employee number
3	2.5

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	0
1-50%	3
51-99%	0
100%	0

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time	£7,381.81
Total pay bill	£13,328,927.81
Percentage of total bill spent on facility time	0.055%

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time	Not Applicable
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Report of the Governing Body for the year ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Governing Body considers that the College has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. There is a healthy cash reserve and staffing costs at 61% (excluding agency) 62.3% (including agency) of income are tightly controlled. Although there is strong competition from other providers, especially academies, the College continues to make inroads into new markets: the summer exam results, the first since the return of external examinations after the pandemic, were strong and this strong academic performance is a major competitive advantage. The College has taken a prudent approach in its budgeting process and has built a reasonable contingency into the operating budget for 2023/24. After submitting the CFFR for 2023/24 the government announced an increase in the funding rates intended to support the agreed pay award for teaching staff. The College budget for the year has been revised to account for this, increasing the forecasted surplus to a level comparable to previous years. For these reasons, the Board continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Events after the reporting period

Due to the ongoing requirement for teaching space provided by the temporary classrooms, these buildings were purchased in August 2023.

A new build project is underway, subject to the completion of the land purchase. This project is expected to complete during academic year 2024/25 at a cost of £11.4m. The College has currently spent approximately £650k on preliminary fees and expenses. The DfE is supporting the project with a capital grant of £4m which will be received as stage payments throughout the project.

In addition, the College has secured some funding via Salix (Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund) to support the replacement of gas boilers in one of the campus buildings. This project is due to complete in academic year 2023/24 at a cost of £1.345m. The College has currently spent approximately £54k on preliminary fees and expenses. The Salix grant is £394k which will be received as stage payments. Due to the cost of the project, the additional capital grants received from DfE as part of the reclassification of colleges to the public sector (£609k) and for improving energy efficiency (£156k) will be used to support this project.

In October 2023 the Teachers Pension Scheme published a report confirming an increase of 5% in employer contributions would be required from 1 April 2024. The DfE have confirmed that this increase will be funded.

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 auditors are 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 auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by the order of the members of the Board of Governors on 13 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs A Wilkinson - Chair

LORETO COLLEGE

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 2022 to 31st July 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

The college endeavours to conduct its business:

- In accordance with the seven principles identified by the Committee on Standards in Public Life (selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership);
- Having due regard to the UK Corporate Governance Code 2018 ("the Code"), and the AOC Code of Good Governance for English Colleges, insofar as they are applicable to the further education sector.

The College is committed to exhibiting best practice in all aspects of corporate governance. This summary describes the manner in which the College has applied the principles set out in the Code issued by the FRC. Its purpose is to help the reader of the accounts understand how the principles have been applied. We have not adopted and therefore do not apply the Code however, we have reported on our Corporate Governance arrangements by drawing upon best practice available, including those aspects of the 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 in so far as they apply to the Further Education Sector, and it has complied throughout the year ended 31 July 2023. 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 Charity 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.

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Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control (continued)

MEMBERS

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

Name	Date of appointment	Term of Office	End of Office	Governor Type	Committees Served	Attendance at Board	Attendance at Board and Committee meetings
Mary Heaney	03.07.19; reappointed 22.03.23	4 years		Foundation	To 31.07.23: Board of Governors (C); F&GP (C); S&G; Standards; Remuneration (C) From 01.08.23: Standards	100%	100%
Malayka Ali	31.10.22	2 years		Student	n/a	100%	n/a
Shelly Bowers	04.07.20; reappointed 04.07.23	3 years		Co-opted	Audit	75%	85%
Victoria Dolan	04.07.22	4 years		Foundation	F&GP	75%	88%
Stephen Gabriel	16.12.19	4 years		Foundation	N/A	100%	n/a
Sean Gaughan	19.10.20	4 years		Foundation	To 31.07.23: F&GP; Remuneration From 01.08.23 Board of Governors (VC); F&GP (C); S&G; Remuneration	100%	100%
John Gibbons	21.03.21;	4 years	Resigned 14.12.22	Foundation	Standards	100%	100%
Sr Patricia Goodstadt	03.07.19; reappointed 22.03.23	4 years		Foundation	S&G (C); Remuneration	50%	66%
Michael Jaffrain	16.04.20			Principal	F&GP; Standards; S&G	100%	100%
John McNerney	01.09.20	4 years		Foundation	Standards	100%	78%
Merhab Malik	31.10.21;	2 years	04.07.23	Student	n/a	100%	n/a
Janet Nevin	26.03.19; reappointed 22.03.23	4 years		Foundation from 16.10.19	Standards (C)	75%	66%
Stuart Robertson	06.07.22	2 years		Staff Governor	Standards	100%	78%
Julian Skyrme	13.12.19; reappointed 14.12.22	3 years		Co-opted	Audit	100%	100%
Geraldine Vesey	06.07.22	2 years	Resigned 01.09.23	Parent	N/A	75%	n/a

LORETO COLLEGE

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control (continued)

Name	Date of appointment	Term of Office	End of Office	Governor Type	Committees Served	Attendance at Board	Attendance at Board and Committee meetings
Ann Wilkinson	03.07.19; reappointed 22.03.23	4 years		Foundation	To 31.07.23: Board of Governors (VC); Standards; F&GP, Remuneration, S&G From 01.08.23: Board of Governors (C); Standards; F&GP, Remuneration (C), S&G	100%	100%
Niall Wright	03.07.19; reappointed 04.07.23	4 years		Foundation	Audit (C)	100%	100%

(C) – Chair; (VC) – Vice Chair; F&GP – Finance & General Purposes; S&G – Search & Governance

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

The Governing Body 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 Governing Body meets at least on a termly basis and during 2021/22 it met on 5 occasions.

The Governing Body conducts its business through a number of committees. Each committee has terms of reference, which have been approved by the Governing Body. These committees are Finance and General Purposes, Standards, Remuneration, Advisory and Audit. Full minutes of meetings, except those deemed to be confidential by the Governing Body, are available on the College's website (at www.loreto.ac.uk) or from the Clerk to the Governing Body at: **Loreto College, Chichester Road South, Hulme, Manchester, M15 5PB**. Since the national lockdown as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governing Body has conducted some of its meetings remotely.

The Clerk to the Governing Body 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 Governing Body, 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 Governing Body 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 Governing Body has a strong and independent non-executive element and no individual or group dominates its decision making process. The Governing Body 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.

LORETO COLLEGE

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control (continued)

There is a clear division of responsibility in that the roles of the Chair and the Principal (who is the Accounting Officer) are separate.

Appointments to the Governing Body

The Trustees appoint all Foundation Governors and there is a Search and Governance Committee which advises the Board on the skills needs of the Governing Body. The Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that appropriate training is provided as required.

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

Governing Body performance

The Governing Body prepares a detailed Self-Assessment Report (SAR) which critically considers the effectiveness of key areas of Governance and highlights strengths and areas for development. The SAR is reviewed annually and presented to the Standards Committee and the full Governing Body. The SAR was approved in December 2023.

Remuneration Committee

Throughout the year ending 31 July 2023, the College's remuneration committee comprised the Chair and three other members of the Governing Body. The committee's responsibilities are to make recommendations to the Board on the remuneration and benefits of the Principal, the Deputy Principal and the Clerk.

Details of remuneration for the year ended 31 July 2023 are set out in note 6 and note 7 to the financial statements.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee comprises three members of the Governing Body (which excludes the Principal and Chair). The committee operates in accordance with the written terms of reference approved by the Governing Body. Its purpose is to advise the Governing Body on the adequacy and effectiveness of the college's systems of internal control and its arrangements for risk management control and governance processes.

The Audit Committee meets on a termly basis and provides a forum for reporting by the College's internal and financial statement 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 EFSA as they affect the College's business.

The College's internal auditors review the systems of internal control, risk management controls and governance processes in accordance with an agreed plan of input and report their findings to management and the Audit Committee.

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

The Audit Committee also advises the Governing Body on the appointment of internal and financial statement auditors and their remuneration for both audit and non-audit work as well as reporting annually to the Governing Body.

LORETO COLLEGE

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control (continued)

The Audit committee met three times in the year to 31 July 2023. The members of the committee and their attendance records are shown below:

Committee member	Meetings attended
Ms S Bowers	2
Dr J Skyrme	3
Mr N Wright (Chair)	3

Internal Control

Scope of responsibility

The Governing Body 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 Governing Body 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 Funding Agreement between Loreto College and the funding bodies. The Principal is also responsible for reporting to the Governing Body any material weaknesses or breakdowns 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 Loreto College for the year ended 31 July 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts.

Capacity to handle risk

The Governing Body 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 College developed a dynamic risk assessment in response to the COVID-19 pandemic which was reviewed by the Governing Body. The Governing Body 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 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts. This process is regularly reviewed by the Governing Body.

The risk and control framework

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

LORETO COLLEGE

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control (continued)

- comprehensive budgeting systems with an annual budget, which is reviewed and agreed by the governing body;
- regular reviews by the governing body 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.

Loreto College has an internal audit service, which operates in accordance with the requirements of the ESFA's Post 16 Audit Code of Practice. The work of the internal audit service is informed by an analysis of the risks to which the college is exposed, and annual internal audit plans are based on this analysis. The analysis of risks and the internal audit plans are endorsed by the Governing Body on the recommendation of the Audit Committee. At minimum annually, the Head of Internal Audit (HIA) provides the Governing Body with a report on internal audit activity in the college. The report includes the HIA's independent opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the College's system of risk management, controls and governance processes. All internal audit work was carried out remotely for the year.

Statement from the audit committee

The audit committee has advised the board of governors that the corporation has an effective framework for governance and risk management in place. The audit committee believes the corporation has effective internal controls in place.

The specific areas of work undertaken by the audit committee in 2022/23 and up to the date of the approval of the financial statements are:

- Monitoring the implementation of the IT security strategy, in particular cyber attack protection
- Compliance with the approved procurement process
- Risk Management
- Procurement – large projects
- Regular review of Potential Fraud Log, GDPR issues and potential whistleblowing.

During 2022/23 the Internal Auditors carried out the following audits:

- Health and Safety: overall conclusion is 'Strong' with 8 areas of good practice identified and 3 low grade recommendations for action.
- GDPR: overall conclusion is 'Strong' with 15 areas of good practice identified and no recommendations for action .
- Procurement: overall conclusion is 'Substantial' with 2 medium priority recommendations regarding procurement strategy and document management and two low grade recommendations regarding training and minuting meetings with key suppliers.
- Student Records: overall conclusion is 'Strong' with 17 areas of good practice identified and no recommendations for action.

The Internal Audit Plan for 2023/24 will focus on the following areas:

- Learner numbers (Student Records)
- Payroll
- HR
- Bursary and Free School Meals

LORETO COLLEGE

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control (continued)

The committee also receives regular reports in order to monitor the following:

- High Value Contracts and Tenders
- Whistleblowing
- GDPR breaches
- Potential Fraud

Review of effectiveness

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

- the work of the internal auditors;
- 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 regularity auditors in their management letters and other reports.

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 Audit Committee which oversees the work of the internal auditor and other sources of assurance, and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

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 senior leadership team and the Audit Committee also receive regular reports from internal audit and other sources of assurance, which include recommendations for improvement.

The Audit Committee's role in this area is confined to a high level review of the arrangements for internal control. The Governing Body's agenda includes a regular item for consideration of risk and control and receives reports thereon from the senior leadership team and the Audit Committee. The emphasis is on obtaining the relevant degree of assurance and not merely reporting by exception. At its December 2023 meeting, the Governing Body carried out the annual assessment for the year ended 31 July 2023 by considering documentation from the Senior Leadership Team and internal audit and taking into account events since 31 July 2023.

Based on the advice of the Audit Committee and the Accounting Officer, the Governing Body 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 Board on 13 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs A Wilkinson - Chair



Mr M Jaffrain – Principal and Accounting Officer

LORETO COLLEGE

Statement on the College's regularity, propriety and compliance

As accounting officer I confirm that the corporation has had due regard to the requirements of grant funding agreements and contracts with ESFA and has considered its responsibility to notify ESFA of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of funding.

I confirm, on behalf of the corporation, that after due enquiry, and to the best of our knowledge, I am able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the College, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the College's Funding Agreement and contracts with the ESFA, or any other public funder.

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

Mr M Jaffrain
Principal and Accounting Officer
13 December 2023

Statement of the chair of governors

On behalf of the corporation, I confirm that the accounting officer has discussed their statement of regularity, propriety and compliance with the board and that I am content that it is materially accurate.



Mrs A Wilkinson
Chair of Governors
13 December 2023

LORETO COLLEGE

Statement of Responsibilities of the Members of the Board of Governors

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

Within the terms and conditions of the College's grant funding agreements and contracts with the ESFA, the Board of Governors, through its accounting officer, is required to prepare financial statements and an operating and financial review for each financial year in accordance with the 2015 Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting for Further and Higher Education, ESFA's college accounts direction and the UK's Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, and which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the College and of the College's surplus/deficit of income over expenditure for that period.

In preparing the financial statements, the Board of Governors is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to assume that the College will continue in operation.

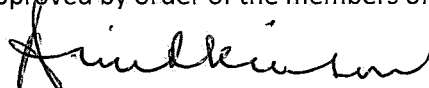
The Board of Governors is also required to prepare a Members' Report which describes what it is trying to do and how it is going about it, including information about the legal and administrative status of the College.

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

The Board of Governors is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the College's 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 Board of Governors are responsible for ensuring expenditure and income are applied for the purposes intended by parliament and that the financial transactions conform to the authorities that govern them. In addition, they are responsible for ensuring that funds from ESFA are used only in accordance with ESFA's grant funding agreements and contracts and any other conditions that may be prescribed from time to time. Members of the Board of Governors must ensure that there are appropriate financial and management controls in place to safeguard public and other funds and ensure they are used properly. In addition, members of the Board of Governors are responsible for securing economical, efficient and effective management of the College's resources and expenditure so that the benefits that should be derived from the application of public funds from ESFA are not put at risk.

Approved by order of the members of the Board on 13 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs A Wilkinson – Chair

LORETO COLLEGE

Independent Auditor's Report to the Governing Body of Loreto College

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Loreto College (the "College") for the year ended 31 July 2023 which comprise the statement of comprehensive income, the balance sheet, the statement of changes in reserves, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and the Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the College's affairs as at 31 July 2023 and of the College's surplus of income over expenditure for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the 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 governors' 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 governors 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 Report and Financial Statements other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The governors are responsible for the other information contained within the Report and Financial Statements. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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

LORETO COLLEGE

Independent Auditor's Report to the Governing Body of Loreto College (continued)

the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Post-16 Audit Code of Practice 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

Responsibilities of the Governing Body of Loreto College

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Governing Body's Responsibilities set out on page 24, the Governing Body 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 Governing Body 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 Governing Body 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 Governing Body 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 objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

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

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

Irregularities are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. The objectives of our audit are to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding compliance with laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, to perform audit procedures to help identify instances of non-compliance with other laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements, and to respond appropriately to identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations identified during the audit.

In relation to fraud, the objectives of our audit are to identify and assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud, to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud through designing and implementing appropriate responses and to respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit.

However, it is the primary responsibility of management, with the oversight of those charged with governance, to ensure that the entity's operations are conducted in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations and for the prevention and detection of fraud.

LORETO COLLEGE

Independent Auditor's Report to the Governing Body of Loreto College (continued)

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud, the audit engagement team:

- obtained an understanding of the nature of the sector, including the legal and regulatory frameworks that the College operates in and how the college are complying with the legal and regulatory frameworks;
- inquired of management, and those charged with governance, about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, including any known actual, suspected or alleged instances of fraud;
- discussed matters about non-compliance with laws and regulations and how fraud might occur including assessment of how and where the financial statements may be susceptible to fraud.

As a result of these procedures we consider the most significant laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements are FRS 102, Further and Higher Education SORP, the College Accounts Direction published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, and tax compliance regulations. We performed audit procedures to detect non-compliances which may have a material impact on the financial statements which included reviewing financial statement disclosures and consulting with our internal tax specialists.

The most significant laws and regulations that have an indirect impact on the financial statements are those which are in relation to the Education Inspection Framework under the Education and Inspections Act 2006, Keeping Children Safe in Education under the Education Act 2002, the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. We performed audit procedures to inquire of management and those charged with governance whether the college is in compliance with these laws and regulations and inspected correspondence with licensing or regulatory authorities.

The audit engagement team identified the risk of management override of controls as the area where the financial statements were most susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud. Audit procedures performed included but were not limited to testing manual journal entries and other adjustments and evaluating the business rationale in relation to significant, unusual transactions and transactions entered into outside the normal course of business, and challenging judgments and estimates.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at <http://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 Governing Body, in accordance with the Funding Agreement published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency and our engagement letter dated 3 December 2021. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Governing Body, those matters we are engaged 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 Governing Body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



RSM UK AUDIT LLP

Chartered Accountants

Bluebell House, Brian Johnson Way

Preston, PR2 5PE

Date 15/12/23

LORETO COLLEGE

**Statement of Comprehensive Income
for the year ended 31 July 2023**


		Year ended 31 July 2023 £000s	Year ended 31 July 2022 £000s
	Note		
INCOME			
Funding body grants	2	21,756	19,800
Tuition fees and education contracts	3	6	5
Other income	4	662	454
Investment income	5	539	59
Total income		<u>22,963</u>	<u>20,318</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Staff costs	6	14,314	13,960
Other operating expenses	8	5,299	4,356
Depreciation	11	1,660	1,565
Interest and other finance costs	9	34	100
Total expenditure		<u>21,307</u>	<u>19,981</u>
Surplus before other gains and losses and tax		1,656	337
Taxation	10	-	-
Surplus for the year		<u>1,656</u>	<u>337</u>
Re-measurement of net defined benefit pension liability	20	469	5,758
Other Comprehensive Income for the year		<u>469</u>	<u>5,758</u>
Total Comprehensive Income for the year		<u><u>2,125</u></u>	<u><u>6,095</u></u>

LORETO COLLEGE

Balance Sheet
as at 31 July 2023

	Note	2023 £000s	2022 £000s
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	11	24,702	25,132
Current assets			
Stock		20	22
Debtors	12	794	520
Cash at bank and in hand		16,821	14,348
		17,635	14,890
Current Liabilities			
Creditors – amounts falling due within one year	13	(3,455)	(3,207)
Net current assets		14,180	11,683
Total assets less current liabilities		38,882	36,815
Creditors – amounts falling due after more than one year	14	(12,225)	(11,991)
Provisions for liabilities			
Defined benefit pension scheme	15	-	(208)
Other provisions	15	(608)	(692)
Total net assets		26,049	23,924
Reserves			
Unrestricted Reserves			
Income and expenditure account		26,049	23,924
Total reserves		26,049	23,924

The financial statements on pages 28 to 53 were approved and authorised for issue by the Governing Body on 13 December 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:



Mrs A Wilkinson – Chair



Mr M Jaffrain – Principal and Accounting Officer

LORETO COLLEGE

**Statement of Changes in Reserves
for the year ending 31 July 2023**

	Income and Expenditure Account £000s
Balance as at 1 August 2021	17,829
Surplus retained for year ending 31 July 2022	337
Other Comprehensive Income	5,758
	<hr/>
Total comprehensive income for the year	6,095
	<hr/>
Balance as at 31 July 2022	<u><u>23,924</u></u>
Balance as at 1 August 2022	23,924
Surplus retained for year ending 31 July 2023	1,656
Other Comprehensive Income	469
	<hr/>
Total comprehensive income for the year	2,125
	<hr/>
Balance as at 31 July 2023	<u><u>26,049</u></u>

LORETO COLLEGE

**Statement of Cash Flows
for the year ended 31 July 2023**

		Year ended 31 July 2023	Year ended 31 July 2022
	Note	£000s	£000s
Cash flow from operating activities			
Surplus for the year		1,656	337
Adjustment for non-cash items:			
Depreciation (inc disposal)	11	1,660	1,565
Decrease/(increase) in stock		2	8
Increase in debtors	12	(274)	(59)
Increase in creditors due within one year (excl deferred capital grants)	13	244	161
Receipt of donated equipment	11	-	-
Creation of deferred capital grant re donated assets		-	-
Release of deferred capital grants	1	(644)	(673)
Release of enhanced pension provision	15	(61)	(57)
Pension cost less contributions payable	15	204	764
Adjustment for investing or financing activities:			
Investment income receivable	5	(539)	(59)
Interest payable	9	34	100
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash flow from operating activities		2,282	2,087
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets (excl donated assets)	11	(1,230)	(1,478)
Receipt of deferred capital grants		882	617
Interest received	5	539	59
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		191	(802)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year		<hr/> <hr/> 2,473	<hr/> <hr/> 1,285
Cash at the beginning of the year		<hr/> 14,348	<hr/> 13,063
Cash at the end of the year		<hr/> <hr/> 16,821	<hr/> <hr/> 14,348

LORETO COLLEGE

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2023

1. a) General Information

Loreto College is a corporation established under the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 as an English sixth form college. The address of the College's principal place of business is given on page 18. The nature of the College's operations are set out in the report to the Governing Body.

b) 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 2015 (the 2015 FE HE SORP), the College Accounts Direction for 2022/23 and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 – "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland" (FRS 102). The College is a public benefit entity and has therefore applied the relevant public benefit requirements of FRS 102.

The preparation of financial statements in compliance with FRS 102 requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise judgement in applying the College's accounting policies.

The financial statements are presented in sterling which is also the functional currency of the College.

Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest whole £1,000 except where otherwise indicated.

Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention as modified by the use of previous valuations as deemed cost at transition for 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 Members Report. The financial position of the College, its cashflow, liquidity and borrowings are presented in the Financial Statements and accompanying Notes.

The College currently has no outstanding bank loans.

After making appropriate enquiries, the Governing Body considers that the College has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. There is a healthy cash reserve and staffing costs at 61% (excluding agency) 62.3% (including agency) of income are tightly controlled. The Financial Plan submitted to the EFSA in July 2023 forecasts surpluses for 2023/24 and 2024/25 using the Education Specific EBITDA measurement.

Although there is strong competition from other providers, especially academies, the college continues to make inroads into new markets: the exam results for 2023 are strong and the strong academic performance is a major competitive advantage. The College has taken a prudent approach to the potential impact of inflationary pressures and believes that it has built a reasonable contingency into the operating budget for 2023/24. For these reasons, the Board continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

LORETO COLLEGE

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

Recognition of income

Revenue Grant Funding

Government revenue grants include funding body recurrent grants and other grants and are accounted for under the accrual model as permitted by FRS 102. 16-18 learner-responsive funding is not normally subject to reconciliation and is therefore not subject to contract adjustments.

The recurrent grants from the funding bodies represent the funding allocations attributable to the current financial year and are credited direct to the income and expenditure 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 FRS 102. The deferred income is allocated between creditors due within one year and those due after more than one year. All income from short-term deposits is credited to the income and expenditure account in the period in which it is earned on a receivable basis.

Fee Income

Income from contracts and other services rendered is included to the extent the conditions of the funding have been met or the extent of the completion of the contract or service concerned. All income from short-term deposits is credited to the income and expenditure account in the period in which it is earned.

Accounting for post-employment benefits

Post-employment benefits to employees of the College are principally provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). These are defined benefit plans, which are externally funded and contracted out of the State Second Pension.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

The TPS is an unfunded scheme. Contributions to the TPS are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the College in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of valuations using a projected unit method.

The TPS is a multi-employer scheme but sufficient information is not available to use defined benefit accounting and therefore it is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme, with the amount charged to the statement of comprehensive income being the contributions payable in the year. Differences between contributions payable in the year and contributions actually paid are shown as either accruals or prepayments.

Greater Manchester Pension Fund (LGPS)

The LGPS is a funded scheme. The assets of the LGPS are measured using closing fair values. LGPS liabilities are measured using the projected unit credit method and discounted at the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred.

LORETO COLLEGE

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in interest and other finance costs.

Re-measurement comprising actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other comprehensive income.

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 income and expenditure 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.

Fixed Assets – Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.

Land and buildings

Freehold land is not depreciated as it is considered to have an infinite useful life. Freehold buildings are depreciated over their expected useful economic life to the College over 10 - 40 years. The College has a policy of depreciating major adaptations to buildings over the period of their useful economic life of 10 - 40 years.

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 income account within creditors, and are released to the income and expenditure account over the expected useful economic life of the related asset on a systematic basis consistent with the depreciation policy. The deferred income is allocated between creditors due within one year and those due after more than one year.

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 may not be recoverable. Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts, are recognised as impairments. Impairment losses are recognised in the income and expenditure account.

Assets under construction

Assets under construction are accounted for at cost, based on the value of architects' certificates and other direct costs, incurred to 31 July 2023. They are not depreciated until they are brought into use.

LORETO COLLEGE

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

Subsequent expenditure on existing fixed assets

Where significant expenditure is incurred on tangible fixed assets it is charged to the income and expenditure 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:

- Asset capacity increases
- Substantial improvement in the quality of output or reduction in operating costs
- Significant extension of the asset's life beyond that conferred by repairs and maintenance

Equipment

Equipment costing less than £5,000 per individual item is written off to the income and expenditure account in the period of acquisition. All other equipment is capitalised at cost. Equipment inherited from the local education authority is included in the balance sheet at valuation.

Equipment is depreciated over its useful economic life as follows:

- plant and machinery and motor vehicles – 5-10 years on a straight-line basis
- general equipment – 4 years on a straight-line basis
- computer equipment – 4 years on a straight-line basis
- science lab equipment – 10 years on a straight-line basis

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

Borrowing Costs

Finance costs, which are directly attributable to the construction of land and buildings, are not capitalised as part of the cost of those assets. They are recognised as expenditure in the period in which they are incurred. The College currently has no borrowings.

Leased assets

Costs in respect of operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term to the Statement of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

Cash equivalents are short term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value. An investment qualifies as a cash equivalent when it has maturity of 9 months or less from the date of acquisition.

Stock

Stock is stated at the lower of its cost (using the first in first out method) and net realisable value, being selling price less costs to complete and sell. Where necessary, provision is made for obsolete, slow-moving and defective items. Stock mainly comprises calculators for resale and catering supplies.

Maintenance of premises

Maintenance costs are charged to the Income and Expenditure Account as they are incurred.

Financial Instruments

The College has chosen to adopt sections 11 and 12 of FRS102 in full in respect of financial instruments.

LORETO COLLEGE

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash includes cash in hand, deposits repayable on demand and overdrafts. Deposits are repayable on demand if they are in practice available within 24 hours without penalty.

Financial assets and liabilities

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the College becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities and equity are classified according to the substance of the financial instrument's contractual obligations, rather than the financial instrument's legal form.

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets measured at fair value through the profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. A financial asset or financial liability that is payable or receivable in one year is measured at the undiscounted amount expected to be received or paid net of impairment, unless it is a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

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

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 generally unable to recover input VAT it suffers on goods and services purchased. Capital costs and non-pay expenditure is therefore shown inclusive of VAT with any partial recovery netted off against these figures.

Provisions and contingent liabilities

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 support funds. Related payments received from the funding bodies and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the income and expenditure account and are shown separately in note 22.

LORETO COLLEGE

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

c) Judgements in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty

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

Critical areas of judgement

In preparing these financial statements, management have made the following judgements:

- Determine whether leases entered into by the College either as a lessor or a lessee are operating or finance leases. These decisions depend on an assessment of whether the risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred from the lessor to the lessee on a lease by lease basis.
- Determining the existence of a minimum funding requirement for the Local Government Pension Scheme to apply the asset ceiling adjustment or measure and recognise a surplus in the scheme. This judgement is based on an assessment of the nature of the scheme as a statutory scheme and is the inherent implied continuance and the operation of the primary and secondary contributions.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

- Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets, other than investment properties, are depreciated over their useful lives taking into account 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 re-assessing asset lives, factors such as technological innovation and maintenance programmes are taken into account. Residual value assessments consider issues such as future market conditions, the remaining life of the asset and projected disposal values.

- Local Government Pension Scheme

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit obligation 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 20, will impact the carrying amount of the pension obligation. 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 obligation at 31 July 2023. 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.

LORETO COLLEGE

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

2 Funding body grants

	Year ended 31 July 2023 £000s	Year ended 31 July 2022 £000s
Recurrent grants		
Education and Skills Funding Agency – 16 – 18	19,672	17,927
Specific grants		
Teacher Pension Scheme contribution grant	610	471
Covid testing/covid assessment appeals	-	11
Tuition Fund	202	83
Release of deferred capital grants – equipment and buildings (notes 13 and 14)	644	673
ALS High Cost Learners (LA Funding)	628	635
	<u>21,756</u>	<u>19,800</u>

3 Tuition fees and education contracts

	Year ended 31 July 2023 £000s	Year ended 31 July 2022 £000s
Tuition fees	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>

There were no tuition fees funded by bursaries.

4 Other income

	Year ended 31 July 2023 £000s	Year ended 31 July 2022 £000s
Catering and residence operations	392	319
Student trips and visits	188	76
Other income generating activities	82	59
	<u>662</u>	<u>454</u>

5 Investment income

	Year ended 31 July 2023 £000s	Year ended 31 July 2022 £000s
Income from bank deposits	<u>539</u>	<u>59</u>

LORETO COLLEGE

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

6 Staff costs

The average monthly number of persons (including key management personnel) employed by the College during the period was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Teaching Staff	201	193
Non-Teaching Staff	128	117
	<u>329</u>	<u>310</u>
	FTE	FTE
Teaching Staff	174	168
Non-Teaching Staff	95	86
	<u>269</u>	<u>254</u>

Staff costs for the above persons:

	2023 £000s	2022 £000s
Wages and salaries	10,519	9,619
Social security costs	1,039	915
Other pension costs (note 20)	2,419	2,794
Payroll subtotal	<u>13,977</u>	<u>13,328</u>
Contracted out staffing agency costs	322	632
	<u>14,299</u>	<u>13,960</u>
Restructuring costs – contractual	15	-
Total staff costs	<u>14,314</u>	<u>13,960</u>

Severance Payments

The College paid 3 severance payments in the year, disclosed in the following bands:

£0 - £25,000	3
£25,001 - £50,000	Nil
£50,001 - £100,000	Nil
£100,001 - £150,000	Nil
£150,000 +	Nil

There were no special severance payments (2022: nil)

Severance payments include contractual payments, statutory payments and special staff severance payments

Special staff severance payments are amounts paid to employees outside of statutory and contractual requirements

LORETO COLLEGE

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

7 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 Leadership Team which comprises the Principal, Deputy Principal, Vice Principal – Planning & Resources and Vice Principal – Curriculum & Quality.

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
The number of key management personnel including the Accounting Officer was:	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>

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

The number of key management personnel and other higher paid staff who received annual emoluments, excluding pension contributions but including benefits in kind, in the following ranges was:

	Key management personnel	Other	Key management personnel	Other
	2023	2023	2022	2022
	No.	No.	No.	No.
£60,001 to £65,000 p.a.	-	1	-	1
£65,001 to £70,000 p.a.	-	2	1	-
£75,001 to £80,000 p.a.	-	-	-	1
£80,001 to £85,000 p.a.	1	-	-	-
£90,001 to £95,000 p.a.	1	-	1	-
£95,001 to £100,000 p.a.	-	-	-	-
£105,001 to £110,000 p.a.	1	-	1	-
£130,001 to £135,000 p.a.	-	-	-	-
£145,001 to £150,000 p.a.	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>

Key management personnel emoluments are made up as follows:

	2023	2022
	£'000s	£'000s
Salaries – gross of salary sacrifice and waived emoluments	428	416
National Insurance	55	54
Pension contributions	<u>102</u>	<u>98</u>
Total emoluments	<u>585</u>	<u>568</u>

LORETO COLLEGE

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

7 Key management personnel (continued)

The above emoluments include amounts payable to the Principal (Accounting Officer, who is also the highest paid of key management personnel) of:

	2023	2022
	£000s	£000s
Salary	145	146
Pension contributions	34	35
Total emoluments	<u>179</u>	<u>181</u>

The Remuneration Committee considered the AoC's Senior Staff Remuneration Code at their meeting in November 2019 and recommended to the Board that the college should operate within the spirit of the code, but not to formally adopt the code.

The remuneration package of key management staff, including the Principal and Chief Executive, is subject to annual review by the Remuneration Committee of the Governing Body who use benchmarking information to provide objective guidance.

The Principal and Chief Executive reports to the Chair of the Governing Body, who undertakes an annual review of performance against the College's overall objectives using both qualitative and quantitative measures of performance.

Relationship of Principal/Chief Executive pay and remuneration expressed as a multiple

	2023	2022
Principal and CEO's full time equivalent basic salary as a multiple of the median of all staff	5.3	5.6
Principal and CEO's full time equivalent total remuneration as a multiple of the median of all staff	5.5	5.9

The members of the Governing Body other than the Principal and the staff member did not receive any payment from the institution other than the reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses incurred in the course of their duties, these are set out in note 21.

LORETO COLLEGE

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

8 Other operating expenses

	Year ended 31 July 2023 £'000s	Year ended 31 July 2022 £'000s
Teaching costs	1,317	1,066
Non-teaching costs	1,654	1,472
Premises costs	1,624	1,121
Contracted out premises costs	543	570
Catering	161	127
	<u>5,299</u>	<u>4,356</u>
	2023	2022
	£000s	£000s
Surplus before taxation is stated after charging:		
Auditors' remuneration:		
Financial statements audit	37	30
Internal audit	7	7
Hire of assets under operating leases	<u>62</u>	<u>55</u>

9 Interest and other finance costs

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability (note 15)	11	87
Enhanced Pension Provision Finance Costs (note 15)	23	13
	<u>34</u>	<u>100</u>
Total	<u>34</u>	<u>100</u>

10 Taxation

The Governors do not believe that the College was liable for any Corporation Tax arising out of its activities during this year.

LORETO COLLEGE

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Assets under construction	Long Leasehold Land and Buildings	Motor vehicles	Equipment	Total
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Cost					
At 1 August 2022	3	35,913	60	9,482	45,458
Additions	477	35	-	718	1,230
Transfer category	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	(2,556)	(2,556)
At 31 July 2023	480	35,948	60	7,644	44,132
Depreciation					
At 1 August 2022	-	12,338	60	7,928	20,326
Charge for year	-	994	-	666	1,660
Disposals	-	-	-	(2,556)	(2,556)
At 31 July 2023	-	13,332	60	6,038	19,430
Net book value at 31 July 2023	480	22,616	-	1,606	24,702
Net book value at 31 July 2022	3	23,575	-	1,554	25,132

The College's land is owned by the Trustees of the College (the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary) and the College is considered to have the benefits of operating this asset. The land is not recognised as an asset in the College Financial Statements as it is not considered to be possible to place a reliable estimate on its value. No rent is charged for the use of the land.

Following a review of the fully depreciated assets in the asset register, some older equipment has been recognised as disposed of and removed from the cost/depreciation figures accordingly.

LORETO COLLEGE

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

12 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£000s	£000s
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade Debtors	124	-
Prepayments and accrued income	670	520
ESFA Debtor	-	-
	<u>794</u>	<u>520</u>

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£000s	£000s
Trade payables	457	366
Payroll creditor	531	477
Accruals and deferred income	1,790	1,550
Amounts owed to ESFA (tuition fund)	34	175
Deferred income – government capital grants	524	524
Deferred income – government revenue grants	119	115
	<u>3,455</u>	<u>3,207</u>

14 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2023	2022
	£000s	£000s
Deferred income – government capital grants	12,225	11,991
	<u>12,225</u>	<u>11,991</u>

LORETO COLLEGE

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

15 Provisions for liabilities

	Defined Benefit Obligations (see note 20) £000s	Enhanced Pensions £000s	Total £000s
At 1 August 2022	208	692	900
Expenditure in the period	(488)	(61)	(549)
Interest Cost (note 9)	11	23	34
Service cost	692	-	692
Actuarial gains	(423)	(46)	(469)
At 31 July 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>608</u>	<u>608</u>

The enhanced pension provision of £608,000 (2022: £692,000) relates to the cost of staff who have already left the College's employment from which the College cannot reasonably withdraw at the balance sheet date. This provision has been recalculated in accordance with guidance issued by the funding bodies. The LGPS pension provision of nil (2022: £208,000) relates to the colleges share of net liabilities of the Greater Manchester Pension Fund.

Enhanced Pension Provision Financial Assumptions	2023	2022
Price Inflation	2.8%	2.9%
Discount Rate	5.0%	3.3%

LORETO COLLEGE

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

16 Capital Commitments

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Commitments contracted for at 31 July	<u>333</u>	<u>536</u>

17 Lease Obligations

At 31 July the College had minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Future minimum lease payments due		
Land and buildings		
Not later than one year	4	178
Later than one year and not later than five years	-	-
Later than five years	-	-
Other		
Not later than one year	68	51
Later than one year and not later than five years	124	-
Later than five years	-	-
	<u>196</u>	<u>229</u>

18 Contingent liabilities

There are no contingent liabilities.

LORETO COLLEGE

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

19 Events after the reporting period

Due to the ongoing requirement for teaching space provided by the temporary classrooms, these buildings were purchased in August 2023.

A new build project is underway, subject to the completion of the land purchase. This project is expected to complete during academic year 2024/25 at a cost of £11.4m. The College has currently spent approximately £650k on preliminary fees and expenses. The DfE is supporting the project with a capital grant of £4m which will be received as stage payments throughout the project.

In addition, the College has secured some funding via Salix (Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund) to support the replacement of gas boilers in one of the campus buildings. This project is due to complete in academic year 2023/24 at a cost of £1.345m. The College has currently spent approximately £54k on preliminary fees and expenses. The Salix grant is £394k which will be received as stage payments. Due to the cost of the project, the additional capital grants received from DfE as part of the reclassification of colleges to the public sector (£609k) and for improving energy efficiency (£156k) will be used to support this decarbonisation project.

In October 2023 the Teachers Pension Scheme published a report confirming an increase of 5% in employer contributions would be required from 1 April 2024. The DfE have confirmed that this increase will be funded.

20 Defined benefit obligations

The College's employees belong to two principal pension schemes, the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS). Both schemes are multi-employer defined benefit plans.

Total pension cost for the year	2022/23 £000	2021/22 £000
Teachers' Pension Scheme: contributions paid	1,728	1,632
Local Government Pension Scheme:		
Contributions paid	487	398
FRS102 (28) charge	<u>204</u>	<u>764</u>
Charge to Statement of Comprehensive Income	691	1,162
Enhanced pension charge to Statement of Comprehensive Income	-	-
Holiday pay accrual movement	-	-
Total Pension Cost for Year within staff costs (note 6)	<u>2,419</u>	<u>2,794</u>

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent actuaries. The latest formal actuarial valuation of the TPS was 31 March 2020 and of the LGPS 31 March 2022.

As at 31 July 2023 there were unpaid employer contributions of £190k (£148k TPS, £42k LGPS) (2022: £133k TPS, £35k LGPS). These amounts are included within creditors.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

20 Defined benefit obligations (continued)

Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a 'pay as you go' basis – these contributions, along with those made by employers, are credited to the Exchequer. The TPS is a multi-employer pension plan and there is insufficient information to account for the scheme on as a defined benefit plan so it is accounted for as a defined contribution plan.

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

Not less than every four years the Government Actuary ("GA"), using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation was carried out as at 31 March 2020 and in accordance with The Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2023 and the Employer Contribution Rate was assessed using agreed assumptions in line with the Directions and was accepted at the original assessed rate as there was no cost control mechanism breach.

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The valuation report was published on 26 October 2023. The key results of the valuation are:

- Total scheme liabilities for service (the capital sum needed at 31 March 2020 to meet the stream of future cash flows in respect of benefits earned) of £262 billion
- Value of notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the proceeds from the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222 billion - Notional past service deficit of £39.8 billion (2016 £22 billion)
- Discount rate is 1.7% in excess of CPI (2016 2.4% in excess of CPI (this change has had the greatest financial significance))

As a result of the valuation, new employer contribution rates have been set at 28.6% of pensionable pay from 1 April 2024 until 31 March 2027 (compared to 23.68% under the previous valuation including a 0.08% administration levy). DfE agreed to pay a Teachers Pensions employer contribution grant to cover the additional costs during the 2021-22 academic year, and currently through to July 2024.

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

The pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £1,728,000 (2021/22: £1,632,000)

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate funds administered by Tameside Local Authority. The total contributions made for the year ended 31 July 2023 as per the actuary report were £638,000, of which employer's contributions totalled £488,000 and employees' contributions totalled £150,000. The agreed contribution rate for April 2023 to March 2024 is 19.6% for employers (April 2022 to March 2023: 19.6%) and range from 5.5% to 12.5% for employees, depending on salary.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

20 Defined benefit obligations (continued)

The actuary has allowed for the impact of full GMP (Guaranteed Minimum Pension) indexation in the calculation of 31 March 2019 funding valuation results. The Employer's valuation results position is used as the starting point for the accounting roll forward calculations and therefore an allowance for full GMP indexation was included within the closing balance sheet position of last year's Accounting Date.

The McCloud / Sergeant judgement which ruled that the transitional protection for some members of public service schemes implemented when they were reformed constituted age discrimination. This provision was included in the actuarial valuation and no explicit additional adjustment for McCloud has been added to the current service cost for 2020/21 (or the projected service cost for 2021/22).

The Goodwin judgement: Whilst there is still uncertainty surrounding the potential remedy to the Goodwin judgement, the actuary has carried out some approximate analysis across LGPS clients to understand the potential impact of implementing a solution to correct the past underpayment of spouses' benefits. The approximate impact of this is very small for a typical Fund (c0.1-0.2% of obligations). The actuary therefore does not believe there are sufficient grounds to apply an additional adjustment to account for this in a standard Results Schedule, given the level of additional work and fees that would be involved for the Employer (and indeed the highly approximate nature of applying an unknown remedy).

The actuary is also aware of the following court cases, which may also impact LGPS benefits in the future:

- Walker;
- O'Brien;

It is the actuary's understanding these are unlikely to be significant judgements in terms of impact on the pension obligations of a typical Employer. As a result, and until further guidance is released from the relevant governing bodies in the LGPS, they have not made any allowance for the potential remedies to these judgements or applied any changes to the existing LGPS benefits structure in their calculations at the Accounting Date.

The other financial and demographic assumptions adopted to calculate the past service cost are the same as those used to calculate the overall scheme liability. Adopting different assumptions, or making other adjustments to reflect behavioural changes stemming from the judgment, would be expected to change the disclosed past service cost. Similarly, allowing for variations in individual members' future service or salary progression is expected to produce higher costs. The past service cost is particularly sensitive to the difference between assumed long term general pay growth and the CPI. If the long term salary growth assumptions were 0.5% p.a. lower, then the past service cost disclosed here would be expected to reduce by 50% and conversely a 0.5% p.a. increase would increase the estimated cost by 65%.

LORETO COLLEGE

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2022 (continued)

20 Defined benefit obligations (continued)

Principal Actuarial Assumptions

The following information is based upon a full actuarial valuation of the fund at 31 March 2022 updated to 31 July 2023 by Hymans Robertson LLP, qualified independent actuaries.

	At 31 July 2023	At 31 July 2022
Pension Increase Rate	3.00%	2.70%
Salary Increase Rate	3.80%	3.45%
Discount rate	5.05%	3.50%

Adjustment assumptions – Asset ceiling

UK corporate bond yields at 31 July 2023 are at their highest levels for many years resulting in higher accounting discount rates at the year end. This places a significantly lower value on the pension obligations compared to last year and is one of the main reasons a net asset position has been calculated by the actuary before applying the asset ceiling adjustment.

The prevailing view held by LGPS practitioners at the year-end is that a minimum funding requirement for future service exists in the LGPS. As a result, the asset ceiling calculation is in line with this assumption and does not consider any minimum funding requirements in relation to past service. The LGPS practitioners also believe that Loreto College do not have an unconditional right to a refund in the LGPS. To receive any refund, the college would first need to end its ongoing participation in the fund, which is unlikely.

The present value of employer future service costs has been calculated at £2,774,000. The present value of employer future contributions in relation to future service has been calculated at £3,270,000. As the value of future contributions are deemed to be higher than the future service costs, the asset ceiling is £0, and therefore the net asset position has been restricted down to nil. The “changes in fair value of plan assets” calculation below reflects this £1,505,000 asset ceiling adjustment

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

	At 31 July 2023	At 31 July 2022
<i>Retiring today:</i>		
Males	20.1	20.3
Females	23.5	23.2
<i>Retiring in 20 years:</i>		
Males	20.5	21.6
Females	24.5	25.1

LORETO COLLEGE

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

The College's share of the assets in the plan at the balance sheet were:

Fair Value of Assets

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Equity instruments	5,867	5,660
Debt instruments	1,174	1,249
Property	670	749
Cash	<u>670</u>	<u>666</u>
Total fair value of plan assets	<u>8,381</u>	<u>8,324</u>
Actual return on plan assets	<u>(769)</u>	<u>477</u>

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

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Current service cost	692	1,162
Past service cost	-	-
Net interest on the net defined benefit pension liability	<u>11</u>	<u>87</u>
Total	<u>703</u>	<u>1,249</u>

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Defined benefit obligations at start of period	8,532	12,332
Current service cost	692	1,162
Past service cost	-	-
Interest cost	311	207
Contributions by scheme participants	150	124
Actuarial (gains)/losses	(2697)	(5,195)
Benefits paid	<u>(112)</u>	<u>(98)</u>
Defined benefit obligation at the end of the period	<u>6,876</u>	<u>8,532</u>

Changes in fair value of plan assets

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Fair Value of plan assets at start of period	8,324	7,303
Interest income	300	120
Return on plan assets (excluding net interest on the net defined benefit liability)	(769)	477
Asset Ceiling adjustment (see above explanation)	(1,505)	-
Employer contributions	488	398
Contributions by scheme participants	150	124
Benefits paid	<u>(112)</u>	<u>(98)</u>
Fair value of plan assets at end of period	<u>6,876</u>	<u>8,324</u>

LORETO COLLEGE

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

21 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 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 in accordance with the College's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

The total expenses paid to or on behalf of the Governors during the year was £226.88; 3 governors (2022: £130.55; 2 governors). This represents travel and subsistence expenses and other out of pocket expenses incurred in attending Governor Meetings and charity events in their official capacity.

No Governor has received any remuneration or waived payments from the College or its subsidiaries during the year (2022: None).

Key management remuneration disclosure is given in note 7.

The following purchase transactions occurred between the college and organisations of which members of our Governing Body have declared an interest.

	At 31 July 2023 £000s	At 31 July 2022 £000s
Loreto Education Trust	3	3
Loreto Grammar School	-	-
Manchester Schools Alliance	6	6
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

There were no Creditors at year end

The sales transactions during the year were as follows

	At 31 July 2023 £000s	At 31 July 2022 £000s
Loreto Education Trust	-	1
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

There were no Debtors at year end

LORETO COLLEGE

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

22 Amounts disbursed as agent

	Year ended 31 July 2023 £000s	Year ended 31 July 2022 £000s
Brought forward balance	383	151
Funding body grants – bursary support	811	767
	<hr/> 1,194	<hr/> 918
Disbursed to students	(592)	(497)
Administration costs (max 5% of grants)	(40)	(38)
	<hr/> 562	<hr/> 383
Underspend at 31 July	<hr/> <hr/> 562	<hr/> <hr/> 383

Funding body grants are available solely for students. In all instances, the College only acts as a paying agent. In these circumstances, the grants and related disbursements are therefore excluded from the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

LORETO COLLEGE

Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity

Conclusion

We have carried out an engagement, in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 3 December 2021 and further to the requirements of the funding agreement with the Education and Skills Funding Agency ("ESFA"), to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Loreto college during the period 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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 2022 to 31 July 2023 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Basis for conclusion

The framework that has been applied is set out in the Post-16 Audit Code of Practice (the "ACOP") issued by the Department for Education. In line with this framework, our work has specifically not considered income received from the main funding grants generated through the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) returns, for which Education and Skills Funding Agency has other assurance arrangements in place.

We are independent of the Loreto College in accordance with the ethical requirements that are applicable to this engagement and we have fulfilled our ethical requirements in accordance with these requirements. We believe the assurance evidence we have obtained is sufficient to provide a basis for our conclusion

Responsibilities of Governing Body of Loreto College for regularity

The Board of Governors of Loreto College is responsible, under the ESFA funding agreement and the requirements of the Further & Higher Education Act 1992, subsequent legislation and related regulations and guidance, 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. The Board of Governors of Loreto College is also responsible for preparing the Governing body's Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance.

Reporting accountant's responsibilities for reporting on regularity

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 ACOP.

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 the procedures performed vary in nature and timing from, and are less in extent than for a reasonable assurance engagement; consequently a limited assurance engagement 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.

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 2022 to 31 July 2023 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

LORETO COLLEGE

Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity (continued)

Our work included identification and assessment of the design and operational effectiveness of the controls, policies and procedures that have been implemented to ensure compliance with the framework of authorities including the specific requirements of the funding agreement with the Education Funding Agency and high level financial control areas where we identified a material irregularity is likely to arise.

We undertook detailed testing, on a sample basis, on the identified areas where a material irregularity is likely to arise where such areas are in respect of controls, policies and procedures that apply to classes of transactions.

This work was integrated with our audit of the financial statements and evidence was also derived from the conduct of that audit to the extent it supports the regularity conclusion.

Use of our report

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



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DATE 15/12/23.