

THE LEARNING ALLIANCE ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2014

07703829-The Learning Alliance Academy Trust-1314-FinStat

THE LEARNING ALLIANCE ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

CONTENTS

	Page
Reference and administrative details of the academy, its Trustees and advisers	1 - 2
Trustees report	3 - 11
Governance statement	12 - 14
Statement on regularity, propriety and compliance	15
Trustees' responsibilities statement	16
Independent auditor's report	17 – 18
Independent reporting accountant's assurance report on regularity	19 – 20
Statement of financial activities	21 - 22
Balance sheet	23
Cash flow statement	24
Notes to the financial statements	25 – 44

THE LEARNING ALLIANCE ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2014

Members

Deborah Laffin
Robert Milne, Interim Chair of Directors
Brian Hazell

Trustees and Directors (from 1 September 2014)

Robert Milne, Interim Chair of Directors*
Deborah Laffin*
Brian Hazell*
John Thomas (appointed 1 October 2014)
Peter Ward (appointed 1 October 2014)
Roderick Watson, Chair of Finance (appointed 1 October 2014)
Gillian Coffey (appointed 1 October 2014)
Denise Fletcher (appointed 1 October 2014)

*Robert Milne, Deborah Laffin and Brian Hazell appointments were made on 13 July 2011 when the Trust was

THE LEARNING ALLIANCE ACADEMY TRUST

(A company limited by guarantee)

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE ACADEMY, ITS GOVERNORS AND ADVISERS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2014**

Administrative details (continued)

Principal and registered office

Lynch Hil School Primary Academy
Garrard Road, Slough, Berkshire, SL2 2AN

Company secretary

Linda Hazell

Senior Leadership team

Gillian Coffey OBE, Executive Headteacher
Linda Hazell, Business Manager
Lindsey Tomlinson, Head of School
Hannah Gates, Deputy Headteacher
Tracey Bowen, Deputy Headteacher (resigned 31 August 2014)
Punam Sehgal, Assistant Headteacher
Soma Das, Assistant Headteacher (appointed 1 September 2014)

Independent auditors

Moore Stephens LLP, 150 Aldersgate Street, London, EC1A 4AB

Bankers

HSBC, 175 Buckingham Avenue, Slough, Berkshire, SL1 4RD

Solicitors

Winckworth Sherwood, Minerva House, 5 Montague Close, London, SE1 9BB

(A company limited by guarantee)

**TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2014**

The Trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements for The Learning Alliance Academy Trust ("the Trust"). The Trust operated as a single academy through part of the year and became a multi academy trust (MAT) on 15 January 2014. The two schools within the MAT during the year ended 31 August 2014 are: Lynch Hill School Primary Academy which operated throughout the year and Lynch Hill Enterprise Academy which commenced operations as a secondary free school in September 2014.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The Academy Trust is known as The Learning Alliance Academy Trust formerly Lynch Hill School Primary Academy ("the Trust").

The Trust was incorporated as a charitable company under the Companies Act 2006 on 13 July 2011 and commenced operations on 1 August 2011. As indicated above, the Trust became a multi academy trust on 15 January 2014.

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated under Company number 07703829 and an exempt charity. The Charitable Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are its primary governing documents. These have been updated since the Trust's original incorporation and to meet the requirements of the changing structure of the Trust.

The Trustees of The Learning Alliance Academy Trust are also Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law and Trustees for the purposes of the Charities Act 2011.

The Members of the Trust comprise of :

- a) The signatories to the Memorandum;
- b) The chairman of Directors;

THE LEARNING ALLIANCE ACADEMY TRUST

(A company limited by guarantee)

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2014**

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievements and Performance

Lynch Hill School Primary Academy

In September 2014 numbers on roll increased further from 900 to 930 pupils, including Nursery. This is because the school is increasing from 3 to 4 forms of entry year by year, following a recent building programme. The school is now 4 form entry, i.e. 120 children per year group, up to year 5. Staffing has also increased to cater for the additional pupils. A further eleven teachers and support staff have been employed since September 2014. The number on roll will be 960 when full which is well above average in size compared to all primary schools, nationally.

The school is popular and well-respected. Its excellent reputation attracts pupils from beyond the catchment area, across Slough. The school has continued to attract new pupils through the year hence there is now a waiting list for places at the school. Lynch Hill is a National Support School and the Executive headteacher is a National Leader of Education which means that it is recognised for the high standards and good progress it achieves for all its pupils and its capacity to support other underperforming schools, on behalf of the National College of Teaching & Leadership and the DfE. Lynch Hill was also granted Teaching School status in April 2013 and is now one of three Slough schools leading the Slough Teaching School Alliance.

The school population reflects the changing context of Slough. As well as increasing numbers of pupils from

THE LEARNING ALLIANCE ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2014

Lynch Hill pupils make good progress from low starting points to reach standards in English and Mathematics that are above average by the end of Year 6. They enter the school with skills that are generally lower than those expected for their age, especially in language, communication and mathematics. This was another excellent year for both attainment and progress. Results for the oldest children, in year 6, were again significantly above the national average, in both English and Mathematics. Achievement has been consistently above the national average for many years which represents a significant improvement on the national average.

THE LEARNING ALLIANCE ACADEMY TRUST

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2014

context of Slough with 72.7% pupils from ethnic minority groups, 24.2% of its pupils eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) and some 18.9% of pupils receiving additional support for special educational needs. The school population has above average levels of deprivation compared to national figures.

Key Performance Indicators

The key financial performance indicators are:

The Trust will continue to trade with sufficient balances so as to continue to improve the infrastructure of the Trust and to ensure the continuity of education of students.

The Trust will keep within the agreed budget unless a variation is agreed by the governing body.

Non-financial performance indicators are: pupil numbers, exam results and maintaining facilities to a high standard. The Trust has a full complement in all year groups and details of exam results and facilities are explained within this report.

Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the governing body has a reasonable expectation that the academy has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.

Financial Review

The Trust's principal income is from the Education Funding Agency ("EFA") in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received during the year ended 31 August 2014 and the associated expenditure are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Trust also receives grants for fixed assets from the EFA and other agencies. These grants are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets.

During the year ended 31 August 2014 total expenditure of £5,074,000 (2013: £3,941,000) was covered by recurrent grant funding from the EFA together with other incoming resources. The excess of income over expenditure for the year was £21,000 (2013: £164,000 net expenditure over income) made up of restricted fixed asset funds of £(127,000) (2013: £110,000); restricted general funds of £148,000 (2013: (£274,000)).

Expenditure was used to provide a stimulating education for students and to improve the school infrastructure of in order to improve learning.

Within grant income and resources expended are those identified to the set up costs and costs relating to planning and site costs for Lynch Hill Enterprise Academy. These were funded by specific grants awarded by the EFA of £1,115,000 in the year.

The deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) is recognised on the balance sheet in accordance with FRS17. At 31 August 2014, the deficit stood at £655,000 (2013: £520,000). The existence of the pension scheme deficit does not mean an immediate liability crystallises and is addressed over a series of years through pension contributions recommended by the pension scheme actuaries during subsequent triennial valuations of the scheme. Note 24 details the assumptions and movements during the year on the Scheme.

THE LEARNING ALLIANCE ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2014

As at 31 August 2014 the net book value of assets was £6,263,000 (2013: £6,390,000) and movements in tangible assets are shown in Note 13 to the financial statements. The buildings and land are owned by the Trust. Any alterations or improvements incurred by the Trust are shown as fixed assets.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees agree the levels of reserves annually; this review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The Trustees have determined that the level of reserves should be sufficient to cover the Trust's commitments for the next financial year.

THE LEARNING ALLIANCE ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2014

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, in particular those relating to teaching, provision of facilities and other operational areas of the Trust, and its finances. The Trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the Trust faces, especially in the operational areas (e.g. in relation to teaching, health and safety, bullying and school trips) and in relation to the control of finances. They have also introduced systems and procedures (e.g. safeguarding) and internal financial controls in order to

minimise risk. Where significant risk still remains they have ensured that they have sufficient insurance cover.

The Trust has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the following statement.

As Trustees and directors, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that the Trust has an effective and appropriate system of controls, both financial and otherwise. We are also responsible for ensuring that proper accounting records are kept that disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Trust and enable us to prepare financial statements that comply with the Companies Act. We also acknowledge responsibility for safeguarding the assets of the Academy Trust and for taking reasonable assurance that:

- The Academy Trust is operating efficiently and effectively;
- Its assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use and disposition;
- Proper records are maintained and financial information used within the Trust or for publication is reliable;

