

Registered number: 00133676  
Charity number: 309115

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**CONTENTS**

	Page
<b>Reference and Administrative Details of the Company</b>	1 - 2
<b>Chairman's Statement</b>	3
<b>Governors' Report</b>	4 - 14
<b>Independent Auditors' Report</b>	15 - 18
<b>Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities</b>	19
<b>Consolidated and charity balance sheets</b>	20 - 21
<b>Company Balance Sheet</b>	22 - 23
<b>Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows</b>	24
<b>Notes forming part of the financial statements</b>	25 - 47

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE COMPANY**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**Governors**

Mrs E A Harrison BA (Hons) MBA JP<sup>1,2,3,4,5,6,8</sup>  
Mrs J Butler FCA<sup>1,3</sup>  
Ms S Burgess BA MA (resigned 4 December 2023)  
Mrs S Colebrook BSc PGCE<sup>2,9</sup>  
Mr S Dimmick LLB<sup>3,4,6,7</sup>  
Mr M Emmanuel<sup>1,4,6</sup>  
Ms R Field BA<sup>2,6</sup>  
Ms J Jolly<sup>6,10</sup>  
Dr H Kemp BM BCh MSc PhD FRCA<sup>6</sup>  
Mr A Peach<sup>5,6</sup>  
Mr J Sheehan (resigned 5 December 2022)  
Mr C Singer BSc FIA<sup>1,4,6</sup>  
Mrs E West LLB<sup>2,9</sup>

- 1 Member of the Finance and General Purposes Committee
- 2 Member of the Education Committee
- 3 Member of the Governance Committee
- 4 Member of the Estates working group
- 5 Member of the Engagement and Development working group
- 6 Member of the Futures working group
- 7 Lead Governor for Risk, Audit, and Compliance
- 8 Lead Governor for Human Resources
- 9 Lead Governor for Child Protection
- 10 Lead Governor for Health & Safety

**Nominee members of the Council**

The Bishop of Oxford  
Vacancy

At the Annual General Meeting held on 5 December 2022 the resignation of Mr J Sheehan was recognised.

At the Annual General Meeting held on 4 December 2023 the following Governors were re-appointed for a further term of office:

Mrs E A Harrison  
Mrs J Butler  
Mrs S Colebrook  
Mr S Dimmick

The Governors are also Directors of the Company and Trustees of the Charity.

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**OFFICERS**

<b>The Executive Head</b>	Mr Will le Fleming BA, MA (Cambridge)
<b>Head of Junior School</b>	Mrs Nisha Kaura BSc (Surrey), PGCE, MEd (Buckingham)
<b>Head of Finance and Resources</b>	Mrs Nadine Doble BSc (Cardiff), ACMA

**ADDRESSES**

Senior School  
17 Kendrick Road  
Reading  
RG1 5DZ

Junior School (Years 3-6)  
30 Christchurch Road  
Reading  
RG2 7AR

Junior School (Years 1 and 2)  
12 Christchurch Gardens  
Reading  
RG2 7AH

Junior School (Nursery and Reception)  
2 Vicarage Road  
Reading  
RG2 7AJ

<b>Company registered number</b>	00133676
<b>Charity registered number</b>	309115
<b>Registered office</b>	17 Kendrick Road Reading Berkshire RG1 5DZ
<b>Independent auditors</b>	James Cowper Kreston Audit Reading Bridge House George Street Reading RG1 8LS
<b>Bankers</b>	HSBC UK Bank plc 26 Broad Street Reading RG1 2BU
<b>Solicitors</b>	Blandy & Blandy LLP 1 Friar Street Reading RG1 1DA
<b>Investment advisers</b>	Charles Stanley & Company Ltd 55 Bishopsgate London EC2N 3AS
<b>Insurance brokers</b>	Marsh Brokers Ltd School Division Capital House 1-5 Perrymount Road Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 3SY

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE GOVERNORS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

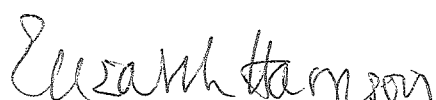
This full report contains the story, in numbers and in words, of our successful year at the Abbey School. The overall tale is one of remarkable collective achievements and within the big picture sit some extraordinary students who have made their journey through the school and are now moving onwards to the destination of their choice - a university course, an apprenticeship, or a year of work and travel. As well as supporting their academic development so that students have the results that support their ambition, we watch with delight as our students grow the confidence and the insight to map out the next stage of their journey. Our 2023 leavers coped brilliantly with a year spent in rather splendid temporary classrooms and communal spaces. Their tolerance and their ideas have informed the new design of the new Sixth Form Centre which opened in September to the delight of all.

At the Abbey our outstanding external examination results are important but they only tell a part of the whole story. The range of sporting, creative, musical, dramatic and many other thought-provoking and fun experiences at the school is extraordinary. Our ARCH project this year has gone from strength to strength, bringing together Abbey students and students from many other schools in the surrounding area, to discuss issues, to work together and to learn about contemporary challenges in our communities. From the very beginning of their journey at the Abbey, whether in Little Knellies, our Nursery, or at an entry point in the Junior School, or in Upper 3 in the Senior School, or in the Sixth Form, our students are encouraged to think broadly and deeply, beyond conventional boundaries. And like the crew of the Starship Enterprise, they do indeed boldly go and they do indeed find out new worlds.

None of this would be possible without the wonderful teams of people who make up our terrific teaching and administrative staff body. Each year we bid farewell to a small number of staff, as they choose to move on in their work and their lives; and this year we reluctantly made a small number of staff reductions to ensure we had the right people, in the right numbers and in the right places to continue our growth as a school. We thank all those who left in the year for their contribution. We have been able to recruit the new staff we need so we can be confident that we have the excellence and expertise our students need to learn and to shine.

I wish I had the words to communicate the positive atmosphere of life at the Abbey. Whether inside our buildings or at an Abbey event elsewhere, there is a palpable sense of commitment and excitement, perhaps for a trip, a concert, an expedition or just the next lesson. I am a very frequent visitor to the school and it is always a delight to do so. The school is very fortunate in the remarkable individuals who make up our governing body. Just as our staff bring their best selves to school week after week, our governors come to all our meetings and events with their different experience, expertise and insight to ensure that the school continues to be well governed. We governors remain profoundly impressed by, and very confident in, the senior leadership team at the Abbey. As Head of the whole school Will le Fleming brings wisdom, imagination and care to all he does; in the Junior School Nisha Kaura leads the school with thoughtful integrity and delight; Nadine Doble looks, with professional skill and insight, after our finances, our estate, our HR, our IT, our administration activities and our major contracts and partnerships which ensure students and staff enjoy great food, and a warm and welcoming environment, indoors and outdoors. Our teams of Deputy and Assistant Heads, Heads of Year and subject leaders cherish all our students as individuals.

We are fortunate indeed; fortunate to work alongside such great colleagues, and fortunate to work alongside our wonderful students. It's all about them.



.....  
Liz Harrison  
Chair of Governors  
The Abbey School

Date: 18 March 2024

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**GOVERNORS' REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

The Governors of The Abbey School, Reading present their annual report for the year ended 31 August 2023 under the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011, together with the audited accounts for the year, and confirm that the latter comply with the requirements of the Act, the Trust Deed and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP).

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

The Abbey School, Reading is a Company Limited by Guarantee and was registered on 31 January 1914. The Company registration number is 00133676.

It is also a Charity, registration number 309115.

The Governors, Officers, Key Addresses and Advisers are set out on Pages 2 and 3.

The company has a wholly owned subsidiary, Abbey Commercial Enterprises Limited, the School's trading arm.

The school is an active member of the Headmasters and Headmistresses Conference (HMC), the Girls' Schools Association, the Independent Association of Prep Schools (IAPS), the Association of the Governing Bodies of Independent Schools and the Independent Schools' Bursars Association.

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Governing Document**

The School is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, dated 4 December 2006 as amended by special resolution dated 7 December 2015.

**Governing Body**

The Governors are all Directors of the company and appoint new Governors either to fill a casual vacancy or by way of additions to the board. The total number of Governors shall be not less than twelve and not more than twenty-four. Of these, as far as is practicable, one Governor shall be the nominee of The Bishop of Oxford, one an alumna of the school, and one a parent of a child at the school. The nominee positions are ratified at a full Governors' meeting. Each Governor, other than the nominees, is elected for four years and retiring Governors can stand for re-election for one further term at the next Annual General Meeting, and at the Governors discretion when in the interests of the school, this may be further extended.

Those who held office during the year are listed on Page 2.

**Organisational management**

The members of the Governing Body are legally responsible for the overall management and control of the School. The Governing Body meets at least three times a year. Much of the preparation for these meetings is undertaken by the Finance and General Purposes Committee (F&GP Committee) which meets before each Governors' meeting. The Chairman of the F&GP Committee is Mrs J Butler. The other principal committees are:

Education Committee   chaired by Mrs S Colebrook,  
Governance Committee   chaired by Mr S Dimmick

In addition to these committees there are working groups on Futures, Estates, and Engagement and Development and Governors support the school by taking the lead on Risk, Audit and Compliance ('RAC'), Child Protection and Safeguarding, Human Resources and Health & Safety.

Committee members and Lead Governors are listed on Page 2.

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

The day to day running of the School is delegated to the Head who is assisted in this by other members of the Whole School Leadership Committee, which comprises the Junior School, Senior School and Business Leadership Teams. The Head, Junior School Head and Head of Finance and Resources are the steering group for the Whole School Leadership Committee and attend meetings of the Governing Body. They are also represented, along with other senior staff, on the Committees.

### **Recruitment and Training of Governors**

The Governance Committee considers potential new Governors for eligibility, competence, specialist skills and availability. New Governors are given an induction into the workings of the School, including its policies and procedures, and are given a tailored induction pack. Training and bespoke courses are regularly offered to all Governors.

### **Corporate Governance**

The Governing Body is mindful of the principles and recommended practice set out in the Charity Governance Code for larger charities, and believes that it applies, much evidenced in this annual report, the specified principles of organisational purpose, leadership, integrity, decision making, risk and control, board effectiveness, diversity, openness and accountability.

As part of an overall approach to managing potential conflicts of interest, The Abbey has a Governor conflict of interest policy and at the start of each Governor meeting everyone in attendance is required to declare any interest that may be in conflict with an agenda or decision item.

Senior members of staff responsible for decision making, including the appointment of staff or contractors, are correspondingly required to sign an annual declaration regarding potential conflicts of interest.

### **Risk Management**

The Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that the risks faced by the Charity are properly assessed. It is aware of the importance of protecting the business as far as possible from operational and reputational damage, as well as from the risks of unpredictable crisis and disaster. Risks are examined each year when updating the Risk Register and in the process of strategic planning.

The generic key controls used by the School to manage risk include:

- Annual review of the Risk Register, in detail by the lead Governor on Risk Audit and Compliance, and reviewed by Council
- Formal agendas and minutes to support decisions on all Committee and Governing Body activities
- Terms of Reference for all Committees
- Comprehensive strategic planning, budgeting and management accounting
- Established organisational and governance structure and lines of reporting
- Formal written policies
- Vetting procedures as required by law for the protection of vulnerable people
- Clear hierarchical authorisation and approval levels

The above structure formalises the risk management processes established for the Charity.

Through these processes, the Governors identify the major risks to which the Charity is exposed and review the systems and procedures established to manage them. Nevertheless, it is recognised that such systems can provide only reasonable but not absolute assurance that major risks have been adequately addressed and can be managed.

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**Pay policy for senior staff**

The pay of senior staff is reviewed annually, and includes comparisons with other independent schools. Being located in the South East, where there are significant costs in relation to housing, The Abbey keeps abreast of pay and employment conditions elsewhere.

**Volunteers**

There is no shortage of volunteer support throughout the School, from parents assisting in reading classes in the Junior School, in the library and on school trips to running the second-hand clothes shop. Former pupils, Governors and other interested adults have also given freely of their time. All of this is very much valued by the School. Governors take this opportunity to say how much they appreciate the continuing and valuable support of volunteers to the School.

**OBJECTIVES AND AIMS**

**Charitable Objectives**

The objects of the School are set out in the Memorandum of Association. The main object is summarised as the running of a School to provide a general education which includes religious instruction in the doctrines and duties of the Church of England.

The school educates some 1,000 girls at no cost to the state.

**The Charity's Aims**

As an educational charity for girls aged 3-18, The Abbey School exists to provide an outstanding, challenging and fulfilling education for girls that equips them to live with confidence, purpose and joy.

Working in partnership with families, the School supports each individual student to expand their horizons, discover their passions and fulfil their potential. The School offers academic excellence, extra-curricular opportunity and pastoral assurance within an environment prioritising kindness and fellowship.

The School's objective over 130 years of leadership, innovation and reform has been to provide a liberal, practical and general education:

**Liberal** in thought, tolerance, and generosity.

**Practical** in preparing students to face a changing world on their own terms, excited by opportunity, resolute towards uncertainty and committed to leadership and service.

**General** in the remarkable breadth and range of experience and encouragement to participate.

**Key Objectives**

The School's strategy sets out seven key objectives in three areas: student experience, community and future development. These objectives span the academic and all-round education of students; pastoral care; the strength and diversity of the community; connections with the wider world; an outward-looking perspective and innovative approach; and the highest standards in the maintenance of the School's estates, finance and compliance. All the objectives seek to bring about the charity's overall aim as specified above. A particular focus within the seven key objectives is on partnerships, access to education via bursary support, and involvement in philanthropic and community initiatives to ensure the broadest possible public benefit both locally and further afield.

**Measurement of Objectives**

In furtherance of these objectives the Governors, as charity trustees, have complied with their duty in section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's published general guidance concerning the operation of the public benefit requirement under that Act.

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**Strategic Report**

The Head and the Whole School Leadership Committee continue to lead the School and to follow the three-year strategic plan across all areas of the School's operations laid out in 2021.

The School has reviewed its use of space and has in place a plan, still capable of being refined, for all of its diverse sites. This plan seeks to ensure their most effective use as well as the best possible contribution to the local area and community. It also takes into account key environmental priorities. Recent projects have included a major extension and development of the Junior School site and the sympathetic renovation of one of the School's signature spaces, Knell House, home to nursery and Reception. In the year just ended the substantial development of a new Sixth Form Centre has been successfully completed.

Also part of the strategic plan, the School continuously looks to raise bursary funds to ensure that girls can continue in the future to enjoy an Abbey education whatever their financial circumstances.

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

**Summary**

The Abbey is one of the country's foremost independent girls' schools from 3-18. The School at present educates around 1,000 girls in a lively, vibrant learning environment. It has identified six qualities that help to define an Abbey education:

- Outstanding outcomes as a by-product of a learning environment full of excitement, fun, discovery and scholarship
- Extraordinary opportunities across an array of activities to allow students to develop leadership and find their passions
- City edge, down-to-earth attitudes and a readiness to take on the world
- Innovation and global outlook, with a curriculum including the International Baccalaureate's PYP and DP, a focus on ideas and passion, a celebration of diversity, and a growing partnership programme connecting students across our local community and across the world
- Exceptional individual attention and care from truly remarkable staff
- Joy at the heart of everything we do

Underlying this is the focus on each individual student and celebrating and cherishing them for what they offer. The School supports each student to be motivated by the joy of what they do and the support of staff and peers to achieve more than they would have imagined possible.

In the Sixth Form the School offers two principal pathways: the A Level programme and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. Results in both and in GCSEs were again outstanding. At GCSE 84% of results were at 9-7 (A\*-A). In A Levels almost 60% of results were at A\*-A. In the IB Diploma the average student score was 38 points from a maximum of 45 points. These results were secured in the context of a national fall in top grades following the recalibration of grading levels after the disruption of the pandemic. They were achieved by students who had borne the brunt of that disruption during their courses and are a testament to their resilience and to the support of their teachers.

All-round education and personal development share equal importance with academic success. The School offers eight principal streams of practical and creative activity: music, art, drama, sport, textile design, food and nutrition, outdoor education and a wide range of club activities. All of these areas feature significant student leadership and the opportunity to learn skills that will help all students contribute to their communities. In addition, thriving Duke of Edinburgh, Abbey Award and Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS) programmes prepare students both for service and leadership in the wider world.

All these areas allow for individual excellence. Abbey students routinely achieve the highest levels in music examination and performance, play sport representatively for counties and nationally, and win awards for creative and research work. However, of equal importance is the opportunity they provide for participation for all.

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

Entire cohorts participate in voluntary programmes and charity work and learn to collaborate and contribute. The school's core purpose is to develop confidence, purpose and joy in students and this places personal development at the heart of the education it offers. Students actively campaign in areas such as diversity, the environment, gender relations and equality. The desire to make a difference, the knowledge and skills to do so effectively, and the resilience and confidence to see things through are key elements in the leading educational experience the School provides.

**Beneficiaries of the School's charitable work - partnerships with local schools and the community**

This year saw the launch of a major new initiative to support and develop our community work: the ARCH programme.

ARCH is a hub bringing together individuals and organisations across Reading to offer opportunities and learning experiences to young people and to young women in particular. ARCH events include a range of activities to develop aspiration and self-discovery. Even in its initial phase ARCH has brought together 30 organisations and schools. Over 200 volunteer hours have been donated from business, community organisations and individual experts. Over 1,000 students have attended talks and events covering career areas from engineering to poetry; 2,500 people viewed ARCH exhibitions; and 30,000 people viewed a student and Reading community collaboration at the Saatchi Gallery in London.

One of the major events in the ARCH programme was the Reading Festival of Sport at The Abbey. This has become part of the Council's Reading Children's Festival, with over 100 primary children from 20 schools learning to play a new sport. Another was the Social Enterprise project, where teams of students from independent and maintained schools came together to develop ideas to improve their local communities, in collaboration with the Henley Business School. ARCH will continue to transform our community engagement, identifying areas of shared mutual benefit to develop the life chances of a wide range of young people across Reading.

As we have previously noted, under both the International Baccalaureate course which includes a 'Creativity, Activity and Service' component, and The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme which includes a volunteering strand - 6 months of volunteering for Silver and 12 months for Gold – our students have ample opportunity to support local schools and the local community. Once again, beneficiaries have included the Royal Berkshire Hospital and MacMillan Cancer Support amongst others.

**Other beneficiaries of the School's charitable work - charity donations and other input**

Students and staff at the Abbey school remain keen to be involved in supporting outside charities and other organisations. Certain members of staff act as Governors at other schools.

In addition to much valued volunteer contributions, we collected and made donations of almost £10,000 to a range of charities chosen by students, which included Brass for Africa, Britain's East and South East Asian Network, MacMillan, Sophie's Legacy, Royal Berkshire Hospital Babies, Anthony Nolan, Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, Jeans for Genes, and Children International.

**Community Use of facilities**

The Abbey School supports its charitable objects within the community by making its facilities available for public benefit. We share our facilities, including the halls, the all-weather sports pitches, the gymnasium and the indoor swimming pool with local schools and community groups. Amongst the beneficiaries during the year were:

- Swim England Synchro Assessments
- Reading University Water Polo Team
- Reading University Hockey Club
- GB Paralympic Rowing Team - capsized drills
- Reading Wildcats Lacrosse Club
- Reading Bowling Club
- Parenthesis Choir

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

- West Forest Sinfonia
- School of the Arts
- Reading School
- RABBLE Theatre
- Reading Prayer Group
- The Rock Choir
- Reading St Andrews Scottish Dancing
- Reading Tango Club
- Dance with Sonia Brown
- Reading Male Voice Choir
- Royal Berkshire Hospital Paediatric Diabetes Team
- No. 5 Charity
- Parking for marshals of Reading Half Marathon

**Energy and Carbon Reporting**

	<b>31 August 2023</b>	<b>31 August 2022</b>
Energy consumption in KWh	3,373,835	3,697,577
Associated emissions in tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	648.88	687.56
Intensity ratio - tonnes	0.65	0.67

Measures taken to improve energy efficiency include:

- a sharp focus on energy efficiency applied to the new sixth form centre development, the construction project itself, and its ongoing operation. This uses specifically designed measurement and controls of temperature, air flow, and air quality which with applied technology, including solar panels mounted on the roof, limit the requirement for power
- the continuing upgrade of the Building Management System to control in other parts of the site heating plant and equipment leading to reduced energy consumption
- the continuation of LED lighting installation and associated motion sensors to cut off usage when appropriate
- the leasing of vehicles selected for their energy efficiency

We have followed the 2019 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. We have also used the GHG Reporting Protocol – Corporate Standard and have used the 2022 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company Reporting.

The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.

**Engagement with employees**

The School is committed to regular and transparent sharing of information with all staff and to providing opportunities for collaborative consultation. Regular online and in-person briefings and meetings are held and information is also widely disseminated via email and via collaborative discussion tools such as Jamboards. The School intranet contains news, policies, and other information, accessible to all staff. Important updates affecting employees are often shared in advance to allow for feedback and improvement before final decisions are confirmed. Following extensive consultation and discussion the School launched a new pay and benefits system to ensure that remuneration and rewards remain competitive and supportive for all colleagues. With regard to disability the school's active policy is to promote equal opportunities and oppose discrimination on the grounds of disability.

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**Engagement with suppliers, the parent body, and other business relationships**

We recognise the need to maintain and foster good relationships with our suppliers, the parent body, and others, and we monitor closely our dialogues with all of them. Our key business managers have all been in post for a number of years and have developed strong and positive relationships with those with whom we deal. Payments due to us are by and large collected efficiently and, when necessary, with sensitivity, and we pay staff and suppliers promptly and accurately, with supporting information always provided for clarity. On matters of schooling we engage positively with our pupils and their parents through a variety of activities and communications. Many of these processes are two-way: we listen carefully to the voices of our highly articulate pupils and the valued feedback and opinions of their parents. The Abbey Parents' Society (TAPS) continues to go from strength to strength to improve our sense of a shared community still further.

**Promoting the success of the school**

The Governors and the School's executives seek successful outcomes from all of the activities they pursue. In determining the most appropriate way of achieving the desired results, their decisions take account of the interests of, and the impact on, the pupils, the parent body, staff, suppliers, the environment, the local community, and all others likely to be affected. We strive continually not only to maintain but also to enhance our hard-won reputation for integrity and high standards of both conduct and achievement.

**Financial Assistance**

The School has a policy on financial assistance, including bursaries of up to 100%, and this is advertised on its website, and at open days. The Bursary Fund was established over 30 years ago with the specific aim of generating funds in order to offer places to pupils who would otherwise not have access to education at the school. The value of the fund is £1million and will be maintained at this figure.

Academic scholarships worth 10% of tuition fees are offered (which can be supplemented with a means-tested Bursary). Specialist scholarships are also offered, supporting excellence in art, drama, music and sport..

Parents who cannot afford to pay the fees in full or in part can apply for a means-tested Abbey School Financial Bursary. The Abbey School Scholarship and Bursary policy allows up to a total of 6% of the current level of annual gross fee income for these awards. All awards are tenable subject to satisfactory attendance, conduct and progress.

Temporary financial assistance may be available to parents who find themselves with short term financial difficulties. This is means-tested and offered at the discretion of the Head.

Wider access to Schooling was achieved in 2022/2023 with a total of £294,000 (2021/22 £301,000) awarded in scholarships, grants, prizes and other awards. Some 45 hardship cases received financial support amounting to £560,000 (2021/2022 £556,000) towards fees, equivalent to 28 full senior fee places.

35% of the pupils of the Senior School (2021/22 - 35%) received some form of financial assistance with their fees. This figure does not include staff discounts.

**Other pupil benefits**

The Childcare Vouchers Scheme is available, as is a 5% third sibling discount.

**Income from investments**

Income from investments is reinvested, while operating surplus is used to maintain the scholarship and bursary funds, including temporary financial assistance. The investment fund is available to support the bursary fund when required.

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **Financial Results**

The consolidated Statement of Financial Activities on page 19 shows the Net Movement in Funds for 2023 as a deficit of £391,775 (2022: a surplus of £546,313). Broadly speaking, this represents the shortfall in income from termly fees and related activities, supplemented by donations, fundraising, and other income, to meet the associated costs.

The School had a deficit for the year of £413,660 (2022: a surplus of £479,744). The surplus before depreciation and interest is 6.2% (2022: a surplus of 9.9%).

The Balance Sheet on page 22 shows Net Current Liabilities of £7,363,593 (2022: £1,185,432). To fund its ongoing programme of planned capital investment the School had in place at the balance sheet date bank loans of £4.6m, of which £3.2m was repayable within one year. After the year end extended bank loan repayment terms were agreed, and the amount repayable within one year was reduced to £320,000 (see also note 30 Post Balance Sheet Events).

In the opinion of the Governors the market value of the land and buildings of the School is not less than the book value in the accounts.

### **Investment policy and performance**

The overall investment objectives of the School are to create sufficient funds through income and capital in order to enable the School to carry out its purposes consistently, year by year, and with due and proper consideration for future needs. They include the maintenance of and, if possible, enhancement of the value of the invested funds while they are retained.

The School's investment performance is measured regularly against a benchmark, currently named the MSCI PIMFA Private Investor Balanced Index. For this year our total return of -3.9% was poorer than the Index, which was +1.8%.

The School's investments are managed by Charles Stanley and Company Limited under the supervision of Governors. At 31 August 2023 investments, of which the majority were UK listed equities, had a market value of £1,570,829 (2022: £1,634,839), of which £1,000,000 represented designated funds. Their market value at 31 August 2023 contributed to a net investment loss of £88,583 (2022: £129,626).

The Governors are authorised by the Memorandum of Association to invest monies not immediately required for the School's purposes in investments, securities or property as may be thought fit.

### **Reserves Policy**

The Governors' policy is to build up funds out of annual operating surpluses, subject to the prior demands of further capital expenditure, to equip the School with the up-to-date facilities needed to maintain the standard of educational services currently provided.

The Governors aim to maintain general reserves equivalent to at least 3 months of operating expenditure for the school. Excluding the designated Bursary Reserve of £1m, general reserves at 31 August 2023 were £15.5m which represents nine months of unrestricted operating expenditure, and provides additional financial flexibility at a time of significant capital investment. These reserves ensure the school can fulfil and complete its charitable obligations and commitments.

Notes 22 and 23 show the allocation of the reserves between those designated for specific purposes and those available for the day to day requirements of the School.

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**GOING CONCERN**

The Governors review the School's financial performance and plans at each Council meeting (usually 4 per year) along with our principal financial risks. In March, and again in June and September, they were satisfied that the School had sufficient resources to continue operating for the foreseeable future, and the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 have been prepared in the knowledge that the School is a financially viable organisation.

World events, economic circumstances, and the potential impact these could have on the school are regularly assessed by the Governors' Finance and General Purposes Committee, most recently in March 2024 when our ongoing forecasts and projections to ensure that the School remains financially viable were reviewed. With regard to the next accounting period, the year ending 31 August 2024, the most significant matters likely to affect the School's net assets are student numbers and the costs associated with utilities and borrowings. All of these we monitor closely and continued effort goes in to supporting student numbers at a time of economic uncertainty and managing costs closely.

The School has a strong asset base and generates a positive cash flow from its operations, and the Governors will continue to monitor and review financial and operating plans with the School's executive team to maintain a robust financial footing as we move forward. We are of the opinion that the charity will continue to have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due and as such we remain satisfied that The Abbey School can continue operating for the foreseeable future and our accounts have been prepared in the knowledge that the School is a financially viable organisation.

**PROPERTY ASSESSMENT**

An ongoing review of the school properties is undertaken by the Head of Finance and Resources, with the Head of Estates. The sites are well maintained with a continuous planned preventative maintenance programme and capital investment in major and minor projects. Site improvements and estates related compliance inspections and activity are included in the monthly management report to Council. Any property issues are raised to the Board of Governors, through the link Governor for Estates. During the year it was confirmed that none of the school sites contained RAAC (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete) in their construction method. An estates contingency is included in the annual budgets to address any unanticipated property issues.

The assessment of the properties at the year end is that there are no impairments to report.

**RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES**

An unexpected fall in pupil numbers would represent a significant risk to the School, causing a failure to meet financial outcomes on which future investment and other expenditure decisions are based. Nevertheless, our regular review of current and projected pupil numbers provides a check that our budgets for future years are as realistic as possible including, for example, provision for the potential impact of the imposition of VAT on fees and its effects on both pupil numbers and operational finance. Any significant reduction in numbers would prompt immediate review action.

The future economic impact of UK politics and world events is difficult to forecast. Economic uncertainty is also naturally a significant factor for parents considering education in the Independent School Sector, and the Governing Body, with guidance from the lead Governor for Risk, Audit and Compliance, will continue to monitor this closely.

Health and Safety, not least the potential threat posed by a possible resurgence of Covid-19, also represent significant areas for risk management. Physical risks range from fire and other damage to infrastructure to personal risks (most notably when away from the campus on trips and expeditions). There is a regular risk audit, and continuity plans are in place to ensure the school continues to function effectively in the event of a major incident such as fire or flood.

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

## **FUTURE OBJECTIVES**

The Governors and the Whole School Leadership Committee once again look forward positively to the challenges that lie ahead, and remain committed to keeping The Abbey at the forefront of education.

Together the leadership of the School continues to work through the Strategic Plan, running until 2024. This plan defines seven goals ranging across the student experience, our community, and the future.

### Experience

- Academic education. We seek to provide excellence and curriculum breadth, valuing and celebrating each individual's personal best endeavour and prioritising curiosity and the love of learning. We aim to ensure outstanding results supporting access to competitive outcomes and encourage ambition, range and individuality in the next stage of our students' education.
- All-round education. We seek the widest range of activities and greatest opportunity for student leadership in the co-curriculum, stretching the most able and encouraging the participation of all.
- Pastoral care. We seek to help students build resilience and positive mental health, understanding how to look after themselves and others, and to provide the right support quickly when it is needed based on knowing and valuing each student as individuals.

### Community

- People. We seek to develop and celebrate the experience of learning and working at The Abbey to ensure continued strong numbers of diverse and talented applications from staff and students, supported by a far-reaching bursary programme. We recognise that our strength as a school is founded on the generous and whole-hearted commitment of remarkable students and staff.
- Connections. We seek to promote an inclusive sense of common purpose and belonging across our own community of students, staff, families and alumnae and to make connections both locally and globally. We encourage meaningful participation in philanthropic and wider community initiatives to bring mutual benefit and enrichment to as wide an audience as possible.

### Future

- Outward-looking perspective and innovation. We seek to foster an international outlook that champions diversity and encourages engagement with the world. We look to play an active part in the wider educational arena and commit to a culture of open self-evaluation driving innovation and improvement.
- Estates, finance and compliance. We seek to maintain and develop our estate, our finances and our bursary programme sustainably, with confidence and good sense and to ensure financial good health based on appreciation for the support and commitment of our families. We look to meet and exceed compliance standards in all areas of our operations

## **STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF COUNCIL**

The Governors (who are also directors of The Abbey School for the purposes of company law and trustees for the purpose of charity law) are responsible for preparing the Governors' Annual Report (incorporating the Strategic Report) and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards).

Company law requires the Governors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the Governors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the group and of the incoming resources and

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Governors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Governors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions, disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and the provisions of the charity's constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO AUDITOR**

Each of the persons who are Governors at the time when this Governors Report is approved has confirmed that:

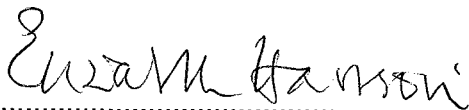
- so far as that Governor is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the School's auditor are unaware; and
- that Governor has taken all steps that ought to have been taken as a Governor in order to be aware of any relevant audit information needed by the School's auditors in connection with preparing their report and to establish that the School's auditors are aware of that information.

**AUDITOR**

In accordance with Section 485 of the Companies Act 2006, a resolution proposing the re-appointment of James Cowper Kreston as auditors to the company will be put to a Special General Meeting.

This Annual Report, prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006, was approved by the Governing Body of The Abbey School at a Special General Meeting on 18 March 2024, including in their capacity as company directors approving the Strategic Report contained therein, and is signed as authorised on its behalf.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Governors and signed on their behalf by:



.....  
**Mrs E A Harrison**  
(Chair of Governors)

Date: 18 March 2024

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The Abbey School, Reading (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated Balance Sheet, the Company Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Group's and of the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2023 and of the Group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

**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 Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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 Group's or the parent charitable company'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.

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
**(CONTINUED)**

**Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon. The Governors are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

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

- the information given in the Governors' Report including the Strategic Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Governors' Report and the Strategic Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Governors' Report including the Strategic Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the parent charitable company has not kept adequate and sufficient accounting records, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Governors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

**Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the Governors' Responsibilities Statement, the Governors (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Governors 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 Governors are responsible for assessing the Group's and the parent charitable company'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 Governors either intend to liquidate the Group or the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
**(CONTINUED)**

**Auditors' 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 Auditors' 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.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance.

The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

The specific procedures for this engagement that we designed and performed to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud, were as follows:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance to identify any material instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work to address the risk of irregularities due to management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for evidence of bias.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING  
(CONTINUED)**

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' 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 charitable company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



**Darren O'Connor BSc (Hons) FCCA ACA (Senior Statutory Auditor)**

for and on behalf of

**James Cowper Kreston Audit**

Reading Bridge House

George Street

Reading

RG1 8LS

Date: 25 March 2024

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND  
EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

	Note	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies:	5				
Donation		10,660	35,277	45,937	128,356
Charitable activities:					
School fees		-	18,315,834	18,315,834	17,577,861
Ancillary income		-	1,532,908	1,532,908	1,189,835
Other trading activities:	6				
Trading income		-	145,237	145,237	123,044
Non-ancillary income		-	43,579	43,579	42,006
Investments	7	-	41,325	41,325	36,398
<b>Total income</b>		<b>10,660</b>	<b>20,114,160</b>	<b>20,124,820</b>	<b>19,097,500</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds		-	48,916	48,916	43,749
Charitable activities		14,405	20,364,691	20,379,096	18,377,812
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>14,405</b>	<b>20,413,607</b>	<b>20,428,012</b>	<b>18,421,561</b>
<b>Net (expenditure)/income before net losses on investments</b>		<b>(3,745)</b>	<b>(299,447)</b>	<b>(303,192)</b>	<b>675,939</b>
Net (losses)/gains on investments		-	(88,583)	(88,583)	(129,626)
<b>Net (expenditure)/income</b>		<b>(3,745)</b>	<b>(388,030)</b>	<b>(391,775)</b>	<b>546,313</b>
Transfers between funds	21	1,410	(1,410)	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(2,335)</b>	<b>(389,440)</b>	<b>(391,775)</b>	<b>546,313</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		44,206	17,013,555	17,057,761	16,511,448
Net movement in funds		(2,335)	(389,440)	(391,775)	546,313
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>41,871</b>	<b>16,624,115</b>	<b>16,665,986</b>	<b>17,057,761</b>

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 25 to 47 form part of these financial statements.

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**REGISTERED NUMBER: 00133676**

**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	14	23,891,550	18,163,792
Investments		1,570,829	1,634,839
		25,462,379	19,798,631
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	16	569,391	516,860
Cash at bank and in hand		638,845	848,669
		1,208,236	1,365,529
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(8,571,829)	(2,550,961)
<b>Net current liabilities</b>		<b>(7,363,593)</b>	<b>(1,185,432)</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<b>18,098,786</b>	<b>18,613,199</b>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	18	(1,432,800)	(1,555,438)
<b>Total net assets</b>		<b>16,665,986</b>	<b>17,057,761</b>
<b>Charity funds</b>			
Restricted funds:			
Restricted funds	21	41,871	44,206
Total restricted funds	21	41,871	44,206
Unrestricted funds			
Designated funds	21	1,084,330	1,080,000
General funds	21	15,539,785	15,933,555
Total unrestricted funds	21	16,624,115	17,013,555
<b>Total funds</b>		<b>16,665,986</b>	<b>17,057,761</b>

The Governors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)  
REGISTERED NUMBER: 00133676**

**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)  
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023**

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Governors and signed on their behalf by:



.....  
**Mrs E A Harrison BA (Hons) MBA JP**

(Chair of Trustees)

Date:

*18 March 2024*



.....  
**Mrs J Butler FCA**

The notes on pages 25 to 47 form part of these financial statements.

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**REGISTERED NUMBER: 00133676**

**COMPANY BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	14	23,891,550	18,163,792
Investments		1,570,831	1,634,841
		25,462,381	19,798,633
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	16	570,780	532,804
Cash at bank and in hand		506,758	728,622
		1,077,538	1,261,426
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(8,561,918)	(2,545,760)
<b>Net current liabilities</b>		<b>(7,484,380)</b>	<b>(1,284,334)</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<b>17,978,001</b>	<b>18,514,299</b>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	18	(1,432,800)	(1,555,438)
<b>Total net assets</b>		<b>16,545,201</b>	<b>16,958,861</b>
<b>Charity funds</b>			
Restricted funds:			
Restricted funds	21	41,871	44,206
Total restricted funds	21	41,871	44,206
Unrestricted funds			
Designated funds	21	1,084,330	1,080,000
General funds	21	15,419,000	15,834,655
Total unrestricted funds	21	16,503,330	16,914,655
<b>Total funds</b>		<b>16,545,201</b>	<b>16,958,861</b>

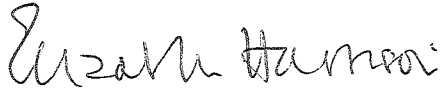
The Company's net movement in funds for the year was £(413,660) (2022 - £479,744).

The Governors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)  
REGISTERED NUMBER: 00133676**

**COMPANY BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)  
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023**

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Governors and signed on their behalf by:



.....  
**Mrs E A Harrison BA (Hons) MBA JP**  
(Chair of Trustees)

Date: *18 March 2024*



.....  
**Mrs J Butler FCA**

The notes on pages 25 to 47 form part of these financial statements.

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Net cash used in operating activities	<b>3,183,675</b>	1,849,328
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Dividends and interest on investment portfolio	<b>41,325</b>	36,398
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	<b>(7,593,525)</b>	(835,447)
Purchase of investments	<b>(355,355)</b>	(251,653)
Receipts from sale of investments	<b>320,529</b>	208,733
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(7,587,026)</b>	<b>(841,969)</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
Receipt of new bank loan	<b>3,000,000</b>	-
Repayments of borrowing	<b>(122,638)</b>	(170,929)
Interest paid	<b>(36,745)</b>	(56,043)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities</b>	<b>2,840,617</b>	<b>(226,972)</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>	<b>(1,562,734)</b>	<b>780,387</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	<b>848,669</b>	68,282
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	<b>(714,065)</b>	<b>848,669</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The notes on pages 25 to 47 form part of these financial statements

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**1. General information**

The Abbey School, Reading is a charitable company limited by guarantee (registered number 00133676 and charity number 309115), incorporated in England and Wales under the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011. The address of the registered office is given within the Governors, Officers and Advisors section on page 1 and 2.

**2. Accounting policies**

**2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Abbey School, Reading meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) and Consolidated Balance Sheet consolidate the financial statements of the Company and its subsidiary undertaking. The results of the subsidiary are consolidated on a line by line basis.

The Company has taken advantage of the exemption allowed under section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and has not presented its own Statement of Financial Activities in these financial statements.

**2.2 Basis of consolidation**

The group accounts consolidate the accounts of The Abbey School, Reading and its subsidiary undertaking, Abbey Commercial Enterprises Limited on a line by line basis. The accounts are made up to 31 August 2023. No separate statement of financial activities or income and expenditure has been presented for the charitable company alone as permitted by the Companies Act 2006 and the 2015 Charities SORP.

The results of the subsidiary undertaking for the year are disclosed in note 15 of the accounts.

FRS102 allows qualifying entities certain disclosure exemptions. The charity, only, has taken advantage of the exemptions for the following disclosure requirement:

- Section 7 "Statement of Cash Flows" - presentation of an entity only Statement of Cash Flow and related notes and disclosures; and
- from the financial instruments disclosures, required under FRS 102 para 11.40 to 11.48A and para 12.26 to 12.29, as the information is provided in the Group financial disclosures.

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.3 Going concern**

The Governors note that at the balance sheet date the group had net current liabilities of £7,363,593 (2022: £1,185,432). This significant increase over the previous year is related to the School's development of its new Sixth Form Centre and is further discussed in notes 17 and 18 which deal with creditors and, in note 30, post balance sheet events.

The Governors have considered the year's net movement in funds, the projected gross operating surplus and cash flow projections for future years. These indicate that within, and without exceeding, the arrangements established with their bankers the school will be able to meet its liabilities as they fall due.

**2.4 Incoming resources**

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charitable company is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

**2.5 Fees and similar income**

Fees receivable, charges for services and use of premises are accounted for in the period in which the service is provided. Fees receivable are stated after deducting allowances, scholarships and other remissions granted by the school. Means tested bursaries which provide financial assistance to parents, are treated as expenditure from the designated fund within the statement of financial activities.

Fees received for education to be provided in future years are carried forward as advance fee scheme payments and fees received in advance in the balance sheet. These fees are released to the statement of financial activities over the period in which the school provides the services in future years.

**2.6 Donations**

Donations received for the general purposes of the School are credited to unrestricted funds. Donations subject to specific wishes of the donors are credited to the relevant restricted fund.

**2.7 Resources expended**

Resources expended are accounted for on an accrual basis. Resources expended are allocated to specific activities without the need for apportionment. The irrecoverable element of VAT is included within the item of expense to which it relates.

Expenditure in respect of the other support costs of the School includes recruitment costs and general office costs including governance costs.

**2.8 Scholarships and bursaries**

Scholarships and bursaries, along with temporary financial assistance are charged to the statement of financial activities in the year in which they are granted.

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.9 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets except land which is considered to be of negligible value, and is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Freehold building	-	2% per annum on cost
Freehold improvements	-	10% per annum on cost
Motor vehicles	-	25% per annum on cost
Other equipment	-	10% per annum on cost
Computer equipment	-	33% per annum on cost

Items costing less than £5,000 are written off as an expense as acquired.

**2.10 Investments**

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance Sheet date, unless the value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as 'Gains/(Losses) on investments' in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities.

Investments in subsidiaries are valued at cost less provision for impairment.

**2.11 Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

**2.12 Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

**2.13 Liabilities and provisions**

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Company anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation.

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.14 Financial instruments**

The Group only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

**2.15 Operating leases**

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

**2.16 Pensions**

The charitable company left the Teachers' Pension Scheme on 31 August 2020.

The charitable company contributes into separate defined contribution schemes for teaching and non-teaching staff for which the contributions are charged in the statement of financial activities in the year in which they are payable.

**2.17 Advance fee scheme**

Amounts received under the school's former Advance Fee Scheme contracts for education not yet utilised to settle school fees were recorded as current liabilities where the education will be provided 12 months from the reporting date and as long-term liabilities where the education was to be provided in subsequent years.

**2.18 Parents' deposits**

The Governors have reviewed the contract terms under which pupil fee deposits are held by the school. Although under normal circumstances these will be repaid over future years when the pupils complete their education at the school, pupils can leave at earlier dates. The school does not therefore have an unconditional right to retain the individual deposits for at least 12 months after the balance sheet date and, in line with the requirements in FRS 102, the balance of the deposits held at 31 August 2023 have been included within current liabilities. The prior year pupil fee deposits balance has been similarly represented.

**2.19 Fund accounting**

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Governors in furtherance of the general objectives of the Group and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Governors for particular purposes. Details of these reserves, as applicable to the charity, are set out in note 21.

Restricted funds are funds where specific conditions imposed by the donor would restrict the use of unspent funds or where the terms of the appeal restrict the use of the funds.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**3. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement**

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

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

Significant estimates included within the financial statements include provision for fee debtors, which require a judgement by management regarding the likelihood of recovery. Management review and assess fee debtors on an individual basis and provide for fee debtors as appropriate.

Depreciation is another key estimate in the accounts which requires management judgement over the useful life of the assets. The policy has been set out in the notes above.

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**4. School fees**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2022 £</b>
<b>School fees receivable consist of:</b>			
Gross fees	18,819,319	<b>18,819,319</b>	18,039,356
Less: Scholarships and other awards	(997,573)	<b>(997,573)</b>	(1,000,131)
Less: Other discounts	(65,853)	<b>(65,853)</b>	(17,131)
<b>Net fees receivable</b>	<b>17,755,893</b>	<b>17,755,893</b>	17,022,094
Add: Bursaries paid out of designated funds (means-tested)	559,941	<b>559,941</b>	555,767
<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>18,315,834</b>	<b>18,315,834</b>	17,577,861
Total 2022	17,577,861	17,577,861	

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**5. Income from donations**

	<b>Restricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2022 £</b>
Donations	10,660	35,277	<b>45,937</b>	128,356
Total 2022	<u>13,126</u>	<u>115,230</u>	<u>128,356</u>	

**6. Non ancillary income**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2022 £</b>
Property rentals	43,579	<b>43,579</b>	42,006
<b>Total 2023</b>	<u>43,579</u>	<u><b>43,579</b></u>	<u>42,006</u>
Total 2022	<u>42,006</u>	<u>42,006</u>	

**7. Income from investments**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2022 £</b>
UK listed investments	41,325	<b>41,325</b>	36,398
Total 2022	<u>36,398</u>	<u>36,398</u>	

Income from investments was designated in the current and previous financial year.

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**8. Ancillary income**

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
After school care	61,195	<b>61,195</b>	46,035
Trips income	683,316	<b>683,316</b>	489,560
Fees for extra-curricular courses and examinations	593,111	<b>593,111</b>	507,287
Fees in lieu of notice	21,105	<b>21,105</b>	17,940
Registration fees	36,466	<b>36,466</b>	38,465
Miscellaneous income	137,715	<b>137,715</b>	90,548
<b>Total 2023</b>	<u>1,532,908</u>	<u><b>1,532,908</b></u>	<u>1,189,835</u>
Total 2022	<u>1,189,835</u>	<u>1,189,835</u>	

**9. Expenditure on charitable activities**

	Staff costs 2023 £	Other 2023 £	Depreciation 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Teaching costs	9,183,930	576,170	209,195	<b>9,969,295</b>	9,547,308
Welfare costs	93,390	1,441,160	-	<b>1,534,550</b>	1,371,877
Premises costs	1,030,870	1,951,434	1,151,291	<b>4,133,595</b>	3,609,982
Support costs	1,834,161	1,201,105	3,203	<b>3,038,469</b>	2,669,989
Trip costs and other travel	-	819,566	-	<b>819,566</b>	492,158
Grants, awards and prizes	-	559,941	-	<b>559,941</b>	555,767
Governance costs	-	44,018	-	<b>44,018</b>	19,329
Finance costs	-	229,662	-	<b>229,662</b>	100,850
Movement in bad debt provision	-	50,000	-	<b>50,000</b>	10,552
	<u>12,142,351</u>	<u>6,873,056</u>	<u>1,363,689</u>	<u><b>20,379,096</b></u>	<u>18,377,812</u>
Total 2022	<u>11,530,592</u>	<u>5,545,202</u>	<u>1,302,018</u>	<u>18,377,812</u>	

Total expenditure on charitable activities was £20,379,096 (2022: £18,377,812) of this £6,245 (2022: £7,126) was restricted, £559,941 (2022: £555,767) was designated and £19,812,910 (2022: £17,814,919) was unrestricted.

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**10. Expenditure on raising funds**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2022 £</b>
Portfolio management costs	16,752	<b>16,752</b>	18,190
Non-ancillary costs	26,710	<b>26,710</b>	20,413
Trading expenses	5,454	<b>5,454</b>	5,146
	<u>48,916</u>	<u><b>48,916</b></u>	<u>43,749</u>

Total expenditure on raising funds was £48,916 (2022: £43,749) of this £16,752 (2022: £18,190) related to designated funds and £32,164 (2022: £25,559) related to unrestricted funds.

**11. Auditors' remuneration**

Fees payable to the Company's auditor and its associates

- audit fees	<b>17,000</b>	17,000
- other services	<b>3,400</b>	3,400
	<u><b>20,400</b></u>	<u>20,400</u>

**12. Staff costs**

	<b>Group 2023 £</b>	<b>Group 2022 £</b>	<b>Company 2023 £</b>	<b>Company 2022 £</b>
Wages and salaries	<b>9,915,920</b>	9,502,567	<b>9,915,920</b>	9,502,567
Social security costs	<b>953,927</b>	919,769	<b>953,927</b>	919,769
Pension contributions	<b>1,107,979</b>	1,021,859	<b>1,107,979</b>	1,021,859
Other non-payroll staff costs	<b>164,525</b>	86,397	<b>164,525</b>	86,397
	<u><b>12,142,351</b></u>	<u>11,530,592</u>	<u><b>12,142,351</b></u>	<u>11,530,592</u>

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**12. Staff costs (continued)**

The average number of persons employed by the Company during the year was as follows:

	<b>Group 2023 No.</b>	Group 2022 No.
Teaching	<b>224</b>	226
Welfare	<b>30</b>	29
Premises	<b>21</b>	22
Support	<b>43</b>	44
	<b>318</b>	321

Aggregate employee costs of the key management personnel of the school, including salary, benefits, pension contributions and national insurance in the year totalled £397,748 (2022: £408,006).

The governors received £Nil remuneration or other benefit for the year (2022: £Nil).

The employer's liability insurance of the charitable company includes indemnity insurance for the governors.

The Split between part time and full time staff was as follows:

	<b>Full time 2023 No.</b>	Full time 2022 No.	<b>Part time 2023 No.</b>	Part time 2022 No.
Teaching	<b>117</b>	119	<b>107</b>	107
Welfare	<b>7</b>	7	<b>23</b>	22
Premises	<b>15</b>	15	<b>6</b>	7
Support	<b>27</b>	29	<b>16</b>	15
	<b>166</b>	170	<b>152</b>	151

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**12. Staff costs (continued)**

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

	<b>Group 2023 No.</b>	<b>Group 2022 No.</b>
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	10	3
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	2	3
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	3	3
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	1	1
In the band £100,001 - £110,000	1	-
In the band £150,000 - £160,000	-	1
In the band £160,000 - £170,000	1	-

The total employer contributions in the year towards pension scheme contributions for the above 18 (2022: 11) staff members were £160,632 (2022: £78,766).

During the year, severance pay was awarded to 10 employees with payments for compensation and pay in lieu of notice totalling £82,614 (2022: 2 employees, £7,105). All of this had been paid by the reporting date (2022: All).

**13. Taxation**

The charitable company is a registered charity, and as such is entitled to tax exemptions on income and gains, properly applied for its charitable purposes.

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**14. Tangible fixed assets**

**Group and Company**

	Freehold property and improvements £	Motor vehicles £	Furniture and fittings £	Assets under construction £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>					
At 1 September 2022	28,356,457	23,338	4,552,769	336,682	33,269,246
Additions	66,473	-	428,490	6,596,485	7,091,448
At 31 August 2023	<u>28,422,930</u>	<u>23,338</u>	<u>4,981,259</u>	<u>6,933,167</u>	<u>40,360,694</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 September 2022	11,222,471	22,238	3,860,745	-	15,105,454
Charge for the year	1,033,269	1,099	329,322	-	1,363,690
At 31 August 2023	<u>12,255,740</u>	<u>23,337</u>	<u>4,190,067</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,469,144</u>
<b>Net book value</b>					
At 31 August 2023	<u>16,167,190</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>791,192</u>	<u>6,933,167</u>	<u>23,891,550</u>
At 31 August 2022	<u>17,133,986</u>	<u>1,100</u>	<u>692,024</u>	<u>336,682</u>	<u>18,163,792</u>

**15. Fixed asset investments**

	Group 2023 £	Group 2022 £	Company 2023 £	Company 2022 £
Listed investments (see below)	1,570,829	1,634,839	1,570,829	1,634,839
Investments in subsidiary companies (see below)	-	-	2	2
	<u>1,570,829</u>	<u>1,634,839</u>	<u>1,570,831</u>	<u>1,634,841</u>

**Subsidiary undertaking:**

The Abbey School owns 100% of the ordinary share capital of Abbey Commercial Enterprises Limited (company number 06334617). This company was incorporated in England and Wales and was established to carry out the non-educational activities associated with the School.

Trading results extracted from its audited financial statements are shown below:

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Turnover	145,237	123,044
Administration expenses	(5,454)	(5,146)
Management Charge from the Abbey School	(19,000)	(19,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net profit	<b>120,783</b>	98,898
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net assets	<b>120,787</b>	98,902
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

All activities have been consolidated on a line by line basis in the SOFA. Any taxable net profit is gifted to the charity. The total expenses include a management charge paid by Abbey Commercial Enterprises of £19,000 (2022: £19,000), which is eliminated on consolidation. At the year end the balance outstanding was a debtor in The Abbey School of £19,000 (2022: £19,000).

**Listed Investments**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
At 1 September	1,634,839	1,707,957
Additions	325,405	251,653
Disposals	(320,529)	(208,733)
Unrealised (loss)/gain on revaluation for the year	(88,583)	(129,626)
At 31 August	1,551,132	1,621,251
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash held by investment manager	19,699	13,588
Total at 31 August	1,570,831	1,634,839
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Historical cost of investments	<b>1,434,601</b>	1,322,953
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**16. Debtors**

	<b>Group 2023 £</b>	Group 2022 £	<b>Company 2023 £</b>	Company 2022 £
Trade debtors	<b>105,128</b>	49,997	<b>87,517</b>	46,941
Amounts due from own subsidiary	-	-	<b>19,000</b>	19,000
Other debtors	<b>2,378</b>	39,392	<b>2,378</b>	39,392
Prepayments	<b>461,885</b>	427,471	<b>461,885</b>	427,471
	<u><b>569,391</b></u>	<u>516,860</u>	<u><b>570,780</b></u>	<u>532,804</u>

Amounts due from owned subsidiary are interest free and repayable on demand.

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**17. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>Group 2023 £</b>	<b>Group 2022 £</b>	<b>Company 2023 £</b>	<b>Company 2022 £</b>
Bank overdrafts	<b>1,352,910</b>	-	<b>1,352,910</b>	-
Bank loans	<b>3,200,000</b>	200,000	<b>3,200,000</b>	200,000
Trade creditors	<b>1,123,721</b>	396,240	<b>1,123,721</b>	396,240
Deposits held	<b>581,255</b>	663,155	<b>581,255</b>	663,155
Other taxation and social security costs	<b>251,207</b>	250,243	<b>246,696</b>	248,442
Advance fee scheme payments	-	16,530	-	16,530
Other creditors	<b>366,476</b>	458,595	<b>366,476</b>	458,595
Accruals	<b>1,026,768</b>	110,153	<b>1,021,368</b>	106,753
Fees received in advance	<b>669,492</b>	456,045	<b>669,492</b>	456,045
	<b>8,571,829</b>	2,550,961	<b>8,561,918</b>	2,545,760

The bank overdraft, with HSBC, is secured by legal charges over two freehold properties.

Fees received in advance relates to fees for the next academic year which some parents pay in advance.

Deposits held relate to acceptance deposits which are considered as owed within one year given that only one terms notice is required to be given by pupils.

During the year the School undertook and completed on schedule for the start of the Autumn term in September 2023 its development of a new Sixth Form Centre (at 31 August 2023 'Assets under construction' £6.9m as in note 14 above). Finance for the project was provided by HSBC in the form of a loan facility of which £3m had been drawn down at the balance sheet date. Contractor payments in excess of this sum were also made from the School's business account in accordance with its overdraft facility as referred to above. Some further £1.35m of contractor costs are included in creditors (£0.5m) and accruals (£0.85m).

The development has therefore significantly increased not only the School's fixed asset base but also, largely in step, its outstanding liabilities. At the balance sheet date the outstanding £3m loan was repayable within 12 months but since then the loan has been converted to a multi-year loan of which less than £120,000 is repayable before 31 August 2024. (See also note 30, Post balance sheet events.)

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**18. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year**

	Group 2023 £	Group 2022 £	Company 2023 £	Company 2022 £
Bank loans	<u>1,432,800</u>	<u>1,555,438</u>	<u>1,432,800</u>	<u>1,555,438</u>

The loan is repayable as follows:

**Within 2 to 5 years**

Bank loans	<u>800,000</u>	<u>800,000</u>	<u>800,000</u>	<u>800,000</u>
------------	----------------	----------------	----------------	----------------

**More than 5 years**

Bank loans	<u>632,800</u>	<u>755,438</u>	<u>632,800</u>	<u>755,438</u>
------------	----------------	----------------	----------------	----------------

Bank loans with HSBC are secured by a charge over the School's property.

**19. Advance fee scheme**

**Group and School**

Parents historically have deposited a lump sum with the School as an advance on future fees. This option is no longer available to parents. Each arrangement is in respect of an agreed amount to be credited against future fee bills for an agreed number of terms. The unused balance of the advance is repayable on request. It is intended that the advance fees will be applied as follows

	2023 £	2022 £
Within 1 year	-	16,530
	<u>-</u>	<u>16,530</u>

The figures for advanced fee payments are included within the balance sheet for school fees paid in advance (notes 18 and 19). The balance represents the accrued liability under these arrangements. Movements during the year are:

	2023 £	2022 £
Balance at 1 September 2022	16,530	33,060
Amounts utilised in the payment of fees	(16,530)	(16,530)
<b>Balance at 31 August 2023</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,530</u>

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**20. Financial instruments**

	<b>Group 2023 £</b>	<b>Group 2022 £</b>	<b>Company 2023 £</b>	<b>Company 2022 £</b>
<b>Financial assets</b>				
Financial assets measured at fair value	<u><b>1,570,831</b></u>	<u>1,634,839</u>	<u><b>1,570,831</b></u>	<u>1,634,841</u>

Included within financial instruments held at fair value is investments.

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**21. Statement of funds**

**Statement of funds - current year**

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
<b>Designated funds</b>						
Designated - The Bursary Fund	1,000,000	41,325	(576,693)	623,951	(88,583)	1,000,000
Designated donation	80,000	4,330	-	-	-	84,330
	<u>1,080,000</u>	<u>45,655</u>	<u>(576,693)</u>	<u>623,951</u>	<u>(88,583)</u>	<u>1,084,330</u>
<b>General funds</b>						
General unrestricted	15,933,555	20,068,505	(19,836,914)	(625,361)	-	15,539,785
<b>Total Unrestricted funds</b>	<u>17,013,555</u>	<u>20,114,160</u>	<u>(20,413,607)</u>	<u>(1,410)</u>	<u>(88,583)</u>	<u>16,624,115</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>						
Restricted Fund	44,206	10,660	(14,405)	1,410	-	41,871
<b>Total of funds</b>	<u><u>17,057,761</u></u>	<u><u>20,124,820</u></u>	<u><u>(20,428,012)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>(88,583)</u></u>	<u><u>16,665,986</u></u>

Income from The Bursary Fund is used to offer financial assistance to individual pupils when necessary.

The Governors have decided to make an annual transfer from the unrestricted funds so that a balance of £1 million remains earmarked for use on bursaries within this fund.

Restricted funds are those received for specific purposes including donations received for building appeals, various teaching departments and fixed assets. Once the restriction has been fulfilled than a transfer from restricted to unrestricted funds is made.

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**21. Statement of funds (continued)**

**Statement of funds - prior year**

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
<b>Designated funds</b>						
Designated - The Bursary Fund	1,000,000	36,398	(573,632)	666,860	(129,626)	1,000,000
Designated donation	-	80,000	-	-	-	80,000
	<u>1,000,000</u>	<u>116,398</u>	<u>(573,632)</u>	<u>666,860</u>	<u>(129,626)</u>	<u>1,080,000</u>
<b>General funds</b>						
General unrestricted	15,473,242	18,967,976	(17,840,803)	(666,860)	-	15,933,555
<b>Total Unrestricted funds</b>	<u>16,473,242</u>	<u>19,084,374</u>	<u>(18,414,435)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(129,626)</u>	<u>17,013,555</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>						
Restricted Fund	38,206	13,126	(7,126)	-	-	44,206
<b>Total of funds</b>	<u><u>16,511,448</u></u>	<u><u>19,097,500</u></u>	<u><u>(18,421,561)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>(129,626)</u></u>	<u><u>17,057,761</u></u>

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**22. Analysis of net assets between funds**

**Analysis of net assets between funds - current year**

	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	23,891,550	<b>23,891,550</b>
Fixed asset investments	-	1,570,829	<b>1,570,829</b>
Current assets	41,871	1,166,365	<b>1,208,236</b>
Creditors due within one year	-	(8,571,829)	<b>(8,571,829)</b>
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(1,432,800)	<b>(1,432,800)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,871</b>	<b>16,624,115</b>	<b>16,665,986</b>

**Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year**

	Restricted funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	18,163,792	18,163,792
Fixed asset investments	-	1,634,839	1,634,839
Current assets	44,206	1,321,323	1,365,529
Creditors due within one year	-	(2,550,961)	(2,550,961)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(1,555,438)	(1,555,438)
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,206</b>	<b>17,013,555</b>	<b>17,057,761</b>

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**23. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities**

	<b>Group 2023 £</b>	<b>Group 2022 £</b>
Net income/expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(391,775)	546,313
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation	1,363,690	1,302,018
(Losses)/gains on investments	88,583	129,626
Dividends and interest	(41,325)	(36,398)
Interest payable	36,745	56,043
(Increase)/ decrease in debtors	(52,531)	(141,521)
Increase in creditors	2,174,177	17,612
(Decrease)/increase of cash at investment manager	6,111	(24,365)
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>3,183,675</b>	<b>1,849,328</b>

**24. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	<b>Group 2023 £</b>	<b>Group 2022 £</b>
Bank balances included in cash at bank and in hand	638,845	848,669
Bank overdraft	(1,352,910)	-
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>(714,065)</b>	<b>848,669</b>

**25. Analysis of net debt**

	<b>At 1 September 2022 £</b>	<b>Cash flows £</b>	<b>At 31 August 2023 £</b>
Cash balances	848,669	(209,824)	638,845
Overdraft	-	(1,352,910)	(1,352,910)
Bank loans due in under one year	(200,000)	(3,000,000)	(3,200,000)
Bank loans due in more than one year	(1,555,438)	122,638	(1,432,800)
	<b>(906,769)</b>	<b>(4,440,096)</b>	<b>(5,346,865)</b>

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**26. Capital commitments**

	<b>Company 2023 £</b>	<b>Company 2022 £</b>
<b>At 31 August 2023 the School had the following capital commitments:</b>		
Contracts for future capital expenditure not provided in the financial statements	-	300,000
	-	300,000

**27. Pension commitments**

a) Teachers' Pension Scheme

The school withdrew from the Teachers' Pension ("TPS") Scheme at 31 August 2020.

b) Other schemes

The Company makes contributions for teaching and non-teaching staff. £1,107,979 (2022: £1,021,859) was payable for the year. Contributions totalling £143,619 (2022: £143,945) were unpaid at the year end and are included within creditors.

**28. Operating lease commitments**

At 31 August 2023 the Group and the Company had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	<b>Company 2023 £</b>	<b>Company 2022 £</b>
Due within one year	8,798	35,153
Due between two and five years	-	8,798
	8,798	43,951

**29. Related party transactions**

**Transactions with Governors**

Owing to the nature of the school's operations and the composition of its governing body being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations with which a Governor may have an interest. All transactions involving these organizations are in accordance with the school's normal procedures.

Mr M Emmanuel is a director at French Horn Hotel Limited. During the year, the School was invoiced £Nil (2022: £666) by French Horn Hotel Limited for a function in the year.

**THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**30. Post balance sheet events**

After the year end the group negotiated with its bankers HSBC the conversion of a 12 month loan facility, under which at the balance sheet date it had borrowed £3m, into a term loan. As referred to in Note 17 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year, above, only a minor part of the £3m is now therefore repayable within one year, part is repayable within 2 to 5 years, and the majority is repayable in more than 5 years.

