



The
Westgate School

VALUE FOR MONEY STATEMENT

Improving Examination Results:

Targeted improvement:

There has been a real focus on the core subjects of English, Maths and Science to ensure that the students have the best opportunities to succeed. This has led to extending the staffing in each of these areas to allow small group work with a focus on those students under-achieving and those requiring more stretch.

Focus on Individual Pupils:

From September 2014 an additional senior member of staff has been appointed to support the intervention programme throughout the school, and their role now creates a cross over between academic and pastoral support. The school has also been proactive in sourcing courses to ensure that staff are fully aware of the changes in specification and requirements at all levels. There has been a focus within the school for Literacy and Numeracy; Pupil Premium and SMSC with a member of the Senior Team taking responsibility for each of these areas. We also take advantage of the support offered from other institutions within the immediate locality and have employed two part-time counsellors to assist students whose personal situations may block their ability to make progress.

Collaboration:

We work very closely with the other schools in different phases within the locality to ensure continuity in practice from 4 to 19 years old. We also take advantage of the location of the school, as we are very close to the SEGRO Industrial Estate, and consistently use the expertise of a number of International Companies to assist learning. This is at no cost to the school!

New Initiatives:

The school has been proactive in leading on local initiatives to ensure shared expertise across schools within Slough. A Maths network has been created and the school will host the first TeachMeet Slough in November 2015. Science and PE teachers also support other schools, and cross phase discussions between Core subject leaders ensures continuity in Schemes of Work. The school will continue to look to further strengthen joint work by introducing some community events.

Quantifying improvements:

Educational attainment has risen significantly over the past 4 years and in the summer of 2015 the school achieved it's best ever results at Key Stage 5 and a high level of achievement at GCSE. Behaviour is exemplary throughout the school as evidenced through the latest 'outstanding' Ofsted inspection and attendance has consistently been above national averages.

Financial Governance and Oversight:

The School employs an experienced Business Manager to oversee financial matters. The Governing Body is fully informed on a regular basis of the financial standing of the school, as well as external audit inspections and advice.

Budget holders are consulted with regards planned spend and budget control is in place. Bids for resources are supported by evidence of effectiveness towards educational benefits.

Purchasing:

The School continues to review all contracts with a plan to update contracts wherever possible to achieve cost savings and efficiencies.

Where possible, benchmarking exercises have been undertaken (if the information is published) to guide the school with final financial decision making.

Income :

The school continues to generate income through the regular hire of facilities to known organisations.

Where the opportunity arises, the school will bid for Grant funding

Control Reviews :

The school has a robust Financial Procedures Manual, updated and subject to audit review. Management received monthly reports regarding the financial position of the school and future commitments against any balances held and the cash flow forecasts.

The school has a risk register and regularly consults with the insurance provider to ensure complete cover is in place.

Lessons Learned:

The school continues to review procedures with regards the financial links to the School Development Plan and the impact made. It is evident that controls on spending have proved beneficial and the school is in a sound financial position.