
Aquinas College

Report and Financial Statements

∩ Year ended 31 July 2015 ∩

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OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW

NATURE, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES:

The members present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2015.

Legal status

The College, founded in September 1980, was moved from the Schools to the FE sector under Section 28 of the Further and Higher Education Act (1992) as a College designated to receive FEFC funds. This was deemed necessary by Parliament in that as a voluntary aided College it did not own either its land or buildings. Although the governing body did not achieve in Governing Body under Further and Higher Education (1992), this has now been achieved under the Education Act 2000. The College is an exempt charity for the purposes of Part 3 of the Charities Act 2011.

Mission

“At the very heart of our philosophy is the Gospel spirit of freedom, justice and love. We aim to affirm and value each member of the community, recognising the dignity and unique nature of each individual, whether student, support staff or teacher.”

This extract from the College mission statement underpins the philosophy of the College.

Public Benefit

Aquinas College is an exempt charity under Part 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and from 1st September 2013, is regulated by the Secretary of State for Education as Principal Regulator for all Sixth Form Colleges in England. The members of the Governing Body are disclosed on pages 10 and 11. In setting and reviewing the College's strategic objectives, the Governing Body has had due regard for the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and particularly upon its supplementary guidance on the advancement of education. The guidance sets out the requirement that all organisations wishing to be recognised as charities must demonstrate, explicitly, that their aims are for the public benefit.

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

- High-quality teaching
- Widening participation and tackling social exclusion
- Excellent progress to HE and employment for students
- Strong student support systems
- Links with employers, industry and commerce.

Implementation of strategic plan

The College's objectives are set out in the strategic plan updated in July 2015. This plan includes the strategic direction of the College and financial forecasts. The Governing Body monitors the performance of the College against these plans. The plans are reviewed and updated each year. The College's continuing strategic objectives are:

- To control the College's severe over-subscription and to achieve stability in student numbers around 2,077 (FTE) in the year to July 2016.
- To review and maintain the high success rates for students within College. The success rate for courses is presently around 91%.
- To review the provision for adult education in the light of funding cuts.
- To encourage students to take responsibility for their own learning and promote and develop relevant learning strategies.

OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW /Continued...

Implementation of strategic plan /Continued...

- Despite financial pressures, to make the necessary level of investment to maintain the high standards in learning resources in both the Learning Resource Centre and the IT Centre.

The College is on target for achieving these objectives.

The College's specific objectives for 2014/15 and achievement of those objectives is addressed below:

- To achieve full time 16-19 students of 2,054 based on funding levels. Actual full time 16-19 student numbers were 2,074 learners. The over recruitment in numbers reflects the difficulty in managing the student numbers in the face of the large oversubscription and the reaction to the under recruitment of the previous year. The College will continue to manage this area closely.
- Success rates of 91% for all long courses have been achieved in 2014/15.
- To further improve attendance in core studies by further enhancements to the attendance policy. Further development of MyAquinas will allow targeted action and provides online monitoring of student's performance.
- To review the tutorial program in the light of further funding cuts to ensure it is effective and relevant and delivered concisely.
- To develop the IT strategy group to oversee all IT strategy to enable the College to keep at the forefront of IT development and ensure that IT remains a support for curriculum delivery and is appropriate for the future.

Financial Objectives

The College's financial objectives are:

- To achieve an annual operating surplus; and
- To further improve the College's shorter term liquidity.

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

Performance indicators

FE Choices (formerly the "Framework for Excellence") has three key performance indicators that apply to the College:

- Success rates
- Learner destinations
- Satisfaction survey (formerly "learner views")

The College is committed to observing the importance of sector measures and indicators and use the FE Choices website which looks at measures such as success rates. The College is required to complete the annual Finance Record for the Education Funding Agency ("EFA"). The Finance Record produces a financial health grading. The current rating of Outstanding is considered a good outcome given the financial pressure on the sector.

OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW /Continued...

FINANCIAL POSITION

Financial Results

The College generated a historic cost surplus of £479k (2014: £434k).

The College has accumulated general reserves of £3.713m (2014: £3.233m) and cash balances of £4.818m (2014: £4.452m) of which £144k (2014: £112k) are amounts held as deposits on behalf of students (see Note 13).

Tangible fixed asset additions during the year amounted to £204k and relates to equipment purchases. The equipment purchases mainly relate to IT purchases although there have been small amounts spent on furniture and canteen equipment.

The College has significant reliance on the EFA/SFA for its principal funding source, largely from recurrent grants. In 2014/15 the EFA/SFA provided 89.4% (2014: 89.6%) of the College's total income.

Treasury policies and objectives

Treasury management is the management of the College's cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.

The College has a separate treasury management policy in place.

Short term borrowing for temporary revenue purposes is authorised by the Accounting Officer (Principal). All other borrowing requires the authorisation of the Governing Body and shall comply with the requirements of the Financial Memorandum.

The College also has a gifts and hospitality policy which covers the procedure for the receipt of gifts / hospitality by staff.

Cash flows

The operating cash inflow of £808k cash inflow (2014: £509k cash inflow) has arisen due to the generation of a reasonable accounting surplus for the year. The College loans crystallised in March 2011 and the full facility of £4.45m was drawn down. £2.04m remains on a fixed term with the balance of £1.73m on variable repayments. The latter is placed on deposit to generate funds to cover the loan interest paid.

Liquidity

The College has a loan with Lloyds TSB. The size of the College's total borrowing and its approach to interest rate management have been calculated to ensure a reasonable cushion between the total cost of servicing debt and operating cashflow. During the year this margin was comfortably exceeded.

Current and Future development and Performance

Student Numbers

The College is funded according to the units of activity it generates each year. In 2014/15 the College achieved an estimated 2,077 16 – 18 (learners) against an allocation of 2,054 16 – 18 (learners) and 46 post 19 (SLNs).

This shows a large increase in student numbers from 2013/14. The College has attempted to control student numbers over the last few years in the face of a large over subscription.

OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW /Continued...

Student Achievements

Students achieved an estimated 95% of their qualification aims (2013/14: 93%). A dip in retention in 2013/14 was corrected and fewer students failed their examinations.

Curriculum Developments

At Aquinas we closely monitor curriculum development in our feeder schools and attempt to adapt our curriculum provision to match the needs and aspirations of our students. In recent years this has led to an expansion of vocational subjects to complement a largely academic provision. Provision at levels I and II is modest and new courses at level III tend to be introduced at a rate of one or two a year with the least popular courses disappearing at the same rate.

We have a particular focus on trying to get students on the most appropriate courses based on their prior attainment, whether this is the academic route or the Vocational route. A great deal of time is spent with each individual student to assess their needs during several one to one interviews with a member of staff. Several BTEC qualifications have recently been added to our curriculum and we have seen the percentage of students applying to University remaining fairly constant. Advice and guidance is also given to students looking for employment or apprenticeships.

We continue to encourage students to select broad programmes of study to provide challenge and diversity and offer a high level of support, advice and guidance to assist them in making good decisions. We actively engage with the Local Authority in ensuring the full range of provision is available to the local population and are represented on the Strategic Management Partnership and 14 -19 Strategy Group.

The Adult and Continuing Education programme has a curriculum which is informed by local needs analysis in relation to regeneration and economic development. The programme features a curriculum which supports the SFA/Local Authorities national target to increase the number of adults with basic skills and offers a thriving curriculum for those wishing to return to work, upskill or get involved in leisure courses.

Post Balance Sheet Events

There are no post balance sheet events to note.

Future developments

We have now occupied the new building for five years. Despite the increase in space, this building was built to simply accommodate the existing student numbers at that time and we still have no current plan of growing student numbers significantly into the future. Because of the oversubscription we do experience some growth (or small reduction) year-on-year as managing static student numbers remains an issue. We are getting close to the maximum number of students we feel is optimal for the College and this will be a challenge in coming years as growth mitigates the funding cuts.

Despite the fact that the building is new, we secured SFA funds for an upgrade to the wireless network to cope with the increase in the volume of mobile devices and to facilitate better coverage throughout the building. This project was delivered in July 2014. In addition much of the IT equipment installed into the new building is now ageing. College has taken a proactive approach to the replacement strategy which is led by the IT strategy group.

Despite the financial cuts already suffered, the College has managed the reduction in funding with a combination of natural wastage and staff leaving and not being replaced in full. As we move forward with the changes to the curriculum to Linear A levels and the funding per student rather than by course, further work will be undertaken to manage staffing, entitlement and tutorial to deliver small surpluses and remain solvent.

Following the OfSTED inspection in September 2013 and the outcome of "Good", we will continue with our quality and pastoral program to ensure that College continues to provide the best opportunities for our students and staff.

OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW /Continued...

Payment Performance

The Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998, which came into force on 1 November 1998, requires Colleges, in the absence of agreement to the contrary, to make payments to suppliers within 30 days of either the provision of goods or services or the date on which the invoice was received. The target set by the Treasury for payment to suppliers within 30 days is 95 per cent. During the accounting period 1 August 2014 to 31 July 2015, the College paid 97.16% of its invoices within 30 days. The College incurred no interest charges in respect of late payment for this period.

Staff and Student Involvement

The College is a vibrant community and surveys carried out as students leave constantly refer to the positive atmosphere and sense of respect which pervades the College. The College continues to grow and be successful. The College encourages staff and student involvement through membership of formal committees.

RESOURCES:

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

Tangible resources include the main College site.

Financial

The College has £38.346 million of net assets (there is no pension liability as the College is part of a pooled pension scheme – see Note 25) and long term debt of £3.6million.

People

The College employs 182 (2014: 181) people (expressed as full time equivalents), of whom 113 (2014: 114) are teaching staff.

Reputation

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

PRINCIPLE RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES:

The College has undertaken further work during the year to develop and embed the system of internal control, including financial, operational and risk management which is designed to protect the College's assets and reputation.

Based on the strategic plan, the Assistant Principal Finance along with Senior Management Team (SMT) undertakes a comprehensive review of the risks to which the College is exposed. Systems and procedures are identified, including specific preventable actions which should mitigate any potential impact on the College. The internal controls are then implemented and the subsequent year's appraisal will review their effectiveness and progress against risk mitigation actions. In addition to the annual review, SMT will also consider any risks which may arise as a result of a new area of work being undertaken by the College.

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

Outlined below is a description of the principle risk factors that may affect the College. Not all the factors are within the College's control. Other factors besides those listed below may also adversely affect the College.

1. Government funding

The College has considerable reliance on continued government funding through the LSC and its successor organisations. In 2014/15, 89.4% of the College's revenue was ultimately public funded and this level of requirement is expected to continue. There can be no assurance that government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms.

OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW /Continued...
Principle Risks and Uncertainties:

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

- The lagged student number formula means that managing our student numbers is important. There is some uncertainty in this regard as we change the method of recruitment in order to try to manage our oversubscription.
- The continued pressure on public finances with pre-school and post 16 being the only parts of the education budget that are not ring fenced. This means any future savings are likely to come from these areas.
- The continued political pressure to create more academies and free schools.
- The move of A level subjects to linear from September 2015.
- The funding of adult courses which is relying on the student to fund more of the course costs.
- The prospect of structural change to the College sector due to the Area Review Process.

The risk is mitigated in a number of ways:

- By ensuring the College is rigorous in delivering high quality education and training.
- The number of courses that students study will fall towards three as funding falls and linear A levels are introduced from September 2015. With the tutorial program and Ethics course, students will still be full time as measured by the funding methodology.
- Considerable focus and investment is placed on maintaining and managing key relationships with various funding bodies.
- Ensuring the College is focused on those priority sectors which will continue to benefit from public funding.
- Regular dialogue with the local EFA/Local Authorities

2. Tuition fee policy

The SFA intend to raise individual contributions. Ministers have confirmed that the fee assumption remains at 50%. In line with the majority of other Colleges, Aquinas College will increase tuition fees in accordance with the rising fee assumptions. The price elasticity of adult learning is not yet fully understood. The risk for the College is that demand falls off as fees increase. This will impact on the growth strategy of the College. From 2014/15 all students aged 24 and above have been expected to fund 100% of their course costs either by their own resources or by taking out a Government loan. This funding will cease for any student if they leave the course at any stage in the academic year. This introduces more uncertainty into the delivery of courses for adults.

This risk is mitigated in a number of ways:

- By ensuring the College is rigorous in delivering high quality education and training, thus ensuring value for money for students
- Further emphasis on attendance and progression for all students
- Close monitoring of the demand for courses as prices change

STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIPS

In line with other Colleges and with universities, Aquinas College has many stakeholders. These include:

- Students;

OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW /Continued...

STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIPS /Continued...

- Funding Councils;
- Sixth Form /FE Commissioner;
- Staff;
- Local employers;
- Local authorities;
- Government Offices/Regional Development Agencies/LEPs;
- The local community;
- Other FE institutions;
- Trade unions;
- Professional bodies and
- Diocese of Shrewsbury

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

Taxation

The College is an exempt body as far as the Charity Act is concerned. The College is not liable for Governing Body tax.

Employment Policy

The employment policy of the College has been agreed by the Governing Body and reflects the mission statement. The College is aware of, and its practice is consistent with, the terms of the Disability Discrimination Act (2000) updated by the Special Education Needs and Disability Acts 2001 and 2005. The College has a personnel manager and where appropriate, checks its procedures with a Human Resources Service to ensure consistency in personnel matters. The College subscribes to a personnel advice helpline. The College has increased both the teaching and support staff as student numbers have risen. Vacancies for teaching staff are advertised in The Times Educational Supplement. Support staff vacancies are advertised regionally or in professional journals.

Teachers and support staff are paid using Sixth Form College Employers Scales. All staff are paid monthly.

The College is concerned to encourage staff to improve qualifications and support staff have been offered day release and their fees have been paid by the College. Teaching staff have five in service training days in each year. Staff are provided with briefings twice weekly. These are meetings at which matters of immediacy are discussed. Contributions come from anyone – they are not restricted to management announcements. Notes are written up and published. More formal meetings are staff meetings and head of department meetings (steering group). In addition, there are small groups dealing with quality and curriculum. The senior management team meets weekly.

Equal Opportunities and Employment of Disabled Persons

Aquinas College is committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for all those who learn and work here. We respect and value positively, differences in race, gender, sexual orientation, ability, class and age. We strive vigorously to remove conditions which place people at a disadvantage and we will actively combat bigotry. This policy will be resourced, implemented and monitored by managers and governors.

The College's Equal Opportunities Policy, including its Race Relations and Transgender Policies, is published on the College's Internet site.

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

OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW /Continued...

Disability Statement

The College seeks to achieve the objectives set down in the Equality Act 2010 and in particular makes the following commitments:

- The new College buildings are fully DDA compliant;
- There is a list of specialist equipment, which the College can make available for use by students;
- The admissions policy for all students is described in the College charter. Appeals against a decision not to offer a place are dealt with under the complaints policy;
- The College had made a significant investment in the appointment of specialist lecturers to support students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. There are a number of student support assistants who can provide a variety of support for learning. There is a continuing programme of staff development to ensure the provision of a high level of appropriate support for students who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities;
- Specialist programmes are described in programme information guides, and achievements and destination are recorded and published in the standard College format; and
- Counselling and welfare services are described on the student intranet.

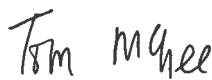
Planned Maintenance Programme

The College has now completed the building of the new College campus. We have secured a series of maintenance contracts which will be undertaken by external firms as many components of the building are complex. The spend on maintenance for the year to 31 July 2015 is £51,504 (2014: £48,212).

Disclosure of information to auditors

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

The report of the members of the Governing Body was approved by the members on 27/11/15 and signed on its behalf by:


.....
T P McGee

Chairperson

STATEMENT OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL

The following statement is provided to enable readers of the annual report and accounts of the College to obtain a better understanding of its governance and legal structure.

The College endeavours to conduct its business:

- in accordance with the seven principles identified by the Committee on Standards in Public Life (selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership);
- in full accordance with the guidance to Colleges from the Association of Colleges in The English Colleges' Foundation Code of Governance ("the Foundation Code"); and
- having due regard to the UK Corporate Governance Code ("the Code") insofar as it is applicable to the further education sector.

The College is committed to exhibiting best practice in all aspects of corporate governance. We do not comply with the UK Corporate Governance Code as Catholic institutions were advised that some aspects of the Code conflicted with the Diocesan Trust Deed. However, we have reported on our Corporate Governance arrangements by drawing upon best practice available, including those aspects of the UK Corporate Governance Code we consider to be relevant to the further education sector and best practice. In the opinion of the Governors, the College complies with/exceeds all the provisions of the Foundation Code, and it has complied throughout the year ended 31 July 2015. The Governing Body recognises that, as a body entrusted with both public and private funds, it has a particular duty to observe the highest standards of corporate governance at all times.

The Governing Body

The members who served the Governing Body during the year and up to the date of signature of this report were as listed in Table 1

Table 1: Governors serving on the College Board during 2014/15					
Name	Date of Appointment/ Re-appointment	Term of Office	Status of Appointment	Committees Served	Attendance
T P McGee	01/09/12	4 years	Foundation	Chair Governing Body, & Teaching and Learning Vice Chair Resources	4 / 4
L J Byrne	01/09/12	4 years	Foundation	Vice Chair Governing Body, Audit General Purposes & Employment, Remuneration,	3 / 4
M Braithwaite	01/09/12	4 years	Foundation	Chair Resources, Remuneration	4 / 4
D Pearson	01/06/11		Principal	Teaching and Learning, Resources	4 / 4
C H Dove	01/09/12	4 years	Foundation	Chair Remuneration, Resources	3 / 4
B Hickey	01/09/11	4 years	Foundation	General Purposes, Employment, Teaching and Learning	3 / 4
J Horan	01/09/11	4 years	Foundation	General Purposes, Employment	4 / 4
A Martin	12/12/11	4 years	Foundation	Chair Audit Teaching and Learning	3 / 4
Fr P Munroe	11/03/12	4 years	Foundation	Teaching and Learning	3 / 4

STATEMENT OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL /Continued...

Continued....Table 1: Governors serving on the College Board during 2014/15

Name	Date of Appointment/ Re-appointment	Term of Office	Status of Appointment	Committees Served	Attendance
C Calverley	01/09/12	4 years	Co-opted Governor	General Purposes, Employment, Resources	2 / 4
A Smith	01/08/14	4 years	Co-opted Governor	Teaching and Learning, General Purposes, Employment	3 / 4
P Carter	27/03/14	4 years	Foundation	Resources	4 / 4
J Miller	04/03/14-22/04/15	4 years	Co-opted Governor	Resources until 22/04/15	4 / 4
	23/04/15	4 Years	Foundation	Audit from 23/04/15	
B Donovan	01/09/12-31/08/2015	3 years	Parent Governor	General Purposes, Employment	3 / 4
H Delahan	01/09/12	4 years	Staff Governor	Teaching and Learning	1 / 4
R Hewitt	01/09/12	4 years	Staff Governor	Resources	3 / 4
E Rice	01/09/12	4 years	Foundation	Chair General Purposes, Employment Vice Chair, Remuneration	0 / 4
F Insoll	01/01/15 – 31/12/15	1 year	Student Member	General Purposes, Resources	1 / 2
M Kinei	01/01/15 – 31/12/15	1 year	Student Member	General Purposes, Teaching and learning	0 / 1
A Bircher	01/01/14 – 31/12/14	1 year	Student Member	General Purposes, Teaching and Learning	0 / 2
L Thomas	01/01/14 – 31/12/14	1 year	Student Member	Resources, Teaching and Learning	0 / 2
Dr P C Beatty	01/09/12	4 years	LA Represent-ative	General Purposes, Employment, Teaching and Learning	4 / 4
A McCarthy	01/09/12	Not member of governing body/independent – Audit			
PKC Carpenter	01/09/12	Not member of governing body/independent - Audit			

T Conlon acts as an independent clerk to the Governing Body.

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

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

The Governing Body conducts its business through a number of committees. Each committee has terms of reference, which have been approved by the Governing Body. These committees are teaching and learning, resources, general purposes and employment, remuneration and audit. Full minutes of all meetings are available on the College's website [at www.aquinas.ac.uk] or from the clerk to the Governing Body at:-

Aquinas College
Nangreave Road
Stockport
SK2 6TH

STATEMENT OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL /Continued...

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

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

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

The Governing Body has a strong and independent non-executive element and no individual or group dominates its decision making process. The Governing Body considers that each of its non-executive members is independent of management and free from any business or other relationship which could materially interfere with the exercise of their independent judgement.

There is a clear division of responsibility in that the roles of the Chairman and Principal are separate.

Appointments to the Governing Body

The Foundation Governors are appointed by the Bishop of Shrewsbury. The two staff governors, the parent governor and two student governors are elected by their respective groups. The LA governor is appointed by the LA. There remains only two co-opted governors for which a search committee would be required and this would be instigated on an as necessary basis when new co-opted governors were needed. The Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that appropriate training is provided as required.

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

Remuneration Committee

Throughout the year ended 31 July 2015, the College's remuneration committee comprised a Chairman and three other members of the Governing Body. The committee's responsibilities are to make recommendations to the Board on the remuneration and benefits of the Principal and other senior post holders.

Details of remuneration for the year ended 31 July 2015 are set out in Notes 6 and 7 to the financial statements.

Audit Committee

The audit committee comprises a Chairman and two other members of the Governing Body (excluding the Principal and Chair). In addition, there are two independent co-opted members, who are not on the Governing Body. The committee operates in accordance with written terms of reference approved by the Governing Body.

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

The College's internal auditors review the systems of internal control, risk management controls and governance processes in accordance with an agreed plan of input and report their findings to management and the Audit Committee. Management are responsible for the implementation of agreed recommendations and internal audit undertake periodic follow up reviews to ensure such recommendations have been implemented.

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

STATEMENT OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL /Continued...

Internal Control

Scope of responsibility

The Governing Body is ultimately responsible for the College's system of internal control and for reviewing its effectiveness. However, such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives, and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

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

The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of College policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Aquinas College for the year ended 31 July 2015 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts.

Capacity to Handle Risk

The Governing Body has reviewed the key risks to which the College is exposed, together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Governing Body is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the College's significant risks that has been in place for the period ending 31 July 2015 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts. This process is regularly reviewed by the Governing Body.

The Risk and Control Framework

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

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

STATEMENT OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL /Continued...

The Risk and Control Framework /Continued...

The College has an internal audit service, which operates in accordance with the requirements of the EFA and SFA's joint Code of Practice. The work of the internal audit service is informed by an analysis of the risks to which the College is exposed, and annual internal audit plans are based on this analysis. The analysis of risks and the internal audit plans are endorsed by the Governing Body on the recommendation of the audit committee. At minimum annually, the Head of Internal Audit (HIA) provides the governing body with a report on internal audit activity in the College. The report includes the HIA's independent opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the College's system of risk management controls and governance processes.

Review of Effectiveness

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

- The work of the internal auditors.
- The work of the executive managers within the College who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- Comments made by the College's financial statements and regularity auditors in their management letter and other reports.

The Principal has been advised on the implications of the result of his review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control by the audit committee which oversees the work of the internal auditor and other sources of assurance, and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

The senior management team receives reports setting out key performance and risk indicators and considers possible control issues brought to their attention by early warning mechanisms, which are embedded within the departments and reinforced by risk awareness training. The senior management team and the audit committee also receive regular reports from internal audit and other sources of assurance which include recommendations for improvement. The audit committee's role in this area is confined to a high-level review of the arrangements for internal control. The Governing Body's agenda includes a regular item for consideration of risk and control and receives reports thereon from the senior management team and the audit committee. The emphasis is on obtaining the relevant degree of assurance and not merely reporting by exception. At its 27 November 2015 meeting, the Governing Body carried out the annual assessment for the year ended 31 July 2015 by considering documentation from the senior management team and internal audit, and taking account of events since 31 July 2015.

The Audit Committee's Terms of reference were reviewed at the Spring term meetings. It is the view of the Audit Committee that it has fulfilled its terms of reference and operated in an effective and efficient manner.

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


Going Concern

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

STATEMENT OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL /Continued...

The Risk and Control Framework /Continued...

Signed on behalf of the Governing Body:


.....

Chair: T P McGee

Date: 27/11/15


.....

Principal: D Pearson (Accounting Officer)

Date: 27/11/15

GOVERNING BODY'S STATEMENT ON THE COLLEGE'S REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE WITH FUNDING BODY TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF FUNDING

The Governing Body has considered its responsibility to notify the Skills Funding Agency/Education Funding Agency of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with Skills Funding Agency/Education Funding Agency terms and conditions of funding, under the Financial Memorandum/Funding Agreement in place between the College and the Skills Funding Agency/Education Funding Agency. As part of its consideration the Governing Body has had due regard to the requirements of the Financial Memorandum/Funding Agreement.

We confirm, on behalf of the Governing Body, that to the best of its knowledge, the Governing Body believes it is able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the College, or material non-compliance with the Skills Funding Agency/Education Funding Agency's terms and conditions of funding under the College's Financial Memorandum.

We further confirm that there have been no instances of material irregularity, impropriety or funding non-compliance discovered to date that needed to be notified to the Skills Funding Agency/Education Funding Agency. If any instances are identified after the date of this statement, these will be notified to the Skills Funding Agency/Education Funding Agency.

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BODY

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

Within the terms and conditions of the Financial Memorandum/Funding Agreement agreed between the Skills Funding Agency/ EFA and the Governing Body of the College, the Governing Body, through its Principal, is required to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting for Further and Higher Education Institutions and with the Accounts Direction for 2014-15 financial statements issued jointly by the Skills Funding Agency and the EFA, and which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the College and the result for that year.

In preparing the financial statements, the Governing Body is required to:

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

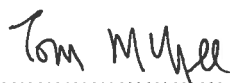
The Governing Body is also required to prepare an Operating and Financial Review which describes what it is trying to do and how it is going about it, including the legal and administrative status of the College.

The Governing Body is responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy, at any time, the financial position of the College and to enable it to ensure that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with the relevant legislation of the Governing Body and other relevant accounting standards. It is responsible for taking steps that are reasonably open to it to safeguard assets of the College and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

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

Members of the Governing Body are responsible for ensuring that expenditure and income are applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and that the financial transactions conform to the authorities that govern them. In addition they are responsible for ensuring that funds from the Skills Funding Agency and the EFA are used only in accordance with the Financial Memorandum/Funding Agreement with the Skills Funding Agency/EFA and any other conditions that may from time to time be prescribed. Members of the Governing Body must ensure that there are appropriate financial and management controls in place to safeguard public and other funds and ensure they are used properly. In addition, members of the Governing Body are responsible for securing economical, efficient and effective management of the College's resources and expenditure, so that the benefits that should be derived from the application of public funds from the EFA and the Skills Funding Agency are not put at risk.

Signed on behalf of the Governing Body



Chair: T P McGee

Date: 27/11/15

Independent auditor's report to the Board of Governors of Aquinas College

We have audited the financial statements of Aquinas College for the year ended 31 July 2015 which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Statement of Historical Cost Surpluses and Deficits, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

This report is made solely to the Governors as a body, in accordance with Article 22 of the College's Articles of Government. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Governors those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the College and the Governors, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities of the Member of the Governing Body set out on page 16, the Governors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's (APB's) Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

A description of the scope of an audit of financial statements is provided on the Financial Reporting Council's web-site at www.frc.org.uk/auditscopeukprivate.

Opinion on the financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the College's affairs as at 31 July 2015 and of the College's surplus of income over 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 2007 Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting for Further and Higher Education Institutions.

Independent auditor's report to the Governing Body of Aquinas College (Cont)

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

Mazars LLP

Mazars LLP

Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors
14th Floor,
The Plaza,
100 Old Hall Street,
Liverpool,
L3 9QJ

Date 11/12/2015

To: The Governing Body of Aquinas College and Secretary of State for Education acting through Education Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter and further to the requirements of the funding agreement with Education Funding Agency we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether anything has come to our attention that would suggest that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received by Aquinas College during the period 1 August 2014 to 31 July 2015 have not been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

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

Respective responsibilities of Aquinas College and the reporting accountant

The Governing Body of Aquinas College is responsible, under the requirements of the Further & Higher Education Act 1992, subsequent legislation and related regulations and guidance, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Joint Audit Code of Practice. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 August 2014 to 31 July 2015 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Joint Audit Code of Practice issued jointly by Skills Funding Agency and Education Funding Agency. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in that framework.

The objective of a limited assurance engagement is to perform such procedures as to obtain information and explanations in order to provide us with sufficient appropriate evidence to express a negative conclusion on regularity.

A limited assurance engagement is more limited in scope than a reasonable assurance engagement and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in a reasonable assurance engagement. Accordingly, we do not express a positive opinion.

Our engagement includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the regularity of the College's income and expenditure.

The work undertaken to draw our conclusion includes:

- Reviewing the statement on the College's regularity, propriety and compliance with Funding body terms and conditions of funding.
- Reviewing the College's completed self-assessment questionnaire on regularity.
- Reviewing the funding agreement with the EFA.

**To: The Governing Body of Aquinas College and Secretary of State for Education
acting through Education Funding Agency**

- Testing of a sample of expenditure disbursed and income received to consider whether they had been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and in accordance with funding agreements where relevant.
- Obtaining the policy for personal gifts and/or hospitality.
- Obtaining the register of personal interests.
- Obtaining the financial regulations/financial procedures.
- Obtaining the College's whistleblowing policy.

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 August 2014 to 31 July 2015 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Mazars LLP

Mazars LLP
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors
14th Floor,
The Plaza,
100 Old Hall Street,
Liverpool,
L3 9QJ

Date 11/12/2015

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
for the year ended 31 July 2015

	Note	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Income			
Funding body grants	2	9,589	9,584
Tuition fees and education contracts	3	115	111
Other income	4	974	932
Investment income	5	51	69
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total income		10,729	10,696
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Expenditure			
Staff costs	6	7,090	6,885
Other operating expenses	8	2,192	2,025
Depreciation	11	844	1,221
Interest payable	9	124	131
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total expenditure		10,250	10,262
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus on continuing operations after depreciation of tangible fixed assets at valuation and before tax		479	434
Taxation	10	-	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus on continuing operations after depreciation of assets at valuation and tax	16	479	434
		<hr/>	<hr/>

The income and expenditure account is in respect of continuing activities.

There have been no other recognised gains or losses other than the results for the year set out above.

AQUINAS COLLEGE
Report and Financial Statements – Year ended 31 July 2015

**Note of Historical Cost Surpluses and Deficits
for the year ended 31 July 2015**

	Note	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Surplus on continuing operations before taxation		479	434
Difference between historical cost depreciation and the actual charge for the period calculated on the revalued amount	16	-	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Historical cost surplus for the period before taxation		479	434
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Historical cost surplus for the period after taxation		479	434
		<hr/>	<hr/>

AQUINAS COLLEGE
Report and Financial Statements – Year ended 31 July 2015

BALANCE SHEET
as at 31 July 2015

	Note	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	38,108	38,751
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Current assets			
Debtors	12	57	97
Cash at bank and in hand		4,818	4,452
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		4,875	4,549
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(1,036)	(928)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net current assets		3,839	3,621
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total assets less current liabilities		41,947	42,372
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	14	(3,601)	(3,770)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
NET ASSETS		38,346	38,602
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Deferred capital grants	15	33,795	34,530
Reserves			
Revaluation reserve	16	838	838
General reserve	16	3,713	3,234
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total reserves		4,551	4,072
		<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL		38,346	38,602
		<hr/>	<hr/>

The financial statements on pages 21 to 41 were approved by the governing body on 27/11/15 and were signed on its behalf by:-

T P McGee
Chairperson

Tom McGee

D Pearson
Principal

D Pearson

CASH FLOW STATEMENT
for the year ended 31 July 2015

	Note	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Cash flow from operating activities	19	808	509
Returns on investments and servicing of finance	21	(73)	(62)
Capital expenditure and financial investment	22	(204)	(51)
Financing	23	(165)	(162)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Increase in cash in the period	20	366	234
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net debt			
Increase in cash in the period		366	234
Change in net debt resulting from cash flows		165	162
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Movement in net funds in period		531	396
Net funds at 1 August 2014	20	516	120
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net funds at 31 July 2015	20	1,047	516
		<hr/>	<hr/>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Statement of Accounting Policies

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

Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting for Further and Higher Education 2007* (the SORP), the *Accounts Direction for 2014-15 financial statements* and in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards.

Basis of accounting

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of certain fixed assets and in accordance with applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

Going Concern

The activities of the College, together with the factors likely to affect its future development and performance are set out in the Operating and Financial Review. The financial position of the College, its cashflow, liquidity and borrowings are described in the Financial Statements and accompanying Notes. The College currently has £3.771m of loans outstanding with bankers on terms negotiated in 2008. The terms of the existing agreement are for up to another 21 years. Around £1.73m of these loans may be repaid without penalty before the end of the term. The College's forecasts and financial projections indicate that it will be able to operate within this existing facility and covenants for the foreseeable future. Accordingly the College has a reasonable expectation that it has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, and for this reason will continue to adopt the going concern basis in the preparation of its Financial Statements.

Recognition of income

The recurrent grant from the EFA and SFA is that receivable as informed by the results of the funding audit undertaken.

Funding bodies recurrent grants are recognised in line with best estimates for the period of what is receivable and depends on the particular income stream involved. Any under or over achievement for the adult learner responsive funding element is adjusted for and reflected in the level of recurrent grant recognised in the income and expenditure account. The final grant income is normally determined with the conclusion of the year end reconciliation process with the funding body following the year end. 16-18 learner-responsive funding is not normally subject to reconciliation and is therefore not subject to contract adjustments.

Income from research grants, contracts and other services rendered is included to the extent of the conditions of the funding have been met or the extent of the completion of the contract or service concerned. All income from short-term deposits is credited to the income and expenditure account in the period in which it is earned. Income from restricted purpose endowment funds not expended in accordance with the restrictions of the endowment in the period is transferred from the income and expenditure account to accumulated income within endowment funds.

The recurrent grants from the EFA/SFA represent the funding allocations attributable to the current financial year and are credited direct to the income and expenditure account. Recurrent grants are recognised in line with planned activity.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS / Continued ...

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES / Continued ...

Non-recurrent grants from the funding bodies received in respect of the acquisition of fixed assets are treated as deferred capital grants and amortised in line with depreciation over the life of the assets.

Income from tuition fees is recognised in the period for which it is received and includes all fees payable by students or their sponsors.

All income from short term deposits is credited to the income and expenditure account in the period in which it is earned.

Post retirement benefits

Retirement benefits to employees of the College are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). These are defined benefit schemes, which are externally funded and contracted out of the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme (SERPS).

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

The contributions are determined by qualified actuaries on the basis of quinquennial valuations using a prospective benefit method. As stated in Note 25, the TPS is a multi employer scheme and the College is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme and the contribution recognised as they are paid each year.

The assets of the LGPS are measured using closing market values. LGPS liabilities are measured using the projected unit method and discounted at the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liability. The College is part of a pooled GMPF and as such is unable to identify its share of underlying assets and liabilities and as such does not have an FRS17 note.

Tangible fixed assets

a. Land and buildings

The College's buildings are specialised buildings and therefore it is not appropriate to value them on the basis of open market value. Land and buildings are included in the balance sheet at cost. Leasehold land is not depreciated due to terms of the lease. Freehold buildings are depreciated over their expected useful economic life of between 20 and 60 years.

The transitional rules set out in FRS 15 Tangible Fixed Assets have been applied on implementing FRS 15. Accordingly the net book values at implementation have been retained.

All land and other College buildings belong to the Shrewsbury Diocesan Trustees and they remain the property of the Shrewsbury Diocese. The College has adopted FRS 5 and has included these assets at their valuation as at 1 April 2001.

If the land and buildings belonging to the Diocese had not been valued they would have been included within the College's accounts at £Nil cost. Expenditure on these buildings of a capital nature is capitalised by the College and included in the accounts at cost subject to depreciation being charged in accordance with the College's accounting policy.

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS /Continued ...

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES /Continued ...

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

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

Subsequent expenditure on existing fixed assets

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

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

b. Equipment

Equipment costing less than £1,000 per individual item is written off to the income and expenditure account in the period of acquisition. All other equipment is capitalised at cost. All assets are depreciated over their useful economic life as follows:

Fixtures and fittings	5 – 10% straight line
Motor vehicles and general equipment	15 – 20% straight line
Computer equipment	25% straight line

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

Leased assets

Costs in respect of operating leases are charged on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Leasing agreements which transfer to the College substantially all the benefits and risks of ownership of an asset are treated as if the asset had been purchased outright and are capitalised at their fair value at the inception of the lease and depreciated over the shorter of the lease term or the useful economic lives of equivalently owned assets. The capital element outstanding is shown as obligations under finance leases.

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS /Continued...

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES /Continued ...

Maintenance of premises

The cost of long term and routine corrective maintenance is charged to the income and expenditure account in the period it is incurred.

Provisions

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

Agency arrangements

The College acts as an agent in the collection and payment of discretionary support funds, the Bursary and free College meals. Related payments received from the EFA/Local Authorities and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the Income and Expenditure account and are shown separately in Note 26, except for the 5 per cent of the grant received which is available to the College to cover administration costs relating to the grant.

Taxation

The College is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK Governing Body tax purposes. Accordingly, the College is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 Governing Body Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

The College is partially exempt in respect of Value Added Tax, so that it can only recover a minor element of VAT charged on its inputs. Irrecoverable VAT on inputs is included in the costs of such inputs and added to the cost of tangible fixed assets as appropriate, where the inputs themselves are tangible fixed assets by nature. The College's subsidiary companies, if such existed, would be subject to Governing Body tax and VAT in the same way as any commercial organisation.

Liquid resources

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS /Continued...

2. FUNDING COUNCIL INCOME

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Recurrent grant - EFA/SFA	8,806	8,397
Releases of deferred capital grants (Note 15)	735	1,137
Devolved capital grant	48	50
	<u>9,589</u>	<u>9,584</u>

3. TUITION FEES AND EDUCATION CONTRACTS

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Tuition fees	<u>115</u>	<u>111</u>

Tuition fees funded by bursaries

Included within the above amounts are tuition fees funded by bursaries of £nil (2013/14: £nil).

4. OTHER INCOME

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Element 3 High needs income from Local Authorities	188	183
Catering and residence operations	370	340
Other income generating activities	416	409
	<u>974</u>	<u>932</u>

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Other interest receivable	<u>51</u>	<u>69</u>

6. STAFF COSTS

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

	2015 Number	2014 Number
Teaching staff	113	114
Non teaching staff	69	67
	<u>182</u>	<u>181</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS /Continued...

6. STAFF COSTS /Continued...

Staff costs for the above persons:

	2015	2014
	£'000	£'000
Wages and salaries	5,887	5,712
Social security costs	437	432
Other pension costs (including FRS 17 adjustments of £Nil)	766	741
	<u>7,090</u>	<u>6,885</u>

Total staff costs, split by type of contract, were:

Employment costs for staff on permanent contracts	6,563	6,345
Employment costs for staff on temporary contracts	527	540
	<u>7,090</u>	<u>6,885</u>

The number of senior post-holders and other staff who received annual emoluments, excluding pension contributions but including benefits in kind, in the following ranges was:

	Year ended 31 July 2015		Year ended 31 July 2014	
	Number senior post-holders	Number other staff	Number senior post-holders	Number other staff
£60,001 - £70,000	-	-	-	-
£70,001 - £80,000	-	-	-	-
£80,001 - £90,000	1	-	1	-
£90,001-£100,000	-	-	1	-
£100,001-£110,000	1	-	-	-
£110,001-£120,000	-	-	-	-
	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>

There was a 1% pay award in 2014/15. The Principal received an additional pay award to recognise performance and the omission of a pay award over the last few years (see below). This was supported by the Governing Body.

7. SENIOR POST-HOLDERS' EMOLUMENTS

Senior post-holders are the Principal and holders of the other senior posts whom the Board have selected for the purposes of the articles of government of the institution relating to the appointment and promotion of staff who are appointed by the Board of Governors.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS /Continued...

SENIOR POST-HOLDERS' EMOLUMENTS /Continued...

	2015 Number	2014 Number
The number of senior post-holders including the principal was:	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
Senior post-holders emoluments are made up as follows:	£	£
Salaries	186,191	180,388
Pension contributions	<u>26,253</u>	<u>25,434</u>
Total emoluments	<u>212,444</u>	<u>205,822</u>
The above emoluments include amounts payable to the Principal (who is also the highest paid senior post-holder) of:-		
	2015 £	2014 £
Salary	105,000	100,000
Pension contributions	<u>14,805</u>	<u>14,100</u>
Total emoluments	<u>119,805</u>	<u>114,100</u>

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

The members of the Governing Body other than the Principal and elected staff governors did not receive any payment from the College other than the reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses incurred in the course of their duties.

Senior post-holders, the Principal and Vice Principal, have always been paid on the school leadership scale, in line with decisions taken by the Remuneration Committee. There have been no movements in these payments since May 2011. The remuneration committee has awarded the Principal an award to bring his salary into line with pay awards to date with effect from September 2014. The Vice Principal has received a 1% pay award from September 2014.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS /Continued...

8. OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES

	2015	2014
	£'000	£'000
Teaching costs	1,007	916
Non teaching costs	562	541
Premises costs	623	568
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,192	2,025
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Other operating expenses include:

	2015	2014
	£'000	£'000
Operating lease rentals		
Plant and machinery	21	16
Auditors' remuneration		
Financial statement audit	12	10
Internal audit	10	10
Disposal of fixed assets	(3)	(1)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

9. INTEREST PAYABLE

	2015	2014
	£'000	£'000
Bank interest payable	124	131
	<hr/>	<hr/>

10. TAXATION

The College is not liable for any tax arising out of its activities during this period.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS /Continued...

11. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Buildings £'000	Long Leasehold Land £'000	Fixtures and Fittings £'000	Equipment £'000	Total £'000
Cost					
At 1 August 2014	40,178	1,078	94	2,865	44,215
Additions	-	-	10	194	204
Disposals	-	-	-	(206)	(206)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 July 2015	40,178	1,078	104	2,853	44,213
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Depreciation					
At 1 August 2014	2,863	-	60	2,541	5,464
Charge for year	671	-	7	166	844
Disposals	-	-	-	(203)	(203)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 July 2015	3,534	-	67	2,504	(6,105)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net book value					
At 31 July 2014	37,315	1,078	34	324	38,751
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net book value					
At 31 July 2015	36,644	1,078	37	349	38,108
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Analysed as follows:					
Financed by:					
Capital grant	33,729	240	-	84	34,053
Other	2,915	838	37	265	4,055
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	36,644	1,078	37	349	38,108
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The transitional rules set out in FRS 15 Tangible Fixed Assets have been applied on implementing FRS 15. Accordingly, the book values at implementation have been retained.

Fixed assets include land and buildings with a net book value of £33,969,305 which are partially funded by the LSC and its successor organisations.

All land and other College buildings belong to the Shrewsbury Diocesan Trustees and they remain the property of the Shrewsbury Diocese. No rent is paid by the College for the use of these facilities.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS /Continued ...

11. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS /Continued...

If the land and buildings belonging to the Diocese had not been valued they would have been included within the College's accounts at £Nil cost. The historical cost of the refurbishments and improvements to land and buildings included within the accounts are as follows:

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Cost	40,418	40,418
Aggregate depreciation based on cost	(3,534)	(2,863)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	36,884	37,555
	<hr/>	<hr/>

12. DEBTORS

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	6	43
Prepayments and accrued income	51	54
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	57	97
	<hr/>	<hr/>

13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Debt due within one year		
Bank loan	170	166
Trade creditors	96	64
Other taxation and social security	128	127
Other creditors	144	113
Accruals and deferred income	498	458
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,036	928
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Other creditors includes amounts due to students in the form of deposits paid for books and the balance on bursary and access funds. The corresponding asset is included in cash and bank.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS /Continued...

14. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	2015	2014
	£'000	£'000
Bank loan	3,601	3,770
The bank loan is repayable as follows:-	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
In one year or less	170	166
Between one and two years	174	169
Between two and five years	547	533
In five years or more	2,880	3,068
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	3,771	3,936
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The bank loan crystallised in March 2011 and the full facility was drawn down. There is a fixed interest element of £2.0m which is repayable at 5.285% for 22 years. The balance of £1.73m is repayable at base plus 0.35%. The full loan was drawn down as otherwise the facility would have lapsed. The £1.73m is placed on short term deposit to generate interest to cover the costs of borrowings.

15. DEFERRED CAPITAL GRANTS

	EFA/SFA Grant
	£'000
At 1 August 2014	
- Land and buildings	34,326
- Equipment	204
Cash received	
- Land and buildings	-
- Equipment	-
Released to income and expenditure account	
- Land and buildings	(614)
- Equipment	(121)
	<u> </u>
At 31 July 2015	
- Land and buildings	33,712
- Equipment	83
	<u> </u>
	33,795
	<u> </u>

Additional details are provided in Note 11.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS /Continued ...

16. RESERVES

	Revaluation reserve	Income and expenditure account
	£'000	£'000
Original balance brought forward at 1 August 2014	838	3,234
Surplus on continuing operations	-	479
	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 July 2015	838	3,713
	<hr/>	<hr/>

17. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

There are no capital commitments at July 2015 which have been contracted for but not expensed at the year end.

18. FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

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

	Equipment 2015 £'000	Equipment 2014 £'000
Leases expiring:		
Within one year	1	4
Between two and five years	14	12
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	15	16
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The total aggregate commitments held under non-cancellable operating leases, at 31 July 2015 and relating to equipment is £44,364 (2014: £20,732). This is based upon the assumption that the leases will all run to their expiration date and therefore does not account for any break clauses that may be in place.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS /Continued ...

19. RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING SURPLUS TO NET CASH INFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Surplus on continuing operations after depreciation of assets at valuation and tax	479	434
Depreciation	844	1,221
Deficit on disposals of fixed assets	3	1
Deferred capital grants released to income (Note 15)	(735)	(1,137)
Interest payable (Note 9)	124	131
Decrease/ (increase) in debtors	40	(52)
Increase/ (decrease) in creditors	104	(20)
Interest receivable (Note 5)	(51)	(69)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash inflow from operating activities	808	509
	<hr/>	<hr/>

20. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1 August 2014 £'000	Cashflow £'000	At 31 July 2015 £'000
Cash at bank and in hand	4,452	366	4,818
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Debt due within one year	(166)	(4)	(170)
Debt due after one year	(3,770)	169	(3,601)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	(3,936)	165	(3,771)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	516	531	1,047
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

21. RETURNS ON INVESTMENT AND SERVICING OF FINANCE

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Interest received	51	69
Interest paid	(124)	(131)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash outflow from returns on investments and servicing of finance	(73)	(62)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS /Continued ...

22. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL INVESTMENT

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(204)	(156)
Deferred capital grants received	-	105
Net cash outflow from capital expenditure and financial investment	(204)	(51)

23. FINANCING

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Repayment of loans (New unsecured loans)	(165)	(162)
Net cash (outflow) from financing	(165)	(162)

24. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Owing to the nature of the College's operations and the composition of the Board of Governors being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a number of the Board of Governors may have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the College's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures, unless noted separately below.

The land and buildings of the College belong to the Trustees of the College, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Shrewsbury. The trustees also have representation on the Board of Governors. The College does not pay any rent or charge for the use of the land or buildings.

The total expenses paid to or on behalf of the Governors during the year was £nil (2014: £nil). This represents travel and subsistence expenses and other out of pocket expenses incurred in attending Governor meetings and charity events in their official capacity.

No Governor has received any remuneration or waived payments from the College during the year (2014: None).

25. PENSIONS AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS

The College's employees belong to two principal pension schemes, the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) and the Greater Manchester Pension Fund. The total pension cost paid for the period was £766k (2014: £740k).

Total pension cost for the year

	2014/15 £'000	2013/14 £'000
Teacher Pension Scheme: contributions paid	575	567
Local Government Pension Scheme: contributions paid	191	173
Total Pension Cost Paid for the Year	766	740

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest formal actuarial valuation of the TPS was 31 March 2012 and of the LGPS 31 March 2013.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS /Continued ...

25. PENSIONS AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS /Continued...

Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pensions Regulations 2010, and, from 1 April 2014, by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. These regulations apply to teachers in schools and other educational establishments, including academies, in England and Wales that are maintained by local authorities. In addition, teachers in many independent and voluntary-aided schools and teachers and lecturers in some establishments of further and higher education may be eligible for membership. Membership is automatic for full-time teachers and lecturers and, from 1 January 2007, automatic too for teachers and lecturers in part-time employment following appointment or a change of contract. Teachers and lecturers are able to opt out of the TPS.

The Teachers' Pension Budgeting And Valuation Account

Although members may be employed by various bodies, their retirement and other pension benefits are set out in regulations made under the Superannuation Act 1972 and are paid by public funds provided by Parliament. The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a 'pay as you go' basis – these contributions, along with those made by employers, are credited to the Exchequer under arrangements governed by the above Act.

The Teachers' Pensions Regulations 2010 require an annual account, the Teachers' Pension Budgeting and Valuation Account, to be kept of receipts and expenditure (including the cost of pension increases). From 1 April 2001, the Account has been credited with a real rate of return, which is equivalent to assuming that the balance in the Account is invested in notional investments that produce that real rate of return.

Valuation Of The Teachers' Pension Scheme

The latest actuarial review of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2012 and in accordance with The Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education (the Department) on 9 June 2014. The key results of the valuation and the subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates were set at 16.48% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% levy for administration);
- total scheme liabilities for service to the effective date of £191.5 billion, and notional assets of £176.6 billion, giving a notional past service deficit of £14.9 billion;
- an employer cost cap of 10.9% of pensionable pay will be applied to future valuations

The new employer contribution rate for the TPS will be implemented in September 2015.

A full copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation can be found on the Teachers' Pension Scheme website at the following location:

<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2014/06/publication-of-the-valuation-report.aspx>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS /Continued ...

25. PENSIONS AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS /Continued ...

Scheme Changes

Following the Hutton report in March 2011 and the subsequent consultations with trade unions and other representative bodies on reform of the TPS, the Department published a Proposed Final Agreement, setting out the design for a reformed TPS to be implemented from 1 April 2015.

The key provisions of the reformed scheme include: a pension based on career average earnings; an accrual rate of 1/57th; and a Normal Pension Age equal to State Pension Age, but with options to enable members to retire earlier or later than their Normal Pension Age. Importantly, pension benefits built up before 1 April 2015 will be fully protected.

In addition, the Proposed Final Agreement includes a Government commitment that those within 10 years of Normal Pension Age on 1 April 2012 will see no change to the age at which they can retire, and no decrease in the amount of pension they receive when they retire. There will also be further transitional protection, tapered over a three and a half year period, for people who would fall up to three and a half years outside of the 10 year protection.

Regulations giving effect to a reformed Teachers' Pension Scheme came into force on 1 April 2014 and the reformed scheme will commence on 1 April 2015.

The pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £575k (2014: £567k).

FRS 17

Under the definitions set out in Financial Reporting Standard (FRS 17) Retirement Benefits, the TPS is a multi-employer pension scheme. The College is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme.

Accordingly, the College has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS17 and has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined-contribution scheme. The College has set out above the information available on the scheme and the implications for the College in terms of the anticipated contribution rates.

Greater Manchester Pension Fund

The scheme available to non-teaching staff is the Greater Manchester Pension Fund (GMPF). The GMPF is a final salary defined benefit scheme. The assets of the scheme for Aquinas 6th Form College are pooled with similar institutions for actuarial valuation purposes. The total pension contribution made by the College to the Scheme for the year ended 31 July 2015 was £274k of which employer's contributions totalled £191k and employee's contributions totalled £83k. The agreed employee contribution rates for future years (effective from April 2014) are a tiered system of rates related to levels of pensionable pay – these currently range from 5.5% to 12.5%. The agreed employer contribution rates are April 2014 to Mar 2015 – 15.6% and April 2015 to Mar 2016 – 16.3%.

The pension cost is assessed every three years in accordance with the advice of an independent qualified actuary. The latest actuarial valuation of the scheme was at 31 March 2013 updated to 31 March 2015 by a qualified independent actuary. The next valuation will be with effect from 31 March 2016 with employer contribution rates effective from April 2017. The assumptions and other data that had the most significant effect on the determination of the contribution levels at the March 2013 valuation were as below:

The GMPF is again being reviewed to ensure its long term viability. The final outcome of this review is still not known, but when finalised will be included in the next actuarial valuation.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS /Continued ...

25. PENSIONS AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS /Continued ...

Greater Manchester Pension Fund /continued...

Actuarial method
Projected Unit Method

Rate of return on current investments	4.8%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.55%
Rate of increase in pensions	2.5%
Market value of the assets at the date of the last valuation	£12,590m.
Proportion of members' accrued benefits covered by the actuarial valuation	90.5%

FRS 17

Aquinas College is a member of the Sixth Form College Group of the Greater Manchester Pension Fund. Under these arrangements all the Colleges within this group are treated as a single entity for accounting purposes. As such the College is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme. Accordingly, the College has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 17 and has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme.

26. AMOUNTS DISBURSED AS AGENT

Learner support funds

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Balance brought forward at 1 August 2014	21	17
Funding Council Grants	225	191
Clawback by EFA/Local Authorities	(5)	-
	<hr/> 241	<hr/> 208
 Disbursed to students	 (193)	 (182)
Equipment purchased	-	(5)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance unspent at 31 July 2015	48	21
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Funding Council grants are available solely for students; the College acts only as a paying agent. The grants and related disbursements are therefore excluded from the Income and Expenditure Account.