



Hereford College of Arts

**Annual Report and Financial
Statements**

Year ended 31 July 2024

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Reference and Administrative Details

Senior Leadership Team (also key management personnel)

Abigail Appleton Principal and Chief Executive Officer; Accounting Officer

Tim Williams Finance Director

Justin Gregory Vice Principal of Higher Education

Xaviere Hughes Vice Principal of Further Education

David Hawkins Vice Principal of Student Experience and Business Development

Board of Governors

A full list of Governors is given on page 17 & 18 of these financial statements.

Linda Watkins acted as Clerk to the Corporation until 31st August 2023. Rebecca Semple has appointed as Clerk to the Corporation from 20th November 2023 until 31st August 2024. Abigail Boyce was appointed on 9th October 2024.

Principal and Registered Office

Hereford College of Arts, Folly Lane, Hereford HR1 1LT

Professional Advisers

Financial Statement auditors and reporting accountants:

Forvis Mazars LLP, 90 Victoria Street, Bristol, BS1 6DP

Internal Auditors:

TIAA Ltd, Artillery House, Fort Fareham, Newgate Lane, Fareham, Hampshire PO14 1AH

Bankers:

HSBC Bank, 35 High Town, Hereford, HR1 2AQ

Solicitors:

Harrison Clark Rickerbys (inc Gordon Lutton), Thorpe House, 29 Broad Street, Hereford HR4 9AR

Strategic Report

Objectives and Strategy

The Governing Body present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report for Hereford College of Arts (HCA) for the year ended 31 July 2024.

Legal Status

The Corporation was established under the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 for the purpose of conducting Hereford College of Arts. The College is an exempt charity for the purposes of Part 3 of the Charities Act 2011.

Mission

"To empower creativity and enrich our world."

Public Benefit

Hereford College of Arts is an exempt charity under Part 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is regulated by the Secretary of State for Education. The members of the Governing Body, who are trustees of the charity, are disclosed on pages 17 and 18.

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 and learning
- Widening participation and tackling social exclusion
- Strong progression to further study and employment
- Strong student support systems
- Links with employers, industry and commerce
- Links with Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)
- Links with Employer Representative Bodies and their Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP)
- Benefits to the residents of Hereford and the wider county through HCA supporting the promotion of public arts events
- Benefit to Hereford and the wider county through the support HCA can provide for community arts groups

The delivery of public benefit is covered throughout the Strategic Report.

Strategic Report

Implementation of Strategy

The College's strategy was reviewed and updated during 2023/24. The new strategy was approved by the Corporation on the 13th May 2024.

The College's Vision, Identity and Values are:

Vision

We will grow in importance and reputation as a specialist centre for practice-based, reflective and future-facing creative education.

More students will be attracted to study at HCA for our uniquely designed courses, modern arts school culture, personalised learning experience, impactful partnerships and exceptional location.

As creative pioneers and partners in world-class festivals and creative events within our region and beyond we will support our region's development and enable students and alumni to gain exceptional professional insight and opportunities.

We will bring together skills, ideas and imagination, tradition and ground breaking craft, physical and digital innovation with experience of business, industry and community enterprise, to support students from all backgrounds to grow as highly innovative and dynamic creatives who thrive in sustainable careers in the creative industries and many others.

Identity

Our institutional identity is student-focussed, committed to continuous improvement of outstanding quality, caring, passionate, and ambitious.

Our approach to education

- We believe that developing creative skills, and the ability to collaborate with others, gives people the power to design the life they want to lead and make a positive difference in the world
- We are committed to listening and individual student voices help shape the student experience
- We believe in the value of curiosity, openness to different perspectives and of seeking insight and learning across subject and other boundaries
- We believe we all have a responsibility to consider the environmental impact of our actions
- We believe in the importance of play alongside hard work and determination; we look for joy in the world and seek to create it, and whilst we face and engage with the great challenges of our times, we are optimists.

Strategic Report

Values

We promote the national values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, tolerance of, and welcome to, those of different faiths and beliefs. We also nurture five HCA values which continue to underpin delivery of this new strategy.

- **Collaboration:** we believe creative collaboration gives people the power to change the world
- **Curiosity:** we urge people to question, seek the wider context, think critically and use arts and creativity to engage with society
- **Bravery:** we support individuals to develop the determination and the confidence to be ambitious for themselves and others, to tackle important issues and take bold creative risks
- **Inventiveness:** we encourage an appetite to take on problems and a resourceful, creative approach to solving them
- **Individuality:** we respect the individual needs and interests of all members of our creative community, and provide a safe space for unique, creative voices to develop and thrive.

FIVE CORE THEMES FOR 2024-2029

Our strategy outlines HCA's development across five key themes over the next 5 years:

Theme 1: Agile curriculum and portfolio development to meet the changing needs of students and society

Theme 2: External connection, collaboration and co-design of more strategic and impactful partnerships

Theme 3: People: Nurturing a dynamic creative community of knowledge and practice, that is rooted in place and connected to world to support student success

Theme 4: Financial and environmental sustainability

Theme 5: Impactful communication: telling stronger stories about ourselves, our partners and our region

The Governing Body will monitor the performance of the College against the plan and against other key performance indicators including the College's Financial Plan.

Financial objectives

The financial objective is to maintain a Financial Health category of Good or better. The Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), the College's regulatory body, will assess the financial health category by means of an assessment of the College's financial statements and the submission of an annual Finance Record. It is anticipated that the assessment will confirm that the College has a Requires improvement financial health score for 2023/24 (2022/23: Good). The expectation is that the Financial Health score will be Requires Improvement in 2024/25. This is part of a planned strategy for improving the Colleges sustainability in the long-term and is not unexpected. This strategy has been communicated with the ESFA.

Strategic Report

Financial Position

Financial Results

The Corporation has generated a surplus before other gains and losses in the year of £34,000 (2022/23 – deficit of £159,000), with total comprehensive income deficit of £66,000 (2022/23 – surplus of £1,832,000).

The Corporation has accumulated reserves of £3,596,000 (2022/23 - £3,645,000) and cash balances of £3,504,000 (2022/23: £3,506,000).

Tangible fixed asset additions during the year amounted to £1,129,000 (2022/23: £294,000).

The Corporation has significant reliance on the education sector funding bodies (ESFA and Office for Students) for its principal funding sources mainly but not exclusively from recurrent grants. The Corporation received £3.3million or 49% of its total income directly from these agencies in the form of a recurrent grant (2022/23: £3.1m or 48%).

Treasury Management

Treasury Management is the management of the Corporation's cash flows, banking and money market transactions; the effective control of risks associated with these activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with the associated risks.

The Corporation has a separate Treasury Management policy in place. Since the college sector became part of the public sector all borrowing including short term borrowing has to be authorised by the DfE.

Cash Flows

The Corporation had a cash inflow of £1,127,000 from operating activities (2022/23 inflow of £1,056,000).

Reserves Policy

The College has no formal Reserves Policy but recognises the importance of reserves in the financial stability of any organisation, and ensures that there are adequate reserves to support the College's core activities. The College can operate at a deficit, drawing on unrestricted funds, on condition that it is a temporary measure and that a credible plan is in place to recover the financial position of the College.

At the balance sheet date, the Income and Expenditure reserve has a balance of £3,596,000 (2022/23: £3,645,000). The Governing Body expectation is that £1million of cash reserves should be retained for regular cashflow and emergencies. Reserves will be increased through the generation of annual operating surpluses.

Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Corporation considers that the College has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future (at least 12 months from the

Strategic Report

signing of the annual accounts). For this reason, the Corporation continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Though cash reserves are expected to decrease over the year, they are decreasing steadily and will not be lower than the £1m minimum level the Board has set. Both HE and FE enrolments are close to budget and this would mean that cash balances should not significantly deteriorate over that period.

Current and Future Development and Performance

2023/24 saw a small decrease in both further and higher education enrolments. Higher education numbers were slightly higher than budget.

Student numbers

The College enrolled 486 ESFA funded students as well as 21 students who were funded by Advanced Learning Loans.

Higher Education students are partly funded by the Office for Students (OfS) and partly by student tuition fee loans. In 2023/24 the College enrolled 299 full-time and 26 part time undergraduate HE students. 19 postgraduate MA students were also enrolled.

The College run a series of full cost recovery courses, including evening courses and short courses.

Student achievements

Achievement levels were consistently high on the main FE programmes, with healthy rates of progression into higher education and employment.

Overall achievement rates for FE courses in 2023/24 were 91% (2022/23: 93%). This level of achievement exceeds corresponding national averages. Main programmes with achievement rates of 95% or over included L3 Diploma in Creative Media Production and Technology(95%), Level 2 Diploma in Performing and Production Arts (100%), Level 3 Diploma in Performing and Production Arts (100%), L2 Diploma in Music Performance and Production (100%), L3 Diploma in Music Performance and Production (96%), Level 3 Diploma in Creative Practice: Art, Design and Communication Level 3 Extended Diploma in Creative Practice: Art, Design and Communication(98%) and Level 3 Extended Diploma in Performing and Production Arts (96%).

The College had a full inspection from Ofsted in October 2023. The overall conclusion of this inspection was that the College is Outstanding across all areas. A copy of the inspection report can be found at this link: [Hereford College of Arts - Open - Find an Inspection Report - Ofsted](#)

The College's self-assessment grade for 2023/24 is Outstanding.

In Higher Education final year BA(Hons) students were awarded 19 Firsts, 33 Upper Seconds, 24 Lower Seconds and 3 Thirds (2022/23: 31 Firsts, 38 Upper Seconds, 17 Lower Seconds and 3 Thirds). Nationally and within the context of the Herefordshire Post 16 sector, the Corporation has a well-established reputation for academic excellence and extracurricular activities. Methods of teaching and learning are subject to continuous review and development in order to ensure that the curriculum meets the needs of the local students.

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Curriculum Developments

At higher education level the Corporation has introduced started two new BA(Hons) degrees from September 2024: Games Design and Digital Content Production.

Future prospects

The Corporation aims as part of its strategic plan to increase its Higher Education student numbers, partly by increasing the student numbers on each higher education course but also by increasing the number of higher education courses being delivered. This will require continued investment in the higher education facilities, increased marketing and recruitment activity and provision of additional student accommodation in order to attract and retain new students to Hereford, for which the Board has approved an appropriate strategy.

Post-balance sheet events

There are no post-balance sheet events.

Resources

The Corporation has various resources that it can deploy in pursuit of its strategic objectives. Tangible resources include the main college site at Folly Lane, Hereford. The Corporation also leases its College Road campus in Hereford that is the home of the College's higher education provision.

Financial

The Corporation has £4.6million total reserve and no long-term debt.

People

The Corporation employs 112 people (expressed as full time equivalents), of whom 64 were teaching staff.

Reputation

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

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The system of internal control maintained by the Corporation includes financial, operational and risk management which is designed to protect the College's assets and reputation.

The College's Risk Management policy and associated procedures support a risk register maintained at College level, which is reviewed at each meeting of the Audit Committee and the full Board, and on a regular basis by the Senior Leadership Team. The risk register identifies the key risks, the likelihood of those risks occurring, their potential impact on the Corporation and the actions being taken to reduce and mitigate the risk. Risks are prioritised using a consistent scoring system.

Strategic Report

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

1 Government funding

The Corporation has considerable reliance on continued government funding through the further education funding bodies and the Office for Students (OfS). In 2023/24, 89% (2022/23 90%), of revenue was ultimately publicly funded, and this level of requirement is expected to continue. There can be no assurance that government policy and practice will remain the same, or that public funding will continue at the same level or on the same terms.

The Corporation is aware of the following issues that may impact on future funding:

- Future potential changes in the funding methodology which may result in a further reduction in ESFA funding for 16 to 19 year olds.
- Funding levels for financial year 2025 and beyond appear likely to increase modestly. This is unlikely to match inflation.
- The reduction of the Office for Students (OfS) funding grant.
- The possible reduction in students taking arts based subjects in year 10 as the result of the introduction of EBacc and other school performance measures.
- Stronger competition from other local providers.
- Changes in emphasis to vocational education arising from the Government Skills Plan.
- The Chancellor's Autumn Budget

The risk is mitigated in a number of ways:

- By ensuring the Corporation is rigorous in delivering high quality education and training.
- Considerable focus and investment is placed on maintaining and managing key relationships with the funding bodies.
- Ensuring the Corporation is focussed on those priorities which will continue to benefit from public funding.
- Regular dialogue with the Funding Agencies and the Local Authority.
- The increased focus on growth in further and higher education student numbers.

2 Increase student numbers

The College is small for the sector, so it is crucial to protect current student numbers and increase these where possible. This will help to mitigate the changes in funding but allow the College to develop and invest for the future and increase educational opportunities within Herefordshire and beyond. The Corporation as part of its strategy plans to increase both FE and HE student numbers over the period of the strategy. The strategy includes increasing the number of courses that are delivered as well as increasing the number of enrolments on existing courses.

As part of the implementation of the strategy the Corporation is investing some of its reserves into curriculum development, improved infrastructure including additional key staff appointments and other investments to increase the level of applications to the College and increase student numbers.

The HE sector is very competitive and though increasing student numbers is an opportunity it is also a significant risk given the competitive environment.

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3 Maintenance of adequate funding of pension liabilities

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

The College currently has no pension liability on its balance sheet. It does have an agreed deficit recovery plan with Worcestershire County Council Local Government Pension Scheme. The LGPS employer's contribution rates increased to 19.7% from 1 April 2023. The previous LGPS employer's rates was 17.9% and were implemented from the 1st April 2020. The rates and the deficit recovery plan are subject to a triennial review. The College made a lump-sum deficit payment of £72,000 in April 2023. No additional payments will be made until April 2026.

A revaluation of the Teachers Pensions Scheme (TPS) has taken place and the employer contribution rate increased from 23.68% to 28.68% from April 2024. The increase in contributions is currently funded by the Department for Education.

4 Failure to maintain financial viability of the College

The College's current financial health grade is classified as "Requires Improvement". The main driver for this financial health grade is the College's financial health score for EBITDA (Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation) are zero. The College's financial health score for current asset ratio and gearing are both rated as Outstanding. With a strong balance sheet, the zero EBITDA score is not an issue in the short term as cash reserves and a strong balance sheet can mitigate this shortfall. The College's strategy and Financial Plan expect the College financial health grade to stay at Requires Improvement for both 2024/25 and 2025/26.

As the strategy is implemented, the Corporation will need to closely monitor the implementation of the strategy to ensure that it is on track to deliver its outcomes. The continuing challenge to the College will be improving the College's financial position whilst improving student experience. This risk can be mitigated in a number of ways:

- By rigorous budget setting procedures and sensitivity analysis
- Regular in year budget monitoring
- Robust financial controls
- Exploring ongoing procurement efficiencies

5 Inflation and cost of living crisis

The rate of inflation was at 6.8% at the start of the financial year. This decreased to 2.2% at the end of the financial year. It is expected that funding rate changes will not increase by this level.

The impact of a higher rate of inflation will increase demand for higher pay rises, including the education sector. This may result in poorer industrial relations and strain finances if there is no additional funding to cover any such increases. Lower than inflation pay awards may also make salary levels less competitive than other sectors.

Strategic Report

Key Performance Indicators

The Colleges key performance indicators, targets and results are set out below:

Key Performance Indicator	Measure/Target	Actual for 2023/24
Adjusted current ratio	4.73	1.99
EBITDA as a % of adjusted income – education specific	(3.76)%	0.63%
Borrowing as a % of adjusted income	0%	0%
Financial Health Score	REQUIRES IMPROVEMENT	REQUIRES IMPROVEMENT

Stakeholder Relationships

In line with other Corporations and with universities, Hereford College of Arts has many stakeholders. These include:

- Students;
- Parents and carers;
- Department for Education(DfE)
- FE Education sector funding bodies including the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA);
- FE Commissioner;
- HE Education sector funding body and regulator: the Office for Students (OfS);
- HE validating university: University of Wales Trinity St. David;
- Staff;
- Local employers (with specific links);
- Local authorities;
- Local Chamber of Commerce;
- Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs);
- The local community;
- Office for Students(OfS)
- Other FE institutions;
- Trade unions;
- Professional bodies.

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

Strategic Report

Equality

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

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

Disability statement

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

- a) As part of its accommodation strategy, the Corporation updated its access audit and the results of this formed the basis of funding capital projects aimed at improving access.
- b) The College will provide information, advice and arrange support where necessary for students with disabilities.
- c) There is a list of specialist equipment, including assistive technology, which the College can make available for use by students.
- d) The admissions policy for all students is available on the College website. Appeals against a decision not to offer a place are dealt with under the complaints policy.
- e) The College has made a significant investment in the appointment of specialists to support students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. There are a number of learning support assistants who can provide a variety of support for learning.
- f) Counselling and welfare services are described on the College student intranet along with the Complaints and Disciplinary Procedure.

Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting

The college is committed to reducing its carbon emissions and has taken measures over the 2023/24 year to improve the monitoring of energy efficiency. The college's greenhouse gas emissions and energy use for the period calculated in line with the 2019 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines, the GHG Reporting Protocol – Corporate Standard and the UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company Reporting are included in the College Sustainability report which is published on the college's website annually.

Strategic Report

Trade union facility time

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

During the period covered by this Members' Report, the College did have a trade union official for some of the year but the level of facility time was not agreed before the official left the College in August 2024. Therefore, there is no facility time to report for that period.

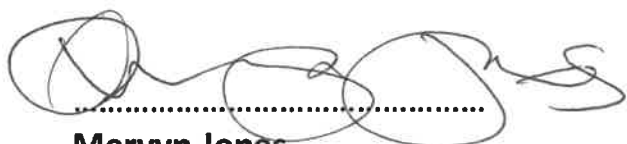
Events after the reporting period

There were no significant post balance sheet events.

Disclosure of information to auditors

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

Approved by order of the members of the Corporation on 16th December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mervyn Jones', written over a horizontal dotted line.

Mervyn Jones
Chair

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control

The following statement is provided to enable readers of the annual report and accounts of the Corporation to obtain a better understanding of its governance and legal structure. This statement covers the period from 1st August 2023 to 31st July 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

The Corporation 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 Code of Good Governance for English Colleges ("the Code"); and

In the opinion of the Governors, the Corporation complies with all the provisions of the Code and it has complied throughout the year ended 31 July 2024. 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. In carrying out its responsibilities, it takes full account of The Code of Good Governance for English Colleges issued by the Association of Colleges in March 2015, which it formally adopted on 13 July 2015.

The Corporation

The composition of the Corporation is set out on pages 17 and 18.

The Governance Framework

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

The Corporation 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 Corporation meets at least once each term with formal agendas, papers and reports provided to Governors prior to meetings in a timely manner. Briefings are also provided on an ad hoc basis.

The Corporation conducts its business through several Committees. Each committee has terms of reference, which have been approved by the Corporation. These committees are Finance & General Purposes (F&GP), Search and Governance (S&G), Academic Quality and Standards (AQ&S), Audit and Remuneration Committee. Full minutes of all Corporation meetings, except those deemed to be confidential by the Corporation, are available on the College website at www.hca.ac.uk, or from the Clerk to the Corporation at:

Hereford College of Arts,
Folly Lane,
Hereford
HR1 1LT.

The Clerk to the Corporation maintains a register of financial and personal interests of the Governors, which 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 of the Corporation, who is responsible to the Board

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control

for ensuring that all applicable procedures and regulations are complied with. The appointment, evaluation and removal of the Clerk are matters for the Corporation as a whole.

The Corporation has a strong and independent non-executive element and no individual or group dominates its decision-making process. The Corporation 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 Chair of the Corporation and the Accounting Officer (Principal) are separate.

Appointments to the Corporation

Any new appointments to the Corporation are a matter for the consideration of the Corporation as a whole. The Corporation has a Search and Governance Committee comprising the Accounting Officer (Principal), the Chair of the Corporation and three other members, which is responsible for the selection and nomination of any new member for the Corporation's consideration. The Committee also recommends Co-opted committee members to the Board for appointment. The Corporation is responsible for ensuring that appropriate training is provided as required.

Other than the Principal who is an ex-officio appointment and Student Governor who are appointed for the period that they remain students of the College, members of the Corporation are initially appointed for a 1-year term of office, followed by another two terms of three and four years respectively, but are eligible for consideration for re-appointment at the end of this term.

Co-opted Committee members are appointed to the relevant committee and have the same terms of office as Corporation members.

Corporation Performance

The Corporation carried out a self-assessment of its own performance for the year ended 31st July 2024. No significant weaknesses were identified. The Corporation had considered the DfE guidance on board reviews and commissioned a review during 2022-23. The review made no significant recommendations but minor recommendations were made.

Training and Development

The Corporation is committed to training and development for all Governors and for the Clerk to the Governors. All Governors receive induction training with the appropriate senior managers on appointment. Training needs are considered through a periodic skills audit (last completed in September 2022) and in discussions with Governors. Governors and the Clerk to the Governors have attended several external events, such as regional governance conferences, induction and networking events. Staff and Student Governors are invited to attend training specifically for their roles. Governors updates have been provided with a variety of internal and external speakers. Governors are enrolled on Smartlog (an online training platform) to undertake training modules covering safeguarding and prevent, equality and diversity, health and safety and basic GDPR awareness.

Remuneration Committee

Throughout the year ending 31 July 2024 the Remuneration Committee comprised four members of the corporation. The Committee's responsibilities are to make recommendations to the Board on the remuneration and benefits of the Accounting Officer and other senior postholders.

The College has adopted the Association of Colleges' Senior Staff Remuneration Code. There is a requirement that the College must publish a readily accessible annual statement based on an annual

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control

report to the Governing Body. This annual report will be presented to Corporation on 3rd March 2025.

Details of remuneration of these post-holders and other key management personnel for the year ended 31st July 2024 are set out in note 6 of the financial statements.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee comprises at least three members of the Corporation (excluding the Accounting Officer (Principal) and Chair) and two Co-opted members who bring finance and audit specialisms. The Committee operated in accordance with written terms of reference approved by the Corporation. Its purpose is to advise the Corporation on the adequacy and effectiveness of the College's system of internal control and its arrangements for risk management, control and governance processes.

The Audit Committee meets on a termly basis and provides a forum for reporting by the College's internal and external (financial statements and regularity) 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 funding bodies as they affect the College's business.

The Audit Committee reviews and approves the Annual Internal Audit Report, the external auditors Audit Completion Report and the Annual Report and Financial Statements. The Audit Committee also prepares an Annual Report for submission to the Corporation.

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 is responsible for the implementation of agreed audit recommendations and internal audit undertake periodic follow-up reviews to ensure that recommendations have been implemented.

The Audit Committee also advises the Corporation on the appointment of internal, external (regularity and financial statements) auditors, and their remuneration for both audit and non-audit work as well as reporting annually to the Corporation.

Membership of the Corporation

See over page.

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control

Members: The members who served the Corporation during the year and up to the date of signature of this report were as follows:-

Category of Governor Name of Governor	Corporation Membership Commenced	Date of Resignation	Period of Office Expires	Committee Membership	Attendance percentage
Independent Members					
Jennette Arnold OBE	19.10.2020		19.10.2028	Audit, AQ&S	83%
Ian Axtell	13.05.2024		13.05.2028	AQ&S	100%
John Auckland	16.10.2023		16.10.2027	F&GP, Rem	100%
Professor Robin Baker OBE	24.04.2017	16.10.2023	31.08.2025	F&GP, S&G	100%
Judy Balderson JP	10.07.2023		10.07.2027	Audit	100%
Ellie Bunston	14.10.2024		14.10.2028	AQ&S	n/a
Peta Darnley	10.02.2020		29.02.2028	F&GP, S&G, Rem	67%
Joe Hedges	10.02.2020	07.11.2024	10.03.2028	Audit	67%
Nicola Hewitt	14.10.2024		14.10.2028	F&GP	n/a
Clive Hodgeman	10.02.2020		10.03.2028	F&GP, Rem	100%
Mervyn Jones (Chair)	14.07.2016		30.09.2025	F&GP, S&G, Rem, AQ&S	100%
Dr Kate Mori	09.05.2023		09.05.2027	AQ&S	67%
Timothy Newsholme (Vice-Chair until 31.12.2023)	20.03.2014	31.12.2023	31.12.2023	AQ&S, S&G, Rem	100%
Dr Russell Roberts	10.07.2023		10.07.2027	AQ&S	83%
Kate Seekings	14.12.2015		31.07.2026	AQ&S, S&G	60%
Staff Member					
Oliver Cameron-Swan	18.10.2021		18.10.2025		80%
Myfanwy Page	06.03.2023		05.03.2027		100%
Caroline Sedilek	12.12.2022		30.12.2026		100%
Student Members					
Helen Hurford	10.07.2023		31.07.2025	AQ&S	50%
Lucy Ramsey	10.07.2023	31.07.2024	31.07.2024	AQ&S	20%
Charlotte Semus	12.12.2022		31.07.2025	AQ&S	80%

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control

Principal & Chief Executive	22.10.2015					
Abigail Appleton			Ex-officio	F&GP, S&G, AQ&S	100%	
Co-opted Member Audit Committee						
Kay Sandford-Beal	01.01.2022	21.06.2024	31.08.2025	Audit	100%	
Co-opted Member AQ&S Committee						
Dr Joanne Horton	01.09.2021		31.08.2025	AQ&S	33%	

Key to Committees

‘AQ&S’ – Academic Quality & Standards Committee

‘F&GP’ – Finance & General Purposes Committee.

‘S&G’ – Search & Governance Committee.

Audit – Audit Committee

‘Rem’ – Remuneration Committee

*Attendance Percentage relates to Governing Body meetings only, with the exception of Co-opted members where attendance relates to the Committee they are on.

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control

Internal Control

Scope of Responsibility

The Corporation 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 to business objectives, and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The Corporation has delegated day to day responsibility to the Accounting Officer (Principal), 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 she is personally responsible, in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to her in the Funding Agreement between Hereford College of Arts and the funding bodies. She is also responsible for reporting to the Corporation any significant weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of College policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

The system of internal control has been in place in Hereford College of Arts for the year ended 31st July 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts.

Capacity to handle risk

The Corporation 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 Corporation is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the College's significant risks that has been in place for the year ended 31st July 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts. The process is regularly reviewed by the Corporation.

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 Corporation
- regular reviews by the Corporation 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

Hereford College of Arts has an internal audit service, which operates in accordance with the requirements of the ESFA's *Post-16 Audit Code of Practice*. The work of the internal audit service is informed by an analysis of the risks to which the College is exposed, and annual internal audit plans are based on this analysis. The analysis of risks and the internal audit plans are endorsed by the

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control

Corporation on the recommendation of the Audit Committee. At minimum, annually, the Head of Internal Audit (HIA) provides the Corporation 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. Her review of the system of internal control is informed by:

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

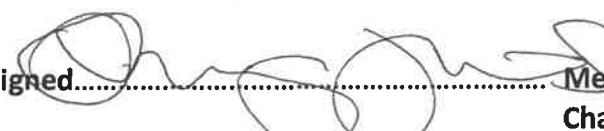
The Accounting Officer (Principal) has been advised on the implications of the result of her review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control by the Audit Committee, which oversees the work of the internal auditor, and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the systems in place.

The Senior Leadership Team receives reports setting out key performance and risk indicators and considers possible control issues brought to their attention by early warning mechanisms, which are embedded within the College and reinforced by risk awareness training. The Senior Leadership Team and the Audit Committee also receive regular reports from internal audit 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 Corporation's agenda includes a regular item for consideration of risk and control and receives reports thereon from the Senior Leadership Team and the Audit Committee. The emphasis is on obtaining the relevant degree of assurance and not merely reporting by exception. At its December 2024 meeting, the Corporation carried out the annual assessment for the year ended 31st July 2024 by considering documentation from the Senior Leadership Team and internal audit, and taking account of events since 31st July 2024.

Based on the advice of the Audit Committee and the Accounting Officer (Principal), the Corporation 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 safeguarding of their assets"*.

Approved by order of the members of the Corporation on 16th December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Signed.......... Abigail Appleton
Accounting Officer (Principal)

Signed.......... Mervyn Jones
Chair of the Corporation

Statement on the College's Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

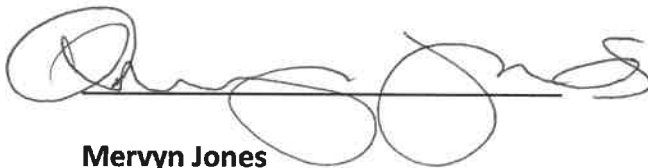
The Corporation has considered its responsibility to notify the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of funding under the College's grant funding agreement and contracts with the ESFA. As part of its consideration, the Corporation has due regard to the requirements of the grant funding agreements and contracts with ESFA.

We confirm, on behalf of the Corporation, that after due enquiry, and to the best of our knowledge, the Corporation believes it is able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the College, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the College's grant funding agreements and contract with the ESFA.

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



Abigail Appleton
Accounting Officer (Principal)



Mervyn Jones
Chair of the Corporation

Date: 16th December 2024

Statement of Responsibilities of the Members of the Corporation

The members of the Corporation, as charity trustees, are required to present audited financial statements for each financial year.

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

In preparing the financial statements, the Corporation 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.

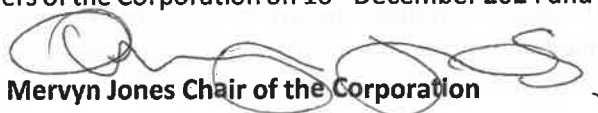
The Corporation is required to prepare an Annual Report which describes what it is trying to do and how it is going about it, including the legal and administrative status of the College.

The Corporation is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy, at any time, the financial position of the College, and which enable it to ensure that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with the relevant legislation of including the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 and Charities Act 2011 and relevant accounting standards. It is responsible for taking steps that are reasonably open to it in order to safeguard the 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 Corporation 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 they were initially presented on the website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Members of the Corporation 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 ESFA are used only in accordance with ESFA's grant funding agreements and contracts and any other conditions that may be prescribed from time to time. Members of the Corporations must ensure that there are appropriate financial and management controls in place in order to safeguard public and other funds to ensure they are used properly. In addition, members of the Corporation 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 ESFA are not put at risk.

Approved by order of the members of the Corporation on 16th December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:


Mervyn Jones Chair of the Corporation

Independent auditor's report to the members of Hereford College of Arts

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Hereford College of Arts (the 'College') for the year ended 31 July 2024, which comprise the Statement of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure, the Statement of Changes in Reserves, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cashflows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and the 2019 Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting for Further and Higher Education.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the College's affairs as at 31 July 2024 and of its surplus of income over expenditure for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the College in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Members of the Corporation's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the College's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Members of the Corporation with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Corporation is responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do

Independent auditor's report to the members of Hereford College of Arts

not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In light of the knowledge and understanding of the College and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Strategic Report.

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- the information given in the report of the Members of the Corporation, including the operating and financial review and statement of corporate governance, is inconsistent with the financial statements; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of the Corporation

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities of the Members of the Corporation set out on page 22, the Corporation is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Corporation determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Corporation is responsible for assessing the College's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Corporation either intend to liquidate the College or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on

Independent auditor's report to the members of Hereford College of Arts

the basis of the financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

Based on our understanding of the College and its industry, we considered that non-compliance with the following laws and regulations might have a material effect on the financial statements: compliance with the ESFA funding agreements, the OfS regulatory framework, the OFSTED regulatory framework, safeguarding, pensions legislation, employment regulation and health and safety regulation, anti-bribery, corruption and fraud, money laundering, HM Treasury's "Managing public money".

To help us identify instances of non-compliance with these laws and regulations, and in identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect to non-compliance, our procedures included, but were not limited to:

Inquiring of management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance, as to whether the College is in compliance with laws and regulations, and discussing their policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations;

Inspecting correspondence, if any, with relevant licensing or regulatory authorities;

Communicating identified laws and regulations to the engagement team and remaining alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout our audit; and

Considering the risk of acts by the College which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the preparation of the financial statements, such as tax legislation, pension legislation.

In addition, we evaluated the Members of the Corporation and management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements, including the risk of management override of controls, and determined that the principal risks related to posting manual journal entries to manipulate financial performance, management bias through judgements and assumptions in significant accounting estimates, revenue recognition (which we pinpointed to the cut-off assertion) and significant one-off or unusual transactions.

Our audit procedures in relation to fraud included but were not limited to:

Making enquiries of the Members of the Corporation and management on whether they had knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;

Gaining an understanding of the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud;

Discussing amongst the engagement team the risks of fraud; and

Addressing the risks of fraud through management override of controls by performing journal entry testing.

Independent auditor's report to the members of Hereford College of Arts

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of irregularities including fraud rests with management. As with any audit, there remained a risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal controls.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Other required reporting

Opinion on other matters prescribed in the OfS Audit Code of Practice issued under the Further and Higher Education Act 1992

In our opinion, in all material respects:

funds provided by the OfS and UK Research and Innovation (including Research England) have been applied in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions attached to them; and the requirements of OfS's accounts direction have been met.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the OfS Audit Code of Practice requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

the provider's grant and fee income, as disclosed in the notes to the financial statements, has been materially misstated; or

the provider's expenditure on access and participation activities, as disclosed in the financial statements, has been materially misstated.

Use of the audit report

This report is made solely to the Corporation 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 Corporation 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 Corporation as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Forvis Mazars LLP

Forvis Mazars LLP (Dec 19, 2024 08:24 GMT)

Forvis Mazars LLP

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor

90 Victoria Street, Bristol BS1 6DP

Date Dec 19, 2024

**Independent Reporting Accountant's Report on Regularity to the
Corporation of Hereford College of Arts and Secretary of State for Education
acting through the Education and Skills Funding Agency ('ESFA')**

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 11 June 2024 and further to the requirements and conditions of funding in the ESFA and DfE's accountability agreements, grant funding agreements and contracts, or those of any other public funder, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether anything has come to our attention that would suggest, in all material respects, the expenditure disbursed and income received by Hereford College of Arts during the period 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024 have not been applied to the purposes intended 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 Post-16 Audit Code of Practice (the Code) issued by the ESFA and in any relevant conditions of funding concerning adult education notified by a relevant funder.

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

Respective responsibilities of Hereford College of Arts and the reporting accountant

The Corporation of Hereford College of Arts 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 are applied for the purposes intended by Parliament, and the financial transactions conform to the authorities that govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by the Code our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Code. 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 2023 to 31 July 2024 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 Code issued by ESFA. 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.

**Independent Reporting Accountant's Report on Regularity to the
Corporation of Hereford College of Arts and Secretary of State for Education
acting through the Education and Skills Funding Agency ('ESFA')**

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 and propriety of the Corporation's income and expenditure.

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Reviewed the statement on the College's regularity, propriety and compliance with funding body terms and conditions of funding.
- Reviewed the College's completed self-assessment questionnaire on regularity.
- Read the accountability agreements, grant funding agreements and contracts with the ESFA.
- Tested a sample of expenditure disbursed and income received to consider whether they have been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and in accordance with funding agreements where relevant.
- Tested a sample of individual learner records.
- Obtained the policy for personal gifts and/or hospitality.
- Obtained the register of personal interests.
- Obtained the financial regulations/financial procedures.
- Obtained the College's whistleblowing policy.
- Reviewed the College's compliance with the requirements of HM Treasury's "managing Public Money" document.

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 2023 to 31 July 2024 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Signed:

Forvis Mazars LLP
Forvis Mazars LLP (Dec 19, 2024 08:24 GMT)

Forvis Mazars LLP

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
90 Victoria Street, Bristol, BS1 6DP

Date: Dec 19, 2024

Statement of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure

	Notes	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
INCOME			
Funding body grants	2	3,345	3,148
Tuition fees and education contracts	3	3,282	3,273
Other income	4	83	92
Investment income	5	91	15
Total Income		6,801	6,528
EXPENDITURE			
Staff costs	6	4,388	4,288
Other operating expenses	7	2,095	1,980
Depreciation	10	315	361
Interest and other finance costs	9	(31)	58
		6,767	6,687
Surplus/(Deficit) before other gains and losses		34	(159)
Gain/(Loss) on disposal of assets		-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) before tax		34	(159)
Taxation	8	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		34	(159)
Actuarial (loss)/gain in respect of pension scheme	24	(100)	1,991
Total Comprehensive Income for the year		(66)	1,832
Represented by:			
Restricted comprehensive income		-	-
Unrestricted comprehensive income		(66)	1,832
		(66)	1,832

Statement of Changes in Reserves

	Income & Expenditure Account £'000	Revaluation Reserve £'000	Total £'000
Balance at 1st August 2022	1,796	1,077	607
(Deficit) from the Income & Expenditure account	(159)	-	(159)
Other comprehensive income	1,991	-	1,991
Transfers between Revaluation and Income & Expenditure account	17	(17)	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	1,849	(17)	1,832
Balance at 31st July 2023	3,645	1,060	4,705
Surplus from the Income & Expenditure account	34	-	34
Other comprehensive income	(100)	-	(100)
Transfers between Revaluation and Income & Expenditure account	17	(17)	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	(49)	(17)	(66)
Balance at 31st July 2024	3,596	1,043	4,639

Balance Sheet as at 31 July 2024

	<u>Notes</u>	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Non Current assets			
Tangible fixed assets	10	4,045	3,231
		4,045	3,231
Current assets			
Stocks	12	9	10
Debtors	13	283	263
Cash at bank and in hand	17	3,504	3,506
Total Current assets		3,795	3,779
Less: Creditors			
- amounts falling due within one year	14	(2,184)	(1,981)
Net current assets		1,611	1,798
Total assets less current liabilities		5,656	5,029
Creditors			
- amounts falling due after more than one year	15	(1,017)	(324)
Provisions			
Defined benefit obligation	16/24	-	-
Total Net Assets		4,639	4,705
Unrestricted Reserves			
Income & expenditure account		3,596	3,645
Revaluation reserve		1,043	1,060
Total Unrestricted Reserves		4,639	4,705

The financial statements on pages 29 to 52 were approved and authorised by the Corporation on 16th December 2024 and were signed on its behalf on that date by:

Mervyn Jones.....
Chair

Abigail Appleton:
Accounting Officer (Principal)

Statement of Cashflows

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Cashflow from operating activities:		
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	34	(159)
	34	(159)
Adjustment for non-cash items:		
Depreciation	315	361
Decrease in stocks	1	1
(Increase) in debtors	(20)	(125)
Increase in creditors due within one year	204	907
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors due after one year	693	(28)
Increase /(Decrease) in provisions	-	-
Pension costs less contributions payable	(69)	41
Taxation	-	-
Adjustment for investing or financing activities:		
Investment income	-	-
Interest/finance costs payable	(31)	58
Taxation paid	-	-
Loss on sale of fixed assets	-	-
Net cashflow from operating activities	1,127	1,056
Cashflows from investing activities		
Investment income	-	-
Payments made to acquire fixed assets	(1,129)	(294)
	(1,129)	(294)
Cashflows from financing activities		
Interest paid	-	-
Interest element of finance lease rental payments	-	-
	-	-
Increase in cash and cash equivalents	(2)	762
	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	3,506	2,744
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	3,504	3,506
	(2)	762

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2024

1. 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 2019 (the 2019 FE HE SORP), the College Accounts Direction for 2023 to 2024 and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 – “The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland” (FRS 102). The College is a public benefit entity and has therefore applied the relevant public benefit requirements of FRS 102.

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

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention modified by the revaluation of certain fixed assets.

Going Concern

The activities of the College, together with factors likely to affect its future development and performance are set out in the Strategic Report. The financial position of the College, its cashflow, liquidity and borrowings are described in the financial statements and accompanying notes.

The College has no loans or overdrafts.

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

Revenue grant funding

Government revenue grants include funding body recurrent grants and other grants and are accounted for under the accrual model as permitted by FRS 102. Funding body recurrent grants are measured in line with best estimates for the period of what is receivable and depend on the particular income stream involved. Any under or over achievement for the Adult Education Budget 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, and the results of any funding audits. 16-18 learner-responsive funding is not normally subject to reconciliation and is therefore not subject to contract adjustments.

The recurrent grant from Office for Students (OfS) represents the funding allocations attributable to the current financial year and is credited direct to the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2024

Where part of a government grant is deferred, the deferred element is recognised as deferred income within creditors and allocated between creditors due within one year and creditors due after more than one year as appropriate.

Grants (including research grants) from non-government sources are recognised in income when the College is entitled to the income and performance related conditions have been met. Income received in advance of performance related conditions being met is recognised as deferred income within creditors on the balance sheet and released to income as the conditions are met.

Capital grant funding

Government capital grants are capitalised, held as deferred income and recognised in income over the expected useful life of the asset, under the accrual model as permitted by FRS 102. Other, non-governmental, capital grants are recognised in income when the College is entitled to the funds subject to any performance related conditions being met. Income received in advance of performance related conditions being met is recognized as deferred income within creditors on the Balance Sheet and released to income as conditions are met.

Fee income

Income from tuition fees is stated gross of any expenditure which is not a discount and is recognised in the period for which it is received.

Investment income

All income from short-term deposits is credited to the income and expenditure account in the period in which it is earned on a receivable basis.

Agency arrangements

The College acts as an agent in the collection and payment of certain discretionary support funds. Related payments received from the funding bodies and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the income and expenditure of the College where the College is exposed to minimal risk or enjoys minimal economic benefit related to the transaction.

Accounting for post-employment benefits

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

Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS)

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

The TPS is a multi-employer scheme and there is insufficient information available to use defined benefit accounting. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution plan and the contributions recognised as an expense in the income statement in the periods during which services are rendered by employees.

Worcestershire County Council Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)

The LGPS is a funded scheme. The assets of the LGPS are measured using closing fair values. LGPS liabilities are measured using the projected unit credit method and discounted at the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2024

actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred.

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

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in actuarial gains and losses.

Short term Employment benefits

Short term employment benefits such as salaries and compensated absences (holiday pay) are recognized as an expense in the year in which the employees render service to the College. Any unused benefits are accrued and measured as the additional amount the college expects to pay as a result of the unused entitlement.

Non-Current Assets – Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or deemed cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Certain items of fixed assets that had been revalued to fair value on or prior to the date of transition to the 2015 FE HE SORP, are measured on the basis of deemed cost, being the revalued amount at the date of that revaluation.

Where parts of a fixed asset have different useful lives, they are accounted for as separate items of fixed assets.

Land & Buildings

Land and buildings inherited from the local education authority are stated in the balance sheet at valuation on the basis of depreciated replacement cost as the open market value for existing use is not readily obtainable. The associated credit is included in the revaluation reserve. The difference between depreciation charged on the historic cost of assets and the actual charge for the year calculated on the revalued amount is released to the income and expenditure account reserve on an annual basis.

Freehold land is not depreciated as it is considered to have an infinite useful life.

Freehold buildings are depreciated over their expected useful economic life to the College of between 15 and 40 years. The College has a policy of depreciating major adaptations to buildings over the period of their useful economic life.

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

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2024

On adoption of FRS 102, the College followed the transitional provision to retain the book value of land and buildings, which were revalued in 1996, as deemed cost but not to adopt a policy of revaluations of these properties in the future.

Subsequent expenditure on existing fixed assets

Where significant expenditure is incurred on tangible fixed assets after initial purchase, it is charged to the income and expenditure account in the period in which it is incurred, unless it increases the future benefits to the College, in which case it is capitalised and depreciated on the relevant basis.

Assets under construction

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

Equipment

Equipment costing less than £1,000 or with an expected life of twelve months or less is recognised as expenditure in the period of acquisition. All other equipment is capitalised at cost.

All equipment is generally depreciated on a straight line basis over its remaining useful economic life of between 3 and 10 years.

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of any fixed asset may not be recoverable. Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts are recognised as impairments. Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

Leased assets

Costs in respect of operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term to the Statement of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure. Any lease premiums or incentives relating to leases signed after 1st August 2014 are spread over the minimum lease term. The College has taken advantage of the transitional exemptions in FRS 102 and has retained the policy of spreading lease premiums and incentives to the date of the first market rent review for leases signed before 1st August 2014.

Leasing agreements which transfer to the College substantially all the benefits and risks of ownership of an asset are treated as finance leases.

Assets held under finance leases are recognised initially at the fair value of the leased asset (or, if lower, the present value of minimum lease payments) at the inception of the lease. The corresponding liability to the lessor is included in the balance sheet as an obligation under finance leases. Assets held under finance leases are included in tangible fixed assets and depreciated and assessed for impairment losses in the same way as owned assets.

Minimum lease payments are apportioned between the finance charge and the reduction of the outstanding liability. The finance charges are allocated over the period of the lease in proportion to the capital element outstanding.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2024

Cash and cash equivalents

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

Cash equivalents are short term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value. An investment qualifies as a cash equivalent when it has maturity of 3 months or less from the date of acquisition.

Stocks

The only stocks held at the end of 2023/24 were arts supplies held by the College shop. Stocks are stated at the lower of their cost and net realisable value. Where necessary, provision is made for obsolete, slow moving and defective costs.

Foreign Currency Translations

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are recorded using the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rates of exchange ruling at the end of the financial period with all resulting exchange differences being taken to income in the period in which they arise.

Taxation

The College is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010, and therefore meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the College is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by sections 478-488 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

The College is not registered for Value Added Tax and receives no major exemption in respect of VAT, with only a few items being exempt by virtue of its charitable status. 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.

Provisions and contingent liabilities

Provisions are recognized

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

Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the amount expected to be required to settle the obligation is recognised at present value using a pre-tax discount rate. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as a finance cost in the statement of comprehensive income in the period it arises.

A contingent liability arises from a past event that gives the College a possible obligation whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2024

within the control of the College. Contingent liabilities also arise in circumstances where a provision would otherwise be made but either it is not probable that an outflow of resources will be required or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured reliably.

Contingent liabilities are not recognised in the balance sheet but are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

The College currently has no provisions except for the obligations with regard to the Local Government Pension Scheme and no contingent liabilities.

Judgements in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty

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

- Determine whether leases entered into by the College either as a lessor or a lessee are operating or finance leases. These decisions depend on an assessment of whether the risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred from the lessor to the lessee on a lease by lease basis.
- Determine whether there are indicators of impairment of the group's tangible assets, including goodwill. Factors taken into consideration in reaching such a decision include the economic viability and expected future financial performance of the asset and where it is a component of a larger cash-generating unit, the viability and expected future performance of that unit.

Other key sources of estimation uncertainty

- *Tangible fixed assets*

Tangible fixed assets, other than investment properties, are depreciated over their useful lives taking into account residual values, where appropriate. The actual lives of the assets and residual values are assessed annually and may vary depending on a number of factors. In re-assessing asset lives, factors such as technological innovation and maintenance programmes are taken into account. Residual value assessments consider issues such as future market conditions, the remaining life of the asset and projected disposal values.

- *Local Government Pension Scheme*

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 23, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 July 2024. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2024

2. Funding Body Grants

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Recurrent grants		
Education and Skills Funding Agency – adult	18	15
Education and Skills Funding Agency - 16-18	2,923	2,796
Office for Students	128	113
Specific Grants		
Teacher Pension Scheme contribution grant	171	142
Release of deferred capital grant	105	72
ESFA Other	-	10
	3,345	3,148

3. Tuition Fees and Education Contracts

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Further Education Fees students	185	149
High Needs Income	85	82
Advanced Learning Loans	91	149
UK Higher Education Students	299	306
UK Higher Education Loans	2,533	2,517
Non-EU Higher Education Fees	75	63
Other	14	7
	3,282	3,273

4. Other Income

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Other Income Generating Departments	14	13
Other income	69	79
	83	92

5. Investment Income and Interest

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Bank interest receivable	91	15
	91	15

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2024

6. Staff Costs

The average number of persons (including key management personnel) employed by the College during the year, expressed as full-time equivalents (fte), was:-

	2024 fte's	2023 fte's
Teaching staff	64	65
Non teaching staff	48	49
	112	114

Staff costs for the above persons:

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Wages & salaries	3,490	3,307
Social security costs	262	241
Pension costs	716	699
Pension FRS 102 cost	(69)	41
Holiday Pay Accrual	(11)	-
	4,388	4,288
External employees	-	-
	4,388	4,288
Exceptional restructuring costs	-	-
Total staff costs	4,388	4,288

Key management personnel

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling activities of the college and are represented by the Accounting Officer (Principal) and holders of other senior posts whom the Corporation have selected for the purposes of the Articles of Government of the College. Decisions relating to such appointments are made by the Governors.

No compensation has been paid to key management personnel for loss of office.

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

	2024	2023
The number of key management personnel including the Accounting Officer (Principal) was	5	5

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2024

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

	Key management personnel		Other staff	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	No.	No.	No.	No.
£0 - £10,000	-	1		
£10,001 - £20,000	-	-	N/A	N/A
£20,001 - £30,000	-	-	N/A	N/A
£30,001 - £40,000	-	-	N/A	N/A
£40,001 - £50,000	-	-	N/A	N/A
£50,001 - £60,000	3	3	N/A	N/A
£60,001 - £70,000	1	-	-	-
£90,001 - £100,000	-	-	-	-
£100,001 - £110,000	1	1		
	5	5	-	-

Key management personnel compensation is made up as follows:	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Salary – gross of salary sacrifice and waived emoluments	337	274
Employers National Insurance	40	33
Employers Pension contributions	76	57
Total key management personnel compensation	453	364

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

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Salary	103	102
Employers' Pension contributions	20	19
Total emoluments	123	121

The governing body has adopted the AoC's Senior Staff Remuneration Code in April 2019 and will assess pay in line with its principles in the future. The remuneration package of senior post holders, including the Principal and Chief Executive, is subject to annual review by the Remuneration Committee of the governing body who use benchmarking information to provide objective guidance.

The College used the College Senior Pay Survey 2022, focusing on the analysis of West Midlands colleges and colleges with comparable income, less than £10m. Remuneration was significantly lower than the West Midlands benchmarks and in line with the less than £10m turnover benchmarks. A pay

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2024

award of 5% was made during the year. This was in line with the general pay award for all staff.

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

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

	2024	2023
Principal's basic salary as a multiple of the median of all staff	3.86	4.00
Principal and CEO's total remuneration as a multiple of the median of all staff	4.62	4.78

Employer pension contributions in respect of the Accounting Officer (Principal) and key management personnel are paid at the same rate as for other employees. No compensation for loss of office was paid to key management personnel.

With the exception of the Accounting Officer (Principal) and two Staff Governors, the members of the Corporation do not receive any payment from the College other than the reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses incurred in the course of their duties.

7. Other Operating Expenses

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Teaching Departments	325	346
Teaching Support Services	291	277
Other Support Services	17	19
Administration and Central Services	506	461
General Education	72	78
Premises Costs	648	648
Planned Maintenance	138	71
Student Support Funds	86	66
Other Expenses	12	14
	2,095	1,980

Other operating expenses include:

Auditors' remuneration included above -		
Financial Statement Audit	24	23
Internal Audit	10	10
Operating lease costs	236	223

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2024

Access and Participation spending

The College is registered with the Office for Students(OfS) and has an approved access and participation plan.

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Access Investment	114	104
Financial Support	57	52
Disability Support	30	22
Research and Evaluation	17	16
	218	194

Staff costs relating to Access and Participation total £157K (2022-23: £112K) and are included in the above breakdown and disclosed within note 6. A copy of our published access and participation plan for 2023/24 is available here: [Hereford College of Arts | Our Policies](#)

8. Taxation

The members do not believe that the College was liable for any corporation tax arising out of its activities during either year.

9. Interest and other finance costs

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Pension finance costs	(31)	58
	(31)	58

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2024

10. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold £000	New buildings and property improvements £000	Equipment & Vehicles £000	Total £000
Costs or valuation				
At 1st August 2023	1,595	5,918	2,145	9,658
Additions	-	875	254	1,129
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31st July 2024	1,595	6,793	2,399	10,787
Depreciation				
At 1st August 2023	537	3,882	2,008	6,427
Charge for year	17	182	116	315
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31st July 2024	554	4,064	2,124	6,742
Net Book Value at 31st July 2024	1,041	2,729	275	4,045
Net Book Value at 31st July 2023	1,058	2,036	137	3,231

Inherited land and buildings were valued for the 1994 financial statements at depreciated replacement cost by Hereford and Worcester County Council. No revaluation has taken place since then. If inherited land and buildings had not been valued on Incorporation, they would have been included in the accounts at a historic value of zero.

11. Investments

Cash was held at HSBC. There were no investments in any other institutions during the year.

12. Stocks

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Arts supplies held by College Shop	9	10
	9	10

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2024

13. Debtors: amounts falling due with one year

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Trade debtors	29	40
Prepayments and accrued income	254	223
	283	263

14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Trade creditors	100	149
Other taxation, social security and pensions	152	134
Accruals and other creditors	545	429
Accruals – employee annual leave	125	136
Grants received in advance	1,112	1,081
Deferred income – government capital grants	150	52
	2,184	1,981

15. Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Deferred income – government capital grants	1,017	324
	1,017	324

16. Provisions

	Defined Benefit Obligation £'000	Total £'000
At 1 August 2023	-	-
Expenditure in the period	(289)	(289)
Additions in the period	189	189
Remeasurements – net loss	100	100
At 31 July 2024	-	-

Defined benefit obligations relate to the liabilities under the College's membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme. Further details are given in Note 24.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2024

17. Cash and cash equivalents

	At 1 August 2023 £'000	Cashflows £'000	At 31 July 2024 £'000
Cash and cash equivalents	3,506	(2)	3,504
	3,506	(2)	3,504

18. Capital and other commitments

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Commitment contracted for at 31 July	20	84
	20	84

In July 2019 the College entered into a nominations agreement for student accommodation at Station Approach, Hereford. The nominations agreement guarantees that the College will underwrite occupancy of all 178 rooms from 2023-24, for a minimum of the next 17 years. In certain circumstances, the College can be released from the nominations agreement.

19. Lease obligations

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

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Land and building		
Not later than one year	1	20
Later than one year and not later than five years	-	-
Over five years	-	-
	1	20
Other		
Not later than one year	9	2
Later than one year and not later than five years	14	-
Over five years	-	-
	23	2

The land and building lease commitment, relates to the College Road Campus. The other leases are for photocopiers and a franking machine. Lease payments recognised as an expense during the year were £236,000 (2023: £233,000).

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2024

20. Contingent liabilities

The College is not aware of any issues that could give rise to a contingent liability.

21. Learner Support Funds

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Balance held at 1 August	79	49
ESFA 16-19 Student Bursary Grant	101	99
ESFA Residential Grant	21	22
Advanced Learner Loans Bursary	4	5
Funding clawback	(37)	(7)
	168	168
Disbursed to Students	(66)	(83)
Administration Costs	(6)	(6)
Balance unspent as at 31 July, included in creditors	96	79

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

22. Related Party Transactions (FRS 8)

Due to the nature of the College's operations and the composition of the board of governors being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a member of the board of governors may have an interest. All such transactions are conducted at arms' length, in accordance with the College's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

The total travel expenses paid to or on behalf of the Governors during the year were £3k (2022/23 £3k). This represents travel and subsistence expenses and out of pocket expenses incurred in attending Governor meetings, college events, training courses and conferences.

No Governor has received any remuneration or waived payments from the College during the year (2022/23 none).

23. Post Balance Sheet Events

There have been no events since the balance sheet date that would materially affect the results for the year.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2024

24. Defined pension obligations

The College's employees belong to two principal post-employment benefit plans: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff, and the Worcestershire County Council Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is administered by Worcestershire County Council. Both are multi-employer defined-benefit plans.

Total pension cost for the year

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Teachers' Pension Scheme:		
- Employers' contributions	427	370
Local Government Pension Scheme:		
- Employer's contributions	289	257
- Employer's additional contribution	-	72
- FRS 102 (28) net service cost	(69)	41
Charge to the Statement of Comprehensive Income	220	370
Total Pension Cost for the Year within staff costs	647	740

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

Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. These regulations apply to teachers in schools, colleges and other educational establishments. Membership is automatic for teachers and lecturers at eligible institutions. Teachers and lecturers are able to opt out of the TPS.

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. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

Under the definitions set out in Financial Reporting Standard 102 (28.11), the TPS is a multi-employer pension plan. The College is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the plan.

Accordingly, the College has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 and has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined-contribution plan. 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.

The valuation of the TPS is carried out in line with regulations made under the Public Service Pension Act 2013. Valuations credit the teachers' pension account with a real rate of return assuming funds are invested in notational investments that produce that real rate of return.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2024

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education (DfE) in October 2023. The valuation reported total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262 billion, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222 billion giving a notional past service deficit of £40 billion.

As a result of the valuation, new employer contribution rates have been set at 28.68% of pensionable pay from April 2024 onwards (an increase from 23.68%). The DfE has paid a teacher pension employer contribution grant to cover the additional costs since the previous revaluation and has announced that it will fund the additional increase from April 2024.

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

The pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £427,000 (2022/23: £370,000).

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate funds administered by Worcestershire County Council.

The total contributions made for the year ended 31st July 2024 were **£381k**, of which employer's contributions were **£289k** and employees' contributions were **£92k**. The agreed contribution rates was **17.9%** until 31st March 2023 and **19.7%** from 1st April 2023 for employers and **5.5%** to **12.5%** for employees, depending on salary.

Principal Actuarial Assumptions

The following information is based upon a full actuarial valuation of the fund at 31st March 2022 updated to 31st July 2024 by a qualified independent actuary:

	2024	2023
	%	%
Rate of Future Salary increases	4.25	4.2
Rate of Future Pension increases	2.75	2.8
Discount rate for Scheme Liabilities at 31 st July	5.0	5.1
Rate of inflation (CPI)	2.75	2.8
Commutation of pensions to lump sums (max)	50	50

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2024

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

	31 st July 2024	31 st July 2023
Retiring today		
Males	21.2	21.5
Females	23.6	23.8
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	22.5	22.8
Females	25.4	25.6

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

	Fair Value at 31 st July 2024 £'000	Fair Value at 31 st July 2023 £'000
Equities	2,797	2,377
Bonds	2,530	2,123
Cash	67	52
Property	1,265	1,232
Total fair value of plan Assets	6,659	5,784
Actual return on plan assets	561	57

The amount included in the balance sheet in respect of the defined benefit pension plan is as follows:

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Fair value of plan assets	6,659	5,784
Present value of plan liabilities	(5,944)	(5,390)
Asset cap	(715)	(394)
Net pensions asset/(liability) (note 16)	-	-

As the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the reporting date is less than the fair value of plan assets at that date, the plan has a notional surplus. As management do not consider that the College will be able to recover the surplus either through reduced contributions in the future or through refunds from the plan, the surplus has not been recognised in these financial statements in line with paragraph 28.22 of FRS102.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2024

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

Amounts included in staff costs	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Current service cost	220	370
Past service cost	-	-
Total	220	370

Amounts included in Interest and other finance costs	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Net Interest (income)/cost	(31)	58
Total	(31)	58

Amounts recognised in Other Comprehensive Income	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Remeasurement of assets	258	(77)
Experience gain/(loss) arising on defined benefit obligations	39	257
Changes in assumptions underlying the present value of plan liabilities	(76)	2,205
Asset cap	(321)	(394)
Amount recognised in Other Comprehensive Income	(100)	1,991

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2024

Movement in net defined benefit asset/(liability) during the year:	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Net defined benefit (liability) in scheme at 1 August	-	(1,892)
Movement in year:		
Current service cost	(220)	(370)
Employer contributions	289	329
Past service cost	-	-
Net interest on defined (liability)	31	(58)
Actuarial gain	221	2,385
Asset cap	(321)	(394)
Net defined benefit asset/(liability) in scheme at 31 July	-	-

Asset and Liability Reconciliation	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations:		
Defined benefit obligations at start of period	5,390	7,217
Current service cost	220	364
Interest cost	272	250
Contributions by scheme participants	91	88
Past service cost	-	-
Actuarial loss/(gain)	37	(2,462)
Estimated benefits paid	(66)	(67)
Defined benefit obligations at end of period	5,944	5,390

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Changes in the fair value of plan assets:		
Fair value of plan assets at start of period	5,784	5,325
Interest on plan assets	303	192
Actuarial gain	258	(83)
Employer contributions	289	329
Contributions by scheme participants	91	88
Estimated benefits paid	(66)	(67)
Fair value of plan assets at end of period	6,659	5,784

LGPS pension deficit contributions

The College has entered into an agreement with the LGPS to make additional contributions in addition to normal funding levels. The College paid £72K in the 2023/24 tax year. No additional contributions will be paid until the 2026/27 tax year after the next LGPS triennial valuation.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2024

LGPS pension court cases

In June 2023 the High Court ruled in the case of Virgin Media Limited v NTL Pension Trustees. The ruling was that certain pension scheme rule amendments were invalid if they were not accompanied by the correct actuarial confirmation.

This High Court ruling was appealed. In a judgment delivered on 25 July 2024, the Court of Appeal unanimously upheld the decision of the High Court.

At the date of approval of these financial statements, while it is known there is potential for additional pension liabilities to be recognised as a result of this ruling, the impact in monetary terms is not known and it is reasonable to form the view that it is not reasonably estimable. Accordingly, no adjustments to reflect the impact of the ruling have been made in these financial statements.

The College will continue to monitor the developments and consider the impact on the LGPS liabilities recognised.