chartered mws accountants

XX November 2022

Our ref: C702/JG/AB/CJ

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL
The Governors
Chelmsford County High School for Girls
Broomfield Road
Chelmsford
CM1 1RW

Dear Sirs

AUDIT AND REGULARITY FINDINGS REPORT

During the course of our audit and regularity assurance engagements for the year ended 31st August 2022 no matters arose which we consider should be brought to your attention.

Accompanying this letter is a memorandum which would detail any points together with any recommendations we have for possible improvements which could be made.

No matters came to light during the course of our normal audit and assurance tests which are designed to assist us in forming our opinion on the financial statements and providing a limited assurance conclusion on regularity. Our tests may not necessarily disclose all errors or irregularities and should not be relied upon to do so. However, if any irregularity did come to our attention during our audit and assurance tests, we would, of course, inform you immediately.

We have complied with the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard and all threats to our independence have been properly addressed through appropriate safeguards. No additional facts or matters have arisen during the course of the audit that we wish to draw to your attention, and we confirm that we are independent and able to express an objective opinion on the financial statements.

This report has been prepared for the sole use of the trustees of Chelmsford County High School for Girls. We understand that you are required to provide a copy of this report to the Education and Skills Funding Agency. With the exception of this, no reports may be provided to third parties without our prior consent. Consent is, and will only be, granted on the basis that such reports are not prepared with the interests of anyone other than the academy in mind and that we accept no duty or responsibility to any other party. No responsibilities are accepted by MWS towards any party acting or refraining from action as a result of this report.

Finally, we would like to express our thanks to all members of the academy's staff who assisted us in carrying out our work.

Yours faithfully
MWS

T 01702 332 076 E mail@mws-accountants.co.uk W www.mws-accountants.co.uk
Kingsridge House, 601 London Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, SS0 9PE Leigh House, Broadway West, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, SS9 2DD

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Chartered Accountants | Registered Auditor | Business Consultants
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Partners Jonathan Gorridge FCA, Clive Smith FCA DipPFS, Jason Lamont ACA, Danny McCartney FCA, Daniel Nice BA FCA
Consultant Fiona Read FCA

SIGNIFICANT MATTERS RELEVANT TO OUR AUDIT AND REGULARITY ASSURANCE ENGAGEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2021

Audit approach

Our general audit approach was determined by our assessment of the audit risk, both in terms of the potential misstatement in the financial statements and of the control environment in which the company operates.

To summarise our approach, we:

- updated our understanding of the business and its environment;
- reviewed the design and implementation of key internal financial control systems; and
- planned and performed an audit with professional scepticism recognising that circumstances may exist that cause the financial statements to be materially misstated.

Significant risks arise on most audits and are often derived from business risks that may result in a material misstatement, relate to unusual transactions that occur infrequently, or judgemental matters where measurement is uncertain. In areas where we identified the potential for significant risk, we extended our audit testing to include more detailed substantive work. Our work in other areas was proportionally less.

We apply the concept of materiality both in planning and performing the audit, and in evaluating the effect of identified misstatements on the audit and of uncorrected misstatements. In general, misstatements, including omissions, are considered to be material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

Judgments about materiality are made in the light of surrounding circumstances, and are affected by our perception of the financial information needs of users of the financial statements, and by the size or nature of a misstatement, or a combination of both.

There were no changes to our audit approach as previously communicated to you.

Summary of significant audit findings

Significant risk area identified at planning	Findings, significance and recommendations	Management response / timetable for action
Related party non-disclosure.	No issues identified.	
Management override of internal controls.	No issues identified.	

Other areas where issues were identified during the audit	Findings, significance and recommendations	Management response / timetable for action
None		

Internal controls

The purpose of the audit was for us to express an opinion on the financial statements. The audit included consideration of internal controls relevant to the preparation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control. Our audit is, therefore, not designed to identify all control weaknesses and the matters reported below are limited to those deficiencies that we have identified during the audit.

Control weakness identified and significance	Potential implications and recommendations	Management response / timetable for action

Update on prior year's management letter points

Audit issues communicated in last year's management letter and our proposed approach to each of these areas, in light of developments in the year are outlined below:

Findings / recommendations	Status in current in year	Management response / timetable for action
None		

Summary of audit differences and draft letter of representation

There were no unadjusted misstatements noted during our work. A schedule of the journal adjustments we have made to the financial statements is enclosed. We would be grateful if you could review these and confirm your agreement thereto.

We have also attached a draft letter of management representations required in connection with our audit.

Outstanding matters

Prior to issuing our audit report we require:

- the signed letter of representation;
- Your management responses above.

Anticipated audit report

We anticipate that we will issue an unmodified audit report for the year, subject to the satisfactory clearance of any outstanding/unresolved the matters outlined in this report.

Regularity assurance engagement findings

We conducted our regularity assurance engagement in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 issued by ESFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

The objective of a limited assurance engagement is to perform such procedures as to obtain information and explanations in order to provide us with sufficient appropriate evidence to express a negative conclusion on regularity. A limited assurance engagement is more limited in scope than a reasonable assurance engagement and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in a reasonable assurance engagement. Accordingly, we do not express a positive opinion.

Our engagement included examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the regularity and propriety of the academy trust's income and expenditure. The work undertaken to draw our conclusions included:

- Reviewing permanent, correspondence and prior year audit files for indication of increased risk
- Determining the materiality for the regularity reporting engagement
- Assessing the risk of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance
- Developing work plans which incorporated testing to provide assurance over regularity, propriety and compliance

We anticipate that we will issue an unmodified regularity assurance report for the year, subject to the satisfactory clearance of any outstanding/unresolved the matters outlined in this report.

Regularity issues brought to your attention in connection with the regularity assurance engagement are as follows:

Findings and significance	**Potential implications / financial impact and recommendations**	**Management response / timetable for action**