



Financial Statements
for the year ended
31 July 2021

Plymouth College of Art - Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

Key management personnel, Board of Governors and professional advisers

Key management personnel are defined as members of the College Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and were represented by the following in 2020/21:

Professor Andrew J Brewerton, Principal and CEO; Accounting officer (until 31 July 2021)
Paul Fieldsend-Danks, Interim Principal and CEO; Accounting officer (wef 1 August 2021)
Mark Taylor, Director of Finance
Steve Trotter, College Registrar
Jacqui Moore, Director of Communications
Mark Kerrigan, Director of Learning, Teaching and Enhancement
Paul Fieldsend-Danks, Academic Dean (until 31 July 2021)

Board of Governors

A full list of Governors is given on pages 13 to 14 of these financial statements.

Professional advisers:

External auditors:

Bishop Fleming
Salt Quay House
4 North East Quay
Sutton Harbour
Plymouth

Internal auditors:

UNIAC
4th Floor, St. James' Building
Oxford Street
Manchester

Solicitors:

Michelmores Solicitors
Woodwater House
Pynes Hill
Exeter

Wolferstans Solicitors
Deptford Chambers
60/66 North Hill
Plymouth

Bankers:

Barclays Bank plc
19 Princess Street
Plymouth

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Strategic Report

Nature, objectives and strategies

The Board of Governors present the annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2021.

Legal status

The Board of Governors was established under the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 for the purpose of conducting the activities of Plymouth College of Art. On 4 July 2014, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, in exercise of powers conferred under the Education Reform Act 1988, transferred the College to the higher education sector.

Mission statement

Creative learning & social justice – they're in our DNA

Who we are? Founded in 1856, Plymouth College of Art is an art school run by artists and designers for artists and designers. We are home to a dynamic, cross-disciplinary community of makers and thinkers for whom making is as important as reading and writing, and where the purpose of learning is inseparable from that of living your life. A place for making things, and making things happen. For making a difference.

What we believe? We believe that high-quality education for life in contemporary arts practice is the creative catalyst for personal, professional and cultural transformation. Social justice, through community impact and social mobility, and creative learning, through pedagogical innovation, are part of our DNA and at the heart of everything that we do.

Spaces to make: Our working environment is widely regarded as one of the richest and most diverse ecosystems of materials, technologies, processes, practices, art forms and ideas that you will find in the form of an art college. At a time when others are narrowing the range and ecology of their learning environments, we have invested heavily in both digital and analogue dimensions – because we believe that the space of learning offers, or withdraws, the possibility of learning.

Making a difference We are committed to making a difference in everything that we do.

Public Benefit Statement

The College is an exempt charity under Part 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and following the Machinery of Government changes in July 2016 is regulated by the Office for Students (OfS). The members of the Board of Governors, who are trustees of the charity, are disclosed on pages 13-14.

In setting out this Public Benefit Statement, the Governing Body has referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on the reporting of public benefit and particularly to its supplementary public benefit guidance on the advancement of education, through promoting, sustaining and increasing individual and collective knowledge and understanding in the study, skills acquisition and expertise in the creative arts.

The specific aims and objectives of the College are set out in the following pages.

The students of the College are the primary beneficiaries, and the College is committed to the advancement of their education through the delivery of high quality courses that equip them with the knowledge, skills, and attributes to prepare them for employment in the creative industries. Other members of the public benefit by being able to attend educational events organised by the College as well as attend courses put on by the College outside normal college hours.

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Description of the College and its activities

The College has a 160-year history of continuous provision of art and design education. It offers high quality, vocationally oriented, practice-based education for life in contemporary arts practice, as the creative catalyst for personal, professional and cultural transformation, and it places the creative aspirations and support needs of every student at the very heart of its enterprise.

The College is a lively, diverse and dynamic creative community of art and design students, together with the academic, technical and welfare support staff and visiting specialists who contribute to the delivery of its postgraduate, undergraduate, further and community education programmes in the creative industries sector.

We celebrate diversity and foster equality of opportunity across an inclusive range of creative learning opportunities for a wide range of students.

Major achievements in the year

In October 2020, Plymouth College of Art appointed Richard Kenton Webb, winner of the Sunny Art Prize 2020 as new Subject Leader for BA (Hons) Painting, Drawing and Printmaking. Richard joins the college from his previous role as Programme Lead on BA (Hons) Drawing & Print at University of the West of England, with extensive experience in various teaching roles at institutions including The Slade School of Fine Art, London and The Royal Drawing School, London, over the last thirty years. Richard is an artist with painting, drawing and printmaking at the heart of his practice, even making his own paints and inks with pure pigments

In the same month, BA (Hons) 3D Design Crafts alumni Benjamin Lintell showed his glass works at Venice Glass Week, who was one of 12 artists selected from over 300 international applicants, while BA (Hons) Game Arts graduate Liliana Pita secured herself a role as UI Art Intern at internationally renowned mobile gaming company, King Games.

In November 2020, Plymouth College of Art partnered up with Tate Exchange and Counterpoint Arts to present Beyond the Now, a social practice platform for artists and activists in a post-pandemic world. Plymouth College of Art is one of the founding associates of Tate Exchange, which was established in 2016, and has collaborated with Tate on numerous projects.

In the same month, the Pre-Degree team saw one of their students publish a book. UAL Extended Diploma in Creative Practice: Graphics, Illustration and Game Arts student Ciaran Perks published his first book of poetry "Peacocks: Illusory Poems", available for purchase at Waterstones, Amazon and more.

In response to the ongoing pandemic and the increase in online and virtual study, Plymouth College of Art launched their remote design degrees at the end of 2020, allowing a global community of creative learners to study flexibly at home, in the studio or at a dedicated host institution whether based in the UK or further afield in Europe, America or Asia. Students began their studies in January 2021 with the option of the following undergraduate courses; BA (Hons) Commercial Photography for Fashion, Advertising and Editorial, BA (Hons) Fashion, BA (Hons) Fashion Media & Marketing, BA (Hons) Graphic Communication, BA (Hons) Illustration and BA (Hons) Interior Decoration, Design & Styling.

In further international news, Plymouth College of Art BA (Hons) Illustration lecturer and MA Subject Tutor Caroline Pedler won the Annual Prize at the 2020 Chen Bochui International Children's Literature Award (CICLA) Original Illustration Exhibition, in Shanghai, China, in November 2020. Caroline is a practicing illustrator and artist, as well as teaching at the college and she has curated and exhibited in numerous shows across the UK and abroad, including Bologna's Children's Book Fair Illustrators Exhibition in Italy in 2018.

In collaboration with local media company Yellowbird Media, students from BA (Hons) Painting, Drawing & Printmaking and MA Illustration had their artwork blown up to billboard size and situated around the city of Plymouth. Organised through Nick Crawley, Employer Engagement Coordinator, the competition saw the students' environmentally aware artwork on display at Marsh Mills Roundabout and Transit Way before taking a tour around the city, spreading the message to save the environment. The billboards were

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printed at the Imprint Lab and Digital Print Bureau, assisted by Kerry Brosnan, technical demonstrator at the Imprint Lab, who helped complete the print, ready for display at a huge 6 by 3 metres in size.

Over the Christmas period and as part of the Salvation Army's Christmas Present Appeal, staff at Plymouth College of Art were able to fundraise a huge £1650. This was spent on toys in the local Entertainer Toy Shop, based in Drake Circus, to give to disadvantaged children aged 0-17 who otherwise wouldn't have anything to open on Christmas Day.

In December of 2020, it was announced that BA (Hons) Painting, Drawing & Printmaking graduate Sianan Bunt had won The Brownston Gallery's Fresh Talent Award for 2020, with her series 'Life Goes On' featuring portraits of her partner painted during the lockdown period. The series was shown alongside other local artists including fellow BA (Hons) Painting, Drawing & Printmaking graduate Julie Ellis, as part of the gallery's annual Winter Exhibition, 'A Winter's Tale', that ran until the end of January 2021.

The beginning of 2021 saw Plymouth College of Art BA (Hons) Graphic Communication lecturers Andrew Way and Frédérique Santune, along with Neil Leonard, publish their book, 'Web and Digital for Graphic Designers', produced by Bloomsbury. Exploring forms of digital communication, the book has received positive reviews and is available from Amazon and Waterstones as well as Bloomsbury.

January 2021 also saw Plymouth College of Art MA 3D Design Crafts graduate Laura Quinn win an Exhibition Support through the Design & Crafts Council Ireland Future Makers award programme. Future Makers helps recipients develop their career in the design and craft industry with exhibition, studio, materials, travel and training support. Laura was one of only 28 students and emerging professionals with an Exhibition Support prize of €1,000.

In addition, January saw Plymouth College of Art BA (Hons) Illustration graduate Julia Burley take part in the prestigious Landscape Artist of the Year TV show, hosted by Sky Arts. Aired on Wednesday 13 January 2021, the episode saw Julia head to Chartwell House, home of Winston Churchill for over 40 years to sketch the landscape.

In February 2021, Plymouth College of Art and Plymouth Arts Cinema played host to Iris On The Move 2021, celebrating LGBT+ film and filmmakers across the world, with a week-long celebration including events, screenings, lectures and online Q&As.

In February, it was also discovered that Plymouth College of Art BA (Hons) Film & Screen Arts student Yergalem Carimini had been selected for the NAHEMI programme 2020 with her short film, 'La Volpe', which she made during lockdown in Italy. Yergalem also had her short shown at the Encounters Film Festival 2020 and has continued on to win awards at this year's Royal Television Society Devon & Cornwall Television Awards alongside fellow student Sonny Layton.

Plymouth College of Art's sixth biannual international research conference, Making Futures, saw academics, makers and activists come together to the college to investigate contemporary craft and maker movements as 'change agents' in 21st century society, the catalyst of which has now been published as the Making Futures Journal. Featuring contributors from across the globe, including Irish glass designer and MA alumna Laura Quinn and international communication lead for Fab Lab Barcelona Kate Armstrong, the Making Futures Journal is fully peer-reviewed, free and open-access, presenting a wide and diverse range of views.

Sticking with craft, March was a busy month for alumna as BA (Hons) Interior Design & Styling graduate Amy Rouse launched her own concrete home decor business and alumna of BA (Hons) Applied Arts (now BA (Hons) 3D Design Crafts) featured on this year's Great Pottery Throw Down on Channel 4.

March also broke the news of Professor Andrew Brewerton stepping down from his position and retiring as Plymouth College of Art's Principal and Chief Executive after eleven years at the college and a career of twenty-seven years in academic leadership. His interim replacement after much consideration was announced three months later as Academic Dean, Professor Paul FieldsendDanks, who will hold the position for the upcoming 21/22 academic year.

In further exciting news, MIRROR, an updated public gallery, events programme and online resource based within Plymouth College of Art was launched. Building on the legacy of The Gallery at Plymouth College of Art, MIRROR has a renewed focus on supporting the professional development of artists and

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enriching the careers of artists based in the South West. MIRROR's first exhibition featuring South West Showcase artist Maud Craigie with her exhibition 'Indications of Guilt pt. 1', examining the structures of American police interrogation and their relationship to fictional screen representations of law enforcement.

In response to the Boris Karloff 60-Second Film Challenge, a collaboration between Plymouth College of Art and Plymouth Arts Centre, author and comedian Charlie Higson submitted his short film celebrating the life and career of Boris Karloff, winning the challenge with his use of imagination and technical skill. The Boris Karloff 60-Second Film Challenge will culminate in the Boris Karloff Symposium, due to happen on Halloween 2021.

Students on BA (Hons) Animation & Games students made headlines in April and May with their video work, firstly with students Bryan Wallen and Lottie Wishart animating a video conveying the experience of delirium to raise awareness for World Delirium Awareness Day 2021. This was then followed by student Mal Bielecka who animated music videos for emo rappers RONEN and Dying in Designer.

Over its 44 month duration, the Atlantic Youth Creative Hub (AYCH) project, in partnership with Plymouth College of Art and part-funded by ERDF, offered young people specialist support in business and entrepreneurship, creative thinking, collaboration and innovation. From Creative Jams to the Incubation Programme, AYCH's legacy will encourage sustainable and ethical business practice, creative education and creating a diverse workforce for tomorrow.

Following on from his win of the British Art Medal Society Student Medal Project in 2020, BA (Hons) Craft & Material Practices graduate Gregory Williams has since won the BAMS Medal Makers Award in May 2021. Granted by a donation from sculptor and medallist Ron Dutton in 2020, the award is for a UK based artist who either graduated this year or within the last year, to encourage medal making after graduating. Gregory plans to use the grant to fund tools and equipment to continue his practice.

Continuing with craft, BA (Hons) Craft & Material Practices graduate Charlotte Scurlock has continued on from study at Plymouth College of Art to esteemed glass studio Teign Valley Glass. With the role split between glassworks assistant and retail assistant, Charlotte is able to assist in making glass before selling it in the gallery shop.

July 2021 saw BA (Hons) Graphic Communication student Emma Flintham selected as one of the three winners of the Bristol-based agency Proctor and Stevenson 2021 South West Design + Digital Student Awards. Winning £1,000 in prize money, Emma's design of a responsible drinks brand, The Kombeechea Co. combined ethical practice in the UK bee market with plantable paper-based packaging.

Led by Plymouth College of Art, the Smart Citizens programme brings together local businesses, students and communities who want to use digital technology and creativity to solve problems. At the latest Smart Citizen Community Meet Up, in collaboration with Plymouth City Council-led Green Minds project, the event featured speakers from Pollenize CIC and Art and Energy CIC. With initiatives to raise awareness of wildflower, sensors to monitor wildlife and environmental quality around Plymouth, plus ideas to use augmented reality to help people understand seagrass restoration, the Smart Citizens community offers new solutions to protect Plymouth's wildlife and environment.

Plymouth College of Art's 2021 Summer Shows were part of the IGNITE Festival of Creativity, connecting creative graduates, businesses and members of the public in exciting new ways to spark employability, drive community engagement and develop new creative economy opportunities across Plymouth and further. IGNITE ran until 19 July 2021, putting a unique spin on the traditional art degree show model by combining online technology with physical installations and exhibitions in community spaces to showcase work by graduates from Plymouth College of Art and the University of Plymouth. IGNITE, which has been shortlisted in the 2021 HEIST Awards for Best Student Engagement Campaign or Initiative, is supported by Plymouth City Council as part of the iMayflower project, and by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, who fund the Cultural Development Fund (administered by Arts Council England).

In July 2021, Plymouth College of Art was proud to present Honorary Fellowships to Anne Barlow, Tim & Chris Britton and Jo Arscott at the Class of 2020 Graduation ceremony hosted by Theatre Royal Plymouth. With students requesting a physical graduation in a survey in February 2021, the event went ahead with three separate ceremonies, one way systems, mask wearing, social distancing and timed gowning and photography slots to govern the amount of people on site at any one time. Recognising the

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Honorary Fellows for their contribution to the arts, arts education and cultural leadership, the day saw almost 250 students graduate with creative degrees.

Student performance indicators

	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
Number of full-time (FT) undergraduate (UG) home/EU students enrolled	1043	1146	1247
Number of FT UG international students enrolled	17	15	12
Number of UG part-time students enrolled	39	35	30
Full-time equivalent (FTE) number of masters students enrolled	50	54	59
Number of pre-degree students, excluding apprenticeships	488	472	454

Estates developments in the year

Works in 20/21 concentrated not only on required maintenance, but also a number of sustainability and carbon-reducing works which included replacing the roof coverings on the Tavistock Place lower ground floor original building, replacing the Large Lower Ground floor studio at Tavistock Place with a double glazed window system and swapping to low energy lighting.

Also, a new bookable space has been created from splitting CB1.2 into two soundproof spaces, with the view for these to be used for counselling and other more sensitive meetings.

In 2021, the College took the decision to sell Russell Court. The office building has not been utilised since the start of the pandemic and after consultation with the staff based in the building, it has been agreed that flexible working will continue and hot desk spaces will be made available at the main campus Tavistock Place.

Assessment of financial position

Financial results

The College monitors performance against the following financial targets, some of which are required by the Office for Students (OfS):

	Actual 2020/21	Actual 2019/20	Actual 2018/19
1 Five times EBITDA ¹ to exceed borrowing (currently £4 million)	£4.2m	£6.6m	£4.3m
2 Current ratio of at least 1.5:1 at year end	2.3:1	2.2:1	2:1
3 General reserve excluding pension reserve of at least 51% of income	77%	74%	67%
4 Maintain at least 37 cash days in hand ('net liquidity days')	121 days	124 days	99 days
5 External borrowing to be less than 50% of total income	28%	31%	33%
6 Staff costs (excluding FRS102 adjustment) as a % of total income to be no more than 58%	68%	62%	59%
7 Surplus as a % of total income to be greater than 3%	-12.7%	-4.7%	-8.5%

¹EBITDA = Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation, and before pension provisions

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In the year the College made an operating deficit of £1,779,000 (£694,000 deficit in 2020). This deficit is after the notional pensions charge of £1,695,000 (2020: charge of £1,084,000), which the College is required to make under Financial Reporting Standard 102 – “The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland” (FRS102) for potential pension liabilities. The increase in the pension service cost is due to the assumptions on the growth of salary rates through pay rises and increments across future years based on the number of active College members in the scheme. The calculation of the FRS102 adjustment is outside of the College’s control, and has no immediate effect on cash flow.

There were some further staff costs in 2020/21 related to additional restructuring and redundancies agreed before the end of the financial year.

Removing the notional pension scheme adjustments and these one-off staff costs, the College made an underlying surplus of £409,000 (2020 surplus: £431,000), which would represent 3% of total income.

During the year the College had a cash inflow of £30,000 (2020: inflow of £633,000) giving a cash balance at 31 July 2021 of £4,937,000 (2020: £4,907,000).

Tangible fixed asset additions during the year amounted to £57,000 (£138,000 in 2020), of which £3,000 was on works for Tavistock Place (£27,000 in 2020), and £54,000 (£111,000 in 2020) for capital equipment purchased.

The College has £4,194,000 of net liabilities (£2,199,000 of net liabilities in 2020). This is after £17,618,000 (£15,697,000 in 2020) pension liability calculated according to FRS102, and long term debt of £3,405,000 (£3,967,000 in 2020). The College is required to make the notional FRS102 provision. The movement in this liability is not a reflection of any contribution increase in the short term.

The College is coming from a position of good cash reserves and believes that there is no threat to its cash flow over the next year as a result of taking all necessary measures to reduce costs.

The College faces financial challenges due to the fall in student enrolments experienced over the last three years. In order to support management in addressing these issues, the Board commissioned PWC LLP in June 2021 to undertake an assurance review and options analysis. The primary focus of actions to realise financial improvements has been a voluntary severance scheme in July 2021 and the restructure of the senior leadership team. These measures will realise savings from 2021/22 onwards. The College will continue to review all costs to make further savings where possible.

Student recruitment activities additionally remain focussed on restoring financial health to ensure that the College maintains adequate resources to continue to maintain and protect its specialist arts education provision.

The Board will consider longer term structural and/or partnership options to secure the future of the College’s specialist arts provision.

Payment performance

The Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 requires Colleges, in the absence of agreement to the contrary, to make payments to suppliers within 30 days of either the provision of goods or services or the date on which the invoice was received. The target set by the Treasury for payment to suppliers within 30 days is 95 per cent. During the accounting period 2020/21, the College paid 97% of its invoices within 30 days (19/20: 97%). The College incurred no interest charges in respect of late payment for this period.

Key income streams

For degree and postgraduate work, the College principally relies on student fee income with a small proportion of income coming from the OfS, largely from recurrent grants. For Pre-Degree work the College has significant reliance on the Education and Skills Agency (ESFA). The table below shows the key income streams:

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	2021	2020	2019
HE Fees	71%	76%	75%
ESFA Grants	18%	15%	14%
OfS Grants	6%	5%	6%
Other	5%	4%	5%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Treasury policies and objectives

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

The College has a separate treasury management policy in place.

Any short term borrowing for temporary revenue purposes would be authorised by the Principal. No such borrowings were required in 2020/21. Such arrangements are restricted by limits in the College's regulatory framework for higher education in England agreed with OfS. All other borrowing requires the authorisation of the Board of Governors and shall comply with the requirements of the regulatory framework for higher education in England.

Staff and student involvement

The College recognises the value and expertise of its staff as its key asset. Senior and middle management communications are effective and meetings take place regularly. In addition, a comprehensive programme of professional development is in place.

Both students and staff are represented on College committees including Academic Board and its Standing Committees, Student Experience Committee, Learning and Teaching Committee, Research and Enterprise Committee, Academic Standards and Quality Committee, Equality and Diversity Committee, HE and FE Award Boards. There are regular meetings between representatives of the Students' Union and the SLT as well as meetings between the Principal, SLT, Board of Governors Members and student representatives from all groups.

Future developments

The College will continue to develop its Pre-Degree, Undergraduate and Masters Programmes. In the next five years it is anticipated that the College can continue to accommodate planned growth in new student enrolments within the existing estate.

Resources

The College has various resources that it can deploy in pursuit of its strategic objectives. Tangible resources include the main College site.

Reputation

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

Principal risks and uncertainties

The SLT regularly reviews the strategic risks to which the College is exposed. It identifies systems and procedures, including specific actions which should mitigate any potential impact on the College. Internal controls are then implemented and the subsequent year's appraisal reviews effectiveness and progress

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against risk mitigation actions. The SLT also considers risks which may arise as a result of new areas of work being undertaken by the College, and responds immediately and effectively to unforeseen events.

The register of strategic risks is reviewed at each meeting of the Audit Committee. The risk register identifies the key risks, the likelihood of those risks occurring, their potential impact on the College and the actions being taken to reduce and mitigate the risks. Risks are prioritised using a consistent scoring system.

The College has a very high degree of reliance on continued government funding through tuition fee loans, the OfS and the ESFA for grant funding. A high proportion of the College's revenue is therefore publicly funded, a large proportion of it albeit through student fees from the Student Loans Company. This level of requirement is expected to continue. There can be no assurance that government policy or practice will remain unchanged or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms.

The key risks which may affect future operations and planned objectives are:

- The ability to recruit sufficient numbers of students. The achievement of the target income is dependent upon the College's annual student enrolment numbers;
- The ability of the College to operate within current bank covenants;
- The increase in the pension scheme service cost and overall pension deficit

These risks are mitigated in a number of ways:

- Through conservative planning and budgeting arrangements;
- Through continuing to maintain a healthy level of working capital resulting in no material reductions in year end cash balances;
- By focusing the College's student recruitment strategy to maintain/increase offer conversion factors and increase the number of applications;
- By ensuring the College is rigorous in delivering high quality education and training;
- Ensuring the College is focused on those priority sectors which will continue to benefit from public funding;
- Through negotiation and dialogue with the College bankers to ensure that bank loan arrangements and associated covenants can be put on a sustainable footing.

Stakeholder relationships

In line with other colleges and universities, the College has many stakeholders. These include:

- Students;
- Funding councils;
- Staff;
- Local employers (with specific links);
- Local authorities;
- The local community;
- Trade unions;
- Professional bodies;
- Barclays Bank plc;
- Makers HQ (community interest company).

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

Equality and Diversity Statement

The College aims to create a community where all its members (both existing and potential students and staff) are treated on the basis of their merits, abilities and potential, without regard (except where the law makes special provision) to:

- Ethnicity;
- Age;
- Gender;
- Marital status or family circumstances;
- Disability or learning difficulty;
- Trade Union membership or activity;
- Criminal record;

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- Socio-economic background;
- Religious or political beliefs;
- Sexual orientation.

Disability Statement

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

- a) As part of its accommodation strategy the College reviews its access audit. Experts in this field last conducted a full access audit in September 2014, and the results of this form the basis of funding minor capital projects aimed at improving access, which have since been completed for the main site.
- b) The College has an Access Coordinator, who provides information, advice and arranges support where necessary for students with disabilities.
- c) There is a list of specialist equipment, such as radio aids, which the College can make available for use by students and a range of assistive technology is available in the learning centre.
- d) The admissions policy for all students is described in the College charter. Appeals against a decision not to offer a place are dealt with under the complaints policy.
- e) The College has made a significant investment in the appointment of specialist lecturers to support students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. There are a number of student support assistants who can provide a variety of support for learning. There is a continuing programme of staff development to ensure the provision of a high level of appropriate support for students who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities.
- f) Specialist programmes are described in College prospectuses, and achievements and destinations are recorded and published in the standard College format.
- g) Counselling and welfare services are described in the College Student Guide, which is issued to students together with the Complaints and Disciplinary Procedure leaflets at induction.

Employment of disabled persons

The College considers all applications of employment from disabled persons, bearing in mind the aptitudes of the individuals concerned. Where an existing employee becomes disabled, every effort is made to ensure that their employment with the College continues and that reasonable adjustments are made. The College's policy is to provide training, career development and opportunities for promotion that are, as far as possible, identical for other employees.

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 Board of Governors on 24 November 2020 and signed on its behalf by:

Signed:



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Mr D Noyce, Chair

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control

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

The College endeavours to conduct its business:

- i. in accordance with the seven principles identified by the Committee on Standards in Public Life (selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership);
- ii. in full accordance with the guidance from the Committee of University Chairs in The Higher Education Code of Governance; and
- iii. having due regard to the UK Corporate Governance Code (“the Code”) insofar as it is applicable to the higher education sector.

The College is committed to exhibiting best practice in all aspects of corporate governance. Following transfer to HEI status in July 2014, the Board of Governors formally adopted the HE Code of Governance in July 2015 following an assessment of compliance. In carrying out its responsibilities, the Board takes full account of each of the primary elements of the HE Code. We have not adopted and therefore do not apply the UK Corporate Governance Code. However, we have reported on our Corporate Governance arrangements by drawing upon best practice available, including those aspects of the UK Corporate Governance Code we consider to be relevant to the higher education sector and best practice. In the opinion of the Members, the College complies with all the provisions of the Code insofar as they apply to the Higher Education Sector, and it has complied throughout the year ended 31 July 2021. The Board of Governors recognises that, as a body entrusted with both public and private funds, it has a particular duty to observe the highest standards of corporate governance at all times.

The College is an exempt charity within the meaning of Part 3 of the Charities Act 2011. The Governors, who are also the Trustees for the purposes of the Charities Act 2011, confirm that they have had due regard for the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit and that the required statements appear elsewhere in these financial statements.

Members serving on the Board of Governors

The Members who served on the Board of Governors during the year and up to the date of signature of this report were as listed in the table below:

Name	Date of initial appointment	Current term of office	Date of resignation / retirement	Status of appointment	Committees served	Attendance at 20/21 Board meetings
David Noyce	21/10/2014 Reappointed 10/07/2018	4 years		Independent	Chair of Board of Governors & of Nominations & Governance (N&G) from 1 Aug 2018, member of Finance & Estates (F&E), Remuneration Committee (Rem Com), and Employment Committee	100%
Andrew Brewerton	01/08/2010	Ex officio	31/07/2021	Principal	N&G, F&E and Employment Committee	100%
Paul Fieldsend-Danks	01/08/2021	Ex officio		Interim Principal	N&G, F&E and Employment Committee	-
Tom Archer	24/03/2020	4 years		Staff Member	-	100%
Sue Brownlow	15/11/2016 Reappointed 07/07/20	4 years		Independent	Deputy Chair of Board, Chair of Rem Com, and Chair of Employment Committee, member of Audit, and N&G.	93%
Anna Corbett	01/05/2020	4 years		Independent	F&E	78%

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Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control

Mark Greaves	01/08/2018	4 years		Independent	Chair of F&E , Member of Rem Com, Employment Committee	100%
Kiran Haslam	15/11/2016 Reappointed 13/10/2020	4 years		Independent	F&E	100%
Andrew James	27/11/2019	4 years		Staff Member	-	100%
Tim Jones	15/11/2016 Reappointed 13/10/2020	4 years		Independent	Member of F&E	100%
Harriet Moore	01/08/2020 Reappointed 31/07/2021	1 year		Student Member	-	100%
Ian Parry	01/08/2018	4 years		Independent	Chair of Audit	100%
Janet Ritterman	15/11/2016 Reappointed 13/10/2020	4 years		Independent	Audit N&G (from Feb 2021)	91%
Paula Sanderson	09/07/2019	4 years	25/11/2020	Co-opted	N&G	0%
Duncan Tringham	09/07/2013 Reappointed 04/07/2017 23/03/2021	1 year		Independent	Member of Audit	100%
Andrew Honey	23/03/2021	4 years		Independent	Member of Audit	100%
Ian Tunbridge	07/05/2021	4 years		Co-opted	Member of F&E	0%
Nath Stark	23/03/2021	5 months	31/07/2021	Student Member	-	100%

Clerk to the Board of Governors: Liz Wiltshire-Meads; Deputy Clerk: Nadyne Ebbens

Corporate Governance

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

The Board of Governors 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 Board of Governors meets at least four times a year.

The Board of Governors conducts its business through five committees. Each committee has terms of reference, which have been approved by the Board of Governors. These committees are: Audit, Nominations and Governance, Finance and Estates, Remuneration and Employment. Full minutes of all meetings, except those deemed to be confidential by the Board of Governors, are available from the Clerk to the Board of Governors at Plymouth College of Art, Tavistock Place, Plymouth, PL4 8AT.

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control

The Clerk to the Board of Governors maintains a register of financial and personal interests of Members. The register is available for inspection at the above address.

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

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

The Board of Governors has a strong and independent non-executive element, and no individual or group dominates its decision-making process. The Board of Governors considers that each of its non-executive Governors 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 and the Principal are separate.

Appointments to the Board of Governors and Nominations and Governance Committee

Any new appointments to the Board are a matter for the consideration of the Board of Governors as a whole. The Board of Governors has a Nominations and Governance Committee, consisting of five Governors, which is responsible for the selection and nomination of any new Governor for the Board's consideration.

The Committee ensures that the Board of Governors is able to manage all of its responsibilities by having an appropriate balance of knowledge, skills and diversity amongst its membership, and also ensures that governance structures and processes are fit for purpose.

The Board of Governors is responsible for ensuring that appropriate training is provided as required. All Governors are required to undertake the following mandatory training within three months of being appointed and for retraining every three years: safeguarding; Prevent; GDPR and cyber security.

Members of the Board of Governors are appointed for a term of office not exceeding four years although in certain circumstances a Governor could be re-appointed for further terms of office.

Remuneration Committee

Throughout the year ending 31 July 2021 the College's Remuneration Committee comprised the five Governors shown in the table above. This Committee's responsibilities are to make recommendations to the Board on the remuneration and benefits of the Principal and other Senior Post-Holders, the Clerk and Deputy Clerk. The Committee operates in line with the HE Senior Staff Remuneration Code, and produces an Annual Report to the Board, which is published on the College website as a readily accessible annual statement.

Details of remuneration for the year ended 31 July 2021 are set out in notes 6 and 7 to the financial statements.

Employment Committee

The Employment Committee comprises six members of the Board of Governors including the Principal and Chair. The Committee is responsible for, on behalf of the Board of Governors, providing overall assurance on employment matters including advising the Board on all policy and strategic matters relating to staffing, recruitment and employment.

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee comprises five members of the Board of Governors (excluding the Principal and Chair) and an Independent Committee Member. The Committee operates in accordance with written terms of reference approved by the Board of Governors.

The Audit Committee meets at least once each term and provides a forum for reporting by the College's internal and external 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 OfS, as they affect the College's business.

The College's internal auditors monitor 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 undertakes periodic follow up reviews to ensure such recommendations have been implemented.

The Audit Committee also advises the Board of Governors on the appointment of Internal and external auditors and their remuneration for both audit and non-audit work.

Finance and Estates Committee

The Finance and Estates Committee comprises seven Members of the Board of Governors (including the Principal and Chair). The Committee operates in accordance with written terms of reference approved by the Board of Governors.

The Finance and Estates Committee meets at least three times a year and has an overall watching-brief covering all financial aspects of College activity. In addition, it sets and monitors standards of financial performance, and oversees College management to address issues of actual or potential concern.

Internal control

Scope of responsibility

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

The Board of Governors has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Principal, as Accounting Officer, for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of the College's policies, aims and objectives, whilst safeguarding the public funds and assets for which he is personally responsible, in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to him in the regulatory framework for higher education in England between Plymouth College of Art and OfS. He is also responsible for reporting to the Board of Governors any material weaknesses or breakdown in internal control.

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of College policies, aims and objectives and 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 at Plymouth College of Art for the year ended 31 July 2021 and up to the date of the approval of the Annual Report and Accounts.

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control

Capacity to handle risk

The Board of Governors has reviewed the key risks to which the College is exposed, including an evaluation of likelihood and impact of risks becoming a reality, together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Governors 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 period ending 31 July 2021 and up to the date of the approval of the Annual Report and Accounts. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Governors

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 Board of Governors;
- regular reviews by the Board of Governors 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.

Plymouth College of Art has an internal audit service, which operates in accordance with the requirements of the Office for Students' (OfS) *Audit Code of Practice*, and the regulatory framework for higher education in England. 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 Board of Governors on the recommendation of the Audit Committee. At a minimum annually, the Head of Internal Auditors (HIA) provides the Board of Governors with a report on internal audit activity in the College. The report includes the HIA's independent opinion of the adequacy and effectiveness of the College's system of risk management, controls and governance process.

Review of Effectiveness

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

- the work of the internal auditors;
- the work of the executive managers within the College who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework;
- comments made by the College's external auditors in their management letters and other reports.

The Principal has been advised on the implications of the result of review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control by the Audit Committee which oversees the work of the internal auditors, and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

The SLT receives reports setting out key performance and risk indicators and considers possible control issues brought to their attention by early warning mechanisms, which are embedded within the departments and reinforced by risk awareness training. The SLT 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 Board of Governors' agenda includes a regular item for consideration of risk and control and receives reports thereon from the SLT and the Audit Committee. The emphasis is on obtaining the relevant degree of assurance and not merely reporting by exception. At its November 2021 meeting the Board of Governors carried out the annual assessment for the year ended 31 July 2021 by considering documentation from the SLT and Internal Audit and taking account of events since 31 July 2021.

Based on the advice of the Audit Committee, the Board of Governors is of the opinion that the College has an adequate and effective framework for governance, risk management and control, and has fulfilled

Plymouth College of Art - Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control

its statutory responsibility for “*the effective and efficient use of resources, the solvency of the institution and the body and the safeguarding of their assets*”.

Approved by order of the Board of Governors on 23 November 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr D Noyce, Chair



Paul Fieldsend-Danks, Interim Principal

Plymouth College of Art - Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

Board of Governors' statement on the College's regularity, propriety and compliance with Funding body terms and conditions of funding

The Board of Governors has considered its responsibility to notify OfS of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with OfS terms and conditions of funding, under the regulatory framework for higher education in England in place between the College and OfS. As part of its consideration the Board of Governors has had due regard to the requirements of the regulatory framework for higher education in England.

We confirm, on behalf of the Board of Governors, that to the best of its knowledge, the Board of Governors believes it is able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the College, or material non-compliance with OfS's terms and conditions of funding under the College's regulatory framework for higher education in England.

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 OfS.

Approved by order of the Board of Governors on 23 November 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr D Noyce, Chair



Paul Fieldsend-Danks, Interim Principal

Statement of Responsibilities of the Board of Governors

The Board of Governors are required to present audited financial statements for each financial year.

Within the terms and conditions of the regulatory framework for higher education in England agreed between OfS and the Board of Governors of the College, the Board of Governors, through its Principal, is required to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with the *Financial Reporting Standard 102, the 2019 Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting for Further and Higher Education Institutions* and with the *Accounts direction Guidance on preparing and publishing financial statements for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 August 2019*, issued by OfS on 25 October 2019, which gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the College and the result for that year.

In preparing the Financial Statements, the Board of Governors 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 Board of Governors is also required to prepare a Strategic 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 Board of Governors 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 incorporation and other 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 Board of Governors 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.

The Board of Governors is 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 OfS are used only in accordance with the regulatory framework for higher education in England with OfS and any other conditions that may be prescribed from time to time. The Board of Governors must ensure that there are appropriate financial and management controls in place in order to safeguard public and other funds and to ensure they are used properly. In addition, the Board of Governors is 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 by OfS are not put at risk.

Approved by order of the Board of Governors on 23 November 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

Mr D Noyce, Chair

Paul Fieldsend-Danks, Interim Principal

Independent Auditors' Report to the Board of Governors of Plymouth College of Art

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Plymouth College of Art (the 'College') for the year ended 31 July 2021 which comprise the Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Statement of Changes in Reserves, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the 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), the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting for Further and Higher Education (the 'FE HE SORP') and the Office for Students Accounts Direction (OfS 2019.41).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the state of the College's affairs as at 31 July 2021 and of the College's deficit of income against expenditure, gains and losses, changes in reserves and cash flows for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the FE HE SORP and the Office for Students' Accounts Direction (OfS 2019.41).

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.

Conclusion relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the members' 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 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 Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2021, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Board of Governors are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 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 or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

Independent Auditors' Report to the Board of Governors of Plymouth College of Art

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Office for Students' Accounts Direction (OfS 2019.41)

In our opinion:

- Funds from whatever source administered by the College for the specific purposes have been applied to those purposes and managed in accordance with relevant legislation; and
- Funds provided by the Office for Students ('OfS'), UK Research and Innovation (including Research England), the Education and Skills Funding Agency and Department for Education have been applied in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions attached to them.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Office for Students' Accounts Direction requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the College's grant and fee income, as disclosed in the notes to the financial statements, has been materially misstated; or
- the College's expenditure on access and participation activities for the financial year has been materially misstated.

Responsibilities of the Board of Governors

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities of the Board of Governors set out on page 20, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determines 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 Board of Governors 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 Board of Governors 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 the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

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

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the sector, control environment and the College's performance;
- results of our enquiries of management and the members, including the committees charged with governance over the College's finance and control, about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the College's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to: identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance; detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- how the College ensured it met its obligations arising from it being financed by and subject to the governance requirements of the OfS, and as such material compliance with these obligations is required to ensure the College will continue to receive its public funding and be authorised to operate, including around ensuring there is no material unauthorised use of funds and expenditure; and
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team and involving relevant internal College specialists regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

Independent Auditors' Report to the Board of Governors of Plymouth College of Art

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the College for fraud, which included incorrect recognition of revenue and management override of controls using manual journal entries and these were identified as having the greatest potential for fraud.

In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override. We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the College operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the Office for Students' Accounts Direction (OfS 2019.41) and the FE HE SORP.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the College's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included safeguarding regulations, data protection regulations, occupational health and safety regulations, education and inspections legislation, and employment legislation.

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess the recognition of revenue;
- enquiring of the College's management and members concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing procedures to confirm material compliance with the requirements of the OfS;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of the members and reviewing internal control reports; and
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; and assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

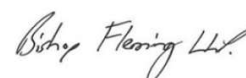
Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Board of Governors as a body, in accordance with statutory requirements. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Board of Governors those matters we are required to state to it 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 College's members, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Bishop Fleming LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
4 North East Quay, Sutton Harbour, Plymouth, PL4 0BN



Date: 29 November 2021

Statement of Comprehensive Income for Year Ended 31 July 2021

	Notes	2021 £000	2020 £000
Income			
Tuition fees and education contracts	2	9,977	11,052
Funding body grants	3	3,325	2,995
Other income	4	718	558
Investment income	5	1	17
Total income		<u>14,021</u>	<u>14,622</u>
Expenditure			
Staff costs	6	11,020	9,922
Other operating expenses	8	3,532	4,162
Depreciation	11	915	888
Interest and other finance costs	9	333	344
Total expenditure		<u>15,800</u>	<u>15,316</u>
(Deficit) after depreciation of tangible fixed assets at valuation and before other gains and tax		<u>(1,779)</u>	<u>(694)</u>
(Deficit) before tax		<u>(1,779)</u>	<u>(694)</u>
Taxation	10	-	-
(Deficit) for the year		<u>(1,779)</u>	<u>(694)</u>
Actuarial (loss) in respect of pension schemes		<u>(217)</u>	<u>(5,424)</u>
Total comprehensive (loss) for the year		<u>(1,996)</u>	<u>(6,118)</u>
Represented by :			
Revaluation reserve comprehensive loss for the year		(104)	(104)
Unrestricted comprehensive (loss) for the year		<u>(1,892)</u>	<u>(6,014)</u>
		<u>(1,996)</u>	<u>(6,118)</u>
(Deficit) for the year attributable to:			
College		<u>(1,779)</u>	<u>(694)</u>
Total comprehensive loss for the year attributable to:			
College		<u>(1,996)</u>	<u>(6,118)</u>

All items of income and expenditure relate to continuing activities.

Statement of Changes in Reserves for Year Ended 31 July 2021

	Income and expenditure account		Revaluation reserve	Total reserve
	<i>Endowment</i> £000	<i>Unrestricted</i> £000	£000	£000
Balance at 1 August 2019	-	1,111	2,808	3,919
Loss from the income and expenditure statement	-	(694)	-	(694)
Other comprehensive income – actuarial loss	-	(5,424)	-	(5,424)
Transfers between revaluation and income and expenditure reserve	-	104	(104)	-
Total comprehensive loss for the year	-	(6,014)	(104)	(6,118)
Balance at 1 August 2020	-	(4,903)	2,704	(2,199)
Loss from the income and expenditure statement	-	(1,779)	-	(1,779)
Other comprehensive income – actuarial loss	-	(217)	-	(217)
Transfers between revaluation and income and expenditure reserve	-	104	(104)	-
Total comprehensive loss for the year	-	(1,892)	(104)	(1,996)
Balance at 31 July 2021	-	(6,794)	2,600	(4,194)

Plymouth College of Art - Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

Balance Sheet as at 31 July

	Notes	2021 £000	2020 £000
Non-current assets			
Fixed assets	11	16,805	18,044
Total fixed assets		<u>16,805</u>	<u>18,044</u>
Current assets			
Trade and other receivables	13	500	336
Assets held for sale	12	381	-
Cash and cash equivalents	19	4,937	4,907
Total current assets		<u>5,818</u>	<u>5,243</u>
Less: Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(2,484)	(2,419)
Net current assets		3,334	2,824
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>20,139</u>	<u>20,868</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	15	(6,558)	(7,222)
Provisions			
LGPS pension provision	21	(17,618)	(15,697)
Other provisions	17	(157)	(148)
Total net (liabilities)/assets		<u>(4,194)</u>	<u>(2,199)</u>
Unrestricted reserves			
Revaluation reserve	18	2,600	2,704
Income and expenditure account excluding pension reserve		10,824	10,794
Pension reserve	21	(17,618)	(15,697)
Total reserves		<u>(4,194)</u>	<u>(2,199)</u>

The financial statements on pages 24 to 45 were approved by the Board of Governors on 23 November 2021 and were signed on its behalf on that date by



Mr D Noyce, Chair



Paul Fieldsend-Danks, Interim Principal

Statement of cash flows for Year Ended 31 July

	Notes	2021 £000	2020 £000
Cash inflow from operating activities			
(Deficit) for the year		(1,779)	(694)
Adjustment for non-cash items			
Depreciation	11	915	888
Increase in pension provision	21	1,704	1,092
(Increase) in debtors	13	(163)	(38)
Increase in creditors due within one year	14	66	170
(Decrease) in creditors due after one year	15	(103)	(103)
Increase in provisions	17	8	17
Adjustment for investing or financing activities			
Interest payable	9	114	148
Investment income	5	(1)	(17)
Net cash inflow from operating activities		761	1,463
Cash flows from investing activities			
Investment income		1	17
Payments made to acquire fixed assets		(57)	(138)
		(56)	(121)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Other interest received			
Interest paid		(114)	(148)
Repayments of amounts borrowed		(561)	(561)
		(675)	(709)
Increase/(Decrease) in cash in the period		30	633
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in cash and cash equivalents			
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year	19	4,907	4,274
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year	19	4,937	4,907
Movement in net cash or cash equivalents in period		30	633

Notes to the Accounts

1 Statement of accounting policies and estimation techniques

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 Accounts Direction and in accordance with 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 and in accordance with applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

Going concern

The activities of the College, together with the factors likely to affect its future development and performance, and taking account of the Principal Risks and Uncertainties, are set out in the Strategic Report. The financial position of the College, its cash flow, liquidity and borrowings are described in the Financial Statements and accompanying notes.

The College remains in a position of net liabilities, after another pension liability increase of £1,921,000 calculated according to FRS102. The College is required to make the notional FRS102 provision. This increase in liability is not reflected in a rise in contributions in the short term.

The College currently has loans outstanding with Barclays Bank Plc secured by fixed and floating charges on College assets over 4 and 6 years. These loans are secured against the Land and Buildings of the College.

The College is coming from a good position of cash reserves and is committed to taking all necessary measures to reduce costs, whilst at the same time increasing its student recruitment activities in order to restore financial health and ensure that it maintains adequate resources to continue operations. These actions include maintaining current levels of cash balances at each year end, and ensuring that working capital is adequate in all months of the financial year. For these reasons the College continues to adopt the going concern basis in the preparation of its Financial Statements.

Recognition of income

The recurrent grant from OfS represents the funding allocations attributable to the current financial year and is credited directly to the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

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.

Notes to the Accounts

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.

Government capital grants are capitalised, held as deferred income and recognised in income over the expected useful life of the asset, under the accrual method as permitted by FRS 102. Other capital grants are recognised in income when the College is entitled to the funds subject to any performance related conditions being met.

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.

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.

Accounting for post-employment benefits

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

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 the College is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution plan and the contributions recognised as an expense in the income statement in the periods during which services are rendered by employees.

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 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 recognised 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.

Enhanced pensions

The actual cost of any enhanced ongoing pension to a former member of staff is paid by the College annually. An estimate of the expected future cost of any enhancement to the ongoing pension of a former member of staff is charged in full to the College's income in the year that the member of staff retires. In subsequent years a charge is made to provisions in the balance sheet using the enhanced pension spreadsheet provided by the funding bodies.

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

Tangible fixed assets

• **Non-current assets - tangible fixed assets**

The College's buildings, aside from Russell Court, are specialised buildings and therefore it is not appropriate to value them on the basis of open market value. Land and buildings inherited from the Local Education Authority are stated in the balance sheet at valuation on the basis of depreciated historic cost, as the open market value for existing use is not readily obtainable. Land and buildings acquired since incorporation are included in the balance sheet at cost.

Russell Court was acquired as an office space and was therefore valued on the basis of open market value.

This building was sold subject to contract in the year so was moved from Fixed Assets to Current Assets, as an asset held for sale.

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 20 to 50 years. The College has a policy of depreciating major adaptations to buildings over the period of their useful economic life of between 20 and 50 years.

Less substantial adaptations to buildings are depreciated over a useful economic life of between 10 and 20 years.

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Where land and buildings are acquired with the aid of specific grants, they are capitalised and depreciated as above. The related grants are credited to a deferred capital grant account, and are released to the income and expenditure account over the expected useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the depreciation policy. The deferred income is allocated between creditors due within one year and those due after more than one year.

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

A review for potential indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date. If events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of the property, plant and equipment may not be recoverable, a calculation of the impact is completed and arising impairment values charged against the asset and to the SOCIE.

• **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.

• **Subsequent expenditure on existing fixed assets**

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

• **Equipment**

Equipment costing less than £2,000 per individual item is recognised as expenditure in the period of acquisition. All other equipment is capitalised at cost. All equipment is depreciated on a straight-line basis over its useful economic life as follows:-

- Computer equipment from 3 to 5 years
- Plant and machinery from 3 to 10 years.

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

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

Non Tangible fixed assets

● **Investments and endowment assets**

Listed investments held as fixed assets or endowment assets are stated at market value. Current asset investments, which may include listed investments, are stated at the lower of their cost and net realisable value.

Investments in joint ventures

The investment in the joint venture is disclosed in the accounts at cost.

Borrowing costs

Borrowing costs are recognised as expenditure in the period in which they are incurred.

Taxation

The College is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK 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 receives no similar exemption in respect of Value Added Tax. For this reason, the College is generally unable to recover input VAT it suffers on goods and services purchased. Non-pay expenditure is therefore shown inclusive of VAT with any partial recovery netted off against these figures.

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.

Financial liabilities and equity

Financial liabilities and equity are classified according to the substance of the financial instrument's contractual obligations, rather than the financial instrument's legal form.

All loans, investments and short term deposits held by the Group are classified as basic financial instruments in accordance with FRS 102. These instruments are initially recorded at the transaction price less any transaction costs (historical cost). FRS 102 requires that basic financial instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost, however the Group has calculated that the difference between the historical cost and amortised cost basis is not material and so these financial instruments are stated on the balance sheet at historical cost. Loans and investments that are payable or receivable within one year are not discounted.

Provisions and contingent liabilities

Provisions are recognised 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, and 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 within the control of the College. Contingent liabilities also arise in circumstances where a provision would otherwise be made

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

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.

Agency arrangements

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

Judgements in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty

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

- Determine whether there are indicators of impairment of the group’s tangible assets. 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 21, 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 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 July 2021. 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.

2 Tuition fees and education contracts

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Full time home and EU students	9,385	10,314
Part time home and EU students	341	365
Full time international students	217	224
Other higher education support fees	2	4
Other courses and education contracts	32	145
	9,977	11,052

3 Funding body grants

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Recurrent grants		
Education & Skills Funding Agency	2,415	2,130

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

Office for Students	589	695
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Specific grants

Release of deferred capital grants - ESFA	103	103
Non recurrent grant - OfS	218	67
Total	3,325	2,995

Note: The source of grant and fee income included in notes 2 and 3 is as follows:

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Grant income from the OfS	807	762
Grant income from other bodies	2,518	2,233
Fee income for taught awards (exclusive of VAT)	9,943	10,903
Fee income from non-qualifying courses (exclusive of VAT)	34	149
Total grant and fee income	13,302	14,047

4 Other income

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Residences, catering and conferences	18	12
Other grant income	623	251
Income relating to student activities	-	132
Other income	77	163
Total	718	558

5 Investment income

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Other investment income	1	17
Total	1	17

6 Staff costs

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

	2021	2020
	Number	Number
Teaching staff	69	76
Teaching Support	46	45
Non-teaching staff	100	96
Total	215	217

Staff costs for these persons:

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Payroll Costs:		
Wages and salaries	7,072	6,998
Social security costs	670	659
Other pension costs	2,764	2,093
	<u>10,506</u>	<u>9,750</u>
Agency staffing	-	-
	<u>10,506</u>	<u>9,750</u>
Restructuring and redundancy costs	493	41
Holiday Pay accrued at 31st July	21	131
Total staff costs	<u>11,020</u>	<u>9,922</u>

No percentage pay award was made during the year 2020/21 (1.8% in 2019/20). The College followed the UCEA lead in a 0% pay award, in line with the member institutions of UCEA. This recommendation was made by UCEA in view of the financial strain in the sector and the uncertainties created by the Covid-19 situation. The 0% pay award was built into the budget, saving the College around £120,000

7. Emoluments of key management personnel, the Principal and other higher paid staff

Key management personnel

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the College, and are represented by the SLT, which in the financial year 2020/21 comprised the Principal, Director of Finance, Director of Communications, Academic Dean, Director of Learning, Teaching & Enhancement and the College Registrar. Staff costs includes compensation paid to key management personnel.

Emoluments of key management personnel, the Principal and other higher paid staff

	2021	2020
	No.	No.
The number of key management personnel including the Principal was:	6	7

No post-holders, other than the Principal, received emoluments, excluding pension contributions and employer's national insurance, but including benefits in kind, in excess of £100,000.

Key management personnel compensation is made up as follows:

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Salaries- gross of salary sacrifice and waived emoluments	523	564
Restructuring Costs	-	30
Employers National Insurance	66	70
Benefits in kind	-	1
	<u>589</u>	<u>665</u>
Pension contributions	109	103
Total key management personnel compensation	<u>698</u>	<u>768</u>

There were no amounts due to key management personnel that were waived in the year, nor any salary sacrifice arrangements in place.

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

Head of institution's emoluments

The above compensation includes amounts payable to the Principal (who is also the highest paid officer) of:

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Salaries	174	166
Benefits in kind	-	-
	<u>174</u>	<u>166</u>
Pension contributions	<u>41</u>	<u>38</u>
Total head of institution's emoluments	<u>215</u>	<u>204</u>

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

The head of the provider's basic salary is 5.7 times the median pay salary of staff, where the median pay is calculated on a full-time equivalent basis for the salaries paid by the provider to its staff (2020: 6.6 times)

The head of the provider's total remuneration is 6 times the median total remuneration of staff, where the median total remuneration is calculated on a full-time equivalent basis for the salaries paid by the provider to its staff (2020: 7.3 times)

In the year ended 31 July 2021, the Remuneration Committee carried out a review of senior post-holders' salaries and the salaries were set accordingly.

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

8a Other operating expenses

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Academic departments	811	999
Academic service	183	199
Central administration	440	522
General educational	1,166	1,333
Staff and student services	60	76
Premises costs	<u>872</u>	<u>1,033</u>
Total	<u>3,532</u>	<u>4,162</u>

Other operating expenses include:

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Auditors' remuneration:		
External audit	18	24
Non-audit services	17	17
Internal audit	20	24
Hire of other assets and operating leases (land and buildings)	62	59

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

8b Access and Participation

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Access Investment	326	277
Financial Support	396	393
Disability Support	109	113
Research and Evaluation	30	20

Disability Support is made up of 100% staff costs. Access and Investment is made up of 87% staff costs (90% in 2019/20) and Research and Evaluation is made up of 95% staff costs (90% in 2019/20). These staff costs are featured in Note 6 of the accounts.

https://pca.objects.frb.io/production/files/Footer/Access_and_Participation_Plan_2020-25.pdf

The College paid out £148,000 in hardship bursaries to students in the academic year (£37,000 in 2019/20.) The increase in bursaries paid was due to additional government funding specifically for hardship bursaries of £112,000.

9 Interest payable

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
On bank loans, overdrafts and other loans:		
Repayable wholly or partly in more than 5 years	114	148
	114	148
Net interest on defined pension liability (note 21)	217	192
Pension finance costs - enhanced pension provision (note 17)	2	4
Total	333	344

10 Taxation

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

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold Land & Buildings	Equipment	Total
	£000	£000	£000
Cost or valuation			
At 1 August 2020	25,726	2,659	28,385
Additions	3	54	57
Transfers	(474)	-	(474)
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 July 2021	25,255	2,713	27,968
Depreciation			
At 1 August 2020	8,032	2,309	10,341
Charge for year	716	199	915
Elimination in respect of transfers	(93)	-	(93)
Elimination in respect of disposals	-	-	-

Plymouth College of Art - Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

At 31 July 2021	<u>8,655</u>	<u>2,508</u>	<u>11,163</u>
Net book value at 31 July 2021	<u>16,600</u>	<u>205</u>	<u>16,805</u>
Net book value at 31 July 2020	<u>17,694</u>	<u>350</u>	<u>18,044</u>
Inherited	2,808	-	2,808
Financed by capital grant	3,477	-	3,477
Other	<u>10,315</u>	<u>205</u>	<u>10,520</u>
Net book value at 31 July 2021	<u>16,600</u>	<u>205</u>	<u>16,805</u>

The net book value of tangible fixed assets includes an amount of £Nil (2020 - £Nil) in respect of assets held under finance leases. The depreciation charge on these assets for the year was £Nil (2020 - £Nil). Transfers comprises the reassignment of Russell Court to current assets as this property was marketed for sale in May 2021, and is currently sold subject to contract.

12 Investment in joint venture

The College holds a 50% share of Makers HQ, a community interest company, owned equally by the College and Millfields Trust, who have each invested £1. The investment in the joint venture is disclosed in the accounts at cost.

The Company was incorporated in February 2018, but did not commence trading until August 2018.

13 Trade and other receivables

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade debtors	51	29
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>449</u>	<u>307</u>
Total	<u>500</u>	<u>336</u>

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Bank loans	561	561
Trade creditors	232	492
Other creditors	405	406
Other taxation and social security	167	157
Accruals and deferred income	860	521
Deferred income - government capital grants	103	103
Amounts owing to the ESFA	<u>156</u>	<u>179</u>
Total	<u>2,484</u>	<u>2,419</u>

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

15 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Bank loans	3,405	3,966
Deferred income - government capital grants	3,153	3,256
Total	6,558	7,222

16 Borrowings

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Bank loans		
Bank loans are repayable as follows:		
In one year or less or on demand	961	561
Between one and two years	561	561
Between two and five years	2,445	1,684
In five years or more	-	1,721
Total	3,967	4,527

The bank loans are secured on part of the freehold property of the College.

One loan is repayable by instalments falling due between August 2019 and July 2027 at an interest rate of 1.95% over LIBOR. The outstanding capital amount at 31 July 2021 was £2.70m (2020: £3.17m).

An additional payment will be made against this loan from the proceeds of the sale of Russell Court.

The other loan is repayable by instalments falling due between August 2019 and July 2025 at a fixed interest rate of 4.09%. The outstanding capital amount at 31 July 2021 was £1.27m (2020: £1.36m).

17 Provisions for liabilities and charges

	Enhanced Pensions
	£000
At 1 August 2020	148
Expenditure in the period	(13)
Transferred from income and expenditure account	2
Actuarial loss	19
At 31st July 2021	157

The enhanced pension provision related to the cost of staff who have already left the College's employment. This provision has been recalculated in accordance with guidance issued by the funding bodies.

18 Revaluation Reserve

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
At 1 August	2,704	2,808
Transfer from revaluation reserve to general reserve in respect of:		
Depreciation on revalued assets	(104)	(104)
At 31 July	2,600	2,704

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

19 Cash and cash equivalents

	At 1 August 2020 £000	Cash flows £000	At 31 July 2021 £000
Cash and cash equivalents	4,907	30	4,937
Total	4,907	30	4,937

20 Reconciliation of Net Debt

	At 1 August 2020 £000	Cash flows £000	At 31 July 2021 £000
Cash and cash equivalents	4,907	30	4,937
Loans falling due within one year	(561)		(561)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(3,966)	561	(3405)
Total	380	591	971

21 Pension and similar obligations

The College's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by Devon County Council. Both are defined benefit plans.

Total pension cost for the year

	2021 £000	2021 £000	2020 £000	2020 £000
Teachers' Pension Scheme: contributions paid		672		657
Local Government Pension Scheme:				
Contributions paid	595		517	
FRS 102 charge	1,478		892	
Charge to the Statement of Comprehensive Income (staff costs)		2,073		1,409
Enhanced pension charge to Statement of Comprehensive Income		19		27
Total pension cost for the year within staff costs		2,764		2,093

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest available formal actuarial valuation of the TPS was 31 March 2016 and of the LGPS was 31 March 2019.

Contributions of £145,000 (2020 £137,000) were payable to the scheme as at 31st July and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

employment following appointment or a change of contract. Teachers and lecturers are able to opt out of the TPS.

The Teachers' Pension Budgeting and Valuation Account

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The latest actuarial review of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2016 and in accordance with The Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education (the Department) on 9 June 2014. The key results of the valuation and the subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates are set to rise to 23.68% from 16.48% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% levy for administration);
- total scheme liabilities for service to the effective date of £218.1 billion, and notional assets of £196.1 billion, giving a notional past service deficit of £22 billion;
- an employer cost cap of 7.3% of pensionable pay will be applied to future valuations.

The new employer contribution rate for the TPS was implemented in September 2019.

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

<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2019/04/teachers-pensions-valuation-report.aspx>

Scheme changes

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

The key provisions of the reformed scheme include: a pension based on career average earnings; an accrual rate of 1/57th; and a Normal Pension Age equal to State Pension Age, but with options to enable members to retire earlier or later than their Normal Pension Age. Importantly, pension benefits built up before 1 April 2017 will be fully protected.

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

Regulations giving effect to a reformed Teachers' Pension Scheme came into force on 1 April 2014 and the reformed scheme commenced on 1 April 2017.

The pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £672,000 (2020: £657,000).

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

FRS 102

Under the definitions set out in FRS 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 plan and the implications for the College in terms of the anticipated contribution rates.

Local Government Pension Scheme

The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) is a funded defined benefit plan, with the assets held in separate trustee administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 July 2021 was £833,000 (2020: £744,000) of which employer's contributions totalled £595,000 (2020: £517,000) and employees' contributions totalled £238,000 (2020: £227,000). The employee contribution rate ranges from 5.5% to 12.5%, dependent on full time equivalent salary rate. The agreed employer contribution rate for 2021/22 is 14.2% (2020/21: 14.2%).

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

	2021 £000	2020 £000
Amounts included in staff costs		
Service cost	2,123	1,401
Total	2,123	1,401
Amounts included in interest and other finance costs		
	2021 £000	2020 £000
Net interest expense	217	192
Administration expenses	9	8
Total	226	200
Amount recognised in Other Comprehensive Income		
	2021 £000	2020 £000
Return on pension plan assets in excess of interest	1,911	(348)
Other actuarial losses on assets	-	(39)
Changes in financial assumptions	(3,002)	(3,873)
Change in demographic assumptions	335	577
Experience gain on defined benefit obligation	539	(1,741)
Amounts recognised in Other Comprehensive Income	(217)	(5,424)

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

	2021 £000	2020 £000
Fair value of plan assets	14,028	11,386
Present value of plan liabilities	(31,646)	(27,083)
Net pensions liability	(17,618)	(15,697)

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

Movement in net defined benefit liability during year

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Net defined benefit liability in plan at 1 August	(15,697)	(9,181)
Movement in year:		
Current service cost	(2,123)	(1,401)
Past service cost	82	-
Employer Contributions	645	509
Net interest on the defined liability	(217)	(192)
Administration expenses	(9)	(8)
Actuarial (loss)/gain	(217)	(5,424)
Deficit in plan at 31 July	<u>(17,618)</u>	<u>(15,697)</u>

Asset and Liability Reconciliation

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations		
Defined benefit obligations at start of period	27,083	20,260
Current service cost	2,041	1,401
Interest cost	380	435
Contributions by plan participants	238	226
Changes in financial assumptions	3,002	3,873
Experience gain on defined benefit obligation	(539)	1,741
Change in demographic assumptions	(335)	(577)
Past service cost	82	-
Estimated benefits paid, net of transfers in	(306)	(276)
Liabilities at end of period	<u>31,646</u>	<u>27,083</u>

Changes in fair value of plan assets

Fair value of assets at start of period	11,386	11,079
Return on assets	1,911	(348)
Interest on assets	163	243
Contributions by employer	645	509
Contributions by plan participants	238	226
Administration expenses	(9)	(8)
Other actuarial (losses) on assets	-	(39)
Estimated benefits paid	(306)	(276)
Fair value of assets at end of period	<u>14,028</u>	<u>11,386</u>

The College's share of the assets and liabilities in the plan were estimated to be:

	31 July 2020		31 July 2019	
Gilts	1,728	12%	433	4%
UK Equities	1,562	11%	1,488	13%
Overseas equities	7,362	52%	5,216	46%
Property	1,100	8%	935	8%
Infrastructure	520	4%	482	4%
Target return portfolio	1,329	9%	1,413	12%
Cash	146	1%	158	1%

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Notes to the Accounts (continued)

Other bonds	280	2%	552	5%
Alternative assets	1	1%	709	6%
Private equity	-		-	-
Total (bid value)	14,028	100%	11,386	100%
Present value of plan liabilities	<u>(31,646)</u>		<u>(27,083)</u>	
(Deficit) in the plan	<u>(17,168)</u>		<u>(15,697)</u>	

The financial assumptions used in the valuation are as follows:

	At 31 July 2021	At 31 July 2020	At 31 July 2019
Rate of increase in salaries	3.80%	3.20%	3.85%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	2.80%	2.20%	2.35%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	1.60%	1.40%	2.15%
RPI Increases	3.10%	3.00%	3.35%
CPI Increases	2.80%	2.20%	2.35%

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

	At 31 July 2021	At 31 July 2020
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	22.7	22.9
Females	24.0	24.1
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	24.0	24.3
Females	25.4	25.5

Sensitivity analysis

	£000	£000	£000
	+0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Adjustment to discount rate			
Present value of total obligations	30,826	31,646	32,488
Projected service cost	2,443	2,541	2,643
Adjustment to long term salary increase	+0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Present value of total obligations	31,699	31,646	31,594
Projected service cost	2,542	2,541	2,540
Adjustment to pension increases and deferred revaluation	+0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Present value of total obligations	32,425	31,646	30,887
Projected service cost	2,641	2,541	2,444
Adjustment to life expectancy assumptions	+1 year	None	-1 year
Present value of total obligations	32,907	31,646	30,435
Projected service cost	2,644	2,541	2,441

The estimated value of employer contributions for the year ended 31 July 2022 is £643,000 (2021 estimate: £602,000).

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

22 Capital Commitments

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Commitments contracted for at 31 July	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

23 Financial Commitments

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

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Future minimum lease payments due		
Land and Buildings:		
Not later than one year	42	35
Later than one year and not later than five years	168	140
Later than five years	<u>25</u>	<u>55</u>
	<u>235</u>	<u>230</u>
Other:		
Not later than one year	19	19
Later than one year and not later than five years	41	60
Later than five years	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>60</u>	<u>79</u>
Total lease payments due	<u>255</u>	<u>309</u>

The increase in Land and Buildings lease payments due is to show the irrecoverable VAT element on these lease payments.

24 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the College's operations and the composition of the Board of Governors being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a member of the board of governors may have an interest. All transactions involving organisation in which a member of the board of governors may have an interest are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the College's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures. There were no transactions with these parties that would require disclosure under FRS 102.

The total expenses paid to or on behalf of the Governors during the year was £178 (2020: £5,150 to 8 governors). This represents travel and subsistence and other out of pocket expenses incurred in attending governor meetings and charity events in their official capacity.

No Governor has received any remuneration or waived payment from the College during the year (2020: None).

Transactions with the funding bodies are detailed in notes 3 and 14.

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

25 Amounts disbursed as agent - learner support funds

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Funding body grants – residential bursaries	48	48
Other funding bodies' grants	125	113
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funding	173	161
Disbursed to students	(153)	(112)
Administration costs	(3)	(5)
Unspent balance	<hr/> 17	<hr/> 44
Unspent balances brought forward at start of year included in creditors	178	145
Clawback of previous years' unspent grants	<hr/> (39)	<hr/> (11)
Unspent balances carried forward at end of year included in creditors	<hr/> 156	<hr/> 178

These grants are available solely for students. The College acts only as a paying agent. The grants and related disbursements are therefore excluded from the Statement of Comprehensive Income.