



Icknield High School

**Audit Findings Report for the year ended
31 August 2025**

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Executive summary



Introduction

This Audit Findings Report (AFR) has been prepared to aid discussion with you about the significant and other matters encountered during the audit and how we have concluded on them.

Audit risks

We have obtained sufficient and appropriate audit evidence to conclude on the risks identified in the Audit Planning Memorandum.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis.

Financial statements

We have reviewed your draft financial statements, and the accounting policies are appropriate and have been applied consistently; the disclosures are in line with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the Department for Education and the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities; and the assumptions used in your key accounting estimates are reasonable

We do not expect to modify our audit or otherwise include either an 'emphasis of matter' or 'other matter' paragraph.

Regularity opinion

Our regularity opinion in the financial statements must reflect all significant and material issues that have been raised in this audit findings report.

There are no significant issues detailed in this management letter which are required to be included in the regularity opinion, hence the regularity opinion in the financial statements has not been modified.

Executive summary continued

Misstatements

We did not identify any misstatements that have been adjusted, as shown on page 13. Total unadjusted misstatements, as shown on page 14, represent a net understatement deficit of £28,524.

Control recommendations

We have not identified any control recommendations

Other matters

Nothing to report

Written representations

We will be requesting both our standard representations and also some specific written representations from you, as detailed on page 19 of this document:

Independence

We confirm that MHA and the engagement team are independent and that our integrity and objectivity are not impaired.

Rebecca Hughes

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Introduction

MHA present our audit report and management letter solely for the attention of Icknield High School following our audit of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2025. This report summarises key issues in connection with the audit of the financial statements and with the regularity assurance engagement, which we consider should be drawn to the attention of the Trustees.

In order to comply with the provisions of International Standards on Auditing we are required to report to you our audit findings and in particular:

- The nature and the scope of audit work we have undertaken
- Views about the qualitative aspects of your accounting practices and financial reporting
- Unadjusted and adjusted misstatements
- Matters specifically required by Auditing Standards to be communicated to those charged with governance (such as fraud and error)
- Expected modifications to our auditor's report
- Material weaknesses in the accounting and internal control systems and
- Any other relevant and material matters relating to the audit.

We note that the Academy is required to provide a copy of this report to the Department for Education (DfE) by 31 December 2025 together with the Academy financial statements. If matters arise whose significance is such that they should be brought to your attention sooner, we shall do as required by the ISA and outside these planned arrangements.

The report has been prepared solely for the purpose of recording the audit scope, approach and risk areas and for communicating audit issues raised with those charged with governance.

We would be grateful if you will in due course advise us what action you propose to take on the recommendations in the report and also if you would like our further assistance on these or any other matters.

The report has been prepared in compliance with the DfE's requirement for reporting to both the Trustees and the DfE through a management letter. No reports may be provided to third parties, with the exception of the DfE, without our prior consent. Consent will only be granted on the basis that such reports are not prepared with the interests of anyone other than the Academy in mind and we accept no duty of care or responsibility to any other party. The report may not be relied upon for any other purpose. No responsibilities are accepted by MHA towards any party acting or refraining from action as a result of this report.

Finally, we would like to express our thanks to all the Academy staff who assisted us in carrying out our work.

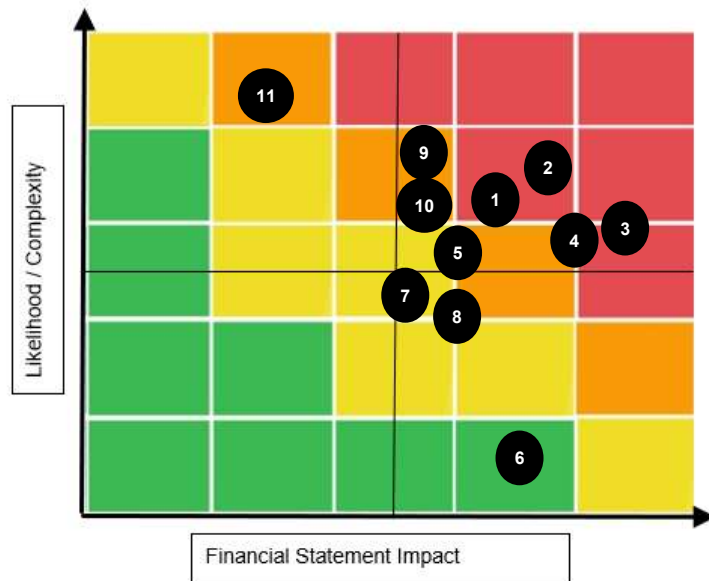
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Key audit risks

The key audit risks we identified at the audit planning stage are illustrated below. Where these have changed during the audit process, we have reflected this below. The subsequent pages in this document detail the conclusions of our audit work in response to these risks.

Throughout the audit, we have considered our initial observations and discussions with you surrounding risk and the likelihood of misstatement at the financial statement level, as well as the magnitude/impact these may have on the financial statements. The most significant identified risks will have both a high level of likelihood (and/or complexity) and a high level of impact on the financial statements. We have highlighted these on the below risk heat map and updated as necessary since our Outline Audit Strategy initially presented to you. Our audit conclusions in response to these risks are detailed on the following pages and are categorised as significant and elevated risks. All other risks are considered normal risks and are tested in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISA).



Key audit risks	
1	Fraud risk in revenue recognition
2	Management override
3	Related party transactions
4	Going concern
5	Income and Expenditure –Allocation
6	Financial reporting
7	Payroll - Accuracy, Occurrence and Completeness
8	Pension Scheme Liability – Valuation
9	Regularity
10	Fixed Assets – Existence and Completeness
11	Creditors – Cut-off

■ Significant risk

Significant risks

The significant audit risks identified at the planning stage are set out below, together with the results of our testing:

	Audit area and key risks as presented	Our approach as presented	Resolution
1	Fraud risk in revenue recognition International Auditing Standard 240 requires us to presume that fraud in revenue recognition is a “significant audit risk”, unless this presumption is specifically re-butted. There is significant grant funding received by the Academy Trust in addition to General Annual Grant (GAG) funding.	We will consider the risk of fraud in all income areas including where required an assessment against the three aspects for income recognition for each material income stream: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completeness (has all income been included in the accounts) • Recognition (this considers three criteria of: “probable” (e.g. more likely than not), “entitlement” and “measurement”) • Fund accounting (are there restrictions on use and are these correctly recorded?) Other income should be recognised as restricted income where appropriate, and in accordance with Academies Accounts Direction, Charities SORP (FRS 102) and the funding agreement.	Audit work performed as planned – no exceptions.
2	Management override In accordance with ISA 240 (UK) management override is presumed to be a significant risk. The ability to override controls puts management in a unique position to perpetrate or conceal the effects of fraud. This may take a number of forms such as falsifying accounting entries in order to conceal misappropriation of assets and/or other manipulation of accounting entries intended to result in the production of financial statements which give a misleading view of the entity’s financial position or performance. We are required to design and perform audit procedures to respond to the risk of management’s override of controls.	We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document our understanding and evaluate the financial reporting process and the controls over journal entries and other adjustments made in the preparation of the financial statements, and test the appropriateness of a sample of such entries and adjustments. • Review accounting estimates for biases that could result in material misstatement due to fraud. • Obtain an understanding of the business rationale of significant transactions that we become aware of that are outside the normal course of business or that otherwise appear to be unusual given our understanding of the Academy Trust and its environment. 	Audit work performed as planned – no exceptions.

Significant risks (continued)

The significant audit risks identified at the planning stage are set out below, together with the results of our testing:

	Audit area and key risks as presented	Our approach as presented	Resolution
3	Related party transactions <p>In order to comply with ISAs, we are required to consider the risk of fraud through related party transactions and our audit planning and detailed work will address the fraud risks arising from related party transactions. This is in recognition of the fact that many significant corporate frauds utilised related party transactions to some degree.</p>	<p>We will make enquiries as to the identity of related parties in respect of the Academy Trust and management's systems of identifying and recording related party transactions, including reviewing any related party declarations prepared and signed by the Trustees and Key Management Personnel. This means that the Academy Trust should have a comprehensive list of all related parties and details of all transactions with them.</p> <p>We will also look to identify any significant transactions outside the course of business – we are not expecting this to be an issue for the Academy Trust, but will need to undertake specific procedures if these are in fact identified.</p>	Audit work performed as planned – no exceptions.
4	Going concern <p>Going concern is defined as being able to continue in 'operational existence' for at least 12 months from the date of signing the financial statements. As per the ISA 570, there is a requirement for auditors to document robust challenge of management's assessment of going concern, including the obtaining of evidence regarding, and concluding on, whether a material uncertainty relating to going concern exists.</p> <p>ISA 570 also requires our Auditor's Report to provide a positive conclusion on the appropriateness of the going concern basis and whether material uncertainties exist. There is also a "stand back" requirement for auditors to undertake at the end of our audit work, hence this may result in further queries related to going concern near to audit completion.</p>	<p>As part of our audit work, we will need to obtain and review evidence of how the Trustees have satisfied themselves that the Academy Trust will remain in operation for 12 months from the date of approving of the financial statements. Such evidence would include, budgets up to at least that date and a three year forecast. Management will need to prepare such supporting evidence and also make it available to the Trustees to consider.</p> <p>We shall also consider the Academy Trust reserves policy and disclosures included in the Trustees Annual Report.</p>	Audit work performed as planned – no exceptions.

Elevated risks



	Audit area and key risks as presented	Our approach as presented	Resolution
5	Income and Expenditure – Allocation The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that income to and expenditure from restricted funds is correctly allocated. We will review the allocation of income and expenditure of restricted and unrestricted funds; ensuring restricted funds are used for the purposes intended.	We will test grant income to ensure correct allocation. Furthermore, we will substantively test expenditure to ensure that the costs are bona fide and have been authorised in accordance with the Academy Trust's controls and procedures.	Audit work performed as planned – no exceptions.
6	Financial Reporting There is a risk that the respective Trustees' Report and financial statements are not fully compliant with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025, or are materially misstated through errors in their compilation.	We will review the Trustees' and Strategic Reports for consistency with the financial statements and to ensure they comply with applicable regularity (Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025) and SORP requirements.	Audit work performed as planned – no exceptions.
7	Payroll – accuracy, occurrence and completeness Salary costs are the largest item of expenditure of the Academy.	We will review payroll data to ensure it is accurate and complete and that all payroll liabilities are included. We will also review the Academy Trust's reconciliation of payroll records to the accounts and perform substantive testing to provide assurance that payroll deductions and calculations are accurate and have been recorded within the accounts. For higher paid employees and key management personnel care is needed to ensure appropriate disclosures are made.	Audit work performed as planned – no exceptions.

Elevated risks



	Audit area and key risks as presented	Our approach as presented	Resolution
8	Pension Scheme Liability – Valuation The FRS102 pension liability represents the Academy Trust's share of the deficit of the Local Government Pension Scheme. The amount recognised is an estimate and is recorded from the valuation undertaken by the Scheme's actuary. There remains a risk that the amount may be materially misstated if the assumptions used by the Scheme's actuary are not appropriate.	We will review the actuarial valuation for the Academy that has been presented by the actuary. We will complete review procedures on the estimates to determine our reliance on this work. We ensure that the Academy checks the data which has been provided for the actuarial report and we consider the relevance of the assumptions used by the actuary in preparing the 2025 valuation. We will check the pension disclosures in the financial statements to ensure these reflect the assumptions used. We will review the criteria for recognising a pension asset, if applicable in the current year, to determine whether these conditions are met.	Audit work performed as planned – no exceptions.
9	Regularity The DfE have highlighted in the Academy Trust Handbook their Schedule of Requirements (the 'musts') that are an essential obligation for all Academies.	Within the audit deliverables we shall include a summary of these 'musts' for your attention. We ask that you review this list and consider whether the Academy Trust has given due regard to these requirements. We shall consider your answers and evidence as part of our audit work. Therefore, it is good practice for there to be trustee/finance committee consideration of these responses.	Audit work performed as planned – no exceptions.
10	Fixed Assets – Existence and Completeness The risk that assets are incorrectly included in the financial statements.	We will review assets that have been expensed to ensure the accounting policies have been applied correctly and that the capitalisations in the year are complete. We will test the existence of fixed assets, on a sample basis, to gain comfort that the assets recorded in the fixed asset register are valid assets owned and used by the Academy Trust.	Audit work performed as planned – no exceptions.

Elevated risks



	Audit area and key risks as presented	Our approach as presented	Resolution
11	Creditors – Cut-off The risk that liabilities are incomplete.	<p>We will test trade creditors and accruals to ensure that the balances are valid, accurate and complete. These balances will be tested as at 31 August 2025 to ensure no cut-off issue is present. Tax liabilities and other creditors will be reviewed and verified to supporting documentation. We will consider whether possible capital works around the year end need to be accrued, and consider whether any contingent liabilities need to be disclosed.</p> <p>We will check if any provisions are required for clawbacks of income and whether these should be reflected in the accounts if material. This will be performed in tandem with our income testing.</p> <p>We shall also consider income recognition policies for income arising from capital grants such as the School Building Programme and ensure creditors and accruals in relation to such grants are reflected in the financial statements.</p>	Audit work performed as planned – no exceptions.

Financial statements



We are required by ISAs to make certain communications you as set out below:

Aspect of financial statements	Conclusions
Accounting policies and financial statement disclosures	The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the Department for Education and the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities.. As part of our audit work, we have reviewed your draft financial statements including the accounting policies which we found to be appropriate and have been applied consistently.
Key accounting estimates	<p>As auditors, we are aware that the selected basis of an accounting estimate may have a significant impact on the financial statements so in our work we need to identify all accounting estimates and the basis of the estimate and, where we consider there to be a high estimation uncertainty, we must ensure our audit work challenges the basis of the estimate.</p> <p>We are also required to consider the outcome of accounting estimates in prior periods as a basis for our risk assessment in the current year.</p> <p>In the Trust's accounts, the most significant accounting estimates concern:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Useful life/depreciation rate of property, plant and equipment• Local government pension scheme valuation <p>We have reviewed the accounting estimates for the Trust and conclude that they have been calculated on a basis that is consistent with our knowledge of the Trust and expectations.</p>
Audit report	There are no expected modifications to the audit report(s) and we do not intend to include either an 'emphasis of matter' or 'other matter' paragraph.
Other matters we are required to report to you	There are no other matters that we need to report to you.



Adjusted items

This is a summary of the adjustments made to the financial statements during the course of our work:

	Balance sheet		Profit and loss account	
	Dr	Cr	Dr	Cr
Being the LGPS pension asset to be restricted in the balance sheet	2,101,000	(2,101,000)		
Being the costs of the LGPS pension scheme within staff costs / actuarial loss			44,000	(44,000)
Total	2,101,000	(2,101,000)	44,000	(44,000)
Profit impact			0	



Unadjusted misstatements

This is a summary of the uncorrected misstatements identified during the course of our work. As noted above, you will be asked to confirm via a letter of representation that you do not consider it necessary to adjust them as they are immaterial, individually and in aggregate. Those below the threshold of £11,705 will not be included in the letter of representation.

Adjustment	Nominal code	DR	CR	P&L Impact Increase income/(decrease income)
Being reversal of prior year UCEs	460100 – Unrestricted funds	£28,524		
	892110 – Depreciation – Direct costs		£28,524	£28,524

Regularity issues

Where we have identified areas of irregularity, but have concluded that the irregularity is not material by virtue of the value or nature of the issue, this has been included in the summary tables below, in order for the Department for Education to have full information relating to all regularity issues, enabling them to draw an overall conclusion on regularity in the Academy Trust.

Regularity issue	Significance and recommendation	Trustees' response	Timescale and responsibility for implementation
<p>Matter 1 – Information about key individuals</p> <p>During the year, the Trust failed to comply with section 2.48 of the Academy Trust Handbook in respect of ensuring all mandatory fields for individuals are completed and kept up to date within Get Information About Schools (GIAS).</p> <p>There are many differences between Companies House and GIAS when listing out the Members and Trustees. This is mainly attributable to individuals being listed as Members only, when in fact they are both Members and Trustees.</p>	<p>We recommend the Trust ensures GIAS is kept up to date and consistent with Companies House.</p>	<p>The Board acknowledges the recommendation concerning the accuracy and completeness of information held on GIAS. We recognise the importance of ensuring that all mandatory fields are up to date and consistent with Companies House records. The Trust has reviewed the current entries and is undertaking updates to ensure alignment. We will continue to monitor and maintain this information on an ongoing basis.</p>	<p>Headteacher & Secretary</p> <p>Spring Term</p>
<p>Matter 2 – Role of members</p> <p>During the year, the Trust failed to comply with section 1.6 of the Academy Trust Handbook, which states the majority of Members should not also be Trustees.</p>	<p>Although this is not a 'Must' requirement, we recommend a split between Members and Trustees is implemented, in line with DfE guidance.</p>	<p>The Board acknowledges the recommendation regarding the separation of Members and Trustees. We note that the Academy Trust Handbook sets out this governance structure as "should" rather than "must" compliance. After consideration and taking into account the school's Single Academy Trust status, the Board has agreed not to implement changes at this time, as the current structure is functioning effectively and provides appropriate oversight for the Trust. The Board will continue to keep this matter under review and will reconsider the position should regulatory requirements or operational needs change.</p>	<p>Not Applicable</p>

Control deficiencies and recommendations



We have set out below significant deficiencies in internal control which came to our attention during the course of our audit work, as defined by ISAs. This does not constitute a comprehensive statement of all deficiencies that may exist in internal controls or of all improvements which may be made and has addressed only those matters which have come to our attention as a result of the audit procedures performed. An audit is not designed to identify all matters that may be relevant to you and accordingly the audit does not ordinarily identify all such matters.

We did not identify any material deficiencies or weaknesses in the operational effectiveness of internal controls to draw to your attention from our audit work.

Prior period matters and status

We have summarised how we followed up on the matters identified in the prior period as follows

	Prior period matter	Follow up in current year	Trustees' response	Timescale and responsibility for implementation
	<p>Fixed Asset Register – Low risk</p> <p>At present, in addition to the Fixed Asset Register kept by the Finance Team, there are also separate registers being kept by the IT Department and Estates Manager. There is a risk that all additions and disposals are not communicated to the Finance Team and that both additions and disposals are understated in the year.</p>	No issues noted in current year		
	<p>Fixed Asset Register – Low risk</p> <p>The fixed asset register (FAR) is continuing to depreciate some assets that have already reached a net book value (NBV) of zero.</p>	No issues noted in current year		

Other matters

There are no other matters we wish to discuss.



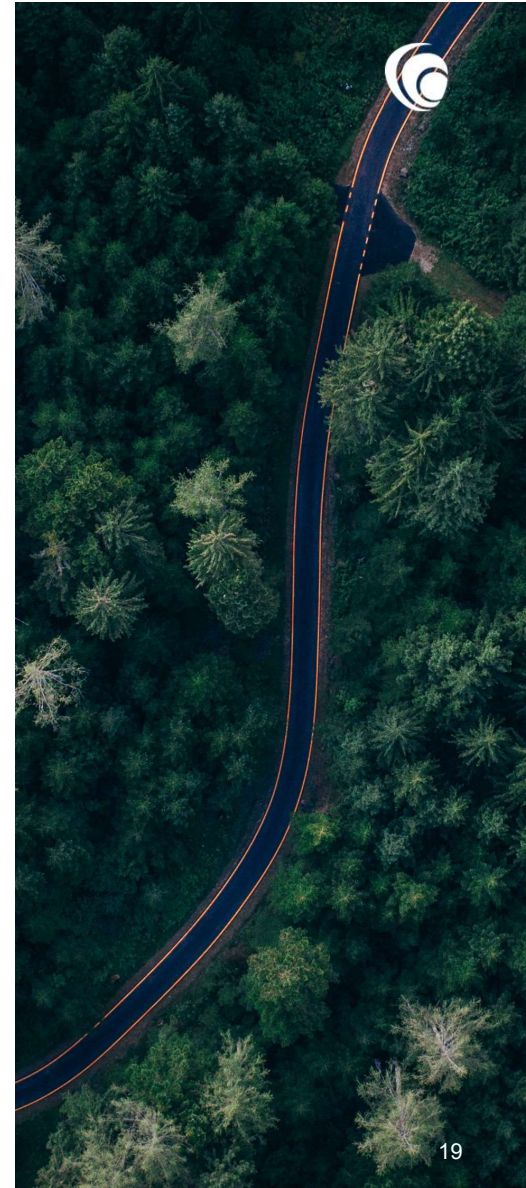
Written representations

As part of our completion process, we will ask you to provide a letter making certain representations to us including that:

- You have fulfilled your responsibilities in respect of the preparation of the financial statements including that they reflect all transactions and any assumptions in respect of estimates made are reasonable;
- We have had access to all relevant information, books and records;
- Individual and aggregated unadjusted misstatements are immaterial;
- You have disclosed any non-compliance with laws and regulations/ litigations and claims to us and that they have been accounted for appropriately; and
- Any relevant post-balance sheet event adjustments/ disclosures are properly included in the financial statements.

Additionally, we will request representations on certain matters in respect of fraud and related parties and:

- You have reviewed and approved the adjustments shown on the schedule of Adjusted misstatements





Communication plan

As we noted in our Outline Audit Strategy Document, ISA 260, ISQM (UK) 1* and certain other ISAs specify the communications we are required to make and we have summarised these as follows:

Required communications	Audit Approach Memorandum	Audit Findings Report
The respective responsibilities of the auditor and management/ those charged with governance	✓	
An overview of the planned scope and timing of our audit, including the significant risks we have identified	✓	
Significant facts and matters that may bear upon our integrity, objectivity and independence	✓	✓
Non-compliance with laws and regulations	✓	✓
Events or conditions identified that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern	✓	✓
Our views about significant qualitative aspects of your accounting practices, including accounting policies, accounting estimates and financial statement disclosures		✓
Any significant matters arising and/ or significant difficulties encountered during the audit		✓
Uncorrected misstatements the effect they may have on the opinion on our report		✓
Significant deficiencies in internal control identified during the audit		✓
Circumstances that will affect the form and content of our report, including modifications to the auditor's report or the inclusion of an emphasis of matter paragraph		✓
Identified or suspected fraud which results in a material misstatement of the financial statements and whether it involves management		✓
The written representations we are requesting		✓

In addition, we maintain other such timely communication as required throughout the audit to ensure there is robust two-way dialogue between us and those charged with governance, particularly if we encounter any significant difficulties during the audit.

* International Standard on Quality Management (UK) 1: Quality Management For Firms That Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Statements, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements

Confirmation of independence and objectivity



In line with the FRC's Revised Ethical Standard 2019, as part of our audit planning procedures we are required to assess any threats to our integrity and objectivity, including any which could impair our independence. Where such threats are identified, we are required to implement safeguards which will either:

- Eliminate the threat; or
- Reduce the threat to level at which independence is not compromised.

We confirm that there are no significant facts or matters that impact on our independence as auditors./ We have identified the following potential threats and have outlined how we plan to guard against them:

Non-audit services	
Threats	Safeguards
Preparation of statutory financial statements from Academy trial balance	<p>The preparation of the accounts will be conducted by our Accounts team which is separate from the audit team with an independent manager, and not connected with the audit process.</p> <p>The Accounts team will produce the statutory accounts from your trial balance. In providing this service they will not make management decisions; their work is considered to be mechanical in nature and they do not initiate or determine any transactions or journals. Where there are valid alternatives in the selection of accounting entries for the allocation of the trial balance figures, the allocation will be based on your requirements and guidance.</p> <p>Any potential adjustments to your accounts that are identified arising from audit work will be discussed with you. Any subsequent changes to the accounts proposed by you will be confirmed to us in writing.</p>
Certification of the Teachers' Pension return	The completion of the TPA return does not affect our statutory audit work
Provision of general advice/VAT advice as required	General advice and assistance with accounting queries during the period is not considered significant for this Academy. VAT advice is provided by our VAT experts who are independent of the audit team.
Preparation of corporation tax computation and CT600 return	The completion of the taxation computation and other corporation tax compliance is carried out by a separate tax team.
Preparation of Academies Accounts Return	Assistance with preparation of the Accounts Return is a mechanical function derived from the statutory accounts and following discussion with the Academy Trust.

This memorandum has been prepared by MHA in connection with the audit of the financial statements of Icknield High School and has been prepared solely for the benefit of this organisation. MHA neither owes nor accepts any duty of care to any third party and shall not be liable for any loss, damage and/or expense which is caused by any reliance that any other party may place on this information.

Our audit procedures, which have been designed to enable us to express an opinion on the financial statements, have included the examination of the transactions and the controls thereon of the Charity. The work we have done was not primarily directed towards identifying weaknesses in the Trust's accounting systems other than those that would affect our audit opinion, nor to the detection of fraud.

We have included in this report only those matters that have come to our attention as a result of our normal audit procedures and, consequently, our comments should not be regarded as a comprehensive record of all weaknesses that may exist or improvements that could be made.

To a certain extent the content of this paper comprises general information that has been provided by, or is based on discussions with, management and staff. Except to the extent necessary for the purposes of the audit, this information has not been independently verified.

MHA is the trading name of MHA Audit Services LLP, a limited liability partnership, registered in England and Wales (registered number OC455542). A list of partners' names is open for inspection at its registered office, The Pinnacle, Building A, 150-170 Midsummer Boulevard, Milton Keynes, MK9 1FD.

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Now, for tomorrow