The continual drive to improve our provision at NCW gathered momentum during the 2017/18 academic year – governed by our ambitious strategic improvement plan.

The first section of the plan quite rightly focuses on student progress and there is no better measure of this than the destination data of our students when they transition out of NCW. The class of 2018 have spread their wings and flown – across the United Kingdom – to a variety of Universities, Further Education Colleges and employment. All students hoping to enter Higher Education were able to attend their first choice University. All of the students achieved very well indeed and of particular note was Zoe, gaining A*/A/A in her A-Levels and now studying Music at Worcester College, Oxford.

At GCSE level, our students also did well, with the vast majority choosing to continue their studies at NCW. Well done to all.

Progress was also made on the classroom refurbishment project. The Maths rooms are now state of the art learning bases, with lighting and IT designed specifically for our visually impaired learners. During 2018/19, we are looking forward to this project extending to the Languages and Humanities corridors. This work has been financed entirely through fundraising and we are grateful to everyone who has contributed so generously.

Once more, the College was delighted to receive an ‘outstanding’ grading in all areas in the Ofsted Residential Provision inspection. Thank you to the Care team who excel in ensuring our students are so well looked after.

The extra-curricular programme continues to provide our students with a wide range of activities, encouraging them to develop their confidence, self-esteem and communication skills. As ever, music, sport, foreign travel and outdoor adventure have led the way. Congratulations to Naqib, Charlotte, Stuart and Chelsea who represented Great Britain at Goalball this year and very well done to all of our musicians who gained external accreditation through their instrumental and singing endeavours. Particular congratulations go to Zoe and Jack, both of whom gained their Piano Diploma.

Thank you to all of the staff who work so hard every day to ensure that the young people of NCW develop the skills they will need in the world beyond the college. Every day, a student does something extraordinary; something they never contemplated being able to do.

It is this that makes NCW so very special.

Nicki Ross Principal
2017/18 was a very active year and was a period of consolidation following the new Principal’s arrival. Her approach has built on the good reputation of the college, and work has been underway to improve outcomes and achieve excellence.

The students as usual have been a credit to the college and in addition to their academic achievements, have demonstrated their musical and sporting skills in a number of different ways. This was evident from their attainment at Celebration Day and their effort, skill and courage are impressive.

It has been wonderful to see the progress made by individuals during their time at NCW and to observe the increase in independence and confidence which are what the college excels at. This is the missing element in mainstream schools, which may be able to provide teaching and learning but not the independent living skills and peer group which support the young people to thrive. Visitors are always impressed by the students when they visit, and they are excellent ambassadors for the college. The Governing Body continues to be very proud of the students and considers it a privilege to be a part of such a unique place.

The Governing Body worked closely with the Senior Leadership Team during the year and supported the development of the tracking system to improve academic results. Since each student has differing needs, they all have an individual personalised plan which provides the best opportunity for them to fulfil their potential. Safeguarding and student welfare remain of paramount importance, and the college continues to have an excellent track record of these, as evidenced by the retainment of its outstanding rating by Ofsted in the Residential Provision inspection.

The Governing Body has remained concerned about student numbers as these have continued to fall, mainly due to a lack of Local Authority funding. Some improvements have been made to the facilities in order to attract more students, but funding remains a significant challenge.

NCW is a close and supportive community, united in its absolute commitment to supporting students to thrive. None of this would be achieved without the high level of dedication by all staff in the school, residential houses and support teams, as well as volunteers. We would like to thank them all for their hard work and commitment as the college continues to be an exceptional place to be a part of. The Governing Body would also like to particularly thank the Principal for her leadership, aspirations and attentiveness in providing the very best environment possible for NCW students.

Plans for the future

The Trustee Governors update their rolling 5-year Strategic Plan annually in light of an increasingly challenging context. They keep abreast of the fast-changing educational landscape, political direction and visual impairment demographics and take these into account in deciding how best to secure a sustainable future for the college. Working with the Senior Leadership Team, the Governing Body has identified three key strategic priorities:

- All students make outstanding progress academically and through the additional curriculum
- Securing a sustainable future by increasing student numbers
- Developing a business strand to income generation

Progress with the strategic implementation plan flowing from this is closely monitored through the Governing Body’s committees, which take responsibility for ensuring delivery of their respective allocated objectives. It has worked well to combine the previous School Improvement Plan and the Implementation Plan, as it means the Strategic Plan has been mainstreamed.

Entering 2018/19 with a marked drop in student numbers has required a great deal of debate and forward planning. This includes not only proactively seeking able visually impaired young people to benefit from the high academic standards provided, but also extending the college’s offer to those whose rate of learning may not be as fast. The college is also responding to the many students presenting a range of more complex needs, particularly mental health which is proving a challenge for all educational establishments. A curriculum review identified the need to change the staffing structure and this will be implemented next year.

In thinking through how best to meet the demands of students and their families, the Governing Body has recognised the need to improve the facilities and has been considering the development of a ten-year plan for the site. Residential buildings are particularly in need of replacement to cater for ensuite single bedrooms, and major funding will be required to deliver this. Corporate sponsorship and fundraising therefore continue to be crucial to the future of the college.

Governors and the Senior Leadership Team maintain a strong commitment to working together in order to achieve the College’s long-term aspirations, and plans are in place to progress this next year.
New Spaces

Education Innovation Hub Opens

A new Education Innovation Hub opened in September under the Fujitsu Education Ambassador Programme, supported by Intel, Brocade and Kyocera. The opening of the Hub follows the announcement at Bett 2016 of the growth of the Ambassador Programme and NCW as the latest educational institution to open its Innovation Hub in the second phase of the programme.

The Ambassador Programme is a national engagement initiative led by the four global IT leaders, that aims to highlight the use of computing power to underpin knowledge in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) subjects, and drive forward innovation and digital skills development at NCW as well as its wider community.

The Innovation Hub forms the central piece of an ongoing partnership between NCW, Fujitsu, Intel, Brocade and Kyocera and is equipped with a range of the latest computing technology, to promote the use of technology and development of digital skills.

NCW is committed to being actively involved in the development of skills, especially for people who are blind or visually impaired, and one example of how the Innovation Hub will be used is to support the training of local young people and adults, and especially those who have a visual impairment, as they move into STEM related careers.

The main objectives of the Ambassador Programme are to support greater collaboration between industry and education, aiding career skills development and providing expertise on personalised technology in teaching and learning.

New Fitness Centre Opens

A brand new state of the art fitness facility, Fit4Purpose, is now up and running at NCW.

Players from the Worcester Warriors, the Mayor of Worcester and student Fizzy, had the honour of cutting the ribbon to officially open the new multigym in October.

A result of a high profile fundraising campaign, the project is a conversion of the old Stables building which had been unused for many years. A high quality conversion and a contemporary extension has seen the provision of a fully equipped gym, male and female changing rooms and a wellbeing room on the first floor, which is used for physiotherapy and wellbeing activities.

The facility is also available for use by other community groups, and in particular for people who are visually impaired.
Worcestershire Education Awards

NCW was nominated in the Worcestershire Education Awards in an impressive three categories. Nathalie Bufton, Head of ILS, was nominated for Teacher of the Year; the Learning Support Team were nominated for Team of the Year and NCW was nominated for Secondary School of the Year. The school reached the top three for the Secondary School of the Year award.

Alumni

Our new alumni networking site, ncw-connect, is now up and running, and all 2018 leavers are able to sign up. It is a great way for our alumni to keep in touch with one another and support each other as they transition to the next stage of life and allows NCW to keep in touch with leavers.

The FSA (Former Students Association) held the annual reunion weekend at NCW in April and there was also a reunion barbeque lunch on 23rd June for all former students of the College to get together and catch up. The sun shone down as leavers from every decade since the 1950s and from as far away as Liverpool and Exeter, congregated to catch up with one another over a drink and lunch. It is intended to hold a similar event next year and we hope that more people will be able to come along and share their memories.

Former Staff Member awarded British Empire Medal

Dina Murdie has been working with people with a visual impairment for over 50 years and in the 2018 honours list was named as a Medallist of the Order of the British Empire (BEM) for services to Sport for Visually Impaired People. Dina was a PE teacher at Chorleywood College for girls with little or no sight in the 1960s before moving to Worcester at the time of the merger with Worcester College of the Blind in 1987. Over the next 10 years Dina threw herself into life at what was then called RNIB New College Worcester, teaching PE, Braille and getting involved in liaison with the families of prospective students. She is still very much involved in VI sport and is delighted to have been awarded the British Empire Medal and be recognised for her dedication over the years.
The latest Ofsted Inspection at New College Worcester (NCW) has resulted in a report of ‘Outstanding’ in all areas for residential care at the college.

Whilst visiting, the Inspectors held meetings with the Principal, senior care and teaching staff, governors and students and spoke to parents. They spent two evenings in the residential accommodation and joined boarders for three meals in different parts of the College.

Some of the highlights from the report were:
- The welfare of young people is always the staff team’s top priority;
- young people experience excellent care that enables them to flourish socially, educationally and physically;
- young people feel safe, protected and valued by staff that they trust and respect;
- and young people learn essential independence skills and feel more equipped for the future.

Head of Care, Karol Keenan, is delighted with the outcome of the Inspection. “We all pride ourselves on giving the children the very best residential experience that we possibly can. It is our priority to keep them safe and well, but also to ensure they have the opportunity to do activities they might not have access to and have some fun! Parents place their trust in us to look after their children, some of whom have had very difficult experiences at school before coming here, so it is fantastic to have the recognition that their trust is being repaid with outstanding care, that their children are safe and happy and that they thrive both personally and academically.”

Principal Nicki Ross paid testament to the students themselves: “Students arrive here with different life experiences and situations and it is their determination, optimism and vibrant personalities that make NCW the incredible place that it is”.

The report includes quotes from the students. One student told the inspector, “I have learnt so much from being here. One of the main things is becoming more independent, and I am really looking forward to the future now. I have so many opportunities ahead.”

The school is due an educational Ofsted inspection later this year.
New College Worcester

A Level Success

New College Worcester students celebrated their A Level results with all students who chose further education acquiring the grades needed to pursue their first choice of University course.

Amongst those off to University is Zoe – who is absolutely delighted with an A* and two As which will take her to Oxford University to study music, an achievement that her family and everyone at NCW is proud of. Zoe said “I woke up with that creeping sensation that you get on results day! I couldn’t find out from UCAS if I’d got my place but Mrs Ward rang me from school early this morning to tell me I’d got A*, A, A – which is what I needed. It all feels like a dream, but I know that now I need to get on and prepare for Uni; make sure I’ve got everything I need, talk to the Accessibility Team and think about the reading list!”

Other success stories are friends Elle and Sarah – who have both chosen to stay in Worcester and have had their places at Worcester University confirmed, both studying Health and Social Care. They have grown to love Worcester and are thrilled they can move on together to their next challenge.

Also going to the University of their choice are Jack who will study Music at Wolverhampton, Naqib studying Psychology at Aston and Jess who is studying Creative Writing in London.

Principal Nic Ross is very proud of this year’s A Level cohort “I am thrilled that the students who are going to University have achieved what they need to for their first choice of University and course. They have worked really hard and have not let the challenge of their visual impairment affect their aspirations or achievements. I wish them all the very best of luck in the next part of their journey and I hope that what they have learnt at NCW stands them in good stead as they take the next step to independence”.

www.ncw.co.uk
Overseas Travel

Humanities Trip to Poland

In the middle of a very dark night in October ten students and six staff set off for Bristol airport at the start of a three day trip to Krakow in south-west Poland.

The plan was to visit the Nazi death camps of Auschwitz and Birkenau and to find out about the Holocaust first-hand from one of the survivors, as well as to soak up the atmosphere in one of Europe’s most beautiful medieval cities.

The group soon found themselves sitting in one of the cafes surrounding Krakow’s town square in time for an early lunch. A town tour followed and a wonderful supper at an Israeli restaurant in the Jewish suburb of Kazimierz finished the day.

In the morning, the first stop was to meet a Holocaust survivor who was sent to Auschwitz with her mother as a very small child in 1942. She spoke of many small acts of kindness which, for her, meant the difference between life and death. This meeting had a huge impact on the students, who later received a very warm welcome at the Jewish Community Centre and visited the fascinating Schindler museum, where Oskar Schindler gave work and a route to escape for thousands of Jewish people during the Nazi years.

The following day students learnt the story of the camps’ liberation and how the evidence of the Holocaust was collected and exposed. They visited the Auschwitz camp, hearing about the experiences of people who were sent there and the hardships endured – before travelling on to the Birkenau camp which, having consisted mainly of wooden huts, is now flat ground with acres and acres of barbed wire fencing. The group saw a cattle truck which was used to transport people to the camp, and, from where they were sorted, either to go straight to the gas chambers or to work.

The next morning it was time to return to the UK, reflecting on the power of kindness in the face of implacable hatred and cruelty.

MFL Trip to Spain

For the first time, NCW had the opportunity to take a small group of students to our exchange partner centres in Alicante, Spain. The group was hosted by CRE (Centre of Resources for the blind and visually impaired in Alicante) during a weekend of special activities all themed around English. There was also a chance to visit IES Las Fuentes High School in Villena, Alicante and meet pen-pal friends. During the trip, the group took part in learning activities organised by CRE and were immersed in the local culture, visiting different tourist sites.

The students made lasting memories and friends for life, both at ONCE and the mainstream high school, Las Fuentes in Villena, Alicante.
Sports

Developing VI Rugby
A group of students had a rewarding afternoon with the Worcester Warriors getting involved with a VI version of rugby known as ‘Hugby’.

NCW enjoys a strong relationship with the Worcester Warriors, who are now devising a form of rugby which can be played by people who are visually impaired. Groups of students have visited the Warriors ground at Sixways a few times and have been able to have significant input into how the game is being developed.

Sky TV filmed students playing the game for their programme ‘Game Changers’ and students also met head England Rugby Coach Eddie Jones. It was a long and physical afternoon of training and the Sky TV show aired later in the year.

British Blind Sport See My Voice Project
NCW students Ryley and Amber are part of a project with British Blind Sport called See My Voice - a young leader programme for 11 to 18 year olds. The project supports young leaders to develop life skills that will inevitably increase their confidence and enhance their employment prospects, as well as providing an opportunity to meet new friends and improve lives.

Young leaders are provided with fun and meaningful volunteering experiences that will develop invaluable leadership skills, increase confidence, and enhance their future prospects. They can also work towards a leadership qualification.

Cricket News
Sophia, Rahel, Max and Tom have all been playing cricket at the Old Elizabethans VI Cricket Club. Max and Tom have excelled and been chosen to play in matches and Max was awarded the Junior Player of the Season Award for the team, for his commitment to training and his determination to improve. He was also commended for taking two wickets in one game and received a miniature Ashes cup.

Annual NCW v MCC Cricket Match
The weather was fabulous for the annual NCW v MCC cricket match which was a close and exciting game. Captained by Tom, the NCW team pushed hard all the way as the MCC team became accustomed to wearing SIM specs. NCW needed four runs in the last over to win, and it went all the way to NCW needing one run from the last two balls. The penultimate ball was a dot ball and it was the very final one that took NCW to a 90 – 89 victory. We are extremely grateful to the players from MCC for coming along to play.

Metro Sports Athletics Event
A group of students had a successful day at the 42nd Metro Athletics event in London. Students competed in a host of athletics competitions including sprinting, long distance running, long jump, javelin, and ball throw. In particular, Rico – the youngest of our competitors - did really well in the 60m and 100m sprint, standing long jump and ball throw.

Goalball
There have been many new players at novice level recently who have been supported by more experienced players at novice tournaments. Charlotte and Chelsea have been selected for GB Youth training and are off to France in July for a weekend’s training with Stuart, who is also coach to a novice team as part of his DoE scheme. There have been great improvements in team tactics and everyone has been very committed to the game.

Judo
Stanley, Ilja, Ebenezer, Rahel, Rico, Sean and Aaron have been working hard in Judo this year and preparing for their next grading.
BBS Swimming Gala
Carys G, Rico, Ryley, Asher, Rahel, Ilja, Tobias, Sonali, Max, Charlie M and Amber all took part in the British Blind Sport Swimming Gala swimming a range of races and strokes. It was a valuable opportunity for the students to get involved in competitive swimming.

Running Line
NCW welcomed a PhD student from Loughborough University during the summer term, who is working on a prototype Running Line – a device that allows VI runners to run independently without a guide. Students have been wearing trackers to monitor activity and record improvement over the period using the Running Line regularly up until July. They have enjoyed being part of such an innovative project which could change the way runners who are blind and visually impaired are able to participate in their sport.

Worcester Wolves
On a Friday evening a group of NCW students were taken to see their first Worcester Wolves basketball game against the Leicester Riders and meet the players after the game. Two of the players, George Beamon and Alex Navajas, were also able to visit NCW and talk in more detail about basketball and demonstrate some of their skills.

London Marathon
In April a group of lucky group of students had the privilege of going to the London Marathon thanks to charity VICTA. Elle, Chelsea, Ebenezer, Ilja, Ryley, Tom B and Sean set off with staff at 6.30am for the long journey to London. The weather was fabulous and after a beautiful walk through the park, the group enjoyed the best seats just by the finish line and opposite where Prince Harry awarded winners with their medals. The atmosphere was electric and it truly was a once in a lifetime experience. Our thanks go to VICTA for the opportunity and their lovely hospitality.
Fundraising

An intrepid group of 80 walkers put their best foot forward on Saturday 9th June for the annual fundraising Walk, Rest & Rail event. The day was warm and slightly overcast as students, staff, friends and family set out from Bewdley Station on a picturesque walk along the banks of the River Severn. Walkers enjoyed the scenery, scents and sounds of the countryside as the route took them through fields, along paths and through trees towards the Ship Inn at Highley. A welcome rest, drinks and a huge amount of cake were all waiting for the happy walkers. The return to Bewdley was via steam and the Severn Valley Railway - what a wonderful end to the day. A huge thank you to everyone who walked, guided, made cakes and organised such a fantastic event.

It was also a great turnout for a fundraising Firewalk event held in partnership with Blind Veterans UK which saw staff, students and supporters tested to the limits as they walked over hot coals to raise over £6,000 for NCW.

We have embarked on an enormous fundraising campaign to start a rolling programme of Classrooms Refurbishment, starting with room 8 in the Maths department, which will be completed before the end of the summer term. It has been funded by grants from The Will Charitable Trust, The Eveson Trust, The Rowland Trust, Midland Adult Student Union, The Bransford Trust, Baron Davenport’s Charity, Beatrice Laing Foundation and Worcester Round Table, who we would like to thank very much for their support.

We have a new partner in the Vision Factory, who are supporting students and staff at NCW with glasses requirements as well as supporting a project for a new sensory garden. Year 8s Sydney and Ebenezer went along to meet them and were delighted to come away with a stash of biscuits to share with their friends!

Thank you to Thursfields Solicitors who hosted an event in June to watch the first England World Cup match with a drink and BBQ. The event, held at Grafton Manor in Bromsgrove, was a great success, especially as England won!

The Sixth Form Common Room has had a revamp. In a project led largely by Head Boy and Girl, Charlie and Grace, the décor has been replaced with new contemporary furniture, breakfast bar style seating and a kitchen area. It has been redecorated in vibrant colours and is now somewhere really great for Sixth Formers to relax between lessons.
Student Fundraising Highlights

NCW celebrates Children in Need every year and it’s always a fantastic week so Charlie and I were determined to make this one as successful, if not more, than all the previous weeks. We kicked off the week with lunchtime wet sponge throwing and on the Tuesday we had the Great NCW Bake-off. The highlight was the NCW talent show on Thursday, with acts ranging from impressions to piano but coming out on top were Ali and Harvey with their beat-boxing rap. Overall, the week went better than either Charlie or I could have hoped for, raising over £500 - more than has been raised before! It was truly rewarding and the staff and students alike are all feeling proud.

Grace - NCW Head Girl 2017/18

During October it was Young People’s Mental Health Week and Head Boy and Girl, Charlie and Grace, collaborated with the Young Minds charity to promote awareness around young people’s mental health issues. Assembly on Monday highlighted the importance of talking to each other and staff, especially during hard times. Tuesday was a Wear Yellow day where the school took to the stage in their brightest possible yellow colours, some with reflective jackets and dyed hair! On Wednesday, a cake sale helped raise more money and the end of the week saw a lemon-eating competition! It’s the first time that the school has been involved with this project, and the first time Grace and I have done any fundraising as Head Boy and Head Girl and we couldn’t be happier with how well it went!

Charlie – NCW Head Boy 2017/18

Carnegie Book Awards

Once again students at NCW have been involved with Carnegie Shadowing – the scheme for children and young people across the UK as they shadow the prestigious Carnegie Medal. The books shortlisted for this coveted award were provided in Braille and large print for students to read, so that they can join other students across the country and decide which of the eight books should win the medal.

NCW was invited to attend the ceremony at the British Library on 18th June and senior student Carys was invited to give a speech describing the importance of shadowing to her and the importance of accessible versions of the books for readers with visual impairment.

One of the group’s favourite books, ‘The Hate U Give’, won the Amnesty Honour Award and students met the author, Angie Thomas. Martha from Year 10 had a chat with the author of the winning book, ‘Where The World Ends’, which she loved. The highlight was Carys’ inspirational speech which was equal to any of the speeches by figures from the world of children’s literature.

Theatre

As the Beast from the East ripped its claws into the country, the intrepid Year 11s set off for Malvern to see an interpretation of Robert Louis Stevenson’s classic gothic thriller, ‘Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde’, starring Phil Daniels of ‘Eastenders’ and ‘Quadrophenia’ fame. The theatre was incredibly welcoming even organising a touch tour with the director and Phil Daniels. It really helped the students get to grips with the set and when staff were describing the action. The aim of the visit was to help students revise for their GCSE English Literature exam and by discussing the differences between the original and the stage version, it served to reinforce their understanding of the text.
Out and About

Camps and Residentials

**Year 7 Camp** was based around Malvern’s Blackmore Park Farm campsite where our intrepid youngsters set about paddle boarding, go-karting, horse riding and rock climbing. They got to grips with the great outdoors - sleeping under canvas, sitting around the campfire in the evenings and learning bushcraft skills. They also had fun at a farm park and bowling. All the students were brilliant and threw themselves into the activities.

It was Blackmore Park Farm campsite again for the **Year 8 Camp**, which saw the lively group burning off some energy trekking up the Malvern Hills and tandem riding in the Forest of Dean along with paddle boarding, horse riding and rock climbing. They bravely got involved with caving – a new experience for everyone. Miss Ross went tandem riding with Stanley and Sixth Former Sean came along to lead the singing around the campfire.

Year 9s boarded the minibus for Aberdyfi for the **Year 9 Residential**. The fun started the moment of arrival with lunch on the beach and a run around on the sand and after getting settled in, a jog and dip activity - a jog to the water’s edge followed by a dunk in the sea! The first evening was spent making bread and toasting it over the campfire. Canoeing on the river was the first activity the next day, followed by a boat trip over the estuary and some fun and games on the sand dunes. Gorge walking was the evening activity. Wednesday was spent at Dolgoch exploring the waterfalls and mines, with some team building exercises and daring trapeze moves before the last day - an action packed day of abseiling, climbing and jetty jumping.
Art

It has been a busy time in art, welcoming visiting artists Frans Wesselman and Jon Barrett Danes who have been into college to talk to the students about their craft and work with them to create their own pieces. Our thanks go to Frans and Jon and the Bransford Trust, which supports the NCW Visiting Artist Scheme - allowing students to access and experience different techniques and learn from inspirational professionals.

We were fortunate to be involved with a high profile local community project Worcester Stands Tall. The project involved schools and artists decorating large scale fibreglass giraffes, which formed a trail over the summer throughout Worcester. Insurance business Open GI kindly donated a baby giraffe to NCW who was named George VI by the students. Students and staff helped to produce the tactile decorations of different eyes for George VI, who was displayed in Worcester City Centre over the summer holidays, before returning to NCW.

Well done to all our budding artists, whose work formed a wonderful exhibition at the end of the year and during Celebration Day with their artwork from the year, including exam pieces for GCSE and A-Level.

Independent Living Skills

Food presentation skills can be an extremely difficult concept to succeed at for GCSE and A-Level Food students who are blind or visually impaired. NCW has recently been working with top chefs from Green Cow Kitchens in Whitbourne, Worcestershire who came along to NCW to work with the GCSE group to help improve their presentation of food skills. With a few top tips and some easy wins, they showed the group how easy it is to transform an ordinary looking dish into a feast for the eyes.

Using moulds, alternative serving vessels and some innovative garnishes, chefs Mickey and James demonstrated how having a toolkit of simple techniques can elevate a dish instantly – whether the chef is able to see the dish or not.

Head of Independent Living Skills Nathalie Bufton was thrilled about the visit: “It is so inspiring for our students to work with professional chefs like this. They reacted really passionately to the session, and it has been enlightening for me too. The department is now purchasing a whole new range of equipment for quick and easy presentation wins including slate plates, parfait jars and bamboo boards.”
Music

There were many highlights for the Music Department during the year.

Students Grace, Harrison and Jack were very warmly received when they entertained the Sight Concern Worcester Christmas meeting in December. In February there was a Performing Arts Showcase with performances from students studying A-Level Drama, BTEC Music and Performing Arts. Students and music staff attended a Bristol Braille Technology Day at the RNIB in London, inputting into the development of Music Braille Technology. A two-day NCW Success in Music course for professionals, parents and students was a great success and featured a range of workshops and presentations by members of staff and external practitioners. Staff and students enjoyed a series of relaxed lunchtime recitals giving students the opportunity to perform solos to an audience whilst both the Christmas and Summer Concerts were a spectacular showcase of musical talent.

Oxford University for Zoe

Student Zoe was given a conditional offer to study Music at Oxford University and on achieving A* for A-Level Music (including full marks for her performance) and other A grades for Physics and Maths, ended the year looking forward to starting at Oxford.

Qualifications

Music Braille – GTLA
Level 3 and the National Award – Tobias
Level 3 – Sophia
Level 1 and the National Award – Daniel

Piano
Performance Diploma – Distinction – Zoe
Performance Diploma – Distinction – Jack
Grade 4 – Distinction – Tobias
Grade 4 – Merit – Sophia
Prep Test – Rahel

Singing
Grade 5 – Distinction – Grace

Acoustic guitar
Grade 1 – Merit – Asher
It was an evening of glamour and celebration as senior students attended this year’s Leavers’ Dinner. New outfits were purchased, hair and nails done and suits donned as students put on their dancing shoes for a fun and emotional evening. With welcome drinks on the patio, photographs, a sumptuous 3-course meal, awards ceremony and dancing into the night, it was an evening to remember.
Financial Summary

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31st August 2017

| Description                        | Unrestricted general funds | Unrestricted Designated funds | Unrestricted funds pension scheme | Restricted funds | Endowment funds | Year to 31/8/18 | Year to 31/8/17 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Income and endowments from:        |                             |                                |                                  |                  |                |                |                |
| Donations & Legacies               | 18,158                      | (-1,343)                       | -                                | 191,940          | -              | 208,755        | 348,243        |
| Other trading activities           | 2,895                       | -                              | -                                | -                | -              | 2,895          | 3,597          |
| Investments                        | 92,662                      | -                              | -                                | 24,711           | -              | 117,373        | 148,678        |
| Charitable activities              | 3,858,045                   | -                              | -                                | 2,100            | -              | 3,860,145      | 3,872,237      |
| Other income                       | 5,037                       |                                | -                                | -                | -              | 5,037          | 9,294          |
| **Total income and endowments**    | **3,976,797**               | (-1,343)                       | -                                | **218,751**      | -              | **4,194,205**  | **4,382,049**  |
| Expenditure on:                    |                             |                                |                                  |                  |                |                |                |
| Raising funds                      | 52,521                      | 3,173                          | -                                | -                | -              | 55,694         | 63,771         |
| Charitable activities              |                             |                                |                                  |                  |                |                |                |
| Teaching expenditure               | 2,796,907                   | 78,537                         | 3,000                            | 22,083           | -              | 2,900,527      | 3,022,780      |
| Student care                       | 871,845                     | 14,950                         | -                                | -                | -              | 886,795        | 967,724        |
| Kitchen and domestic               | 305,575                     | 14,950                         | -                                | -                | -              | 320,525        | 339,538        |
| Specific purpose projects          | 20,396                      | 9,215                          | -                                | 91,908           | -              | 121,519        | 96,821         |
| **Total Charitable expenditure**   | **3,994,723**               | **117,652**                    | 3,000                            | **113,991**      | -              | **4,229,366**  | **4,426,963**  |
| **Total resources expended**       | **4,047,244**               | **120,825**                    | 3,000                            | **113,991**      | -              | **4,285,060**  | **4,490,734**  |
| Net gains on investments           | 3,072                       | -                              | -                                | (4,509)          | (14,256)       | (15,693)       | 108,370        |
| Net incoming/(outgoing) resources  |                             |                                |                                  |                  |                |                |                |
| before transfers                   | (67,375)                    | (122,168)                      | (3,000)                          | 100,251          | (14,256)       | (106,548)      | (315)          |
| Gross transfers between funds      | (21,440)                    | 81,321                         | 18,000                           | (7,881)          | -              | -              | -              |
| Net incoming/(outgoing) resources  | (73,815)                    | (40,847)                       | 15,000                           | (22,370)         | (14,256)       | (106,548)      | (315)          |
| Other recognised gains and losses  |                             |                                |                                  |                  |                |                |                |
| Actuarial gain on defined benefit pension schemes | - | - | - | 5,000 | - | - | 5,000 | 17,000 |
| Net movement in funds              | (-88,815)                   | (-40,847)                      | 20,000                           | 22,370           | (-14,256)      | (-101,548)     | 16,685         |
| Fund balances at 1st September 2017| 487,426                     | 14,209,095                     | (-236,000)                       | 237,225          | 557,420        | 15,255,166     | 15,238,481     |
| Fund balances at 31st August 2018  | **398,611**                 | **14,168,248**                 | (-216,000)                       | **259,595**      | **543,164**    | **15,153,618** | **15,255,166** |
### Balance sheet as at 31st August 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>As at 31/8/18</th>
<th>As at 31/8/17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tangible assets</td>
<td>£14,384,199</td>
<td>£14,181,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>£1,022,601</td>
<td>£1,477,214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>15,406,800</strong></td>
<td><strong>15,658,874</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debtors</td>
<td>£53,910</td>
<td>£120,823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at bank and in hand</td>
<td>£764,457</td>
<td>£518,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>818,367</strong></td>
<td><strong>638,823</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditors: falling due within one year</td>
<td>(-£630,507)</td>
<td>(-£806,531)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net current assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>187,860</strong></td>
<td><strong>(-167,708)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets less current liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>15,594,660</strong></td>
<td><strong>15,491,166</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditors: falling due after more than one year</td>
<td>(-£225,042)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisions for Liabilities</td>
<td>(-£216,000)</td>
<td>(-£236,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>15,153,618</strong></td>
<td><strong>15,255,166</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Capital funds

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Endowment funds</td>
<td>£543,164</td>
<td>£557,420</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income funds</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted funds</td>
<td>£259,595</td>
<td>£237,225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted designated funds</td>
<td>£14,168,248</td>
<td>£14,209,095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted funds</td>
<td>£182,611</td>
<td>£251,426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>15,153,618</strong></td>
<td><strong>15,255,166</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Trustees Governors

- Mrs Sue Ayres
- Mrs Sandy Bannister
- Mr Rory Cobb
- Mr Simon Driscoll
- Mrs Diana Fulbrook (Chair)
- Mr Brian Harrington
- Mrs Karen Holyoak (Teaching staff)
- Mrs Sue Keil
- Mr Iain Paul
- Miss Nicki Ross (Principal)
- Mrs Mary Russell
- Mrs Tracey Smith (Non-teaching staff)
- Mr Steve Tyler

#### Senior Leadership Team

- **Miss Nicki Ross**  
  Principal and Designated Senior Lead for Safeguarding (BEd, MEd)
- **Mrs Siân Shaw**  
  Vice Principal (BA, PGCE, QTVI)
- **Mr Karol Keenan**  
  Head of Care (DipSW, BA, MA, AASW)

- **Mrs Victoria Ward**  
  Assistant Principal; Curriculum, Teaching and Learning (BMus (Hons), PGCE, QTVI)
- **Mrs Louise Pratt**  
  Assistant Principal; Business and Finance (BA (Hons), ACMA)