

Serco Inspections
Boundary House
2 Wythall Green Way
Middle Lane
BIRMINGHAM
West Midlands
B47 6LW

OFSTED
T 0300 123 1231
Text Phone: 0161 6188524
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk

SERCO
Direct T 0121 683 2888



Wednesday 6 October 2010

Mr Steel
Regency High School
Carnfoth Drive
Warndon
Worcester
WR4 9JL

Dear Mr Steel

Ofsted monitoring of Grade 3 schools: monitoring inspection of Regency High School

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave when I inspected your school on Tuesday 5 October 2010, for the time you gave to our phone discussions and for the information which you provided before and during the inspection. Please pass on my thanks to the pupils who gave me their views on the school with such clarity and to the governor who attended the verbal feedback.

Since the inspection, a number of changes have taken place at the school. In July 2009, the school gained specialist status in sport, and appointed a director of specialism and two specialist teaching assistants. In September 2009, the school, previously on two sites, moved onto a single site with extensively refurbished buildings and new accommodation such as the hydrotherapy pool.

As a result of the inspection on 17 March 2009, the school was asked to address the most important areas for improvement which are set out in the annex to this letter.

Having considered all the evidence I am of the opinion that at this time the school has made:

good progress in making improvements.

and

good progress in demonstrating a better capacity for sustained improvement.

Pupils join the school with a wide variety of learning difficulties and disabilities and attainment remains exceptionally low. However, in the school's supportive environment, attainment and overall progress have continued to improve in English



and mathematics. Improvement in science has been slower, and the school is currently analysing its data to discern the reason for this. Progress has improved greatly in physical education and citizenship, where the school's specialist status is already having a positive impact.

Attendance has improved significantly since the inspection and is now above average. The newly appointed family support worker and the education welfare officer effectively follow up absence and encourage high attendance directly with families. The school organises parenting programmes that emphasise the importance of maintaining good attendance. A few pupils continue to have above-average absence, but this is almost always due to health difficulties and is unavoidable.

The school has greatly improved the quality of the information it gathers on pupils' starting points and progress, and this has increased substantially its capacity to improve. Staff now have effective procedures for assessment and target-setting that enable the school to establish accurate performance benchmarks against similar schools. The school ensures the reliability of teacher assessments through moderation with its partner schools. Progress information is now much more robust, and is increasingly effectively used in planning lessons and the curriculum. The school has introduced personalised learning plans to promote self-assessment and independence in learning. The school now uses the data to organise additional curriculum groups, for example for pupils with communication difficulties and for those who are gifted and talented.

The school now offers pupils a wider range of qualifications. Pupils working below Level 2 of the National Curriculum receive certificates through Personal Progress Steps in addition to Transition Challenge. The range of entry level subjects has been extended and is now available from Year 10. Through the options programme, students are able to gain accreditation in areas of personal interest such as first aid, sports leader and personal survival skills. The school is identifying further opportunities for accrediting vocational areas, such as horticulture, and work placements.

The school's specialist status is already having a positive impact across the whole school. It has enabled the school to disseminate the improved approach to data-gathering across all subjects. There is improved recording of progress through Flip cameras. Software has been provided to assist teaching and learning in mathematics. The school offers weekly swims to young adults with complex needs, benefitting the local community. The emerging strong partnerships with mainstream schools assist inclusion and links with high-status business partners, such as Bosch UK, have resulted in much-needed vocational opportunities.

The support from the local authority has been good. There has been good assistance from the premises team through the rebuilding, as well as from the school improvement partner.

I hope that you have found the inspection helpful in promoting improvement in your school. This letter will be posted on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Mick Megee
Additional Inspector

Annex

The areas for improvement identified during the inspection which took place in March 2009

- Improve attendance to raise achievement, particularly that of persistent non-attenders.
- Ensure that assessment data is used consistently by subject leaders to better inform curriculum planning for all pupils' needs.
- Ensure that assessment data is used consistently in teaching to better inform lesson planning for all pupils' needs.
- Increase the accreditation opportunities for pupils in Key Stage 4 to improve the quality of provision for them and raise their achievement.