

Serco Inspections
Cedar House
21 William Street
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 1LH

PROTECT-INSPECTION

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

Direct T 0121 683 3281
Direct email: siobhan.garrattley@serco.com



Post-inspection note of visit letter – schools requiring improvement monitoring inspection visits
delete or replace text in italics and highlighted fields

20 November 2012

Bernard Hunter
Headteacher
Hope Valley College
Castleton Road
Hope
Hope Valley
S33 6SD

Dear Mr Hunter

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Hope Valley College

Following my visit to your college on 19 November 2012, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report on the findings of my visit. Thank you for the help you gave me and for the time you made available to discuss the actions you are taking to improve the college since the most recent section 5 inspection.

The visit was the first monitoring inspection since the school was judged to require improvement following the section 5 inspection in September 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, other senior leaders, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Governing Body and the School Improvement Partner. The college improvement plan was evaluated. The tracking data for the current Year 11 students was analysed closely and the college's self-evaluation summary was discussed with senior leaders. In addition, short visits were made to a sample of lessons in mathematics and design and technology with the assistant headteacher responsible for teaching and learning. Two Year 10 students gave the inspector a tour of the college and its facilities.

Context

There have been a number of key staffing changes since the previous inspection in September 2012. A new head of English joined the school this term and new appointments have been made for heads of mathematics and history, commencing January 2013.

Main findings

The school has begun to address the areas for improvement from the last inspection. A college improvement plan has been written to take into account the three areas that were identified for improvement. This includes long term aims as well as short term goals. The short term goals relate to 'phase one' from October 2012 to February 2013. The outcomes described are more qualitative than quantitative and so a small number of measurable success criteria were identified and agreed during the monitoring visit. In addition, a 'Monitoring Evaluation Schedule' has been written for the mathematics department in order to track the progress of the improvement work required in this key area.

The college has a tracking system which provides assessment information at half-termly intervals. However, this information is not used to give a projected grade based on teachers' professional judgement about what each student will achieve in each subject by the end of the key stage. This makes comparing students' progress with their targets difficult. Senior leaders and the governing body cannot, at this moment in time, be certain whether the overall college targets for achievement will be met for 2013.

Senior leaders and governors have begun to take effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. Following the visit to the school, HMI recommend that further a further visit will be made in the spring term to attend a Governing Body meeting and review progress with senior leaders.

Ofsted will continue to monitor the school until its next section 5 inspection.

External support

The school regularly draws on support from its School Improvement Adviser to provide an external view on the quality of its provision and outcomes.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body.

PROTECT-INSPECTION



Yours sincerely

Trevor Riddiough
Her Majesty's Inspector