

CfBT Inspection Services
Suite 22
West Lancs Investment Centre
Maple View
Skelmersdale
WN8 9TG

T 0300 123 1231

Text Phone: 0161 6188524
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk

Direct T 01695 566937

Direct F 01695 729320

Direct email: jsimmons@cfbt.com



5 December 2012

Mr S Liddle
Winifred Holtby School Technology College
Midmere Avenue
Leads Road
Bransholme
Hull
HU7 4PW

Dear Mr Liddle

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education Act 2005 to Winifred Holtby School Technology College

Following my visit to your school on 5 December 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 school 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 October 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, members of the governing body, and a representative of the local authority. A range of documentation was reviewed, including the post-Ofsted action plan. A tour of the school was also undertaken.

Context

Since the previous inspection, there have been no changes in staffing. The governing body has two parent governor vacancies. Together with its neighbouring primary schools, special school and Pupil Referral Unit, the school is currently exploring conversion from 1 April 2013 to an academy trust.

Main findings

Senior leaders have responded promptly to the outcomes of the inspection and have created a thorough action plan which supplements the current school improvement plan. It focuses on each of the areas for improvement identified during the October inspection and gives appropriate details of actions, timescales and responsibilities. Discussions were held on the strategies in place for monitoring the plan by senior leaders and by governors. Senior leaders are clear about what needs to be done and how their ambitions will be realised. There is a real sense of urgency and an understanding of how they can use the best practice from within the school, as well as from without, to strengthen the quality of teaching. A bespoke training programme is already in place focusing on such issues as how to develop questioning in lessons and improve consistency in giving constructive feedback to students. Each of these aspects was explicitly highlighted in the areas for improvement.

Governors meet regularly to discuss the work of the school and to hold senior leaders to account. They are keen to be more effective in their work and, to this end, they undertake training on some aspect of school improvement immediately prior to each full governing body meeting. Senior leaders and governors are aware of the importance of maintaining their focus on school improvement at the same time as planning and preparing for the proposed conversion to academy status.

Senior leaders and governors have begun to take effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection.

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

External support

Senior leaders have been extremely proactive in identifying a range of support needed to bring about improvements in the quality of teaching. Plans include a judicious mix of support from outside the school alongside some of the good practice which exists within the school. For example, the school has accessed the services of a mathematics consultant from the local authority. It is in the detailed stages of brokering precise support for design technology, humanities, science and the teaching of disabled students and those with special education needs from an outstanding school which is part of the Teaching School Alliance. It has sought advice from the National College for School Leadership about support for modern languages, and has started to arrange focused visits to secondary schools highlighted in the recent Ofsted report, *Getting to Good*.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for Hull and as below.

Yours sincerely

Michael Maddison
Her Majesty's Inspector

The letter should be copied to the following:

- Appropriate authority - Chair of the Governing Body/Interim Executive Board
- Local authority
- the academy chain where relevant
- Diocese – for voluntary aided and voluntary controlled schools
- The Education Funding Agency (EFA) if the school has a sixth form
- The person or body responsible for appointing foundation governors if the school has a foundation
- The lead inspector.