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4 December 2012

Mark Bryant
Headteacher
Brooklands School
27 Wray Park Road
Reigate
Surrey
RH2 0DF

Dear Mr Bryant

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Brooklands School

Following my visit to your school on Monday 3 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 September 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, the Chair of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority. The school improvement plan was evaluated. Brief visits were made to classrooms to look at the impact of the actions which the school has taken since the previous inspection. A range of documentation was reviewed, including records of senior leaders' observations of lessons and documents relating to governance of the school.

Context

There have been no significant changes in the school's context since the inspection which judged the school to require improvement.

Main findings

The school improvement plan has sensible priorities and addresses all the areas for improvement identified in the recent inspection. The plan includes suitable actions and has appropriate timescales and interim milestones for judging progress. The plan has clear success criteria and identifies who will lead the various initiatives. However, the plan does not always make clear who will monitor the various actions or how the governing body will check that the school's actions are making a difference to improving the quality of teaching and pupils' learning.

All teachers now have individual targets that are directly linked to accelerating pupils' progress. Senior leaders scrutinise teaching closely and provide staff with helpful feedback, including targets for improvement. Governors have benefited from training that has helped them become more knowledgeable about understanding performance data provided by the school. They are developing stronger links with middle leaders and undertaking further training so they can be more effective in challenging and supporting leaders and managers at all levels.

Senior leaders and governors are taking 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 action is taken to:

- Ensure that the school improvement plan specifies clearly how governors will judge the impact of the school's improvement plan, particularly in relation to improving teaching and the impact this has on improving pupils' achievement.

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

External support

The local authority has linked the headteacher to a Local Leader of Education in order to help the school accelerate improvement. The local authority school improvement adviser has provided training for the governing body and has worked with the school to help develop the school's improvement plan. The local authority provided a seminar for 'schools requiring improvement', which the headteacher attended, and it is brokering support for middle leaders. These actions have helped strengthen leadership and are helping to improve the quality of teaching.

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

Yours sincerely

Robert Ellis
Her Majesty's Inspector