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12 December 2012

Mrs A Elwiss
Headteacher
The Coseley School
Henne Drive
Coseley
Bilston
Wolverhampton
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Dear Mrs Elwiss

**Special measures monitoring inspection of The Coseley School,
Wolverhampton**

Following my visit to your school on 11 December 2012, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the inspection findings. Thank you for the help you gave during the inspection and for the time you made available to discuss the actions which have been taken since the school's recent section 5 inspection.

The inspection was the first monitoring inspection since the school became subject to special measures following the inspection which took place in September 2012.

Evidence

During this inspection, meetings were held with the headteacher and deputy headteacher, the Chair of the Interim Executive Board, and a representative of the local authority. The local authority's statement of action and the school's improvement plan were evaluated.

Context

Since the inspection in September 2012 the governing body has been replaced by an interim executive board. A consultation is taking place with key stakeholders with a view to the school taking on trust status from April 2013.

The quality of leadership and management at the school

Since the inspection, the school has produced an improvement plan that adequately covers the key areas of weakness. Some of the actions in the plan have been timetabled to take place during this term and the school's own monitoring suggests that there is already some impact, although at an early stage. A shorter version of the action plan enables leaders and members of the interim executive board to check that actions have taken place. The plan has appropriate success criteria, but there are too few interim targets for senior leaders and board members to closely measure improvement. Therefore, the impact of the plan is not tracked closely enough. The local authority statement of action is well matched with the school's plan and makes clear how the authority will support and evaluate the progress of the school. Both the local authority and partner schools are providing support that the school is finding valuable.

The interim executive board has established a useful pattern of meetings on a weekly or fortnightly basis. In its meetings, the board is carefully checking progress with the plan – as accurately as the plan's present structure allows. Senior leaders are evaluating teaching and the quality of faculties on a regular cycle. The board is scrutinising these findings to make itself better informed and more able to question leaders on the rate of improvement. A new data-management system has been introduced, and teachers now have much better data available to them on the progress of each student throughout the school and in all subjects.

Although new in post, the interim executive board has gained a thorough grasp of the strengths and weaknesses of the school. It is supporting and challenging school leaders to ensure that the performance and promotion of teachers are well managed and always fully justified. The board ensures that pupil premium funding is well targeted to support the objectives of the action plan.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made:

The local authority statement of action is fit for purpose.

The school's action plan is fit for purpose.

PROTECT-INSPECTION



The school may not appoint newly qualified teachers before the next monitoring inspection. An exception is the renewal of the contracts of current, newly qualified teachers on temporary contracts where arrangements have been made with a partner school for additional support.

This monitoring inspection letter will be published on the Ofsted website. I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State, the Chair of the Interim Executive Board, the Director of Children's Services for Dudley Local Authority and as below.

Yours sincerely

Robert Barbour
Her Majesty's Inspector