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4 February 2013

Mr I Dutton  
Headteacher  
Batley Business and Enterprise College  
Batley Field Hill  
Batley  
West Yorkshire  
WF17 0BJ

Dear Mr Dutton

### **Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education Act 2005 to Batley Business and Enterprise College**

Following my visit to your college on 4 February 2013, 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 college was judged to require improvement following the section 5 inspection in November 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, a representative of the local authority, and a National Leader of Education (NLE) who is working with the college. A range of documentation was reviewed, including the post-Ofsted action plan. A tour of the college was also undertaken.

### **Context**

Since the previous inspection, two teachers have joined the college, one in mathematics and the other in information and communication technology. One member of the senior leadership team is currently away from the college due to ill health. The governing body has two vacancies. The college is actively exploring becoming an academy within the Moor End Academy Trust.

## **Main findings**

Senior leaders have responded promptly to the outcomes of the inspection and have created a potentially helpful post-Ofsted action plan which replaces the current college improvement plan. It gives details of actions, resource requirements, proposed completion dates and impact measures. However, the plan does not identify sufficiently precise targets which are measureable and aligned closely to the areas for improvement identified at the last inspection. In addition, monitoring and evaluation procedures are not identified adequately and the plan has no reference to governor involvement. Discussions were held on the importance of amending the plan accordingly by senior leaders and governors.

The headteacher and the deputy headteacher are clear about what needs to be done and how their ambitions will be realised. There is an understanding of how they can use the best practice from within the college as well as from without to strengthen the quality of teaching and the impact of leadership. A bespoke training programme has been drawn up focusing on such issues as effective lesson planning, how to develop questioning to challenge all learners, and how to improve marking and feedback to students, all of which were explicitly highlighted in the areas for improvement.

Governors meet regularly to discuss the work of the college and to hold senior leaders to account. They are keen to be more effective in their work and they undertake regular training on some aspect of college improvement. However, their work in monitoring and evaluating the post Ofsted action plan is not sufficiently clear.

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 college, HMI recommend that further action is taken to:

- amend the action plan to ensure the targets are precise, measurable and more closely aligned to the areas for improvement identified at the last inspection
- identify specific and discreet monitoring and evaluation procedures for the action plan
- clarify within the plan the precise role of governors in ensuring that the actions identified bring about the necessary improvements within the next two years.

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

## **External support**

Senior leaders have been proactive in identifying a range of support needed to bring about improvements in the quality of teaching and the impact of leadership. Plans include support from outside the college and specific training has already been

arranged with Moor End Academy. Senior leaders welcome the support of the local authority and of the NLE and her staff at Moor End Academy.

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