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4 March 2013

Mrs Alison Wright  
Headteacher  
Newall Green High School  
Greenbrow Road  
Wythenshawe  
Manchester  
M23 2SX

Dear Mrs Wright

### **Serious weaknesses first monitoring inspection of Newall Green High School**

Following my visit to your school on 1 March 2013, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the outcome and 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 was judged to have serious weaknesses in November 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

### **Evidence**

During this monitoring inspection, meetings were held with the headteacher, the executive headteacher, members of the governing body 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 previous inspection, changes have been made to the leadership of the mathematics department. A new assistant headteacher has been appointed and will take up his post from 1 April 2013. He will have responsibility for the leadership and management of the mathematics department and numeracy across the school.

### **The quality of leadership in and management of the school**

There is a common sense of purpose and an ambition to raise achievement in order to make this a good school. The headteacher has established a comprehensive action plan, underpinned by appropriate success criteria. She has taken decisive action to gain some quick wins in the short term, namely in securing greater consistency in the quality of marking and focusing on improving weak teaching. Other actions will unroll over the medium term and focus on ensuring that improvements become embedded and students

receive a consistent quality of experience across all their subjects. There is a renewed focus on performance management systems; subject leaders have a clear framework to enable them to lead improvements and are being made more accountable for monitoring the quality of teaching and its impact on students' learning. Much of the senior leaders' attention is focused on raising students' achievement in mathematics. The improvement plan needs to consider how students' numeracy skills will be developed more widely across other subjects.

Students' attendance is improving and the school is close to its target of 94% attendance.

The governing body is increasingly aware of the need to challenge the school's leadership about the extent of progress made by different groups of students. They understand why improvements need to be made and are clear about how they will monitor whether this is happening. The capacity of governors has been strengthened through additional training. This has equipped them with the skills and knowledge they need to interpret and use data in order to make decisions and evaluate the effectiveness of leadership and management. Some members of the governing body have a very clear view of what good teaching should look like; this insight needs to be drawn on more systematically to enable governors to evaluate the effectiveness of the school's improvement plan.

The local authority has provided valuable and insightful support to the school. The statement of action is underpinned by financial support from the local authority and draws on the expertise of the school improvement service, external consultants and partner schools to provide guidance and training. Priority has been given to raising the quality of teaching and learning, not only in mathematics but more widely across the school. The statement of action links closely with the school's improvement plan and provides a clear framework for monitoring the effectiveness of actions taken to improve the school.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made:

The school's action plan is fit for purpose.

The local authority's statement of action is fit for purpose.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State, the Chair of the Governing Body, the Director of Children's Services for Manchester. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Vincent Ashworth  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**