

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

**Direct T** 01695 566 939

**Direct F** 01695 729320

**Direct email:** glaw@cfbt.com



6 March 2013

Mrs E Davies  
Principal  
Ormiston Maritime Academy  
Westward Ho  
Grimsby  
Lincolnshire  
DN34 5AH

Dear Mrs Davies

### **Serious weaknesses first monitoring inspection of Ormiston Maritime Academy**

Following my visit to your academy on 5 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 academy's most recent section 5 inspection.

The inspection was the first monitoring inspection since the academy was judged to have serious weaknesses in December 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

### **Evidence**

During this inspection, meetings were held with the Principal, senior leaders and the Chair of the Governing Body who is also a representative of the sponsor. The sponsor's statement of action and the academy's action plan were evaluated.

### **Context**

Since the section 5 inspection in December 2012, there have been some changes in the senior leadership team, including the part-time secondment of a vice-principal from another academy in the Ormiston Trust group.

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

The Principal has set a clear direction for school improvement. Planned actions are linked appropriately to the areas for improvement identified in the section 5 inspection report. Responsibilities are well understood across the wider leadership team because internal communication is effective. All senior leaders are clear about priorities and know that the Principal and governors have high expectations of them.

Governance benefits from the wealth of relevant experience of its members which means they can, and do, ask challenging questions about the academy's progress in tackling weaknesses. The Chair of the Governing Body, a representative of the sponsor, also chairs the fortnightly Post-Ofsted Board, which keeps a close eye on operational matters linked to improvement. Feedback from this group to the full governing body and sponsors ensures regular communication is maintained between stakeholders. Members of the senior leadership team report that this combination of governors and sponsors, the Post-Ofsted Board, holds them to account robustly.

Support from the Ormiston Academies Trust (OAT) is significant in providing a professional network highly valued by the academy's leaders. Ease of access to professionals skilled in specific subjects or aspects of work through the OAT is particularly important given Grimsby's geographical isolation from similar schools. Moving additional support into the academy in various forms has happened quickly, facilitated by the Principal's decisive lead and OAT's responsiveness.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made:

The academy's action plan is fit for purpose

The sponsor's statement of action is fit for purpose

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State, the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of the Ormiston Academies Trust. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Cathryn Kirby  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**