

Tribal  
1-4 Portland Square  
Bristol  
BS2 8RR

T 0300 123 1231  
Text Phone: 0161 6188524  
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk  
[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

**Direct T** 0117 311 5359  
**Direct F** 0117 315 0430  
**Direct email:**  
christina.bannerman@tribalgroup.com



25 March 2013

Louise Cook  
Head of Unit  
The Connected Hub  
Tilbury House  
Florence Place  
Brighton  
BN1 7GU

Dear Ms Cook,

**Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to The Connected Hub**

Following my visit to your school on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 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 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 January 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

**Evidence**

During the visit, I met with you and your senior teacher, the attendance officer, three representatives of the local authority who are also members of the management board and some students. I evaluated the school improvement plans which you, other staff and management board members use to monitor the work of the school. I also accompanied you on a brief tour which gave me the opportunity to talk to other staff and see the area that you are planning to convert into a 'learning zone' for science.

**Context**

Since the previous inspection, no members of staff have left. Board members have appointed a part-time attendance officer, a literacy support teacher and an internal

appointment to a new post of senior teacher has been agreed. An advertisement has been placed to secure a teacher of science.

## **Main findings**

Since the last inspection, no time has been wasted. With the support of the local authority you have acted promptly, both to revise your existing development plans in the light of the inspection findings and to secure additional staff to help you achieve success. Comprehensive plans are now in place to address each of the key points for improvement identified in the previous inspection and progress is already being made in each of these areas. However, although the improvement plan states what effect improvements are expected to have on each of the identified priorities, it doesn't always contain measures linked to students' attainment and progress or attendance that would enable you and board members to monitor and evaluate the impact of actions taken.

In addition to employing an attendance officer, a range of strategies have been introduced to help students to organise their time and prioritise more effectively. These have been welcomed by students. There are now regular phone-calls home, taxis for those that do not live nearby and meetings with the parents of those that do not attend. In some instances non-attendance is being followed up with legal proceedings. Already this is resulting in improvements in the overall rates of attendance.

New systems to check students' progress across all subjects have been introduced and you are in the process of developing ways to improve your assessment of students' achievement and attendance rates on entry to the unit, so that there is an accurate baseline for each student against which his or her progress can be measured.

Science provision, which was limited at the time of the previous inspection, has now been expanded. Opportunities to learn science both at a nearby secondary school and via the internet using 'e-learning' materials have been further developed; funding has also been set aside for the provision of a dedicated space for science as well as to employ a teacher of science.

During my meeting with students I was able to look at their work and talk to them about how well they are doing. They told me that marking has improved since the inspection and that they receive lots of feedback on how to improve their work. This was evident in the work that I saw. Students are also aware of the new emphasis in all subjects on developing their reading and writing skills.

Senior leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the last inspection. Following the visit to the school, I recommend that further action is taken to:

- strengthen the improvement plan by ensuring that actions taken to bring about improvement can be effectively measured
- prioritise the assessment of students' achievement on entry to the unit so that the impact of the unit's work on individual students can be effectively evaluated and continually improved.

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

### **External support**

The local authority is working closely with you to provide a range of activities and effective support that is tailored closely to the school's specific needs and give you and your staff developmental feedback, coaching and training. There are three representatives of the local authority who are also on the management board. They have acted promptly and are providing a strong steer, not least by securing additional resources both to complete the refurbishment of the school and to employ the necessary extra staff to help bring about improvements.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the management board and the Director of Children's Services for Brighton and Hove.

Yours sincerely

Lesley Farmer  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**