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13 May 2013

Mrs Sarah Smythe
Headteacher
Kelvin Hall School
Bricknell Avenue
Hull
HU5 4QH

Dear Mrs Smythe

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Kelvin Hall School, City of Kingston upon Hull

Following my visit to your school on 10 May 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 February. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, senior leaders, Chair of the Governing Body and a representative of the Local Authority. I was also able to meet some students and look at documentation including the development plan and tracking information.

Context

There have been no changes in the school since the last inspection.

Main findings

The headteacher has a very clear understanding of what needs to be done, and has decided on actions in the development plan which are in line with the areas for improvement in the last inspection. With her leadership team, she has started to put the plan into action with some noticeable impact on the quality of teaching. Students report that teachers are expecting more of them in lessons since the last inspection, and value the help and support they are getting. The school recognises that it needs to keep this pace of improvement over the coming months, and is determined to continue to improve.

They have introduced a tracking system which teachers are using to challenge students to reach their target grades. Senior leaders are also challenging staff individually to make sure that the students they teach are making the progress they are capable of. The data shows that this has already had an impact on the students who are in receipt of pupil premium. These students are making better progress now than they were before the last inspection. Governors have also been more proactive in this area, challenging the headteacher to account for the money spent on these students and the improvements it has brought.

Literacy has also been a priority, with English teachers working with faculties to ensure that the written work is of a high standard across the school. This is now being developed further to develop a common approach across the school, and encouraging reading in different subject areas.

Various learning research groups have been set up to spread good ideas across the school. These have proved popular with the teachers who are keen to learn and share ideas.

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 school, HMI recommend that further action is taken to:

- develop literacy strategies further, by engaging with another school to get support and ideas to continue to drive up the levels of reading and writing
- ensure that there is consistency in the level of challenge teachers expect from their students
- make sure that leaders check the progress students make in the lessons they see during informal observations and the learning walks they carry out.

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

External support

The school is drawing on support from another local school. It is also looking further afield to work with a school in a similar context to look at the progress of students in maths. As mentioned above, this needs to be extended to literacy as well to accelerate progress in this area. It is too early to tell the impact this support has made so far.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for The City of Kingston upon Hull.

Yours sincerely

Robert Pritchard
Her Majesty's Inspector