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Beverly Jones
Coleridge Community College
Radegund Road
Cambridge
CB1 3RJ

Dear Mrs Jones

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Coleridge Community College.

Following my visit to your academy on 24 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 on 13-14 March 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, I held meetings with senior and middle leaders, six members of the governing body and the executive principal of the academy federation. I evaluated the academy improvement plan. I scrutinised documents, visited lessons and met with groups of students.

Context

Since the inspection, the federation has appointed you as permanent principal and a new chair of the governing body has been appointed.

Main findings

Actions taken since the inspection are leading to improvement in the academy. Teachers and other adults manage the behaviour of the students more consistently

and have higher expectations of what students will achieve, especially the more able. As a result, the outcomes for the current Year 11 students show improvement on last year and a return to the improving pattern seen previously.

You acted swiftly to incorporate the action points from the inspection into the academy's improvement plans. You are now starting to restructure the plans, which need to have clearer, measurable success criteria and details of who will monitor progress towards them. It should also be clearly stated how success will be evaluated and the role of governors in the process.

Governors are starting to evaluate their work more systematically and are considering an external review to support them in this. They are working on a business plan that reflects and supports greater autonomy for the academy within the federation.

Middle leaders are checking that teachers in their subject follow the marking policy and improvements are evident. Students are playing an active role in developing teaching through the student commission and have considered the priorities in the inspection report.

You have acted swiftly to address weaknesses in the provision for disabled pupils and those who have special educational needs by commissioning an independent review. This has highlighted the need to address poor attendance by this group of students and to make the curriculum more suited to their individual needs.

Senior leaders and governors are taking 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:

- sharpen improvement planning and tackle the recommendations in the review of provision for disabled pupils and those who have special educational needs.

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

External support

Positive links with the local authority are supporting the improvement work and you are developing links with a range of other local schools. Membership of the Parkside Federation is developing further to support greater independence.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body.

Yours sincerely

Elaine Taylor
Her Majesty's Inspector