

Serco Inspections
20 Colmore Circus Queensway
Birmingham
B4 6AT

T 0300 123 1231
Text Phone: 0161 6188524
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk

Direct T: 0121 679 9165
Direct email: victoria.mortimore2@serco.com

7 June 2013

Ms Elizabeth Redpath
Principal
East Point Academy
Kirkley Run
Lowestoft
NR33 0UQ

Dear Ms Redpath

Special measures monitoring inspection of East Point Academy

Following my visit to your school on 6 June, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the 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 academy became subject to special measures following the inspection which took place on 6 March.

Evidence

During this inspection, meetings were held with the Executive Principal and Principal, and representative of the sponsor. The sponsor's statement of action and the academy's improvement plan were evaluated. In addition, I visited 12 classes to evaluate assessment and learning.

Context

Since the last inspection, the academy sponsor has suspended the governing body. A new executive board is being established but at the time of the inspection it had not met. The sponsors have appointed an Executive Principal to work alongside and support the Principal.

The quality of leadership and management at the school

The sponsor's action plan has been modified to take account of the issues identified at the last inspection. It gives a sufficiently clear overview of how the academy will be supported and improved. Targets for improved achievement are realistic, covering Key Stages 3 and 4 as well as key individual subjects. Improvement plans are sufficiently detailed. Milestones and timescales are defined, and many are challenging. A substantial programme of support is planned across all areas identified in the last inspection.

The academy has a clear plan to reorganise and clarify the roles of senior and middle managers. This will enable clear leadership and planning at departmental and subject level, identifying those to be held account for improvement in subject areas. The academy's monitoring of progress is developing well. Systems are in place to enable a more detailed evaluation of how individuals and groups are doing. However, teachers' assessments are not yet consistently accurate, leading to some data being unreliable. Examples of accurate assessment being used to structure classroom learning are seen in some areas, notably art and English. In these, students are taught at a level that challenges them and they learn well. However, this good practice is not yet consistent. In the less successful classes, students are given work that is below the level at which they are capable of working.

The academy has an accurate view of its weaknesses and strengths. The findings from the lesson observation system are broadly accurate, giving overall grades that are in line with those seen by the inspector. The system does identify the best practice, but there are, as yet, no mechanisms to share this among all staff. Consequently, pockets of good or better practice remain isolated. In addition, the lesson observations often miss opportunities to evaluate whether learning is at a sufficiently challenging level for all students in the class.

The governing body has been suspended, although some of its members continue to support the academy through the community. An executive board is being formed and the academy sponsor intends that this will oversee improvements. Newly recruited and trained governors will eventually form a reconstituted governing body with the necessary skills and capacity intended to govern the academy.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made:

The academy sponsor's statement of action is fit for purpose.

The academy's improvement and action plan is fit for purpose.

Having considered all the evidence I am of the opinion that the academy may appoint up to two NQTs in areas of the school that should be agreed with me beforehand.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State and the Chair of the Executive Board. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Ian Seath
Her Majesty's Inspector