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13 June 2013

Mr Michael Griffiths  
Samworth Church Academy  
Sherwood Hall Road  
Mansfield  
NG18 2DY

Dear Mr Griffiths

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Samworth Church Academy**

Following my visit to your academy on 12 June 2013, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report 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 March 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

### **Evidence**

During the visit, meetings were held with you and other senior leaders, the Chair of the Governing Body (who is also a representative of the academy's trust) and a representative of the diocese. The school action plan was evaluated. I discussed the school's progress with students during a brief tour of the academy.

### **Main findings**

You drew up a short-term action plan rapidly after the inspection which you have got on with implementing. You have set out clearly the quality of teaching expected and have ensured those staff responsible for improvement are clear about what they need to do. The governors are determined that the academy will be judged as good or better at its next inspection, which they hope will be in less than two years' time. The governors are working closely with the senior leaders to check on the progress that is being made and to keep up the pace of change. The students described to me some of the improvements that are apparent already, for instance, more-regular and more-useful marking of their work. They did not have a strong sense, however,

of the quality of teaching having improved and they noted some teachers still do not mark their work enough. They spoke positively about additional coaching and teaching, which is helping them make more progress and increasing their confidence.

Senior leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas of improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. The academy should take further action to:

- use the views of students as part of the school's monitoring and evaluation of the progress in improving the quality of teaching to ensure there is greater consistency in meeting the school's expectations for teaching
- ensure that the members of staff with responsibilities for managing the improvements get any necessary support and training to do so.

Ofsted may carry out further visits and, where necessary, provide further support and challenge to the academy until its next section 5 inspection. We agreed that I should visit the academy again at an appropriate time to evaluate the progress you are making.

### **External support**

You are using links with various other schools to provide professional development opportunities for the staff at the academy. You have extended those links since the inspection. You have put together a programme of support for teachers specifically to help with the required improvements in the quality of teaching. There is not enough support for staff with management responsibilities.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for Nottinghamshire and the Diocese of Southwell.

Yours sincerely

Clive Moss  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**