

CfBT Inspection Services  
Suite 22  
West Lancs Investment Centre  
Maple View  
Skelmersdale  
WN8 9TG

T 0300 1231231  
Text Phone: 0161 6188524  
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk  
[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

**Direct T** 01695 566 857  
**Direct F** 01695 729320  
**Direct email:**  
jkinsman@cfbt.com



14 June 2013

Mrs Heather Aaron  
Headteacher  
Wentworth High School  
Wentworth Road  
Eccles  
Manchester  
M30 9BP

Dear Mrs Aaron

### **Serious weaknesses first monitoring inspection of Wentworth High School**

Following my visit to your school on 13 June 2013, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the outcome and 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 school was judged to have serious weaknesses in March 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

### **Evidence**

During this inspection, meetings were held with the headteacher, the Chair of the Governing Body and the Assistant Director of Children's Services from the local authority. The local authority's statement of action and the school's improvement plans were evaluated. The school's single central record, which contains checks on staff appointments, was reviewed. The inspector accompanied the headteacher on a tour of the school.

### **Context**

Two members of staff have joined the school since the inspection. Appropriate checks have been carried out to ensure that staff are suitably qualified to work at the school. Since the inspection the school has opened a resource unit on behalf of the local authority for students on the autistic spectrum with statements of special educational needs. Work has commenced on the new school buildings at a site adjacent to the school. The new buildings are expected to open in September 2014.

## **The quality of leadership in and management of the school**

The last inspection report noted that the recently appointed headteacher was taking effective action to tackle weaknesses in mathematics. Her effectiveness has continued and the school is improving at a suitable pace. The improvement plan compiled by the headteacher is appropriate to drive the school forward in tackling the key issues from the last inspection.

The local authority has commissioned a local secondary school, which is a National Support School, to provide targeted support for Wentworth High. This is proving beneficial to the headteacher and other senior and middle leaders who have begun to make the necessary changes at the school. The use of data about students' progress is a good example. The tracking of students' progress is improving, as is the use of this information by teachers to plan work for students. The headteacher and other leaders as well are increasingly using these data to hold staff to account.

A year-long, external training programme on subject leadership for department leaders is planned. The leaders of English, mathematics and science have been guided by the local authority's School Improvement Officer alongside a specialist leader in education in preparing action plans for their departments. These are helpful plans, although there is a little unnecessary discontinuity between the science plan and the other action plans. Senior staff are to review these plans imminently and the discontinuity is planned to be ironed out.

Appropriate steps forward are being taken to improve the quality of teaching; a new planning format is in place; marking and feedback to students have received due attention; and training on how to match work more closely to students' needs has been delivered. There are good plans unfolding to continue to develop teaching through coaching teams that involve all members of the teaching staff. The staff's response to these developments has been positive. To ensure the developments become commonplace, monitoring by senior staff and their management of teachers' performance are focused on checking the new systems and associated outcomes for students.

Teachers' assessments of students suggest that this summer's examination results should show improved attainment and more-rapid progress being made by students in English and mathematics.

The actions designed to improve the quality of teaching are also expected to improve students' behaviour and attitudes to learning. To support this, the school has raised expectations that students become more vibrant in their learning. This has been communicated to students well, not least through a new 'learning charter'. Already, behaviour logs are showing decreased incidents of disruption to lessons.

The governing body is positioning itself well to fulfil its role much more effectively. The governors continue to be supported by a National Leader of Governance. They are more familiar with data and minutes of meetings show they are asking telling questions to hold the school suitably to account. The Chair of Governors has an accurate view of the school's strengths and weaknesses and the progress it is making. Governors are re-establishing links with school departments. The systems for governors to report to the governing body about training they have received or visits to the school are established.

As well as commissioning the help of a National Support School the local authority has arranged other support through its consultants, school improvement team and other external providers. This support is well mapped out in its statement of action; it is appropriate, timely and the planned impact is measureable. The arrangements for monitoring and evaluating the progress the school is making are robust.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made:

The school's improvement plan is fit for purpose.

The local authority's statement of action is fit for purpose.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State, the Chair of the Governing Body and the Strategic Director of Children's Services for Salford. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Eric Craven

Additional inspector