

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

Direct T 01695 566862
Direct F 01695 729320
Direct email:
rcowley@cfbt.com



17 July 2013

Mr Martin Cooper
Headteacher
South Holderness Technology College
Station Road
Preston
Hull
HU12 8UZ

Dear Mr Cooper

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to South Holderness Technology College, East Riding of Yorkshire

Following my visit to your school on 16 July 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 May 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with you, other senior leaders, representatives of the Governing Body, including the Chair, middle leaders, a group of teachers, and a representative of the local authority, to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. The school improvement action plan was evaluated. I also reviewed records of lesson observations and learning walks, and undertook a tour of the school with you, during which we dropped into lessons and spoke with students and staff.

Main findings

You and senior leaders have recognised and responded to the need for urgent action to improve the school's effectiveness following the section 5 inspection. The actions you have implemented are rightly focused on developing teachers' skills and thereby improving the overall quality of teaching so that it is at least good by the next inspection in 18-24 months.

Senior leaders and other members of the teaching staff consider that the link with Rossett School in North Yorkshire is providing useful practical support for work to get the quality of teaching, and the leadership and management of this work, to good. Senior leaders, the governing body and the local authority are working in partnership towards a shared goal of moving the school to good. You are confident that staffing changes and the realignment of roles and responsibilities, effective from September, will strengthen the school's capacity to achieve your objective of becoming a good school. The school's own data shows that attainment at the end of Key Stage 4 is set to increase for 2013 and gaps between different groups of students, including those eligible for pupil premium, are narrowing.

Governors have taken prompt and decisive action, signalling their intention to increase the challenge to you and other school leaders to move the school forward. This action has been facilitated by new structures and personnel associated with governance, particularly the new Chair of the Governing Body and other members with a background in education. Since the inspection, the governing body has taken the initiative to seek specific support and training from the local authority to increase their effectiveness as a stakeholder group. Governors have stated a firm intent to link performance to pay for all school staff; this has been recognised by senior leaders and teaching staff.

The challenge for you, senior leaders, teachers and governors is to maintain momentum into the autumn term and beyond. Involving all staff in shaping improvement work, and taking individual and collective responsibility is essential. We discussed ways in which aspects of work to improve teaching: lesson observations, feedback to teachers and learning walks, could be refined to increase the impact of these activities over time.

Senior leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection.

Ofsted may carry out further visits and, where necessary, provide further support and challenge to the school until its next section 5 inspection.

External support

The local authority has responded to governors' requests for bespoke support which has enabled the governing body to strengthen its knowledge of the pupil premium and its committee structure. In addition the local authority brokered the link with Rossett School in North Yorkshire, an academy, the predecessor of which was an outstanding school. Senior leaders and teachers shared with me examples of the early and beneficial impact of this link.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for East Riding of Yorkshire.

Yours sincerely

Cathryn Kirby

Her Majesty's Inspector

The letter should be copied to the following:

- Appropriate authority - Chair of the Governing Body/Interim Executive Board
- Local authority - including where the school is an academy
- the academy chain where relevant
- Diocese - for voluntary aided and voluntary controlled schools
- The Education Funding Agency (EFA) if the school has a sixth form
- The person or body responsible for appointing foundation governors if the school has a foundation
- The lead inspector.