

Serco Inspections
Colmore Plaza
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 9158
Direct email: rachel.dayan@serco.com



13 September 2013

Donovan Spencer
Headteacher
Heritage High School
Boughton Lane
Clowne
S43 4QG

Dear Mr Spencer

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Heritage High School

Following my visit to your school on 12 September 2013, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report my findings. 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.

This 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.

Senior leaders and governors are taking incisive and urgent action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the section 5 inspection. The school should take further action to:

- re-work and reissue the post-Ofsted action plan with a concise executive summary of the key changes being made across the school, so that all staff are fully aware of their role in supporting them
- ensure that the highest quality of marking, for example, like that common in the English department, is widely used in all subject areas. During the time allocated for students to respond to the marking, provide the most able students with opportunities to extend their work where they have no or few corrections to make
- ensure all staff fully understand the school's approach to monitoring and tracking students' progress in all subjects. Develop better ways to

help students and their parents understand the progress that students are making in their learning.

Evidence

During the visit, I met with you and other senior leaders, a group of students, the Chair of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority, to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. I evaluated the school's action plan and documents relating to the performance management of staff and the monitoring of students' progress. I also had a tour of part of the school.

Main findings

Since the inspection in March 2013, school leaders have taken a number of actions and made some significant changes. There is a new marking policy and in many subjects, students are now encouraged to make corrections and respond using a green pen. The extent to which this is being well used, however, is variable. Students said that marking practice in English was consistently good; it was regular and thorough and time was allocated for them to make corrections and improve their work. One student said: "It makes you feel like they have really looked at what you have done and take a real interest in you." In other subjects, students reported much more variable experience and frequently, even in English, those who had completed everything correctly were not given the opportunity or encouragement to extend their work.

The school has also made a major change to the way academic targets are set and progress is monitored. There is now a much stronger focus on the progress that each student makes from their starting point and the monitoring is robust. Changes are recent, but there is much scope for this to have a significant impact once fully operational. The school's assessment of teaching quality indicates that more teaching is now good or better than in March. Professional development, including the use of external advice, is being used to enhance the accuracy of internal assessment.

The governing body has further strengthened its strategies for supporting and challenging the school and is well placed to ensure that the actions being taken and proposed will be effectively carried through and evaluated. Governors take an active part in monitoring the work of departments and of the senior team.

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 school has valued the support provided by the local authority, in the form of school improvement advisers and managerial and administrative assistance. Good

use has also been made of links with other local schools, including one outstanding provider.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for Derbyshire County Council.

Yours sincerely

John Peckham
Her Majesty's Inspector