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24 September 2013

Mr John Senior
Headteacher
George Pindar School
Moor Lane
Eastfield
Scarborough
North Yorkshire
YO11 3LW

Dear Mr Senior

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to George Pindar School, North Yorkshire

Following my visit to your school on 23 September 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 June 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

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

Evidence

During the visit, I met with you, the senior leadership team, six middle leaders, a representative of the local authority and five members of the governing body. I scrutinised a range of documents, undertook a tour of the school and had a brief conversation with the staff at the end of the school day.

Context

Since the section 5 inspection, two additional governors have joined the governing body. An assistant headteacher with responsibility for raising student achievement joined the senior leadership team at the start of September 2013.

Main findings

The drive and determination to bring about improvement for students was palpable in all of the meetings I held with you, your colleagues and governors. Senior and middle leaders demonstrate a secure understanding of what needs to be done and have acted quickly to

put in place a range of well thought through strategies and actions. Regular, focused learning walks and lesson observations are being used effectively to check on the quality of teaching and marking for example, as well as to identify how best to support improvement through training and student performance meetings. A programme of structured staff training and peer coaching has begun and draws well upon best practice within the school. Common systems to monitor and track students' progress have been implemented and are beginning to improve staff's ability to pitch activities at the right level for individual students and to raise expectations of what students can achieve. Regular review and evaluation activities undertaken so far are realistic and reflective.

Governors are committed to making a difference to the school and demonstrate a clear intent to improve their ability to do so by undertaking an external review of governance which is due to be completed in the next month. As a result of increasingly robust evidence, school leaders are confident that the actions being taken are driving improvements in the quality of teaching and having a positive impact on students' learning. School leaders and governors intend to attend an Ofsted 'Getting to good' seminar later this term.

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 is facilitating the external review of governance but aside from this, local authority engagement has been limited and has not provided appropriate support and challenge for this school.

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

Yours sincerely

Wendy Ripley

Her Majesty's Inspector

The letter should be copied to the following:

- Chair of the Governing Body – L Rimmer
- North Yorkshire local authority