

PROTECT-INSPECTION

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 9161
Direct email: Ann.Morris@Serco.com



21 October 2013

Mr D Millar
Executive Principal
East Site
Minster Road
Minster-on-Sea
ME12 3JQ

Dear Mr Millar

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Isle of Sheppey Academy

Following my visit to your school on 9 October 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 second 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 an extended meeting was held with you and the Chair of Governors to discuss your analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the academy and your plans for ensuring that the academy provides a good education as soon as possible.

Context

You took up the Executive Principal post on 1 September 2013 on a permanent basis. The Academy will become part of Oasis Community Learning from January 2013. Oasis Community Learning sponsors many academies in England and has a strong focus on the community as a whole.

Main findings

The standards of attainment and the progress made by students at the academy are still not good enough. With your appointment adjustments have been made to the

leadership structures of the academy and to the job descriptions of individuals to secure a sharp focus on the core issues. There now needs to be rapid progress in securing improved outcomes for pupils by ensuring that all teaching is consistently good, that all pupils attend regularly and that their progress is monitored to enable effective interventions.

I was impressed by the speed with which you have grasped the challenges facing the academy and also identified the academy's areas of strength. I understand that you and Oasis have a clear vision for the academy with key aspects of high expectations for all students and staff and a culture that supports learning. I know that you are looking forward to building on these principles to create a vision that is shared by all in the academy and the wider community.

You are determined that students will do well at the academy. You have already sought to increase the amount of time that all pupils spend learning the core subjects of English and Mathematics and introduced interventions which will help those that have fallen behind to catch up.

I am clear that you recognise that it is a priority is to support current Year 11 to achieve as well as they can and that you have acted swiftly in this respect.

You know that there is much to be done and that determined and rapid action is required. I look forward to supporting your academy in its journey and discussing your action plan in due course.

Ofsted will continue to monitor the school until its next section 5 inspection. Another monitoring visit is likely to take place during the Spring term 2014.

External support

As you are new to post it is early days for external support. Oasis Community Learning has seconded a senior leader to your team to support your leadership and Dulwich College continue to support, not least through the Chair of Governors.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body.

Yours sincerely

Emma Ing
Her Majesty's Inspector