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16 January 2014

Miss Gill Broom
Headteacher
Hameldon Community College
Coal Clough Lane
Burnley
Lancashire
BB11 5BT

Dear Miss Broom

Serious weaknesses first monitoring inspection of Hameldon Community College

Following my visit to your college on 15 January 2014, 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 college's most recent section 5 inspection.

The inspection was the first monitoring inspection since the college was judged to have serious weaknesses in October 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During this inspection, meetings were held with the headteacher, members of her senior leadership team and staff with responsibility for key areas of improvement, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Governing Body, and a representative of the local authority. The local authority's statement of action and the college's action plan were evaluated.

Context

There have been no important changes to staffing since the section 5 inspection.

The quality of leadership and management of the school

The leaders and governors of the college, with support from the local authority, have responded promptly and robustly to the judgements of the recent inspection. They

are taking appropriate action to address the points for improvement identified in that last report. Senior leaders know where improvement is required and, at the time of the last inspection, were already engaged in appropriate actions to improve outcomes for students. They are working rigorously to ensure that all teaching is at least good and that all students make the maximum progress and attain the highest standards that they are capable of. Actions to achieve this include, for example, the creation of the 'Minimum Good' programme of professional development for middle managers and curriculum leaders; enhancement of literacy skills across the school; and support for all staff to make better use of assessment information so that lesson planning is more focused on ensuring the progress of all students.

The local authority knows the college well and is committed to its development. Significant resource is being provided to underpin the actions being taken, including brokering links with a local National Support School to give the leaders of the college further support and provide objective external monitoring of progress against the action plan. The local authority has set rigorous timelines for improvement with the college. Governors are well-informed and fully aware of their responsibilities in helping to lead the college out of serious weaknesses. They are directly involved in the monitoring and evaluation of specific priorities for improvement.

The local authority's statement of action and the college's action plan deliberately replicate each other so as to ensure that actions by both parties are fully coordinated and aligned. Both action plans are comprehensive, detailed, and provide clear and cogent objectives and targets to drive the improvements needed. Actions are carefully planned against the areas for improvement identified in the section 5 Ofsted report. The targets are challenging but achievable and the associated success criteria are sufficiently precise and measurable. One improvement is already evident in that clear costing, timelines and milestones are included in these plans, enabling all parties to monitor progress and the success of actions effectively.

Following the inspection the following judgements were made:

The college's action 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 Interim Executive Director for Children & Young People for Lancashire. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely,

Terry Holland

Additional Inspector