

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



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Mike Eyre
Principal
Monks' Dyke Tennyson College
Monks' Dyke Road
Louth
LN11 9AW

Dear Mr Eyre

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Monks' Dyke Tennyson College

Following my visit to your school on 14 July 2014, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report the inspection 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 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 March 2014. 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 inspection, meetings were held with the headteacher and senior leaders, the Governing Body, and a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. I toured both of the school's sites, visiting classrooms and holding brief conversations with students. The school's action plan was evaluated. Also, I read a summary of the action taken to date by the school and the report from the external review of governance.

Main findings

You have focused unequivocally on improving the quality of teaching. In particular, you have worked quickly to tackle ineffective teaching. In addition, a long-term strategy has been initiated to raise the quality of teaching overall, making use of well-considered and, sometimes, accredited staff development and training

programmes. You have acted quickly to ensure more-consistent approaches to planning lessons and marking students' work. The students are now being given opportunities systematically to respond to the teachers' marking.

You are beginning to see the impact of the initiatives you have taken. The school's data indicate improvements in the students' achievement. There have been improvements in the quality of teaching as a result of the actions you have taken to deal with ineffective teaching. The students with whom I spoke told me that the work they were doing in the lessons was interesting and they were evidently getting on with it. Some of them described the changes to the way that their work is marked and told me how the opportunities they are now getting to respond to the teachers' marking are helping them to learn more.

The improvements in teaching have been the result of more-focused and more-systematic work by senior and middle leaders. The way in which you check on the work of the school has been centralised and standardised, so that senior and middle leaders are now better informed and able to respond to what they find out. The school's action plan has several strengths and is fit for purpose. It does not make sufficiently clear, however, who is responsible for ensuring that the planned activities happen and the timings for the activities are inexact.

The external review of governance was completed quickly. The governing body is now implementing things that have come out of the review.

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

You have made effective use of appropriate external support. The local authority ensured that the review of governance was carried out quickly. It has also assigned a new school improvement partner to the school, so that you have access now to an experienced, former national leader of education. That relationship has provided you already with practical advice on your action plan, but the full details of the support to be provided have not been worked out yet, because the relationship has been formed only very recently. You have forged a good link with a teaching schools alliance, which is providing you with ready access to examples of good practice. You have taken advantage of that already to provide professional development opportunities for the staff.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body, the Director of Children's Services for Lincolnshire.

Yours sincerely

Clive Moss

Her Majesty's Inspector