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23 September 2014

Mrs Liz Hart  
Headteacher  
Queensbury School  
Deanstones Lane  
Queensbury  
Bradford  
West Yorkshire  
BD13 2AS

Dear Mrs Hart

## **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Queensbury School, Bradford**

Following my visit to your school on 22 September 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 May 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, other senior leaders, middle leaders, governors and a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. In addition the school's development plan was evaluated and a series of short visits was made to lessons from across year groups and the curriculum.

### **Context**

The senior leadership team has been restructured since the section 5 inspection. A third deputy headteacher has been appointed to lead the improvement of teaching

and the number of assistant headteachers has reduced from six to two. Three additional lead practitioners have been appointed to support the development of teaching.

## **Main findings**

The headteacher has an excellent grasp of the strengths and weaknesses of the school and has a very clear view of what needs to be done to get to good. She prioritises well and is driving improvements at a well-judged pace. Governors also know the school very well and continue to challenge and support school leaders. They are continually looking at ways to improve their own practice. For example, they now initiate meetings with middle leaders in order to hear first-hand about issues and successful initiatives.

The restructure of leadership has led to a much sharper approach to addressing the areas for improvement from the section 5 inspection. Lines of accountability are clearer and monitoring systems are much tighter enabling progress against the development plan to be rigorously evaluated. Personalised professional development is supporting improvements. The school has been re-energised by the recent changes and new appointments but many of the actions taken need time to embed and have an impact.

The new data management system, introduced this term, is enabling teachers and leaders to track students' progress more effectively in order to identify and address issues quickly. Teachers are much more focused on addressing the individual needs of students. They are giving detailed and constructive feedback on written work and setting aside time in lessons for students to reflect and act on advice. Initiatives to improve attendance include responding more quickly to non-attendance and the appointment of a Slovak speaking liaison officer who is forging closer links with the growing Gypsy Roma community.

The school is becoming increasingly outward looking and is establishing productive links across Bradford and beyond. Best practice is being imported and modified in order to accelerate improvements and closer links with local primary schools are supporting the transition between Year 6 and 7.

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**

Support from the local authority is very good and includes valuable advice on finance and human resources. Local authority consultants are working with teachers in mathematics and English and an adviser visits Queensbury regularly to offer additional support and to liaise with the Bradford Partnership.

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

Yours sincerely

Jan Bennett

**Her Majesty's Inspector**

The letter should be copied to the following:

- Appropriate authority - Chair of the Governing Body/Interim Executive Board
- Local authority – including where the school is an academy
- The Education Funding Agency (EFA) if the school has a sixth form