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23 September 2014

Miss Kelly Dawson  
Headteacher  
Coal Clough High School  
Swindon Street  
Burnley  
Lancashire  
BB11 4PF

Dear Miss Dawson

### **Serious weaknesses first monitoring inspection of Coal Clough High School**

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 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 school's most recent section 5 inspection.

The inspection was the first monitoring inspection since the school was judged to have serious weaknesses in May 2014. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

### **Evidence**

During this inspection, meetings were held with the headteacher and other senior leaders, members of the management committee and a representative of the local authority. The local authority's statement of action and the school's improvement plan were evaluated.

### **Context**

Since the last inspection the school has appointed an additional deputy curriculum lead to the senior leadership team. New teachers have been appointed for mathematics, English, business studies, religious education and a Key Stage 4 nurture class. The headteacher of a local primary pupil referral unit has recently joined the management committee and a behaviour lead is due to join the committee in two weeks' time.

## **The quality of leadership and management at the school**

Although the school is of the view that the section 5 inspection came at an inopportune time following the recent integration of large numbers of students with particularly challenging behaviour, leaders and managers agree that the issues identified in the report were appropriate; that there was a need to sharpen the management of teaching and learning, raise expectations and improve behaviour for learning.

Since the last inspection, actions have been taken to: improve literacy and numeracy through the appointment of subject specialists; reorganise student groups to meet their needs better; amend the marking policy to include a clear focus on literacy; and offer training for literacy, marking and feedback. Changes have taken place to the way students are assessed to ensure that their targets are appropriate and that staff have high expectations of what they can achieve. Performance management processes have been strengthened and heads of department are beginning to understand better their role in the leadership of teaching and learning. To address behaviour issues the school's policy has been reviewed, staff have engaged in behaviour management training and a revised system for inducting new entrants to the school has been put in place. School data show evidence of good improvements to attendance.

The school improvement plan has appropriate actions, milestones and success criteria. Those responsible for undertaking and monitoring the actions are clearly identified. Ofsted's recommendation for an external review of governance took place at the end of the summer term and the subsequent report is due to be reviewed at the next management committee meeting.

The local authority's statement of action is thorough and detailed. Strategies for improvement are clear, specific and sequenced well. The local authority is supporting the school by providing regular advice to the senior leadership team and the management committee. They have carried out a review of the school's use of the pupil premium fund and are planning to broker links with good and outstanding pupil referral units within and beyond the local authority.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made:

The school's improvement 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 Management Committee and the Interim Executive Director for Children & Young People for Lancashire. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Janet Palmer  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**