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John Jones
Principal
Wrockwardine Wood Arts Academy
New Road
Wrockwardine Wood
Telford
TF2 6JZ

Dear Mr Jones

Special measures monitoring inspection of Wrockwardine Wood Arts Academy

Following my visit to your academy on 18 May 2015, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the 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 academy's recent section 5 inspection.

The inspection was the first monitoring inspection since the academy became subject to special measures following the inspection which took place in February 2015.

Evidence

During this inspection, meetings were held with the Principal, a group of senior and middle leaders, two representatives of the governing body, and a new member of the board of the Telford Co-operative Multi-Academy Trust, who is also the Chief Executive Officer of the Community Academies Trust. I visited a number of lessons and looked at the work in students' books. The academy's improvement plan was evaluated; no statement of action was provided by the Telford Co-operative Multi-Academy Trust.

Context

Since the last inspection, the academy has undergone significant contextual changes. The academy is one of four academies that make up the Telford Co-operative Multi-Academy Trust. The academy, alongside all others within the Telford Co-operative Multi-Academy Trust is currently undergoing a significant staffing restructure. The Telford Co-operative Multi-Academy Trust is not continuing as the sponsor of these academies. All staff and parents have been informed that Wrockwardine Wood Arts Academy will close on 3 July and a new academy is scheduled to open in September 2015. The new academy will be the result of a merger between Wrockwardine Wood Arts Academy and Sutherland Co-operative Academy. The new academy will open in purpose-built premises, funded by 'building schools for the future'. The preferred sponsor is the Community Academies Trust. The current Principal will not take up post in the new academy. The governing body is to be suspended in June and an Education Advisory Board will be in place formed by the Community Academies Trust.

During the visit, a number of teachers and support staff were being interviewed for a position in the new academy, as part of the restructure.

The quality of leadership and management at the school

The academy improvement plan addresses the key priorities identified by the last inspection. Given the context of this academy, sensible and appropriate actions have been put in place to ensure the best possible outcomes for all students before the academy is closed in six weeks. However, the plan requires the addition of more regular deadlines to be met to ensure that leaders remain on track to achieve the desired outcomes. The publication of the inspection report, the uncertainty of the academy's future and the current staffing restructure have contributed significantly to this being a very turbulent time for both students and staff. Despite these circumstances, staff remain committed to making sure that Key Stage 4 students are well prepared for their examinations and that younger students are supported in their transition to the new academy.

The Principal and senior leaders are focused on implementing a number of short, sharp measures to improve students' achievement in their remaining time in the academy. These include:

- improved information-tracking systems that provide senior and subject leaders with a valuable insight into students' progress. The collection of this information is regular and sharply focused on the achievement of different groups of students across all years. As a result, leaders have an up-to-date picture of current achievement to provide extra help where appropriate. Current information about Year 11 students supports leaders' expectation that there will be some improvement this year in students' achievement.
- implementation of a range of targeted support for specific groups of Year 11 students. One of these measures, 'High 5', provides an additional eight hours a week of teaching and support, led by senior staff, to improve students' progress towards their target grades. Students are motivated by these tailored-support measures and attendance at these additional sessions is high.
- introduction of specific-training sessions for teachers These address key teaching and learning priorities: more effective use of the information about students' progress to inform teachers' planning of learning; a consistently effective approach to the marking of students' work and the quality of the feedback students receive; improving the quality of students' spelling, grammar and punctuation and an increased focus on the quality of presentation of work in books.

Governors are working closely with the Principal to implement actions from the improvement plan and two governors meet regularly with the Principal to review the progress against the agreed, desired outcomes. However, more measurable deadlines are lacking to enable governors to track and monitor the impact of leadership activities more effectively over the remaining weeks.

The external review of governance and the academy's use of the pupil premium (additional funding for students eligible for free school meals and those looked after) have not yet been carried out.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made:

The proprietor's statement of action is not fit for purpose. The Telford Co-operative Multi-Academy Trust did not prepare a statement of action.

The academy's improvement plan is fit for purpose.

Having considered all the evidence I strongly recommend that the academy does not seek to appoint NQTs.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State, the Chair of the Governing Body, the Director of Children's Services for Telford and Wrekin. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Helen Reeves
Associate Inspector

The letter should be copied to the following:

- Appropriate authority - Chair of the Governing Body/Interim Executive Board
- Local authority – (including where a school is an academy)
- For Academies only - CausingConcern.SCHOOLS@education.gsi.gov.uk
- The lead inspector