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Ms L Kirby
Headteacher
Kingsley Academy
Prince Regent Road
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Dear Ms Kirby

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Kingsley Academy

Following my visit to your school on 7 July 2016, 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 second monitoring inspection since the school was judged to require improvement following the section 5 inspection in May 2015. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Senior leaders and the management board are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the section 5 inspection in order to become a good school.

Evidence

During the inspection I met with you, other senior leaders, middle leaders, teachers and pupils. The assistant vice-principal joined me on a visit to lessons and together we scrutinised pupils' work. I scrutinised the school's pupil assessment information with members of the senior leadership team. I also met with the chair and vice-chair of the management board. The chair of the management board is also the regional director of the school's sponsor, Academies Enterprise Trust ('AET'). I evaluated documents, including the school's action and improvement plans. I checked the school's documentation relating to safeguarding.

Context

Since the section 5 inspection in May 2015 there have been significant changes in leadership. AET has replaced the governing body with a management board. You were appointed as headteacher in January 2016.

Main findings

There have been tangible improvements since my previous visit. You have a clear vision for the school which you have shared with staff. Communication has improved. Staff have contributed to the planning process and feel valued. There is a clear improvement in staff morale.

The quality and pace of strategic planning has also moved on quickly. Staff are supportive of the direction you are taking. You have implemented changes swiftly and openly. You have introduced a clear format for planning which is understood by staff. Members of the senior leadership team are taking greater responsibility for their areas. They support each other with putting their plans into action.

The school's own assessment information shows an improvement in the outcomes for pupils, including disadvantaged pupils. Assessment information is analysed increasingly robustly. However, in some areas it is still not sufficiently accurate, for example in key stage 3 and in English.

Attendance overall is improving and this is particularly evident in the sixth form. However, the attendance and performance of White British pupils has not improved quickly enough. You agree that this remains an area that requires attention. You have taken steps to analyse the underlying causes for this. However, the impact of this work is to yet to be seen.

Effective systems to monitor the quality of teaching, learning and assessment are now in place. Middle leaders are held to account for the quality of teaching in their departments through regular meetings with senior leaders. The quality of teaching has improved. Pupils are given time to reflect on the feedback they receive from teachers, which helps them to make progress. However, not all departments follow this policy consistently. You have introduced assessments for all pupils when they start at the school. However, it is too early to evaluate the impact of this on pupils' progress. Systems are not yet in place securely enough to ensure that all subsequent assessment information is accurate. This remains an area for improvement.

The quality of advice and guidance for sixth form students has improved. As a result, students have an increased understanding of the range of university courses and apprenticeships available to them. They feel well informed. The availability of resources in science has improved.

Ofsted may carry out further monitoring inspections and, where necessary, provide further support and challenge to the school until its next section 5 inspection.

External support

The chair of the management board provides strong and effective support to you and the school. Together with the vice-chair, she continues to identify accurately the priorities for improvement.

I am copying this letter to the chair of the management board, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for the London Borough of Hounslow.

Yours sincerely

Vanessa Ward

Her Majesty's Inspector