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Sarah Colombini
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Dear Mrs Colombini

Ofsted visit to Ribston Hall High School

Following my visit with Marie Thomas, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 22 October 2020, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the visit's findings. Thank you for the time you made available to discuss your actions since September 2020, when the government expected all schools to open fully to all pupils.

This visit was conducted under section 8 of the Education Act 2005 (as amended) and in accordance with Ofsted's published procedures for visiting schools while routine inspections are temporarily suspended.

Ofsted's visits to schools during the autumn term are not inspections. We are not giving graded judgements. We did not undertake the usual range of inspection activities and were unable to check other sources of evidence, such as visits to lessons or looking at pupils' work. The content of this letter gives an overview of our discussions about what has happened in your school this term.

During the visit, we spoke to you and your senior leaders. We did not speak to pupils because of the protective measures in place.

Context

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills is leading Ofsted's work into how England's education system is managing the return to full education for pupils, following an extended break in formal schooling due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

In undertaking this focused work, HMI are visiting a broad range of schools. HMI will visit a sample of:

- approximately 1,200 schools across all Ofsted grades (outstanding, good, requires improvement and inadequate)
- maintained schools, academies and free schools, special schools and centres of alternative provision, including those in cities, and coastal, town or rural communities.

The information from this visit will feed into Ofsted's national reporting so that the insights can be shared with the government and the education sector. We did not find any significant concerns during the visit. In such a case, an inspection report would be published on our website and available to parents and carers.

We did not consider your response to COVID-19 during the spring and summer terms 2020, when the school was not open to all pupils.

From this visit, inspectors noted that:

- The school opened for Year 7 pupils and Year 13 students on 3 September 2020. All other pupils returned to school full time on the following day.
- The current rate of pupils' attendance is broadly in line with the school's normal rate of attendance at this time of year. At the time of the visit, approximately half of Year 10 pupils had just begun a period of isolating at home.
- Teachers in each subject have mapped out the knowledge pupils are required to learn. They are prioritising face-to-face teaching for the content that is most important.
- Senior leaders have devised a COVID-19 recovery strategy. Pupils have recently had a week of assessments to identify any gaps in their knowledge. A second week of assessments is planned for February 2021. Leaders anticipate that pupils will have caught up on any missed learning by Easter 2021.
- Pupils in Years 7 to 9 are studying the same subjects as they usually would. There are some limitations in subjects that require specialist equipment. For example, there have been minor adjustments to the curriculum in computing and in music.
- Pupils are able to study the same range of GCSE subjects, in Years 10 and 11, as before. Teachers have made small changes to the curriculum in some subjects. For example, the range of sports available in GCSE physical education has been modified. Where necessary, Year 11 pupils have been given priority use of specialist rooms, such as science laboratories.

- Sixth-form students continue to study all of their chosen courses. Teachers have made changes to the system used to assess students' knowledge on A-level courses.
- Senior leaders have developed a plan for pupils to learn at home if it is necessary for them to isolate.

Thank you again for contributing to this important national work. The views and experiences you have shared will help to inform future policy.

I am copying this letter to the chair of the board of trustees, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Gloucestershire County Council. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Paul Williams
Her Majesty's Inspector