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Leon Wilson
Executive Principal
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Dear Mr Wilson

Ofsted visit to The Hurlingham Academy

Following my visit with Sophie Welch, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 6 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, the senior leadership team and a regional director from the United Learning Trust. 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 to all pupils on 9 September 2020. All pupils are attending full time.
- Pupils' attendance is lower than usual for this time of year. This is due to pupils being in quarantine, self-isolating and/or awaiting COVID-19 test results.
- All pupils are studying the usual curriculum.
- Pupils in Years 7 to 9 are learning the usual range of subjects that the school offers. A selected group of pupils in each of these year groups takes part in the school's 'Back on Track' programme. This involves extra sessions after school which focus on well-being, engagement with learning, and work in English, mathematics and science.
- In Years 10 and 11, pupils continue to study all the subjects they had chosen for GCSE. They have an extra lesson each day to help them catch up with any work they may not have covered during the last academic year. Leaders plan to continue with this for the rest of this academic year.
- Teachers in all subjects have been checking pupils' knowledge and understanding during lessons and through homework tasks. Teachers are adapting their schemes of work and reteaching parts of the curriculum to address noticeable gaps in pupils' knowledge.
- In Year 7, pupils are currently doing formal tests in English and mathematics. You plan to use the resulting information to place pupils in classes according to their ability.

- Remote education is in place for pupils who cannot attend school. Staff have a range of resources that they can access to deliver the planned curriculum.

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 chief executive officer of the United Learning Trust, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Hammersmith and Fulham. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Jude Wilson
Her Majesty's Inspector