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Mariella Ardron
Principal
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Dear Mrs Ardron

Ofsted visit to Chelsea Academy

Following my visit with Lucy Bruce, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 20 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 two vice-principals. We also spoke to the school's human resources adviser. 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 fully to all pupils on 10 September 2020. Pupils are expected to attend full time.
- Attendance is lower than normal for this time of year. Leaders are working with parents who are anxious about sending their children to school. At the time of the visit, a Year 9 'bubble' was isolating.
- All pupils are learning the usual range of subjects that the school offers.
- Sixth-form students continue to study their chosen subjects.
- In Years 9 to 11, pupils are studying all the subjects they opted for at GCSE. A group of Year 11 pupils also have individual tuition in mathematics after school once a week. Additional teaching sessions in all subjects have been planned during the October half-term holiday to help Year 11 and Year 13 pupils catch up on any work from the previous academic year.
- In Years 7 and 8, pupils do not have access to specialist rooms in subjects such as music, design and technology, and drama due to the year group 'zones' currently in place. Teachers have adapted what they would usually teach as a result, for example focusing more on theory work. Leaders plan to

revert to the usual curriculum in these year groups if possible by January 2021.

- In all subjects, staff have checked pupils' knowledge and understanding this half term to identify any gaps. Teachers use homework tasks to revisit work from the previous academic year.
- Leaders have a system of online remote education in place. They plan to build on this, for example developing different ways of delivering lessons, and checking pupils' understanding of their work.

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 director of education for the Diocese of London, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Kensington and Chelsea. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Jude Wilson
Her Majesty's Inspector