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23 November 2020

Samirah Roberts  
Headteacher  
Rugby Free Secondary School  
Anderson Avenue  
Rugby  
Warwickshire  
CV22 5PE

Dear Miss Roberts

### **Ofsted visit to Rugby Free Secondary School**

Following my visit with Wayne Simner, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 3 November 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 chief executive officer, members of the senior leadership team and the senior leaders responsible for safeguarding. 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 7 September 2020. All pupils are expected to attend full time.
- Attendance is currently above what it was this time last year.
- Pupils in all year groups are studying their usual subjects. Teachers have made some changes to the order of the curriculum. For example, in physical education pupils will be doing contact sports later in the school year. You expect pupils to return to their usual curriculum by the summer term 2021.
- Teachers' checks have shown that pupils in Year 7 need extra work in reading comprehension and algebra. As a result, teachers have made some changes to the order they teach related topics in English and mathematics.
- All pupils in Years 10 and 11 are continuing to study their full range of accredited courses. Teachers have identified that pupils would benefit from longer lessons to help them to complete practical work and coursework. As a result, leaders have introduced double lessons for these subjects.
- Should there be a need for pupils to be taught remotely in the future, you have a system in place that includes the use of online virtual classrooms.

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 Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow Trust, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Warwickshire. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Lesley Yates  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**