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Kyra Jones
Head of School
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Dear Mrs Jones

Ofsted visit to Newall Green High School

Following my visit with Linda Emmett, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 10 December 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 executive headteacher, the deputy headteacher (who is also the senior leader responsible for safeguarding), one assistant headteacher and the curriculum leaders for English and mathematics. 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:

- Since the start of the autumn term, almost all pupils have had to learn from home on at least one occasion for a short period.
- All pupils in Year 11 are continuing to study their usual curriculum subjects. However, you explained that teachers have made minor changes to how they deliver practical work in subjects such as food technology and physical education. You aim to resume the usual curriculum content by summer 2021.
- You explained that teachers are checking what pupils know and remember from the learning that they have done since March 2020. Teachers are making changes to their curriculum plans to match pupils' new starting points.
- To address gaps in learning, teachers are now delivering 'curriculum seminars' before and after school in all subjects. You explained that this is so that pupils can catch up with any lost learning.
- You recognise that pupils need extra support with their learning in English and mathematics. You said that this is because pupils do not have the depth of knowledge that they should have for this time of year. You have made time in the curriculum for all pupils to have an additional English and mathematics lesson each week.
- You described how teachers prepare online resources for pupils who need to work remotely. You expect all pupils to follow their usual timetable when

learning from home. You said that you have provided internet access so that all pupils can take part in online learning.

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 governing body, and the chief executive officer of the Prospere Learning Trust, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Manchester. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Goodwin
Her Majesty's Inspector