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Post-inspection letter – special measures monitoring inspections

27 March 2013

Scott Hudson
The Kingswood School
Gainsborough Road
Corby
NN18 9NS

Dear Mr Hudson

Special measures monitoring inspection of The Kingswood School

Following my visit to your school on 26 March 2013, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the inspection findings. Thank you for the help you gave during the inspection and for the time you made available to discuss the actions which have been taken since the school's recent section 5 inspection.

The inspection was the first monitoring inspection since the school became subject to special measures following the inspection which took place in November 2012.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher and other senior leaders, a group of middle leaders, three members of the governing body and a representative of the local authority. The local authority statement of action and the school's improvement plan were evaluated. Other documents were also scrutinised including recent progress data, the outcomes of the school's lesson observations, the headteacher's report to governors and monitoring and evaluation documents.

Context

Since the inspection, a further member of the senior leadership team has left the school, leaving it currently with four senior leaders. Two associate assistant headteachers have been seconded to the senior leadership team, since the start of

the school year, to increase its capacity. The special educational needs co-ordinator is leaving the school at Easter. Three science teachers have been appointed, but the school has not yet been successful in appointing teachers to the mathematics department. The school's leaders and the governing body have also held discussions with the Department for Education about conversion to academy status.

The quality of leadership and management at the school

As at the time of the previous inspection, the headteacher has continued to develop a clear and accurate view of the work of the school. He is well supported by the senior and middle leaders and has already implemented a wide range of appropriate systems to tackle the most significant areas of inadequacy. There is now a far sharper focus on what level students in Years 10 and 11 are working at and what they need to do to improve. Staff know which students are on track to make three levels of progress as well as being more secure in their knowledge of which students are predicted to gain five good GCSE grades including English and mathematics. Systems are in place through subjects and houses, for students to receive extra support as required so that they can improve. The new systems are ready to be extended to lower ages during the summer term. Systems for improving teaching are significantly more effective than at the time of the inspection. Data from observations shows a significant rise in the number of lessons taught which are good or better. The headteacher has shown fine judgment in ensuring that staff fully understand his vision for the school and that they receive the support and challenge required to improve their work within that context. Overall, staff have made impressive progress in understanding and embracing the changes and are extremely supportive of the work currently being undertaken in the school.

Since November, the governing body has received training in several areas. They now have more understanding about what data show and they are also better equipped to question the headteacher effectively when he presents his regular reports at governing body meetings. There have also been improvements in how they record visits to the school, although this needs further development. The governing body is currently investigating options for the future of the school in negotiation with the leaders, the local authority and the Department for Education.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made:

The local authority statement of action is fit for purpose.

The school's improvement plan is fit for purpose.

The school may appoint newly qualified teachers, in any area of the school, before the next monitoring inspection.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State, the Chair of the Governing Body, the Director of Children's Services for Corby and as below. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

David Muir
Her Majesty's Inspector