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Bradley Simmons HMI
Regional Director, South West

Councillor Janet Walton
Leader, Poole Council
Borough of Poole
Civic Centre
Poole
BH15 2RU

Dear Councillor Walton

Primary and Secondary School performance in Poole

I wrote to you this time last year to express my serious concerns about the performance of schools under Poole Council. It is only right that I should now congratulate you on the improved results attained by pupils attending your schools in 2016.

At almost every key stage, Poole schools have performed above national levels. Most significantly and pleasingly, at key stage 2, your schools have pulled their performance up this year, from the bottom of the pack in 2015, to a mid-ranking position nationally when compared with other local authorities.

At key stage 1, Poole schools performed above the national level in both phonics and in the key stage 1 subjects, reading, writing and mathematics. At key stage 2, pupils in Poole attained one percentage point above the national level for the combined attainment measure of reading, writing and mathematics, against tougher government standards.

Secondary schools in Poole built on last year's improvement with a positive progress 8 score, which is, again, above the national average. The proportion of Poole pupils passing GCSEs in English and mathematics at grade C or better was 67.6%, against an England figure of 62.8%.

This more consistent and sustained picture of improving achievement in Poole is testament to your hard work and your team's. You have been resolute in addressing the issues we raised in our inspection of your school improvement service published last year. The last time we met, I noticed and commented on a decided culture change in Poole. There is much stronger evidence than in the past of all stakeholders working together, of mutual challenge and accountability. I know you are not satisfied with outcomes as they stand; you want to continue to do better. I agree

and I look forward to ongoing and sustained improvements in the educational outcomes and life chances for children and young people in Poole.

Please thank all involved in achieving these hard won gains.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bradley Simmons." The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Bradley Simmons HMI
Regional Director, South West