



Department for Education

Mr John Kirk
Gateway Sixth Form College
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Rt. Hon. Robert Halfon MP
Minister of State for Apprenticeships
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Dear Mr Kirk,

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December 2016

I am writing to let you know about the government's view of Gateway College's position in light of the Sixth Form College Commissioner's review, and to invite you to confirm the actions your college will now take in response to the significant concerns raised.

As you are aware, in light of the inadequate Ofsted inspection, I asked Peter Mucklow, Director for Young People at the Education Funding Agency (EFA) and Sixth Form College Commissioner to review the position of your college in line with the intervention policy set out in 'Rigour and Responsiveness in Skills' (April 2013). He completed his assessment on 29 November 2016.

I have now received his assessment, a summary of which is attached, which includes a set of recommendations. I have accepted all these recommendations.

As you will see, the assessment identifies a number of areas for improvement for the governing body and the senior leadership team to address. Governors are responsible for the strategic oversight of the college, and in holding the Principal and Executive to account for delivery. They are also guardians of public money, ensuring its effective and efficient use. It is therefore essential that the governing body has the skills and experience necessary to fulfil these responsibilities.

I welcome the work the college has already begun to respond to the Commissioner's findings. I encourage you to continue this hard work and ensure that these actions lead to sustained quality improvement. The funding agency will be regularly monitoring progress at the college, and will be looking for evidence that the college has responded to the recommendations and is delivering the changes necessary.

It is essential, however, that the governors and leadership of Gateway Sixth Form College recognise the need for the further actions identified in the Commissioner's assessment and take swift and decisive action to protect the needs of learners and ensure efficient use of public funding. Therefore, please can you confirm, in writing by 16th January 2017 what actions you are taking to address the recommendations and your timetable for doing so?

In the interests of transparency, after I have received your response, I intend to ask EFA to publish this letter, the summary report and recommendations on the government's website.

If you have any questions about the Sixth Form College Commissioner's assessment or this letter my officials will be happy to meet with you to discuss. Please contact Lisa Hawes at the Education Funding Agency (Lisa.Hawes@education.gov.uk) in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP

Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills