



Rt Hon Anne Milton MP
Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills
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Mr Alec Stow
John Ruskin College
Selsdon Park Road
South Croydon
CR2 8JJ

Dear Mr Stow

22nd July 2019

I am writing following the assessment of John Ruskin Sixth Form College by the Further Education (FE) Commissioner. The FEC team visited the college on 3 October 2018 to undertake a formal intervention triggered by the outcome of a diagnostic assessment on 28 February 2018. The diagnostic assessment was triggered by a deterioration in the college's financial health, student numbers and decline from Ofsted 'outstanding' to 'requires improvement' between 2013 – 2017.

It is clear from the Commissioner's report that despite the recent improvements in quality and the substantial reductions in the college's cost base, the significant decline in turnover, substantial operating losses and the gradual erosion of cash reserves, there is need for structural change. I know that you, your governors and senior leaders fully recognise this and I welcome the positive work the college have already undertaken to prepare for the planned merger with East Surrey College.

The Commissioner has made a number of recommendations including the need to ensure the college maintains tight budgetary control in the run-up to the merger. The college should also ensure measures are put in place to allow swift decisive action can be taken to match any income shortfalls with compensating reductions in expenditure as necessary.

The Commissioner and his team and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (EFSA) will engage regularly with the college to monitor progress toward the merger.

I have accepted all of the recommendations of the Commissioner and a summary of the initial assessment is provided with this letter. This document and my letter will be published on gov.uk.

Please confirm within three weeks to the FE Commissioner, FE.Commissioner@education.gov.uk what actions you are taking to address all of the recommendations and your timetable for doing so.

I will email separately to all the following, local MPs who may have learners attending the college from their constituency to inform them of the FE Commissioners findings:

Sarah Jones – Croydon Central
Chris Philp – Croydon South
Steve Reed- Croydon North
Rt Hon Tom Brake Carshalton & Wallington

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