



Department  
for Education

The Members and Trustees  
Academies Enterprise Trust  
3rd Floor, 183 Eversholt Street  
London  
NW1 1BU

28 March 2019

Dear Sirs,

**Minded to Terminate Letter to the Members and Trustees of Academies Enterprise Trust in respect of Bexleyheath Academy**

In accordance with section 2A of the Academies Act 2010<sup>i</sup>, any funding agreement of an academy may be terminated by the Secretary of State where special measures are required to be taken by the academy, or the academy requires significant improvement and the Chief Inspector of Ofsted has given notice of that under section 13(3) (a) of the Education Act 2005.

We received an Ofsted inspection report dated 7 February 2019 confirming that Bexleyheath Academy was judged inadequate following a section 5 inspection on 28-29 November 2018, and requires special measures. The school was judged 'Inadequate' across all measures, apart from 16-19 provision, which was rated as 'Good'. Of serious concern were Ofsted's conclusions:

- The school is failing to give its pupils an acceptable standard of education. Leaders are not demonstrating the capacity to improve the school.
- Leaders have not taken essential actions to make improvements. Standards have fallen for several years.
- Systems developed by the new leadership team to improve the quality of education in the school are recent and have not yet had an impact. Staff do not use the school's policies consistently. Teachers do not use assessment information to inform their planning. Pupils make weak progress from their starting points.
- The curriculum does not meet pupils' needs. Programmes of study in key stage 3 do not prepare pupils well enough for key stage 4.
- Pupils who speak English as an additional language are not given the support they need to help them learn.
- Pupils' behaviour is poor, and teachers' expectations are too low. Pupils' poor behaviour disrupts learning and hinders progress.
- Different groups of pupils, including the most able and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) make progress that is significantly below national averages.
- Governors are not thorough enough in how they hold leaders to account. They have not ensured that additional funding for special educational needs and the pupil premium are used effectively.

- Leaders do not support staff well enough. Staff morale is low. Pupils' learning is disrupted by a high turnover of staff.
- Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is very limited. Leaders do not ensure that pupils develop an awareness of the opportunities and challenges they face outside school.

In order to be satisfied the academy is improving, I will require the following evidence and monitoring to be put in place:

- Ofsted monitoring visit(s) judge that leaders and managers are 'taking effective action' towards the removal of special measures;
- The trust provides a robust school improvement plan to address the issues highlighted in the Ofsted report, and ensures there is sufficient leadership capacity and capability to deliver it. The plan is submitted to DfE for approval. AET must commit to paying for support as required;
- Monthly monitoring meetings will be held between [REDACTED], Executive Head, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and the DfE;
- The trust confirms that Bexleyheath Academy's budget is to be at least balanced in 2019/20 and 20/21, subject to the financial requirements of school improvement activity.
- Bexleyheath Academy's and AET's leaders commit to engaging with LSEAT, who have been commissioned to provide support on Behaviour and Attendance;
- The school achieves its educational performance targets for 2019 and 2020;
- The school comes out of special measures following its 3rd Ofsted monitoring visit. This will be the first step on a continuous improvement journey towards becoming an 'Outstanding' school.

As the National Schools Commissioner acting on behalf of the Secretary of State, I need to be satisfied that this academy can achieve rapid and sustained improvement. If I am not satisfied this can be achieved, I will consider issuing a Termination Warning Notice. If there is no clear improvement at the school in its 2020 educational outcomes or in the next Ofsted Section 5 judgement, our default position will be to remove the school from AET.

Please respond within 15 working days of the date of this letter outlining the actions that you will be taking to remedy the matters identified above.

I am copying this letter to the Local Authority, the CEO and Ofsted. This letter will also be published on gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,



**Dominic Herrington**  
**National Schools Commissioner**

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<sup>i</sup> Inserted by section 14 of the Education and Adoption Act 2016