



Department
for Education

Regional Schools Commissioners Office NWLSC
34 Clarendon Road
Watford
WD17 1JJ

Members and Trustees of Red Kite Schools Trust
Red Kite Schools Trust
Chesham Grammar School
Chesham
HP5 1BA

Sent via email to: [REDACTED]

24 January 2020

Dear Members and Trustees of Red Kite Schools Trust,

Termination Warning Notice to the to the Members and Trustees of the Red Kite Schools Trust in respect of Ivingswood Academy

I issued a Minded to Terminate letter on 15 August 2019 outlining my concerns regarding the failure of the trust to secure rapid and sustained improvements at Ivingswood Academy. I requested the following information:

- improvement plans for Reading, Writing and Maths for the following academic year with measurable milestones and actions
- revised and updated whole school improvement plan including clearly measurable milestones linked to 2020 target outcomes

My colleagues and I met with you, the Chair of Trustees, CEO and also the Executive Headteacher of Chesham Grammar School on 2 October 2019. At this meeting, we discussed our concerns in the capacity of the trust to secure improvements at Ivingswood Academy. It was not evident in this meeting that the trust had a clear plan for improvement at Ivingswood Academy and we raised these concerns, which were also stated in the follow-up meeting letter sent on 8 October 2019.

I provided feedback from the requested documents on 25 October following the Headteacher Board meeting on 23 October. The feedback stated that we were not satisfied that the evidence provided showed that Red Kite Schools Trust could achieve rapid and sustained improvements at Ivingswood Academy. It stated that the Headteacher Board and RSC were not content that the trust board and CEO were involved with the improvement of Ivingswood Academy at school level and understood the areas to be targeted to achieve improvements.

I received an Ofsted notification dated 24 October 2019 confirming that Ivingswood Academy was judged as not making sufficient progress in removing the special measures Ofsted judgement.

In the Minded to Terminate letter, it was stated that an Educational Expert visit would take place. This has taken place and I continue to have concerns about the capacity of Red Kite Schools Trust to achieve improvements at Ivingswood Academy.

In accordance with section 2A of the Academies Act 2010ⁱ, 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.

In making the decision on whether to terminate the funding agreement, I will consider any written representations you wish to make.

Please provide me with any representations you have by 14 February 2020.

I am copying this letter to the National Schools Commissioner and the Local Authority. In addition, this letter will be published in due course on Gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Dethridge', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dame Kate Dethridge
Regional Schools Commissioner for North West London South Central.

ⁱ Inserted by section 14 of the Education and Adoption Act 2016