



Gillian Keegan MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Apprenticeships and Skills
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14 August 2020

Martin Doel CBE
Chair of Governors
Highbury College
Tudor Crescent
Portsmouth
PO6 2SA

Dear Martin,

I am writing following the assessment of Highbury College by the Further Education (FE) Commissioner. The FE Commissioner's team conducted an intervention assessment in November 2019.

From the FE Commissioner's report, it is clear that the college has experienced significant challenges in leadership and governance. There is considerable work required to restore trust and raise morale with staff. I am grateful for the commitment that you have made to the college in this time of instability.

The FE Commissioner's team recommended that the financial capacity and capability of the board be addressed urgently. In light of the severity of the college's financial situation, I fully support the FE Commissioner's recommendation for Highbury College to be placed in supervised status.

I note that a recommended FEC-led structure and prospects appraisal has already commenced. I welcome this review into the appropriate future structure of provision for the college. Your board and leadership team should engage fully with this process so that structural solutions are arrived at with pace.

I have accepted all the recommendations of the FE Commissioner and a copy of the assessment is provided with this letter. This document and my letter will be published on gov.uk in due course.

I have written separately to all the following local MPs, whose constituencies are served by the college, to inform them of the FE Commissioner's findings:

- Stephen Morgan MP Portsmouth South
- Penny Mordaunt MP Portsmouth North
- Alan Mak MP Havant
- Flick Drummond MP Meon Valley
- Suella Braverman MP Fareham
- Caroline Dinenage MP Gosport

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gillian', with a large, stylized flourish at the beginning.

Gillian Keegan MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Apprenticeships and Skills