



Department
for Education

Dr Paul Gavens
Chair of Governors
Prior Pursglove College
Church Walk
Guisborough
TS14 6BU

01 April 2014

I am writing to let you know about the government's view of your 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) as the 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 28 February 2014.

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. I have spoken recently about the role of governors in Colleges; 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.



Department
for Business
Innovation & Skills

Minister for Skills and
Enterprise

1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET
T +44 (0) 20 7215.5000
E enquiries@bis.gov.uk
www.bis.gov.uk
www.education.gov.uk

I welcome the work the College has already begun to respond to the 2012 and 2013 examination results, the Ofsted inspection, and the Commissioner's findings. I encourage you to continue this hard work and ensure that these actions lead to sustained quality improvement. The funding agencies 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 Prior Pursglove 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 can you please confirm, in writing by [3 weeks from date of issue] what actions you are taking to address the recommendations and your timetable for doing so.

You should also be aware that, in the interests of transparency and after I have received your response, I intend to ask EFA to publish this letter, the summary report and recommendations. EFA will provide you with a link to the appropriate 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 Paul Williamson at the Education Funding Agency (Paul.Williamson@education.gsi.gov.uk) in the first instance.

The image shows a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read 'Matt Hancock'. The first part of the signature is a large, stylized 'M' that loops around, followed by 'att' and 'Hancock' written in a more standard cursive hand.

MATTHEW HANCOCK