



Department
for Education

Department for Education
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Cambridge
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The Directors of CWA Academy Trust
Queen Marys Road
King's Lynn
Norfolk
PE30 4QG

11 November 2016

Dear Sirs,

Pre-Termination Warning Notice Letter to CWA Academy Trust (“the Academy Trust”) in relation to Downham Market Academy, Norfolk

The Secretary of State is able to issue a Termination Warning Notice to the Academy Trust further to clause 5.2(c) of the Supplemental Funding Agreement (“SFA”) made between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State on 1 July 2013. If the Academy Trust failed within a certain period to respond to that Termination Warning Notice or to carry out specified remedial measures, then, having considered any representations, the Secretary of State would be entitled to terminate the SFA if satisfied that it was appropriate to do so.

The purpose of this Pre-Termination Warning Notice Letter is to inform you, as the Directors of the Academy Trust, that the Secretary of State considers that the standards of pupils’ performance at Downham Market Academy are unacceptably low. Unless the matters on which our conclusions are based are remedied to the Secretary of State’s satisfaction within a reasonable period, we will move to issue a Termination Warning Notice. Our concerns have been reinforced by the recent visit on 11 October 2016 from two of our education advisers, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

The matters on which our conclusions are based are as follows:

The standards of performance of pupils at Downham Market Academy are unacceptably low.

The recent visit by education advisers and discussion earlier in the term with the trust both included discussions about the concerns about low standards at the school.

The visit to the school highlighted concerns about:

- the work of the trust to engage with the academy, not just to set targets, but to gauge progress against these targets
- the weakness of marking, assessment and feedback to pupils

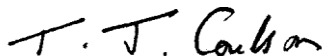
- the trust's work to raise pupils' performance and improve teaching and learning at the academy
- the trust's strategy to address staffing needs
- the weakness currently of leadership at the school

The Secretary of State and I have concluded that the standards of pupils' performance at Downham Market Academy are unacceptably low, and that this may remain an issue unless remedial measures are taken.

Please would you respond to me by 25 November, copied to Jonathan Lewis, Deputy Director of the Academies Group East of England and NE London:

- outlining the actions that you will be taking to address pupils' underperformance at the academy
- explaining how such actions will be implemented, how their effectiveness will be measured and the timescales for this
- whether you agree that it would now be appropriate to seek an alternative academy trust for the school

Yours sincerely



Tim Coulson
Regional Schools Commissioner for East of England and North East London