

The Directors of Tapton School Academy Trust  
Tapton School  
Darwin Lane  
Sheffield  
S10 5RG

13 February 2017

Dear Caroline Bagley,

**Termination Warning Notice Letter to the Directors of Tapton School Academy Trust in respect of Chaucer School in Sheffield**

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

The purpose of this Pre-Warning Notice Letter is to inform you, as the Directors of the Academy Trust, that the Secretary of State considers that the standards of performance at Chaucer School 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 Warning Notice. The matters on which our conclusions are based are that:

The standards of performance of pupils at Chaucer School are unacceptably low:

1. 2016 Progress 8 of -0.57 is well below the national average. These results also represent a dip in performance from 2015 when the academy's Progress 8 score was -0.48
2. The 2016 Attainment 8 score of 39.5 is below the national average of 48.2
3. The number of students achieving 5A\*CEM in 2016 is 41% compared to the national average of 58.7%

4. Only 1% of students achieved the English baccalaureate compared to the national average of 39%

5. In April 2016 the academy was judged by Ofsted as 'Inadequate'

In relation to this last point, Ofsted's inspection of 12-13 April 2016 found a number of serious weaknesses that provide a cause for concern:

- Leaders and managers need to develop an accurate evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the school and are able to accurately evaluate the quality of teaching;
- Poor behaviour in lessons needs to be tackled quickly to ensure that all pupils are allowed to work without interruption and teachers consistently follow the school's behaviour and discipline system

The first monitoring inspection in December 2016 found the academy's improvement plan and the sponsor's statement of action fit for purpose but there are a number of challenges that leadership and management need to address in order for the school to improve.

Please would you respond to me within fifteen working days from the date of this letter, copied to Carol Gray and [REDACTED] outlining the actions that you will be taking to remedy the matters identified above.

[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Jennifer Bexon-Smith  
Regional Schools Commissioner for East Midlands and Humber