



Department  
for Education

Vicky Beer CBE  
Regional Schools Commissioner, Lancs & WY  
Department for Education  
Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

[LWY.RSC@Education.gov.uk](mailto:LWY.RSC@Education.gov.uk)

██████████  
Principal  
Castle Hall Academy Trust  
Richard Thorpe Avenue  
Mirfield, West Yorkshire,  
WF14 9PH

By email to: ██████████

31<sup>st</sup> January 2018

Dear ████████,

**Minded to Terminate Letter to the Members and Directors/Trustees of the  
Castle Hall Academy Trust in respect of Castle Hall Academy**

In accordance with section 2A of the Academies Act 2010<sup>i</sup> 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.

I wrote to you on 26 June 2017 following our meeting, expressing my concerns after the Ofsted inadequate judgement in January 2017. I have since received an Ofsted monitoring report, dated 18 September 2017, which found that leaders and managers were not taking effective action towards the removal of special measures. I therefore remain concerned about the continued under-performance of the academy.

I am pleased to note that you have agreed in principle to join a multi academy trust (MAT), and that you are working closely with my team to expedite this as swiftly as possible. It is crucial that this does not take any focus away from the delivery of the academy's improvement plan and I have asked your education adviser, ██████████, to visit your academy again to provide support in addressing the areas judged inadequate.

I would be grateful for confirmation that you have now taken on board the messages received from Ofsted at your last inspection and are tackling the issues they raised in the monitoring report:

- making sure that leaders' judgements about the quality of teaching give greater weight to the progress of all groups of pupils
- ensuring that self-evaluation is accurate
- improving the quality of performance management
- making sure that middle leaders effectively check and improve the quality of teaching, and hold teachers accountable
- improving the curriculum for pupils attending the learning support unit
- ensuring that governors fulfil their statutory duties
- making sure that governors and external support provide greater levels of challenge and scrutiny on the impact leaders and managers are having

As the Regional Schools Commissioner acting on behalf of the Secretary of State, I need to be satisfied that this academy can achieve rapid and sustained improvement. If I am not satisfied this can be achieved I will consider issuing a Termination Warning Notice.

Please provide any evidence you have that you are making progress against these actions and that you are improving leadership and management standards.

Please respond within fifteen working days of the date of this letter, copied to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

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

Yours sincerely



**Vicky Beer CBE.**  
**Regional Schools Commissioner for Lancashire and West Yorkshire**