



Department for Education
Eastbrook
Shaftesbury Road
Cambridge
CB2 8DR
rsc.eastnelondon@education.gov.uk

The Members and Trustees of Legra Academy Trust
c/o Belfairs Academy
Highlands Boulevard
Leigh-On-Sea
Essex
SS9 3TG

7 March 2018

Dear Sirs,

Minded to Terminate Letter to Legra Academy Trust in respect of Cecil Jones Academy

In accordance with section 2A of the Academies Act 2010ⁱ 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 received an Ofsted notification dated 21 February 2018 confirming that Cecil Jones Academy was judged to be inadequate and requires special measures. Of serious concern are Ofsted's conclusions that:

- leaders, governors and the trust have not moved swiftly or precisely enough to address challenges and have not secured sustained improvements
- the self-evaluation and school development plan do not clearly identify the problems or how leaders are going to address issues rapidly and securely and are not helpful to leaders in addressing the many problems in the school
- the local governing body does not have a sharp enough understanding of the considerable issues in the school and governors do not challenge leaders sufficiently over the school evaluation nor use the school development plan to hold leaders to account against priorities
- safeguarding is ineffective and the school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is inadequate
- there is substantial inconsistency in the quality of teaching, learning and assessment, and pupils are not being provided with an acceptable standard of education in key stages 3 and 4

- leaders have not effectively dealt with the culture of poor behaviour, attendance is below average and too many pupils are still persistently absent

As the Regional Schools Commissioner acting on behalf of the Secretary of State, I need to be satisfied that the academy can achieve rapid and sustained improvement, if I am not satisfied this can be achieved I will consider issuing a Termination Warning Notice under section 2A of the Academies Act 2010.

We met on 6 March 2018 to discuss the issues at the academy and agreed that you would provide a detailed improvement plan setting out the specific interventions that you will put in place to effect change.

In line with this, the actions I therefore require of you are:

1. To provide detailed improvement plans for the academy, which should have clear, measurable milestones to address urgently the weakness in leadership, education provision, student safety, high exclusions and persistent absence as set out in the Ofsted report.
2. To provide clarity and assurance on the additional leadership support that will be provided to the academy for the remainder of this academic year and the next.

Please send this information to Claire Mycock, Deputy Director, by **Wednesday 14 March 2018**.

I am copying this letter to the National Schools Commissioner.

Yours sincerely,



Sue Baldwin
Regional Schools Commissioner, East of England and North East London

CC: Bev Williams, CEO, Legra Academy Trust -
Bev.Williams@belfairs.southend.sch.uk

ⁱ Inserted by section 14 of the Education and Adoption Act 2016