



Department
for Education

Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
SW1P 3BT
London

The Members and Trustees of Academies Enterprise Trust
3rd Floor, 183 Eversholt Street
King's Cross
London
NW1 1BU

07 March 2018

Dear Sirs,

**Minded to Terminate Letter to Academies Enterprise Trust in respect of
Felixstowe Academy**

I am writing this letter on behalf of both myself, and Sue Baldwin the Regional Schools Commissioner for the East of England and North-East London.

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.

We received an Ofsted notification dated 26 January 2018 confirming that Felixstowe Academy was judged to be inadequate and requires special measures. Of serious concern are Ofsted's conclusions that:

- there has been a culture of bullying at the academy which has not been dealt with effectively
- pupils including those who have special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities do not make adequate progress by the time they sit their GCSE exams
- progress of disadvantaged pupils at the end of KS4 has been significantly below average for a number of years
- too many pupils are persistently absent from school
- support from AET has been ineffective in helping the school to improve

As the National and Regional Schools Commissioners acting on behalf of the Secretary of State, we need to be satisfied that this academy can achieve rapid and sustained improvement, if we are not satisfied this can be achieved we will issue a Termination Warning Notice.

We met on 23 February and discussed a brief overview of your support plans for the academy. Following this, we agreed that you would provide a more detailed improvement plan setting out the specific interventions that you will put in place.

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

1. To provide your detailed improvement plans for the academy, which should have clearly 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.
3. To provide monthly updates on the progress of improvement plans and the academy more broadly, including updated predictions following March mock exams.

I would also like to schedule a further Education Adviser visit to the academy in the summer term to provide a diagnosis of progress made.

Please provide confirmation and any further details to Alan Parnum, Deputy Director, and [REDACTED], Team Leader, by **Friday 23 March**.

I am copying this letter to Allan Cadzow, Director of Children's Services, Suffolk LA.

Yours sincerely,



Sir David Carter

National Schools Commissioner, Academies Regional Delivery Group



Sue Baldwin

Regional Schools Commissioner for East England and North East London

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