



Department
for Education

Regional Schools Commissioner's Office
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Chair of Trustees
Hinckley Academy and John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre
Butt Lane
Hinckley
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6th September 2018

Minded to Terminate Letter to the Members and Directors of Hinckley Academy and John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre (Trust) in respect of Hinckley Academy and John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre (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 1 May 2018 confirming that Hinckley Academy and John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre was judged to be inadequate and requires special measures.

In the Ofsted inspection report, Ofsted highlighted a number of concerns, including, that:

- *Governors have not acted quickly enough to challenge the poor performance of the school. Outcomes for pupils have been far too low.*
- *Too many pupils make inadequate progress across a wide range of subjects, including English, mathematics and science. This is because too much of the teaching is mundane and repetitive, failing to enthuse pupils, especially boys, about their learning*
- *Although pupils say that they feel safe, the school is not taking robust enough action to ensure that those absent from the school are free from harm. Consequently, safeguarding is ineffective.*
- *Too many pupils are absent from school. Attendance of disadvantaged pupils is especially low. Leaders have not been successful in putting into place actions to improve this rapidly.*

It has also been the case that the standards of performance of pupils at Hinckley Academy and John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre are very low:-

- In 2017, the academy's Progress 8 was -0.64, which is well below the national average.
- In 2016, the academy's Progress 8 score was -0.51, which was well below the national average.

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.

I note that the new principal at the academy, Richard Cahill, was praised in the Ofsted report for *"introducing much-needed new systems and structures to the school"* and that he is having a positive influence. However, the report also states, *"it is too soon to see the impact of these on the quality of teaching and outcomes for pupils"*. I know that the new principal has been cooperating with officials to progress the rebrokerage of Hinckley Academy and John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre into a multi-academy trust. He has also been engaging with ESFA to improve the financial situation at the school. I would nevertheless be grateful for the following evidence:

- Copy of Post-Inspection Action Plan,
- Information on the improvement pupils, in particular year 7/11 pupils and those receiving pupil premium funding, are making under new assessment frameworks.
- The outcome of the external governance review and identified actions, including evidence of progress made
- The outcome of the external review of pupil premium and identified actions, including evidence of progress made

I would like to proceed in the following way:

- Review of progress on a half-termly basis
- The Trust should continue to explore options to form or join a multi-academy trust (MAT).

Please respond to me within fifteen working days of the date of this letter, outlining the actions that you will be taking to remedy the matters identified above.

I am copying this letter to the National Schools Commissioner.

Yours sincerely



John Edwards

**Regional Schools Commissioner for East Midlands and Humber
CC to Leicestershire LA, Ofsted, David Tredinnick MP**

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