



Department  
for Education

Office of the Regional Schools  
Commissioner for the West Midlands  
Cheylesmore House  
5 Quinton Road  
Coventry  
CV1 2WT  
Email: [RSC.WM@education.gov.uk](mailto:RSC.WM@education.gov.uk)

Mr Andrew White  
Chair - United Endeavour Trust  
Newcastle Academy  
Ostend Place  
Newcastle Under Lyme  
Staffordshire  
ST5 2QY

15 November 2018

Dear Mr White

**Minded to Terminate Letter to the Members and Directors/Trustees of  
United Endeavour Trust (“the Trust”) in respect of Newcastle Academy  
(“the Academy”)**

I write concerning the funding agreement made between the Secretary of State and the Trust in respect of the 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 Regional Schools Commissioner (on behalf of the Secretary of State) where special measures are required to be taken in relation to 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 on 12 February 2018 confirming that the Academy was judged to be inadequate and requires significant improvement. Of serious concern are Ofsted’s conclusions that:

- Since the school opened, pupils have made too little progress in almost all curriculum areas, including mathematics and English.
- Teachers do not consistently challenge pupils to complete activities, allowing some pupils to sit in lessons doing very little work. As a result, current pupils are making less progress than they should.
- Often, work is too easy, restricting pupils’ progress and meaning that some pupils become bored or disengaged.
- Pupils do not get enough help or direction from their teachers on how

to improve their work.

- Disadvantaged pupils do less well than other pupils in the school and other pupils nationally. In 2017, their results in English and mathematics were more than a grade below other pupils nationally.
- The new principal began working at the school in January 2017, with much of the senior leadership joining after him. They have been successful in creating a more positive ethos and improving behaviour and attendance. However, their actions have not yet had enough impact on improving the standard of teaching and learning.
- Teachers regularly collect assessment information and this is reviewed by leaders, including the academy trust. However, very small improvements are over-generously identified as positive trends. As a result, it is difficult to easily recognise underperforming groups of pupils.
- There have been recent improvements in behaviour around the site at break and lunchtime. However, there are occasional instances of boisterous behaviour and occasions in lessons where pupils do not quickly follow their teachers' instructions.

Officials from this office met with the Trust on 25 June 2018 to discuss the capacity of the trust to support Newcastle Academy and the response to the Ofsted outcome. A further telephone call with the Trust to understand the school's improvement plan took place on 18 July 2018.

As the Regional Schools Commissioner acting on behalf of the Secretary of State, I must 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 Notice of Termination in accordance with section 2A of the Academies Act 2010.

I would be grateful to receive the following evidence to inform my decision:

1. **A copy of the Post Ofsted Action Plan (updated);**
2. **Information on the progress pupils are making;**
3. **Information on what action is being taken to support educational improvement at the academy.**
4. **Any additional information you consider would be useful for the Regional Schools Commissioner**

Please supply the requested information to me within **fifteen working days** of the date of this letter (i.e. by 6 December 2018).

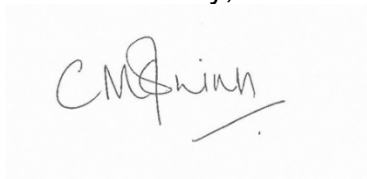
I would also like to arrange for a meeting to be held between representatives from my office; the Chair of the Trust; and the CEO of the Trust at 10am on

Friday 14 December 2018 at:

**Office of the Regional Schools Commissioner  
Cheylesmore House  
5 Quinton Road  
Coventry  
CV1 2WT**

I am copying this letter to the Interim National Schools Commissioner Dominic Herrington.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Quinn', with a horizontal line drawn underneath the signature.

**Christine Quinn  
Regional Schools Commissioner, West Midlands**

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<sup>i</sup> Inserted by section 14 of the Education and Adoption Act 2016