



Department
for Education

Office of the Regional Schools Commissioner
for the West Midlands
Department for Education
Cheylesmore House
Quinton Road
Coventry
CV1 2WT

Tracey Guise – Chair of Trustees
Advance Trust
Vale of Evesham School
Four Pools lane
Evesham
Worcestershire
WR11 1BN

16 September 2019

Dear Tracey

Minded to Terminate Letter to the Members and Directors/Trustees of Advance Trust (“the Trust”) in respect of Newbridge Secondary Short Stay School (“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 2010ⁱ, 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 following the Inspection on 14-15 May 2019 confirming that the Academy was judged to be inadequate and requires significant improvement. This Inadequate judgment follows the previous Inadequate (Special Measures) outcome in March 2017. Of serious concern are Ofsted’s conclusions that:

- Pupils make inadequate progress in a wide range of subjects in key stages 3 and 4.
- Leaders have struggled to overcome a legacy of underachievement and poor behaviour. Over time, leaders have not taken sufficient action to raise standards.
- The quality of teaching, learning and assessment is inadequate. Ineffective use of assessment leads to most pupils making poor progress.
- Disadvantaged pupils and pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) do not make strong enough progress. Additional funding is not used effectively.
- Pupils’ behaviour is poor. This is because too much teaching is ineffective, and the school’s behaviour policy is not consistently applied.
- A poor curriculum has led to inadequate outcomes for pupils. Leaders are making improvements to this, but the curriculum is not currently effective.

- Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is weak. As a result, pupils do not have a clear idea of the difference between their own and others' rights and responsibilities.

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;**
2. **Information on what action is being taken to support educational improvement at the academy;**
3. **Information on the progress pupils are making;**
4. **Details of current governance and leadership arrangements;**
5. **Any additional information you consider would be useful for the Regional Schools Commissioner**

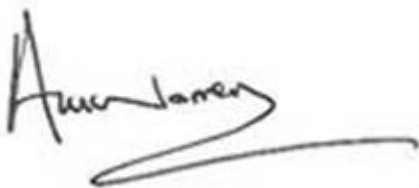
Please supply the requested information to me within **fifteen working days** of the date of this letter (i.e. by Tuesday 8 October 2019).

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 230pm on Tuesday 22 October 2019 at:

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We are copying this letter to Worcestershire County Council, Robin Walker (MP for Worcester), Ofsted and Dominic Herrington (National Schools Commissioner). This letter will also be published on www.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely



**Andrew Warren
Regional Schools Commissioner, West Midlands**

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