



Department
for Education

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

Email: RSC.WM@education.gov.uk

Katherine Townshend (Chair of Trustees)
Alpha Academies Trust
The Discovery Academy
Discovery Drive
Stoke-on-Trent
ST2 0GA

16 March 2020

Dear Ms Townshend

Minded to Terminate Letter to the Members and Trustees of ALPHA Academies Trust in respect of Maple Court 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 19 – 20 November 2019 confirming that Maple Court Academy was judged to be inadequate and requires significant improvement.

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 would be grateful for the following evidence:

1. copy of your Post-Inspection Action Plan;
2. Information on what action is being taken to support educational improvement at the academy, and how this is funded;
3. Information on the progress pupils are making including projections for 2019/20 results and termly targets for the 2020/21 academic year;
4. Details of current governance and leadership arrangements at the trust and the school;
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 (6 April 2020).

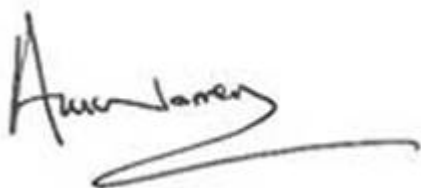
I would also like to arrange for a meeting to be held between representatives from my office; the Chair of the Trust; the CEO of the Trust and any other appropriate representatives. This meeting will review the Trust's response to this letter and inform my view on the capacity of the Trust. The meeting will take place at;

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My office will be in touch to arrange a suitable time and date for this meeting.

I am copying this letter to Stoke-on-Trent County Council, Jo Gideon (MP for Stoke-on-Trent Central) Ofsted, ESFA and Dominic Herrington, the National Schools Commissioner. This letter will be published on www.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Warren', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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

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