



Department
for Education

Regional Schools Commissioner's
Office, North
Department for Education
3rd Floor Bishopsgate House
Darlington
DL1 5QE

The Members and Trustees of Nunthorpe Academy Trust
Nunthorpe Academy Limited
Guisborough Road
Nunthorpe
TS7 0LA

3 September 2020

Dear Mr Mansfield

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of the Nunthorpe Multi Academy Trust (“the Trust”) in respect of Rye Hills Academy (“the 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 3 February 2020 confirming that the Academy was judged to be inadequate and has serious weaknesses. The final report was published on 18 March 2020.

On 20 February 2020 I wrote a letter of concern to Mr Brown, in which I expressed my disappointment to hear about the concerns raised during the Ofsted inspection and, that I was concerned about the capacity of the Trust to secure substantial improvement at the Academy. The Trust provided a detailed response to my letter, which I carefully considered ahead of our subsequent meeting on 11 March 2020. At our meeting, I asked the Trust to consider the transfer of both Academies to another MAT in the region. You notified my office on 26 May 2020 that the Board of Trustees had considered this in detail. I was disappointed that its decision was to maintain the present position of the Trust, and not pursue this option. At that time, due to the impact of Covid-19 on schools, the Department had decided to pause the use of the Secretary of State's powers to terminate funding agreements where an academy has been judged inadequate by Ofsted. Those restrictions have now been lifted.

Whilst I acknowledge the work the Trust has done since the publication of the report to improve safeguarding procedures at the Academy, and the co-operation you have

given my colleagues in the Education and Skills Funding Agency, I remain concerned that the Trust does not have the capacity to secure the rapid and sustained improvement required at the Academy. It is in the best interests of the Academy to join a MAT that can provide the support it needs. I am, therefore, notifying the Trust of my intention to terminate the funding agreement in respect of the Academy.

In making the decision on whether to proceed to terminate the funding agreement I will consider any written representations the Trust wishes to make.

Please provide me with any representations by Wednesday 23 September 2020.

I am copying this letter to the National Schools Commissioner. A copy of this letter will also be published in GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely



Katherine Cowell
Regional Schools Commissioner for North

CC to Kathryn Boulton, Corporate Director for Children and Families, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council

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