



Department
for Education

**Regional Schools Commissioner for Lancashire &
West Yorkshire**

Department for Education
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The Members and Trustees of Great Academies Education Trust
Cavendish 249
Cavendish Street
Ashton-Under-Lyne
OL6 7AT

31 January 2019

Dear Ian,

Minded to Terminate Letter to the Members and Trustees of the Great Academies Education Trust in respect of Copley 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 27 November, confirming that the school was judged to be inadequate and requires special measures.

Following confirmation of the Ofsted judgement, I met with you and the CEO, Allison Crompton, on 14 December 2018 to discuss the steps you have taken so far to act on any issues at Copley and the trust's capacity to make the improvements required. I wrote to you following this meeting on 21 December 2018, explaining my intentions to formalise my concerns and issue a Minded to Terminate letter. Allison met with Kate Baddeley, Deputy Director for the Regional Schools Commissioner for Lancashire and West Yorkshire, on 4 October 2018 for a trust review meeting. At this meeting Allison raised her concerns that Copley Academy would be judged 'Inadequate' at its next inspection.

Although our latest meeting gave me confidence that you understand the issues which need to be addressed at Copley Academy, I remain concerned about the academy and the level of improvement which must take place.

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:

- Submit a Post Ofsted Action Plan by 6 February.
- Information on the improvement pupils and those receiving pupil premium funding, are making under new assessment frameworks.
- A clear disadvantaged strategy in place to improve outcomes for pupil premium students.
- Improved attendance figures by Easter 2019.
- A satisfactory section 8 report from Ofsted.

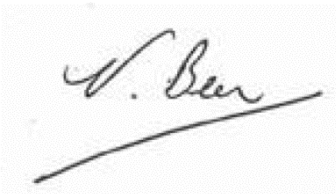
I would like to proceed in the following way:

- Arrange for an education advisor to visit the trust to focus on the areas judged inadequate
- Review progress against the Post-Ofsted Action Plan on a half termly basis

Please respond to me within fifteen working days of the date of this letter, copied to Kate.Baddeley@education.gov.uk and [REDACTED] outlining the actions that you will be taking to remedy the matters identified above.

I am copying this letter to the National Schools Commissioner. In addition, this letter will be published in due course on gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Beer', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Vicky Beer

Regional Schools Commissioner for Lancashire and West Yorkshire