



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 December 2020

Dear Mr Mansfield

Termination Notice to the Members and Trustees of the Nunthorpe Multi Academy Trust (“the Trust”) in respect of Rye Hills Academy (“the Academy”)

The purpose of this Termination Notice is to inform you, as the Members and Trustees of Nunthorpe Multi Academy Trust, that having considered the representations provided on 21 September 2020 in response to my termination warning notice of 3 September 2020, the Secretary of State relying on section 2A of the Academies Act 2010ⁱ intends to terminate the Funding Agreement for Rye Hills Academy, dated 21 February 2017, between the Nunthorpe Multi Academy Trust and the Secretary of State.

We expect to transfer Rye Hills Academy to another Trust no later than 1 June 2021.

In coming to this decision, full account was taken of the representations made in the Trust's letter of 21 September 2020 with accompanying annexes. Whilst these demonstrate that the Trust has sought to make improvements at the Academy in a number of areas, this has not been sufficient to secure the required improvement.

We acknowledge the work the Trust has done since the publication of the Ofsted report to address the issues raised and their engagement with the Education and Skills Funding Agency and the Opportunity North East ONE Vision programme. However, the Trust was appointed to sponsor Rye Hills Academy in March 2017 to bring about rapid and sustained improvement following the Ofsted judgement of Requires Improvement in March 2016. The Trust has failed to make these improvements in almost 3 years and the

Academy is now judged by Ofsted to be in a worse position than it was when it joined the Trust. Ofsted's report states that 'Leaders from the school and multi-academy trust have not had a close enough eye on the school's safeguarding procedures and curriculum. Furthermore, leaders have not responded to pupils concerns well enough'.

There is, therefore, little evidence that the Trust has the capacity and ability to deliver rapid and sustained improvement.

I remain of the view that the Trust does not have the capacity needed to provide the rapid and sustained improvement the Academy needs, and that the Academy will be better supported by being transferred to another Trust. I am therefore terminating the Funding Agreement with the Trust in respect of Rye Hills Academy and will arrange for the Academy to be transferred.

My team will be in touch with you shortly to agree next steps.

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