



Education & Skills
Funding Agency

Education and Skills Funding Agency
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT
Tel: 0370 000 2288
www.education.gov.uk/efa-enquiry-form

27 August 2021

Stephen Jefferson
Chetwynde School
Croslands
Rating Lane
Barrow-in-Furness
Cumbria
LA13 0NY

Dear Mr Jefferson

Financial Notice to Improve: Chetwynde School Limited

On 17 September 2020, I wrote to you in your capacity as the Accounting Officer at Chetwynde School Limited to serve notice that the Financial Notice to Improve (FNtI) previously issued to Chetwynde School Limited (‘the trust’) in June 2016 would be re-stated, with the conditions of the FNtI amended.

This letter is to confirm that ESFA will be lifting the FNtI, subject to Chetwynde School transferring into South Cumbria Multi Academy Trust, and effective termination of the trust’s funding agreement.

The FNtI was issued in response to concerns regarding financial management and breaches of the Academies Financial Handbook (AFH) and set out the actions that were needed to be taken by the trust to make sure necessary improvements were made.

We have monitored closely the trust’s progress against the conditions set out in the notice, which included that the trust was to:

- implement the recommendations made in the July 2020 governance review
- commission a progress and impact review from a National Leader of Governance to assess progress and to identify next steps in the improvement of governance
- increase the board to a minimum of 9 trustees
- submit monthly management accounts to ESFA by the 20th of each month
- consider joining a strong Multi Academy Trust
- implement internal audit recommendations
- demonstrate that every possible economy is being made to achieve a balanced budget

- ensure robust processes are in place for the trust to monitor financial performance and risk to its financial operations
- request approval from ESFA, in advance, for any actions under the revoked freedoms in Part 3 and Annex B of the AFH

I am pleased with the progress that the trust has made with the FNtl conditions, and as Chetwynde School has decided to join South Cumbria Multi Academy Trust on 1 September 2021, the FNtl will be closed with effect from 31 August 2021, subject to the occurrence of the transfer.

This letter will be published on the GOV.UK website. I am copying this letter to Susan Hannan, John Burgess, Professor Andrew Wren, and Katherine Cowell.

I would like to thank you for your significant contribution in ensuring the trust made the requisite improvements, and for your cooperation with my team, and the Office of the Regional Schools Commissioner.

Yours sincerely



Warwick Sharp

Director, Academies and Maintained Schools Directorate

cc: Susan Hannan, Joint Chair of Trustees, Chetwynde School Limited
John Burgess, Joint Chair of Trustees, Chetwynde School Limited,
Professor Andrew Wren, Accounting Officer, South Cumbria Multi Academy Trust
Katherine Cowell, Regional Schools Commissioner