



Department
for Education

Regional Schools Commissioner's Office for the
West Midlands
Cheylesmore House
Coventry
CV1 2WT

The Members and Directors of The Midland Academies Trust
North Warwickshire & Hinckley College
Hinckley Road
Nuneaton
CV11 6BH

14 January 2022

Dear 

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Directors of The Midland Academies Trust in respect of Nuneaton Academy.

In accordance with sections 2A and 2D 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 9 November 2021 confirming that Nuneaton Academy was judged to be inadequate and has serious weaknesses. For the reasons set out below, I now consider it necessary to issue this Termination Warning Notice.

The Ofsted report, published on 13 December 2021, highlights the following key areas of concern:

- Pupils do not learn the curriculum well enough. Staff do not implement the curriculum effectively. There is a disconnect between curriculum plans (which are strong) and what pupils experience in lessons. Teachers do not sharply check that pupils have the fundamental building blocks in place. Hence, pupils' understanding is frequently shallow. This leaves them ill-equipped to cope with the demands of the curriculum. Leaders must urgently tackle this disconnection so that pupils remember the content they have been taught, linking new knowledge to what they already know.
- Leaders expect teachers to use a range of strategies to support pupils in lessons. However, in many instances, these hinder learning. Pupils are not learning how to study effectively or overcome stumbling blocks as they learn. Teachers' professional development has lacked subject specificity. As a result, they are overly reliant on general pedagogical techniques that often lead to pupils trying to learn a series of disconnected facts. As a result, pupils' understanding is often disjointed. Leaders should make sure that teachers and staff are well trained to deliver the planned curriculum effectively.

- Leaders have plans in place to promote reading across the school, but these have yet to inspire pupils to read regularly or for pleasure. Staff read to pupils in tutor time, but pupils do not have the background knowledge to appreciate the texts and so do not see this as valuable. Leaders must act to make sure that reading permeates all aspects of school life and that pupils develop a love of reading, so that they read widely and often.
- Leaders expect pupils with SEND to learn the same curriculum as other pupils. However, teachers do not consistently meet the needs of pupils with SEND in lessons so that they learn well. In too many instances, pupils with SEND are removed from lessons because of their behaviour. As a result, pupils miss out on important aspects of the curriculum and the support from an expert teacher. There is a similar negative pattern for disadvantaged pupils. Leaders do not support disadvantaged pupils or pupils with SEND well enough and must make sure that teachers understand how to help these pupils so that they learn and behave well.

These challenges indicate a gap between leaders' expectations for the school, and what is being delivered and achieved. This, combined with the fact that Nuneaton Academy has not received better than an Inadequate or Requires Improvement overall Ofsted judgement since opening in 2010, means I am very concerned about the trust's ability to deliver the required sustainable improvement.

As Regional Schools Commissioner, I need to be satisfied that the Trust has capacity to deliver rapid and sustainable improvement at the Academy. If I am not satisfied that this can be achieved, I will consider whether to terminate the funding agreement in order to transfer the Academy to an alternative academy trust.

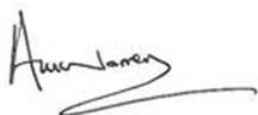
In making the decision on whether to terminate the funding agreement I will consider any written representations you wish to make in response to this Termination Warning Notice. I note that you have already submitted your Post Ofsted Action Plan.

Please provide me with any representations you wish to make by 04 February 2022. This information should include, but is not limited to:

- Information on what action is being taken to support educational improvement at the Academy and timescales of this work;
- Details of current governance and leadership arrangements.

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

Yours sincerely



Andrew Warren
Regional Schools Commissioner for the West Midlands

CC: National Schools Commissioner, Ofsted, Warwickshire County Council.