



Department
for Education

Dame Kate Dethridge
Regional Schools Commissioner's Office
North West London and South Central England
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The Members and Trustees of Beeches Learning and Development Trust
Burnham Grammar School
Hogfair Lane
Burnham
SL1 7HG

26 January 2022

Dear Andrew Frith

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of the Beeches Learning and Development Trust in respect of Dorney School.

In accordance with clauses 5.F to 5.G of the funding agreement for Dorney School, ("the Academy") the Secretary of State may issue a Termination Warning Notice if the Chief Inspector gives notice to the Academy Trust that special measures are required to be taken by the Academy or the Academy requires significant improvement.

I received an Ofsted notification dated 2nd December 2021 confirming that Dorney School was judged to be inadequate. For the reasons set out below, I now consider it necessary to issue this Termination Warning Notice.

The inspection has identified the following concerns:

- Leaders and those responsible for governance have not ensured that safeguarding is effective. Pupils are potentially at risk or may not get the help and support they need.
- Leaders have not ensured that all staff are well trained to teach early reading or that pupils, especially those who struggle with reading, read books that build their reading fluency and confidence.
- Subject leaders have not identified the essential knowledge that they want all pupils to learn. This means that pupils are not always building on what they have learned before.
- Not all subject leaders have the skills and knowledge they need to lead their subject. Consequently, they do not have a secure understanding of how well pupils are learning.
- Leaders have not prioritised the most important actions to improve the school. This means that they have not been working on the key steps needed to address weaknesses in the provision.

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 also request that you provide the following:

- Information on the immediate and appropriate support that is being provided to Dorney School to address the issues raised by the Ofsted report, in particular the school's Post Ofsted Action Plan.
- Details of the current governance and leadership arrangements, including the most recent skills audit conducted by the trust board.
- An evaluation of the role of trustees in ensuring the accountability of the principal and the academy team in general.

Please provide me with any representations you wish to make by Thursday, 17th February 2022.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Dethridge', written in a cursive style.

Dame Kate Dethridge
Regional Schools Commissioner for North West London and South Central England

CC: National Schools Commissioner, Ofsted, Buckinghamshire County Council Director Children's Services