



Department
for Education

Hannah Woodhouse
Regional Schools Commissioner
for the South West
2 Rivergate, Temple Quay
Bristol, BS1 6EH

The Members and Trustees of Venturers Trust
Venturers Trust
Gatehouse Avenue, Bristol
BS13 9AJ

24 June 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

Termination Warning Notice to the to the Members and Trustees of Venturers Trust in respect of Montpelier High School

In accordance with sections 2A and 2D of the Academies Act 2010 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 7 June 2022 confirming that Montpelier High School 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 arrangements for safeguarding have been found not to be effective. There is not a strong enough oversight of safeguarding issues, compounded by weaknesses in systems and record keeping. In addition, there are inconsistencies in the way that leaders follow statutory guidance when handling allegations about staff. Leaders do not ensure that every member of staff has essential safeguarding training.
- Some pupils say that they are bullied frequently at school. These pupils do not believe that their concerns will be acted on. Pupils have stated that they do not have a trusted adult to which they can report concerns.
- The quality of education is not good enough. The curriculum in some subjects is not yet planned so that pupils learn what they need to reach ambitious goals. This limits the range of knowledge that pupils, including students in the sixth form, can learn. The curriculum does not prioritise early reading sufficiently.
- Teachers do not use assessment effectively. At times, pupils are given work that does not match their needs. In particular, the content chosen can lack ambition and be too easy.
- Some pupils are not able to read accurately when they arrive at the school. Leaders do not use assessment precisely enough to identify the gaps in pupils' knowledge. They do not provide a phonics curriculum where needed.
- Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) have mixed experiences. In some subjects, they receive the support they need to learn the

curriculum successfully. Where pupils with SEND are less well supported, it is because staff do not understand their needs well enough.

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. Please provide me with any representations you wish to make by **Friday 15 July 2022**.

I would be grateful for the following evidence, which I will consider when assessing whether the trust is making sufficient improvements:

- A written summary of available supportive capacity in the trust to ensure effective safeguarding of young people at Montpelier High School and the wider trust.
- A written summary of capacity within the trust to deliver effective school improvement at its academies.
- A written summary of intended future leadership, staffing, and governance arrangements at the academy, including leadership responsibility and accountability for safeguarding.
- Information on the action being taken to support education improvements at Montpelier High School and the timescales of this work (for example, a post-inspection action plan).
- Any additional information you consider would be helpful to me.

I am copying this letter to Ofsted and Bristol City Council. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely



Hannah Woodhouse
Regional Schools Commissioner for the South West

Cc: [REDACTED], South West Regional Director, Ofsted

Cc: [REDACTED], Director of Children's Services, Bristol City Council