



Department  
for Education

**Hannah Woodhouse**  
**Regional Schools Commissioner**  
Second Floor, 3 Glass Wharf  
Avon Street  
Bristol, BS2 0PS

The Members and Trustees of South Gloucestershire and Stroud Academy Trust  
Stratford Road  
Stroud  
Gloucestershire  
GL5 4AH

1 July 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

**Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of the South Gloucestershire and Stroud Academy Trust in respect of The Forest High School (URN: 138496)**

In accordance with clauses 5.F to 5.H of the supplemental funding agreement for The Forest High School (“the Academy”) the Secretary of State may terminate the funding agreement if the Chief Inspector gives notice to the Academy Trust that special measures are required to be taken in relation to the Academy or the Academy requires significant improvement.

I received an Ofsted notification dated 15 June 2022 confirming that SGS Forest High School (referred to as The Forest High School in the funding agreement) was judged to be inadequate and requires special measures and significant improvement. For the reasons set out below, I now consider it necessary to issue this Termination Warning Notice:

- The quality of education pupils receive is not good enough. Staff have low expectations of pupils, particularly pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and pupils who speak English as an additional language (EAL).
- The school’s curriculum is not ambitious. It is not broad or balanced. The range of subjects that pupils learn is too narrow. Pupils do not get the opportunity to learn subjects such as music, drama, or design and technology. This does not prepare pupils fully for opportunities beyond school
- Teaching does not expect enough of pupils. Teachers do not use approaches that help pupils to learn the curriculum effectively.
- Curriculum leaders do not understand what makes a strong curriculum. This means the essential knowledge that pupils need to learn is not explicit or well-sequenced. Leaders are unclear how content links back to prior learning or how it will support future learning. As a result, pupils’ learning is not secure, which means they cannot move on to more complex work.
- Assessment is not used effectively. Teaching does not routinely check what

pupils know and can do. Where pupils have gaps in their learning, these go unchecked and grow over time.

- The curriculum does not meet the needs of pupils with SEND. Although leaders have accurately identified the needs of pupils with SEND and have shared this information with staff, many staff do not use it. This means that staff have low expectations of such pupils. Therefore, pupils with SEND produce work of poor quality that is often incomplete. When pupils with SEND become frustrated, this sometimes leads to poor behaviour.
- Staff do not have high enough expectations of pupils' behaviour in lessons. Sometimes poor behaviour is ignored by staff, including the use of derogatory language. It is common for learning to be affected by some pupils' persistent disruption. Pupils are frustrated when poor behaviour contributes to reduced learning in lessons.

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. Please provide me with any representations you wish to make by **Friday 22 July 2022**.

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

- Information on the capacity and action by the trust being taken to support education improvements and the timescales of this work (for example a post-inspection action plan).
- A copy of your past three trust board meeting minutes and past three local governing body meeting minutes.
- Any additional information you consider would be helpful to me.

I am copying this letter to the Ofsted and Gloucestershire County Council. A copy of this letter will 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, Gloucestershire County Council