



Department for Education

North West Regional Director

3rd Floor Piccadilly Gate

Store Street

Manchester

M1 2WD

The Members and Trustees of Fylde Coast Academy Trust

19th May 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of Fylde Coast Academy Trust (FCAT) in respect of Montgomery Academy

In accordance with clauses 5.B to 5.E of the funding agreement for Montgomery Academy (“the Academy”) the Secretary of State may terminate the funding agreement if the Academy is coasting as set out in the Coasting Schools (England) Regulations 2022, provided that the Secretary of State has notified the Academy Trust that the Academy is coasting.

I notified FCAT (“the Trust”) on 6th October 2022 that the Academy meets the legal definition of a school that is coasting (not making necessary improvements) as defined in the Coasting Schools (England) Regulations 2022. On 4th November 2022 I invited the Trust’s representations in response to the notification letter. The Trust provided these on 24th November 2022.

I wrote to the Trust on 3rd March 2023 to inform the Trust that, after considering all of the information and evidence, I was not satisfied that the Trust has yet demonstrated the capacity or capability to deliver rapid and sustained improvements at the Academy, and that I therefore intended to issue a Termination Warning Notice.

My team explained the reasons for this decision and the next steps to representatives from the Trust, including Dean Logan, at a meeting on 13th March 2023. My team acknowledged the recent positive Ofsted trajectory at the

Academy. However, the overall trajectory of improvement since the Academy joined the trust in 2014 has been slow. My team also explained the need to see a sustained improvement in performance and outcomes at the Academy and others across the Trust, such as Unity Academy Blackpool.

I need to be satisfied that the Trust is continuing to take action to raise standards at the Academy and ensure an improved judgement at its next Ofsted inspection, whilst also supporting its broader portfolio of academies to improve. In considering whether to take intervention action, I have taken into account all the available evidence, including the representations received from the Trust. I have also applied the principles set out in the published document, Regional Directors decision making: 2022 and considered the Academy's circumstances in line with the criteria set out in chapter 4 of the Schools Causing Concern guidance. For this reason, I require the Trust to take the specified actions below.

The following actions ("the Specified Actions") must be taken by the stated timescales or the Secretary of State may issue a notice terminating the Academy's funding agreement, pursuant to clause 5E of the funding agreement.

- **Provide the latest improvement plan for Montgomery Academy and termly updates of the Trust's assessment of progress.** This latest improvement plan and the Trust's assessment of progress against it by 30th June 2023. Updates should then be provided before the end of each subsequent term.
- **Provide further details of the Trust's wider school improvement capacity and strategy, especially at secondary level.** This should include details of relevant personnel and their expertise, how the Trust identifies its academies in need of additional support, how the Trust leverages the capacity of its stronger academies for this, including what you are prioritising and how the trust board will be evaluating the impact of this – with particular regard to supporting Montgomery Academy. This should be provided by 30th June 2023.

I will monitor progress made towards meeting the Specified Actions. If the Trust fails to meet any of the above Specified Actions by the specified date, I will consider whether to terminate the funding agreement in order to transfer the Academy to an alternative trust.

I reserve the right to amend this Termination Warning Notice to specify further action which the Trust must take, and the date by which it must be completed.

The Trust must respond to this Termination Warning Notice by 16th June 2023, making any representations the Trust wishes to make in response to this Termination Warning Notice and the above Specified Actions, or providing confirmation that the Trust intends to comply with the above Specified Actions by the specified dates.

If the Trust fails to respond to this Termination Warning Notice by 16th June

2023, I may issue a notice terminating the Academy's funding agreement.

I am copying this letter to Ofsted, to the Director of Children's Services at Blackpool Council and to Paul Maynard MP. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely

Vicky Beer
Regional Director for North West Region

CC: Ofsted, **Victoria Gen** (DCS at Blackpool Council), **[REDACTED]** (MP for Blackpool North and Cleveleys)