



Department  
for Education

**Regional Director's Office**

Dame Kate Dethridge  
Regional Director, South East Regions  
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The Members and Trustees of Insignis Academy Trust,  
Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School,  
Oxford Road,  
Aylesbury,  
HP21 8PE

10<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Dear Mrs Bull,

**Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of the Insignis Academy Trust in respect of The Mandeville School.**

In accordance with clauses 5.F-5.H of the funding agreement for The Mandeville 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 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025 confirming that The Mandeville School was judged to require significant improvement. For the reasons set out below, I now consider it necessary to issue this Termination Warning Notice.

The Ofsted report published on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025 highlights the following areas for improvement:

- The achievement of pupils, particularly disadvantaged pupils and pupils with SEND, remains low. As a result, many pupils do not attain the qualifications that they need to progress to their next stages of education, training or employment. The school must ensure that achievement of all pupils improves, and disadvantaged pupils are given access to high-quality education. • Recent changes to the curriculum have not made enough difference to pupils' achievement in key stages 3 and 4. In some crucial subjects, the school has not identified what should be taught and when this should happen. The school must ensure that its work to develop the curriculum is completed as soon as possible so that pupils gain a secure body of knowledge over time.
- Teachers' checks on pupils' learning do not enable them to know how well pupils learn the curriculum. Furthermore, the gaps in pupils' learning from weaknesses in the curriculum over time are not identified or addressed. As a

result, pupils do not gain a secure body of knowledge in the subjects that they study. The school must ensure that teachers accurately identify gaps and misconceptions in pupils' knowledge and then seek to overcome these deficiencies in their subsequent teaching.

- Many pupils, including disadvantaged pupils, are absent from school. The number of pupils who are persistently absent from school remains high. Although improving, some pupils truant from lessons in school. Too many pupils, therefore, miss vital learning and are at risk of falling even further behind. The school must ensure that it reviews its current approaches so that attendance improves rapidly, persistent absence decreases, and that inschool truancy is eradicated.

In addition to the issues identified at the Academy by Ofsted during the November 2024 inspection, the trust also took on another academy in March 2024 which was judged by Ofsted to require significant improvement in June 2022 and March 2023. Therefore, the trust has significant challenges to overcome in improving both academies.

As Regional Director, 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 the trust wish to make in response to this Termination Warning Notice.

Please provide me with any representations the trust wishes to make by 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

We are mindful of creating unnecessary pressures on school leaders and staff, and as such we would ask the trust to ensure that the appropriate provision is in place to support the school workforce.

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

Yours sincerely

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**Dame Kate Dethridge**  
**Regional Director for South East Region.**

CC: Ofsted, Buckinghamshire Council