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Mrs Sally Greenbank
Headteacher
Landau Forte Academy Moorhead
Brackens Lane
Alvaston
Derby
DE24 0AN

Dear Mrs Greenbank

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Landau Forte Academy Moorhead

Following my visit to your school on 15 September 2014, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report the inspection findings. Thank you for the help you gave me and for the time you made available to discuss the actions you are taking to improve the school since the most recent section 5 inspection.

The visit was the first monitoring inspection since the school was judged to require improvement following the section 5 inspection in May 2014. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Senior leaders, the governing body and the sponsor are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. The school should take further action to:

- strengthen the role of the local governing body in checking the impact of leaders' work to improve outcomes for pupils.

Evidence

During the inspection, meetings were held with the Principal and Vice Principal, the Chair of the Local Governing Body and a representative of the Landau Forte Charitable Trust to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. The school improvement plan was evaluated. You joined me on a tour of the academy where I spoke informally with pupils about their work. I scrutinised some pupils' books and viewed other school documentation. I checked the single central record.

Context

Since the last inspection, the English subject leader has been seconded to a local school as deputy headteacher for a term. The Key Stage 1 leader is now leading both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. A temporary teacher has been employed to teach in the early years. A teacher has returned from maternity leave and is now working part time.

Main findings

You have responded positively to the outcome from your last inspection. You and the Vice Principal demonstrate a determination to bring about the necessary changes to improve pupils' outcomes. Your plans for improvement are correctly focused on the issues identified at the last inspection. However, the actions for improvement are not sharp enough for you to be able to identify precise success measures. As a result, it is difficult for the local governing body to evaluate progress and hold you to account for your actions.

You have begun to improve the quality of teaching, particularly in writing, through training and support for individual teachers. Pupils have more opportunities to develop their spoken language through well-planned speaking and listening activities. Although this strategy is new, pupils are beginning to apply their learning to their speaking and writing outside of these lessons to improve their work.

Teachers' marking has improved. Teachers tell pupils how well they are doing regularly and consistently. However, not all teachers' comments support pupils to make further progress in their learning. This is because they do not give pupils opportunities to respond to marking and deepen their understanding in both mathematics and English. As a result, opportunities are missed to further improve their learning.

You have improved the learning environment by ensuring pupils have more opportunities to manage their own learning. They said that they were able to use the helpful classroom displays to improve their use of key vocabulary and develop their writing and mathematical skills. Resources are more accessible to all pupils. As a result, pupils feel more independent of their teachers.

Ofsted may carry out further visits and, where necessary, provide further support and challenge to the school until its next section 5 inspection.

External support

The chief executive for Landau Forte Charitable Trust is new to the role. However, in the short time he has been in post he has brokered support from two local primary schools which have been judged outstanding by Ofsted. He has also established a training programme for the local governing body to support them to hold senior

leaders to account for their work. The academy trust has provided effective challenge in monthly Principals' meetings that hold senior leaders of the Trust's schools to account for improvements in pupils' outcomes.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Local Governing Body, the Director of Children's Services for Derby, the Chief Executive of Landau Forte Charitable Trust and the Department for Education Academies Advisers Unit.

Yours sincerely

Jan Connor
Her Majesty's Inspector