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Ms S Skinner
Headteacher
Claydon High School
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Dear Ms Skinner

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Claydon High School

Following my visit to your school on 21 January 2013, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report on the findings of my visit. 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 November 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher and senior leaders, all the governing body and a representative of the local authority. A range of documents was scrutinised including the school improvement plan, a report on the external review of governance, minutes of recent governors' meetings and revised procedures for monitoring teachers' performance.

Context

Since the last inspection, a new part-time teacher of mathematics has been appointed. The school has welcomed regular support from a local advanced skills teacher of mathematics.

Main findings

The school improvement plan has been re-written so that it focuses sharply on addressing the key issues raised in the inspection. Plans include clear targets, timescales and milestones to check the progress made. Lesson observation forms

have been amended to record the strengths and weaknesses of teaching and link them directly to the personal targets of staff. Further training for middle leaders in observing lessons is planned next month.

An external review of governance has helped governors gain a clearer understanding of their role in supporting and challenging senior leaders. Governors now meet twice per term to monitor the school's progress. Minutes of recent meetings show that they are asking pertinent questions about the school's performance.

Additional tutors and have been appointed to provide one-to-one support for pupils in mathematics to ensure that they make expected progress and that those capable of attaining at least a grade C this year, do so. School data shows that pupils in most subjects are on track to meet the targets set for them. The contribution made by improvements to marking and feedback and the increased use of information and communication technology is less clear. Pupils who attend college or work placements are now monitored closely by a senior teacher. This includes regular checks of their attendance.

Senior leaders and governors have begun to take effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. Following the visit to the school, HMI recommends that further action is taken to:

- make periodic checks of teachers' marking and feedback, and pupils' use of information and communication technology to evaluate whether this is contributing towards improvement
- seek the views of older pupils and their parents and carers to gauge whether they feel that enough is being done to help them to achieve this year.

Ofsted will continue to monitor the school until its next section 5 inspection.

External support

The local authority provides regular advisory support for mathematics. They have liaised with other local schools to enable teachers of mathematics and drama to visit and observe good practice. Advisory support for PE has initiated improvements. A review of the music department is planned for later this term.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for Suffolk.

Yours sincerely

John Mitcheson
Her Majesty's Inspector