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Mr Richard Hughes
Headteacher
Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College
Reevy Road West
Buttershaw
Bradford
West Yorkshire
BD6 3PX

Dear Mr Hughes

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College, Bradford

Following my visit to your school on 25 April 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 February 2013. 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 plus representatives of the governing body and the local authority. A learning walk was undertaken that included visits to lessons, a tutorial and a tour of the sixth form facilities. The school improvement plan and achievement data were also evaluated.

Context

There have been no significant changes in the school's organisation since the inspection but the school is scheduled to become an academy on 1 June, sponsored by the Navigate Academies Trust.

Main findings

The headteacher and his senior leaders are very clear about what the school needs to do to become good. They have a very strong sense of purpose and are driving relentlessly towards their goal. The school improvement plan covers all the areas for improvement highlighted by the inspection and is very concise and user-friendly. It has sharply focused actions and appropriate milestones. Monitoring of progress is very tight and any improvements are supported by detailed evidence and data.

Governors are kept well informed and have the skills to challenge senior leaders and hold them to account. The twice yearly reviews by the Bradford Partnership provide governors and senior leaders with valuable independent checks on progress.

There have been improvements in the quality of teaching already. Training and support is increasingly tailored to individual teachers' needs with bespoke support packages in place to address specific weaknesses. Teachers across the school are working hard to improve their practice and a growing number attend voluntary training after school. The proportion of good teaching is increasing and more teachers are working towards delivering consistently outstanding lessons. Since the inspection, checks on students' books are random and without warning, giving leaders a more accurate picture of the quality of marking.

The tracking of students' progress is very rigorous and summary reports are used well to highlight under-performance by individuals or groups so that leaders take remedial action swiftly. Year 11 students are making better progress than their counterparts last year and early entry results and school assessments suggest that GCSE results will improve substantially this year. Students in Years 7 to 9 are also making increasingly better progress but the progress of students in Year 10 is not accelerating as quickly. Leaders and teachers are using a wide range of strategies and interventions to address this issue. Initiatives to improve students' literacy are wide ranging and lesson observations are used well to check that teachers from across the curriculum are contributing to literacy development.

The concerns about sixth form provision and facilities have been addressed. A study supervisor is now based in the sixth form area to facilitate private study and steps have been taken to ensure that laptops are more readily available. Building alterations are planned that will create a discrete silent study area for next year. Students' progress is monitored very closely and, where necessary, high quality support is put in place quickly. Current students are making better than expected progress.

Senior leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection.

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

External support

The local authority, working through the Bradford Partnership, is providing the right level of support for the school.

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

Yours sincerely

Jan Bennett

Her Majesty's Inspector