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Mr Gavin Bellamy
Headteacher
Sewell Park College
St Clement's Hill
Norwich
NR3 4BX

Dear Mr Bellamy

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Sewell Park College

Following my visit to your school on 21 June 2013, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report 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 on 13 March 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with you and other senior leaders, three members of the governing body and a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. The school improvement plans were evaluated. A brief visit to classrooms with you gave me the opportunity to observe students' learning.

Context

At the end of this term approximately 10 to 15 teachers will leave the school. New appointments have been made ready for the start of the new academic year. School improvement plans have been amended to tackle all of the areas for improvement identified in the school's recent inspection.

Main findings

You have provided training for staff focused on making improvements that will enable the school to become good by the time of its next inspection. You are raising

the expectations of all staff and taking decisive action where the quality of teaching is not good enough. Improvement plans prioritise increasing the amount of good or better teaching especially in mathematics, strengthening leadership and management at all levels and improving provision in your sixth form.

Regular collection of assessment data is enabling you to monitor students' progress in detail and plan suitable support for those who need it. Monitoring their learning and progress in lessons is less effective because regular observations of all teachers are not carried out systematically. Information about the effectiveness of teaching in all subjects and key stages is not shared fully with the governing body to give them a full understanding of where the strengths and weaknesses lie.

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

- carry out regular observations and drop-ins to lessons systematically to check that the quality of teaching is improving, and share this information with the governing body
- use the additional support brokered by Ofsted and the local authority to secure rapid improvements in mathematics and the sixth form.

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

An established link with a partner school continues to help you add further consistency to the management of students' behaviour. Additional support provided by the local authority is enabling you to foster stronger links with local schools to assist you in your work. The governing body acknowledges that the expectations of teachers and the aspirations of students need to be much higher. They are liaising with the local authority to arrange a full review of their work this term so that they can provide better support and challenge for school leaders and managers.

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

Yours sincerely

John Mitcheson
Her Majesty's Inspector