

Serco Inspections  
Colmore Plaza  
20 Colmore Circus Queensway  
Birmingham  
B4 6AT

T 0300 123 1231  
Text Phone: 0161 6188524  
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk  
[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

Direct T: 0121 679 9153  
Direct email: [naik.sandhu@serco.com](mailto:naik.sandhu@serco.com)



11 November 2013

Miss Sylvia Thomas  
Headteacher  
Granville Sports College  
Burton Road  
Woodville  
DE11 7JR

Dear Miss Thomas

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Granville Sports College**

Following my visit to your school on 8 November 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 in September 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

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:

- refine its plans to ensure that the improvements needed to become a good school are clear to all staff and include milestone targets that will enable governors to monitor the performance of the school more effectively
- strengthen the impact of subject leaders by ensuring they all take a leading role in improving the quality of teaching and achievement in their subjects
- seek an external review of governance, to include a specific focus on the academy's use of the pupil premium, in order to assess how this aspect of leadership and governance may be further improved.

## **Evidence**

During the visit, meetings were held with you, your senior leadership team, the head of science, members of the governing body, and a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. The school improvement plan and plans for reviewing the science department were evaluated. Minutes from the last governing body meeting were also scrutinised.

## **Context**

Since the inspection the Chair of the Governing Body has resigned and an interim chair has been appointed. Other staff have been appointed, but have yet to take up their posts. They include a new mathematics teacher who will lead numeracy across the school.

## **Main findings**

School leaders and the governing body continue to demonstrate a single-minded determination to improve the quality of teaching and raise standards in all subjects. You are clear about the steps you need to take in order to become a good school at your next inspection.

Following the inspection, you have acted swiftly to build additional capacity for improvement in the school by appointing two members of staff to act as teaching coaches. They have been trained by a local authority adviser and are now working through a structured programme of support with those teachers whose teaching still requires improvement. You are carefully and regularly monitoring their work to ensure it is tailored to meet the needs of these teachers specifically. Along with this, you have introduced a professional learning programme for all staff that is aligned with their areas of responsibility. For teachers, this focusses specifically on those aspects of practice identified as requiring improvement during the inspection.

You have rightly identified subject leaders as being the next level of leadership in the school that needs strengthening. You have organised dedicated training and support, which will make good use of expertise in the school to support those leaders who are not yet taking full responsibility for improving teaching and the progress made by students in their subjects.

You have scheduled a comprehensive review of the science department for this half term. This will involve all staff within the department working alongside senior leaders to review the appropriateness of the curriculum and the quality of teaching.

You are setting high expectations for the progress all students should make. Targets are based on most students making at least three national curriculum levels of

progress from year seven and you have now refined these to take account of those students who are capable of making even more progress than this.

Your school improvement plan takes account of the areas for improvement from the inspection. However, it is not always clear how you will measure the successful steps you need to demonstrate over the next five terms in order to ensure the school is on track to becoming good.

Governors continue to provide effective challenge and support to the school. They are committed to ensuring they have the skills necessary to understand performance data and to improve their monitoring of the effectiveness of individual subjects.

Ofsted may carry out further visits and, where necessary, provide further support and challenge to the school until its next section 5 inspection. I, therefore, intend to return in the next academic year to evaluate the effectiveness of subject leadership. I will then report to governors on the progress that the school is making in carrying out the improvements necessary to become a good school.

### **External support**

The local authority adviser knows the school well and works effectively with senior leaders to broker appropriate support for the school. She continues to review with school leaders the progress the school is making at regular half-termly intervals. She has also arranged for coaching training and for additional support into the English, mathematics and science departments.

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

Yours sincerely

Philippa Darley  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**