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10 December 2013

Mr Rob Williams
Headteacher
Malton School
Middlecave Road
Malton
North Yorkshire
YO17 7NH

Dear Mr Williams

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Malton School, North Yorkshire

Following my visit to your school on 9 December 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 October 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.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with senior leaders, four members of the governing body and a representative of the local authority. A short tour of the school was undertaken with the headteacher, and a telephone conversation was held with the headteacher of Harrogate Grammar School which is working in partnership with Malton as part of the Red Kite Alliance. A range of documentation was evaluated including the school's development plan, minutes of governors' meetings and information about students' current achievement targets.

Context

There have been no significant changes to the school's organisation or staffing since the inspection in October.

Main findings

Senior leaders and the governing body have a clear understanding of what needs to be done. The school improvement plan has been adapted to take account of the recommendations in the inspection report. The plan generally includes appropriate timescales, targets and success criteria although more emphasis needs to be placed on monitoring and measuring the impact of the planned actions on students' achievements. Common systems to monitor and track students' progress have been developed and challenging performance targets have been set for all key stages. This is raising expectations about what students can achieve throughout the school and placing greater focus on students' achievement in Key Stage 3 and the sixth form. Students in Year 11 are now receiving impartial careers information, advice and guidance so that they can make informed and appropriate choices about education, training and employment opportunities at the end of Key Stage 4. A significant number of learning walks have been undertaken by senior and middle leaders and these show that the quality of teaching is improving as a result of the improvement actions implemented to date.

Governors are committed and demonstrate a clear intent to make a difference to the school. They visit the school frequently and challenge senior and middle leaders rigorously about the impact of their actions through the Student Matters Committee for example. The headteacher and Chair of the Governing Body have recently attended the Ofsted *getting to good* seminar.

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

Specialist advice and support provided by the local authority is helping senior leaders and governors to tackle the key priorities. The school's association with the Red Kite Alliance and support provided by other schools, including Fulford School in York are making a significant contribution to improvements in the quality of teaching and learning and leadership capacity.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for North Yorkshire and as below.

Yours sincerely

Wendy Ripley

Her Majesty's Inspector

The letter should be copied to the following:

- Lucy Legard - Chair of the Governing Body
- Local authority - including where the school is an academy
- The Education Funding Agency (EFA) if the school has a sixth form