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29 October 2020

Mary Cox  
Interim Principal  
Sutton Community Academy  
High Pavement  
Sutton-in-Ashfield  
Nottinghamshire  
NG17 1EE

Dear Mrs Cox

### **Ofsted visit to Sutton Community Academy**

Following my visit with Chris Stevens, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 29 September 2020, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the visit's findings. Thank you for the time you made available to discuss your actions since September 2020, when the government expected all schools to open fully to all pupils.

This visit was conducted under section 8 of the Education Act 2005 (as amended) and in accordance with Ofsted's published procedures for visiting schools while routine inspections are temporarily suspended.

Ofsted's visits to schools during the autumn term are not inspections. We are not giving graded judgements. We did not undertake the usual range of inspection activities and were unable to check other sources of evidence, such as visits to lessons or looking at pupils' work. The content of this letter gives an overview of our discussions about what has happened in your school this term.

During the visit, we spoke to representatives of the Academy Transformation Trust, the executive principal, the interim principal and members of the senior leadership team. We did not speak to pupils because of the protective measures in place.

### **Context**

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills is leading Ofsted's work into how England's education system is managing the return to full

education for pupils, following an extended break in formal schooling due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

In undertaking this focused work, HMI are visiting a broad range of schools. HMI will visit a sample of:

- approximately 1,200 schools across all Ofsted grades (outstanding, good, requires improvement and inadequate)
- maintained schools, academies and free schools, special schools and centres of alternative provision, including those in cities, and coastal, town or rural communities.

The information from this visit will feed into Ofsted's national reporting so that the insights can be shared with the government and the education sector. We did not find any significant concerns during the visit. In such a case, an inspection report would be published on our website and available to parents and carers.

We did not consider your response to COVID-19 during the spring and summer terms 2020, when the school was not open to all pupils.

**From this visit, inspectors noted that:**

- The school opened fully to all pupils on 3 September 2020. All pupils are attending full time.
- Pupils' attendance is lower than at this time last year.
- Pupils in Years 7 and 8 study all the national curriculum subjects. Pupils in Years 10 to 13 study all the subjects they opted to take at GCSE and A level. The practical element of some subjects, such as music and design technology, is not being taught at the moment. Leaders plan to return to their usual curriculum by the summer term 2021.
- Teachers have assessed all pupils in each subject. They have used the results to identify any gaps in learning. This information is being used to amend the curriculum and inform teachers' planning.
- Teachers have used a range of online platforms, including the school's website, to deliver the curriculum remotely. They are offering support to those pupils without equipment and helping pupils who find online learning difficult. Leaders are developing online lessons. These have already been trialled in some subjects, such as English.

Thank you again for contributing to this important national work. The views and experiences you have shared will help to inform future policy.

I am copying this letter to the chief executive officer of the trust, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Nottinghamshire. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Jayne Ashman  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**