



21 March 2017

Mr B Stott
Director of Children's Services
Lancashire County Council
PO BOX 100
County Hall
PRESTON
PR1 0LD

Dear Mr Stott,

Following discussion the governors of Hameldon Community College agreed during their Governing Body meeting on 13 March 2017 that I should write to you on their behalf to express the concern we have in meeting the statutory responsibilities to provide the standard of education pupils are entitled to receive.

As you are aware the school has been in deficit for a long period with a declining roll. The financial viability of the school is further compromised by the ongoing PFI budgetary commitment. The previous inspection judged the school as 'requires improvement'. The reduction of staffing through redundancy and retirement has forced the school to rely on a high number of temporary supply teachers and consultant part time leaders.

The opportunity to successfully appoint to the vacant posts of Head Teacher and Deputy Head in the current circumstance seems highly unlikely. The same is true of many substantive teaching posts, particularly in core subjects of English and Mathematics.

Sadly and despite the support the school has received, one consequence of these circumstances is that standards have fallen. The information on achievement indicates progress is unsatisfactory. As governors, we do not see the school recovering from this position without further significant financial support from the local authority. In light of this we are not confident the school will meet the standards required at its next scheduled inspection during the summer term despite Governors and staff continuing to be committed to making Hameldon Community College a successful school.

Continued

To conclude, the turbulence of staff reductions in the context of a large deficit budget and the decline in pupil numbers has placed the school in a position where we feel its future viability cannot be assured. Therefore, in the interests of the pupils, staff and the local community, the governors have agreed to request that Lancashire Authority consider the long term future of the school.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Bird". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Mrs Alex Bird
Chair of Governors
Hameldon Community College

Consultant Headteacher: Mr Peter Cunningham
Associate Headteacher: Mr Brendan Conboy

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