



Department  
for Education

**Department for Education**

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Ms S Potter  
North Liverpool Academy  
Heyworth Road  
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13 January 2016

Dear Shelagh

Thank you for accommodating our Education Adviser Mike Ion and Nicky Bevington at the academy on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December.

The purpose of the visit was as a result of the self-reported below-floor summer 2015 results.

The Education Adviser recognised the following strengths:

- As the new principal, you and your strong re-energised and refocused senior team are working more strategically on how best to secure quality first teaching across the entire academy, as opposed to constantly seeking to make use of resource intensive intervention strategies and programmes that seek to help pupils catch-up during KS 4.
- The quality of the information with regards to the data tracking and monitoring systems, provided both prior to and on the day of the visit, is of a high standard. The revised internal processes for the checking of pupils' progress initiated by the trust's data manager look to be more systematic and rigorous than those that were previously operating in the academy.
- The governing body, supported by the trust, has made some important appointments at senior level that are already adding significant capacity to the leadership and management of the academy.

As you know, the following next steps and actions were identified:

Agreed actions for academy & sponsor	Owner	Deadline
Academy leaders should ensure that the rituals, routines and processes that have been established in the academy's high performing departments are systematically applied to other subject areas such as science and English.	Academy leadership	Ongoing

In 2015, the attainment gap between boys compared to that of girls was significantly wider than the national average. In addition, the gap between progress made by pupil premium pupils and other pupils widened substantially this year. More analysis is needed at academy level to explain the reasons for the gap and what actions may be required to prevent it from widening further.	Academy leadership	As soon as possible
In order to ensure proper scrutiny by the RSC, it would be helpful if the academy could self-report projections for the current Year 11 to the DfE after each data capture to <a href="mailto:nicky.bevington@education.gsi.gov.uk">nicky.bevington@education.gsi.gov.uk</a>	Academy leadership	When available
Processes and procedures that enable the trust to better hold the CEO and academy senior leaders to account for outcomes, accuracy and robustness of predictions and self-evaluation judgements would be significantly strengthened by the trust board having direct access to external advice on a regular basis.	Trust	As soon as possible
NST should review its current governance structure in order to strengthen and clarify lines of accountability and provide a clearer separation between those serving as trustees and those serving as members.	Trust	Immediately

The interests of the pupils at North Liverpool Academy are high on my agenda and I am keen that we work together to provide the best possible opportunities for pupils in this region.

Your Education Adviser will have outlined next steps and how we monitor progress and I look forward to seeing updates in due course.

If Mike Ion or Nicky Bevington can be of further assistance please feel free to contact them directly via [nicky.bevington@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:nicky.bevington@education.gsi.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely



Vicky Beer CBE  
**Regional Schools Commissioner, Lancashire and West Yorkshire**

cc Nigel Ward, Chairman Northern Schools Trust  
cc Dr Geoff Wainwright, Chair of local governing body