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Mark Midgley
Headteacher
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Dear Mr Midgley

Ofsted visit to Caistor Yarborough Academy

Following my visit with Jayne Ashman, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 8 October 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 you, members of the senior leadership team, the school's attendance manager and the senior leader responsible for safeguarding. 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:

- Following a staggered start to the new term for different year groups, the school opened fully to all pupils on 8 September 2020. Pupils are expected to attend full time.
- Pupils' attendance is broadly in line with the normal levels of attendance at this time of year. At the time of the visit, all pupils in Year 10 were self-isolating.
- All pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 are studying the full range of subjects included in the national curriculum. All pupils in Years 10 and 11 are studying the full range of GCSE subjects they opted for. Leaders have amended their curriculum plans to enable them to deliver the practical elements of some subjects, including science, information and communication technology and physical education.
- Leaders are in the process of carrying out a range of assessments to identify any gaps in pupils' knowledge and skills. Initial assessments have been carried out in all subjects. Future assessments in Year 7 and mock examinations in Year 11 will provide teachers with additional information to inform their planning. Leaders also told us that they have amended their plans for personal, social and health education to provide an early focus on pupils' well-being and resilience.

- Teachers have used and developed a blended range of paper-based and online resources to provide remote learning. Leaders told us that these resources are in place should the need arise.

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 chair of the governing body, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Lincolnshire. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Chris Stevens
Her Majesty's Inspector