

**Regional Schools Commissioner's Office
South East and South London**

**Trafalgar House
1 Bedford Park
Croydon, CR0 2AQ**

**Tel: 0207 783 8162
Email: RSC.SESL@education.gsi.gov.uk**

The Directors
The Dover Federation for the Arts
Astor College
Astor Avenue
Dover
Kent
CT17 0AS

30 September 2015

Dear Sirs,

Warning Notice to the Dover Federation for the Arts ("the Company") in relation to Astor College (A Specialist College for the Arts)

I wrote to you on 3 December 2014 setting out my concerns that the standards of performance of pupils at Astor College ("the Academy") were unacceptably low and that, unless the matters on which our conclusions were based were remedied to the Secretary of State's satisfaction, we would issue a Warning Notice under Article 59 of the Company's Articles of Association.

Having considered this matter carefully, the Secretary of State and I are satisfied that the unacceptably low standards of performance have not been remedied following my previous letter to you dated 3 December 2014. We are also satisfied that the standards of performance of pupils at the Academy are likely to remain unacceptably low unless the Secretary of State exercises her powers to intervene under the Articles because:

1. The Academy's provisional results in 2015 show that attainment for pupils is well below expected standards, with just 27% of pupils achieving 5 A* - C in English and Maths.

2. [REDACTED]

3. [REDACTED]

Terms of the Warning Notice

The actions which we require the Company to take, in relation to the Academy, to remedy the matters are:

- To provide robust evidence that appropriate strategies are in place for the tracking pupil progress internally;
- To provide robust evidence that attainment for the summer of 2016 is on track to exceed the government's floor standard. A school will be below the floor standard if their Progress 8 score is below -0.5, unless the confidence interval suggests that the school's underlying performance may not be below average;
- To provide robust evidence, from internal tracking systems and externally moderated mock examinations, that all pupils are achieving or rapidly moving towards achieving,

- expected levels of progress in English and Mathematics;
- To demonstrate that school leaders, including governors, are promoting further improvements in the quality of teaching through the rigorous and consistent application and monitoring of target setting and marking procedures;
- To improve the quality of teaching, so that at least 80% of teaching is rated to be “good” or better, and no teaching is rated inadequate, including within the subject areas of English and maths, through robust, externally moderated assessment by the senior leadership team;
- To ensure that the process to recruit a substantive new Principal is underway; and
- To conduct an external review of governance, and put in place an action plan to ensure that robust challenge is provided by the Directors and local governing body.

The compliance period (pursuant to Article 60) will end on 17 December 2015. In other words, the Company must have implemented the necessary strategies to the Secretary of State’s satisfaction by that date. Our representatives will assess the implementation of these strategies, the impact and likely impact of these and how they are to be measured after this time.

Please reply to me within 15 working days, confirming your understanding of this notice and setting out your plan and timetable for meeting the terms specified above.

Should the Company fail to comply, or secure compliance, with this Warning Notice to the Secretary of State’s satisfaction within the compliance period, the Secretary of State will consider exercising her power under Article 61 to appoint to the Company such Additional Directors (as defined in the Articles) as she thinks fit.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. H.', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

DOMINIC HERRINGTON
Regional Schools Commissioner for South London and the South East