



**Lord Nash**

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools

Sanctuary Buildings Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT  
tel: 0370 000 2288 [www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus](http://www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus)

David Moran  
E-ACT  
10 Whitfield St  
London  
W1T 2RE

25 March 2014

We have received a copy of Ofsted's letter to you following their inspections of 16 of your academies. Ofsted's findings are hugely disappointing and we are extremely concerned about the number of your academies that are not yet 'good'. As Ofsted's letter makes clear, the majority of pupils attending an E-ACT academy are not receiving a good education. This is unacceptable.

In recent years, the results of sponsored academies have gone up faster than other state-funded schools, turning around some of our worst schools. Their performance has continued to improve this year and it is regrettable that E-ACT is not part of this transformational change in our school system.

I realise that you personally have been in post for a relatively short time, but you must now take immediate action to address the weaknesses Ofsted have highlighted. I welcome your decision to hand over a number of your academies to other sponsors. This will allow you to concentrate your energies on swiftly raising standards in your remaining academies that will now mostly be in regional clusters.

I am also pleased that your board has agreed to approve new members recommended by us. It is important that E-ACT's board has sufficient capacity to monitor and hold to account effectively you and your team for the improvements required. I welcome, too, your plans to downsize your head office and move to a shared site with one of your academies, allowing you to concentrate your efforts and resources on your academies.

E-ACT is currently subject to a Financial Notice to Improve (FNtI) because of the significant weaknesses in financial management control and governance highlighted by the EFA report of March 2013. You have made significant progress towards meeting the requirements associated with this Notice. However, until you have complied with the terms set out in the FNtI including planned changes to your head office and successfully recruiting a permanent finance director, it will remain in place.

I have previously issued two of your academies with pre-warning notices (PWN). Following the recent Ofsted reports, I will issue a further three of your academies with PWNs. As you know, this is the first step of formal intervention and they are issued, as the Secretary of State does not believe improvements will be made without his intervention. If E-ACT fails to address the issues identified in each of these PWNs, the

Secretary of State has the power to issue a Warning Notice. This may lead to the Secretary of State looking to change sponsors for more of your academies.

In order to monitor performance at all E-ACT academies that were judged to be less than 'good' we have invited you to monthly performance review meetings. These will hold you to account for the implementation of your school improvement model and to discuss progress in specific academies.

I welcome the way you have so far engaged with the Department to take swift action in response to Ofsted's inspections. Your openness to ideas and commitment to communicating openly has been valuable and I hope this continues. I cannot stress enough the seriousness of the position E-ACT is currently in or the willingness of the Secretary of State to take further, robust action if improvements are not made.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lord Nash', with a stylized flourish above the name.

LORD NASH