



CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE

To:
Councillor Jennifer Raynor
Cabinet member for Education

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Date 14 October 2015
Dyddiad:

This is a letter from the Schools Performance Scrutiny Panel to the Cabinet Member for Education following the meeting of the Panel on 21 September 2015. It highlights the Panel's discussion and any outcomes arising from the meeting are also contained.

Dear Cllr Raynor

Schools Performance Scrutiny Panel

On the 21 September we looked at progress being made by the School Improvement Service discussing the key issues with the Hub Head of Education Improvement for the Swansea area Helen Morgan-Rees.

We heard about the approach used which is based around Support, Challenge and Intervention Framework and how in the Autumn term each school receives a core visit where the allocated challenge adviser will monitor and evaluate the school and identify its strengths and weaknesses. The school is then given a support category of red, yellow, amber and green which identified the level of support the school will receive from the service that year.

We heard that the Team is currently only at 75% of its staffing capacity but were encouraged to hear that that this may be because we are only employing the very best candidates for this important role and that takes time. The Panel were informed that there are sufficient staff to cover all schools but lack of capacity means that responsibilities have increased for core staff.

We did share the concerns of the hub head around the consistency of teacher assessments particularly in the primary sector and were pleased to hear there is a clear focus on improving that this year, with the challenge advisors being rigorous in their assessments in relation to this.

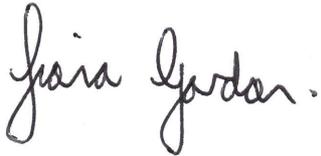
This issue of tracking the progress of pupils was discussed and we were concerned to hear that there is currently little progress being made by schools with regard to using the pupil tracking aspect of the SIMS package. We felt that this needed to be addressed.

In summary we would recommend that:

- The use of the pupil tracking aspect of the SIMS computer programme is reviewed to understand why it is not being used and remove any barriers to schools making use of this facility.

We look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Fiona Gordon", enclosed in a thin yellow rectangular border.

Fiona Gordon
Convener Schools Performance Scrutiny Panel
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