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John Dixon
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Lorna Fitzjohn HMI
Regional Director, West Midlands

Sent by email to: johndixon@warwickshire.gov.uk

Dear John

I hope the new academic year has started well for you and your teams.

As you will be aware, in September the Department for Education published the 2016 unvalidated key stage 2 attainment results. In October, the early years foundation stage profile results, the key stage 1 and phonics attainment results, and the key stage 4 attainment and progress results were published.

Early years

Having reviewed this information it is pleasing to note that the percentage of pupils achieving a good level of development was above the national average and increased from the 2015 figure. This means that Warwickshire has a ranking of 45 out of 150 local authorities on this measure.

Key stage 1 and phonics

It is also positive to see that the percentage of pupils meeting the expected standard in each of reading, writing, mathematics and science was above the national average, as was the percentage of pupils meeting the expected standard in Year 1 phonics. These are good foundations for pupils' future attainment and progress.

Key stage 2 attainment

The proportion of pupils reaching the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics in Warwickshire was 57%, which is above the national average. The proportion of pupils reaching the expected standard in each of the separate elements of the tests was also above average. These are commendable achievements.

Key stage 4 attainment and progress

A pattern of positive overall performance continued at key stage 4 with the percentage of pupils achieving A* to C in both English and mathematics ranking Warwickshire 33 out of 150 local authorities, and the average attainment 8 score placing Warwickshire 25 out of 150. The average progress 8 score was also above the national average.

There is much news to celebrate in these recent data. However, I will look with considerable interest when information is published about the performance of disadvantaged pupils across key stages in 2016. Historically, these pupils have not achieved well.

I urge you to continue to work with colleagues from all types of schools, leaders from multi-academy trusts and local political leaders to champion the achievement of pupils in Warwickshire.

I look forward to discussing these results, your next steps to improve further and other matters when we meet for our annual review. In the meantime, James McNeillie, Senior Her Majesty's Inspector, will continue to have regular contact with you.

I am copying this letter to the Lead Member for Education for Warwickshire County Council, local Members of Parliament and the regional schools commissioner.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lorna Fitzjohn".

Lorna Fitzjohn HMI
Regional Director, West Midlands

cc
Cabinet Member
Local Members of Parliament
Regional Schools Commissioner