



Department
for Education

**Regional Delivery Directorate
South East and South London
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Mr Alan O'Sullivan and Mr Roy Wilkins
The Arnewood School
Gore Road
New Milton
Hampshire
BH25 6RS

4 November 2019

Dear Alan, Roy and Nigel,

The Gryphon Trust Review Meeting

Thank you for meeting Vaso Paraschidou, Melissa King and myself on Thursday 24th October to discuss The Gryphon Trust's school performance, school improvement, governance arrangements and financial position.

It was encouraging to hear about the trust's continued commitment to strengthen the trust board. We also appreciate the hard work undertaken by the trust and staff at The Eaglewood School and The Arnewood School in attaining their 'Good' Ofsted judgements this year. However, we discussed the need to ensure the trust addresses financial vulnerabilities, working closely with the ESFA.

In light of the issues identified through our discussion, we agreed that the trust's priorities for the year are:

- To focus on outcomes at Key Stage 4 at The Arnewood School, including improved attainment and progress for disadvantaged pupils.
- To arrange a visit with the SRMA (School Resource Management Advisor) as soon as possible (following initial contact from SRMA).
- To send a 7-year plan to the ESFA in February 2020 (with input from the SRMA).
- To send biographical details for the new Finance Officer and new trustee information (once vacancies filled) to Melissa.

We also agreed that the department would provide support to the trust by:

- Signposting to information on governance and finance including the Academies Financial Handbook (please see attached Offer of Support).

As discussed, we will also engage with the ESFA and the Local Authority regarding funding arrangements for The Eaglewood School.

Thank you again for taking the time to meet with us. My team and I look forward to working with you over the coming year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean Ruston', written in a cursive style.

Sean Ruston
Regional Delivery Directorate - South East South London region