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31 October 2016

Mrs Michelle Palmer
Headteacher
St Laurence in Thanet Church of England Junior Academy
Newington Road
Ramsgate
Kent
CT11 0QX

Sir Michael Wilshaw
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector

Our ref: 362404

Dear Mrs Palmer

St Laurence In Thanet Church of England Junior Academy

I am writing following your recent section 5 inspection. Although your school was judged to require improvement overall, I note that the leadership and management of the school were judged to be good.

It is encouraging to read that your accurate evaluation of the school has enabled you to identify what needs to be improved. It is reassuring that you are working effectively with the trustees and the Diocesan School Improvement Partner to improve learning and increase pupils' progress.

I am pleased to note that additional funding to support disadvantaged pupils has been used well. It is positive that the attendance of disadvantaged pupils has improved and the gaps in their attainment and others' nationally are beginning to close.

Although the quality of teaching is not consistently good, there are noteworthy strengths in mathematics. You are capitalising on this by enabling staff to share their good teaching practices.

It is heartening that pupils have positive attitudes to school and support each other to behave well. Commendably, pupils and staff have been inspired to improve their own learning.

As you know, the next full inspection of the school will take place in around two years. I offer you my support and encouragement as you do all you can to ensure that the young people in your school get the good education they deserve.

I have asked Christopher Russell HMI, Regional Director, South East, and his Senior HMI to be available should you wish to discuss your progress. You can contact them through Christopher's Executive Assistant, Siobhan Ritchie, at siobhan.ritchie@ofsted.gov.uk.

Your ambition and strong leadership will be crucial to St Laurence in Thanet Church of England Junior Academy making the necessary journey from requires improvement to good. I wish you well for the future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Michael Wilshaw". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping tail.

Sir Michael Wilshaw