



20 October 2026

Parents and Carers of Stocksbridge High School

Dear Parents and Carers

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding the publication of a Termination Warning Notice (TWN) issued by the Department for Education in relation to Stocksbridge High School. I wanted to write to you directly to provide some context and, most importantly, reassurance.

I appreciate that news of this nature may be unsettling for parents, carers, pupils and the wider community. However, it is important to understand that the issuing of a Termination Warning Notice is a normal and established part of the Department for Education's formal process when a school has been judged by Ofsted to require urgent attention. The notice does not signify a new issue or a change in circumstances; rather, it is a procedural step post-Ofsted which allows the Trust to set out the work already underway and demonstrate how further improvements will be secured for the benefit of pupils.

As part of this process, Minerva Learning Trust was invited to submit a detailed response to the Department for Education outlining the extensive improvement work already taking place, the additional leadership and school improvement support that has been deployed, and the positive progress that is already beginning to emerge across the school.

I want to reassure you that Stocksbridge High School continues to have the full support of Minerva Learning Trust. Importantly, there are no changes to the day-to-day operation of the school as a result of this notice.

Whilst we recognise there is still important work ahead, we are encouraged by the progress being made. Attendance is improving, the quality of teaching continues to strengthen, and the introduction of the Minerva Way is helping establish a culture of high expectations, consistency and belonging across the school. Leaders, staff and Central Team members are working tirelessly on behalf of pupils and are being supported by colleagues from across the Trust to ensure improvements are impactful and sustainable.

Minerva Learning Trust has a strong track record of supporting schools through periods of challenge and helping them secure lasting improvement. We remain fully committed to Stocksbridge High School, its staff, its pupils and its community, and we are confident that the actions being taken will continue to move the school forward.

Thank you for your continued support. The partnership between school and home is vital in helping young people succeed, and the school will continue to keep our community informed as this important work progresses.

Yours faithfully



Bev Matthews
Chief Executive Officer
Minerva Learning Trust



Dave Williams
Headteacher
Stocksbridge High School