

13 October 2010

Ms T McNeil  
Headteacher  
The Study Centre  
Compton Close  
Ealing  
W13 0LR

Dear Ms McNeil

### **Ofsted 2010–11 survey inspection programme: alternative provision**

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation and that of your staff during my visit on 22 September 2010. The documentation you prepared was very helpful and I appreciated the range of discussions with both you and your staff. I would also be grateful if you would pass on my thanks to the students who gave up their time to speak with me.

As outlined in my initial letter, the visit had a particular focus on examining the use of alternative provision for students who are vulnerable to underachieving and the impact this has on the outcomes for these students.

The visit provided valuable information which will contribute to our national evaluation and reporting. Published reports are likely to list the names of the contributing institutions but individual institutions will not be identified in the main text without their consent.

This letter briefly summarises our discussion at the end of the visit.

#### **Outcomes**

- Attendance at the alternative provision enables students to gain a range of qualifications and provides an opportunity to remain engaged with education.
- Students currently attending placements felt that they were learning important skills which will help them with their future employment or training.

#### **Selecting and commissioning**

- The centre has commissioned a range of alternative provision for students which is matched to their needs.
- The centre appreciates the support provided by the local authority to commission and to quality assure this provision.

## **Monitoring, evaluation and support**

- A team of staff monitor and support students in the range of placements and checks each student's attendance. Non-attendance is followed up swiftly.
- The centre also monitors, through the weekly placement meetings, the progress each student makes with their personal development.
- Students generally felt well supported both by the providers and by the school and they also spoke highly of the support which they had received.

I hope that these observations are useful as you continue to develop alternative provision in the Study Centre.

As I explained previously, a copy of this letter will be published on the Ofsted website. It may be used to inform decisions about any future inspection. A copy of this letter is also being sent to your local authority.

Yours sincerely

**Maureen York**  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**